



JUNE
2020



Outlook

Beckenham United Reformed Church

www.beckenhamurc.com

From the minister

Dear Beckenham URC,

As the weeks go by, it is pause to reflect on so much that has happened over this time. What started out to be a 3 week emergency has melted into a new way of life. When I started making our online worship services I thought I could keep this up for 3 weeks to tide us over until we got back into the church building. But it became evident that this was to be quite some time in week 4 and now we don't have a start date yet but it may well be in the foreseeable future. But for now we worship virtually and I am grateful for your support and contributions.

This time has been a time mixed with blessings and sorrows. Blessings in that we have become a part of the Body of Christ in the broadest sense with so many millions of people around the world in a new way. We always had a broad understanding of the Body of Christ but now this reality has stretched that understanding, a gift in this time. Another blessing has been to see how everyone is taking pastoral care of one another in a new way. This has meant regular catch up's and check in's to make sure all have what they need, a gift in this time. For the most part technology has been embraced and enhanced our relationships whether that is by YouTube or Zoom or the telephone, a gift in this time. Knowing that God has held us and walked this with us has given us strength to endure and thrive in this time, this is the greatest gift of all.

Thank you for your continued patience and commitment to keeping each other safe. Thank you God for all the gifts you have given us in the time of crisis.

Every blessing,

Nadene

OUR VISION

Our vision is to glorify God and to serve God throughout our lives, always open to God working through us. We seek to share the good news of love, forgiveness and grace with all in our local community through our actions and our prayers.

FROM THE SECRETARY

It is hard to believe we have been in lock down for over 2 months and how we have adjusted to our different way of life.

Everybody in the Church is keeping reasonably well. We are all keeping in touch with each other either by phone or Zoom which is very encouraging! We had the opportunity to see Pat a few weeks ago. The staff brought her to a window on the ground floor of her Home and 5 of us social distancing made contact with her! It was nice to physically see her and she looked well. Sadly David has had to go into hospital to get his medication sorted for his dementia but I understand he is being well looked after. Sylvia had a health scare a few weeks ago, but after tests all was found to be negative. Nadene has been a star these past few weeks putting together the services every Sunday and joining in on our coffee mornings. She is having a well-earned “staycation” this coming week and fortunately the weather looks sunny for her and Kevin to enjoy their holiday!

Kelsey Park update! The goslings I spoke about 2 months ago are now fully grown geese! The female swan appeared with 4 young cygnets on 2nd May. I have a lovely video of them a week old but sadly one of them disappeared a couple of days later. There are at least 3 lots of baby coots ranging from a few days old to nearly 4 weeks old. It is amazing how fast they grow. There is also a white duck with a 1 yellow duckling.

On one occasion there was a mother duck with at least eight babies following her, but I have a feeling they did not survive.

This week by the little waterfall, I saw shoals of big fish, and I understand they too can eat these tiny ducklings. Nature can be quite hard at times!

Continue to take of yourselves.
God bless

Gill Ross

Lectionary

7th June 2020 Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

14th June 2020 Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Exodus
19:2-8a Psalm 100 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

21st June 2020 Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39

28th June 2020 Genesis 22:1-14, Psalm 13 Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42

LIVING WELL BROMLEY – FOOD BANK

Like all food banks, Living Well are experiencing very high demand for their services at present so please be generous.

In addition to tinned food of most kinds the Food Bank administrators tell us that in particular they need toilet rolls & mens' toiletries.

At present they would also be keen to receive the following:

Rice, Tinned Vegetables (including Baked Beans), Tinned Meat, Tinned Tomatoes, Potato Mash, and UHT Milk.

More information at <https://livingwell.life/p/food-bank>

ENVELOPE SCHEME

During these troubled times when we are unable to meet at the church, which may last for some months, you may be concerned at the thought of your free will offering envelopes building up. If you would like to do so, and this is just a thought, you could complete a bank standing order form to make the payments on your behalf. If you are interested in making such arrangements please phone me (07983 334946) and I will be happy to discuss this with you and supply an appropriate form for you to complete.

Anthony Bayley



PENTECOST

With awe and wonder, we remember today
the events of that day of Pentecost long ago
which so transformed the lives of the Apostles
We remember how, in the space of a few moments
their experience was revolutionised –
their expectations turned upside down; their attitudes changed forever;
one moment consumed by fear; the next radiating confidence;
one moment uncertain of the future; the next sure of their calling;
one moment wrestling with doubt; the next full of faith;
one moment hiding behind locked doors;
the next preaching boldly to the crowds.

Mighty God,
You came through your Spirit and life was never the same again.
Come to us, breathing new fire into our hearts,
new energy into our lives, new life into our souls.
Transform our fear, anxiety and doubt,
filling us with confidence and faith.
Open our minds to new horizons, new experiences
and a new way of looking at life
and so may we live by the Holy Spirit,
bearing rich fruit to your glory.
Move in us, we pray, through your Holy Spirit.

Amen



TRINITY

God beyond us,
God with us, God inside us
we worship you.

God outside us,
God among us, God within us,
we praise you.

God above,
God beside, God below
we thank you.

God of past,
God of present, God of future
we bless you.

God of here,
God of there, God of everywhere
we salute you.

God of majesty,
God of love, God of power,
we honour you.

God the Father,
God the Son, God the Holy Spirit,
we glorify you.

Amen

Brexit to Coronovirus via Cape Town

On the 6th January 2020, James and I boarded a cruise ship called the 'Marco Polo' for an eleven-week cruise to celebrate 50 years of marriage this September. It was a trip that we will remember for some good times and some challenging times.

The first night on board was rough. Going around Land's End really affected me, so I was worried about the reputation of the Bay of Biscay but fortunately, this was reasonable and I coped. Lisbon and Marrakesh were our next stops. We had been to Lisbon previously but I was intrigued with Morocco, an Arabic country in Africa.

We then continued down the west side of Africa, with rough seas again, before arriving at Namibia and South Africa. This was a country that I had been aware of all my life with a secondary school friend coming from Cape Town. Table Mountain was not as I expected, with it now virtually being in the centre of the city. I thought it would be more like Uluru in Australia. Whilst in Port Elizabeth, we visited the townships and a local primary school. It was an eye opener. South Africa still has much to do to end segregation and with the tourist industry in lockdown, this will make a difference too.

After South Africa we visited Mayotte, an African country speaking French, located in the Indian Ocean. A strange mix being the remnants of past empires. Then back to the African mainland to visit Zanzibar and Mombasa in Kenya before sailing to the Seychelles. Here the colour of the water will remain with me forever, with so many different shades of blue all in one place.

Then it was onto the Maldives where we did a submarine dive to visit the fish and see the coral, an experience I will never forget. The next stop on the schedule was Sri Lanka and India, a continent we had visited before. On the waterways of Kerala, we came to a large lake and out of the blue a small boat appeared with a man selling ice cream and drinks, presumably his only income? How is he faring today, I wonder?

Then we visited Oman and Egypt to travel to the Valley of the Kings. A long day trip but well worthwhile and I now have a better understanding of Egyptology, a subject our eldest granddaughter has been interested in all her life. The next stop was Jordan.

Coronavirus had caught up with us by now. In fact, at several stops after 26th February we had to fill out health questionnaires and have our temperature taken using a thermal reader. Coronavirus and news from home became the talking point on the ship and after leaving Jordan; we were told that there were no more ports on our route accepting ships. We sailed straight back to Bristol for fourteen days, missing out two ports that I had wanted to visit, namely Jerusalem and La Coruna for a visit to Santiago De Compostela. They will go back on my bucket list.

Life on board the ship became monotonous and frustrating for all of us. However, jewellery classes, lectures, new friends, eating, reading, sewing and an excellent evening entertainment helped us pass the time. We had a church service every Sunday, when we were at sea, organised by the passengers and attended by about sixty people that included at least two communions. These services will be remembered as a time of quiet contemplation in light of everything else that was happening on the ship and in the world.

We ended up having fifty-three days at sea instead of forty-three and visiting twenty-five ports instead of thirty-five. And after all of that, we returned to a country where we were not able to cuddle family or enjoy our summer activities.

Would I cruise again? Possibly not! Would it even be possible? Cruising and the world has changed over the last four months but I gained a better understanding of the geography, size and population difficulties in our amazing world and am thankful for such a wonderful opportunity.

Sheila G

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to announce that following interviews on Friday, the Revd Bridget Banks has been offered and has accepted the role of Moderator of Southern Synod. Bridget is currently the minister at Crawley United Reformed Church. She will take up the post on 1st September 2020. Bridget and myself will continue with our respective cover responsibilities until then.

We wish Bridget well as she takes up this role full time and we offer her our prayers as she prepares to head up the Synod.

Regards, Revd G D Watt (Moderatorial Cover) Southern Synod Office.

Christian Aid --- Fifty Years of Collecting

This month has seen one of many firsts come along to remind us of how Covid-19 is affecting Church life; this time frustrating any chance of our being able to continue our annual house to house collection on behalf of Christian Aid. From the records I have been able to see in our archives, which go back at least to 1970, it would seem that in all that time we as a Church, have been responsible for House to House collections each year, initially in some 47 local roads. Regrettably, as our congregation has got smaller, the number of roads we could cover has reduced, but happily the generosity of the donors has increased, so that the amount collected has more than offset the reduced breadth of our collecting area.

Back in the 1970s the amount being raised was in the range £350-£450 each year, with some 50 or more collectors or envelope distributors, whereas by the turn of the Century the total raised was up to £1373, with just under 20 collectors. From then on the change in the value of money, and the appreciation of the work being carried out through Christian Aid, led to more generous totals with a peak in 2003 of £2,072, and consistently since then, totals in the range of £1,500 to £1,900 each year. This has been achieved with fewer and fewer collectors, who must be sincerely thanked for their dedication to the cause.

In total I believe our Church has collected donations amounting to some £51,500 for Christian Aid over the last fifty years, to which has to be added Gift Aid on some of these donations; a very creditable and worthwhile contribution of which the Church can be proud.

Alan Duncan

WORLD'S OLDEST MAN

It is often said that Christians are long-lived. Within our small congregation at one stage, I seem to remember, we had 4 centenarians and are still proud to have quite a few in their 90's. Thanks to the latest edition of Reform (the national magazine of the URC) I learned that the world's oldest man is Robert Weighton who was born on 29 March 1908 in Hull and still lives in Britain. He was brought up within the Congregational and Presbyterian churches and went on to be a missionary teacher in Taiwan as an adult in the 1930's.

He seems to have led a fascinating life and still, at the age of 112, writes for his local church's magazine, which I think is URC but am not certain. When asked to what he attributes his longevity he replied "I just haven't died" There's hope for us all in these uncertain times!!!

Anthony Bayley

Firemen at Beckenham United Reformed Church

A while ago, the church was contacted by the Imperial War Museum regarding a plaque and stained glass window erected in the old Beckenham United Reformed Church. It was to four firemen killed in World War 2. Although I had never seen the plaque or stained glass window, I was interested in the enquiry and started to do some research.

Here is what I found out: - There was a fire in Chancery Lane, Beckenham, on the night of 16/17 April 1941 which three of the four firemen named on the plaque attended. On leaving the fire, intending to return to their fire station, they saw another fire at 40 Wickham Road on the corner of Court Downs Road. The fire was in the roof of a house where Canadian forces were billeted called Johannisbad, which was demolished in about 1959. They turned in that direction to render assistance. At about 2am, on turning into Court Downs Road, a high explosive bomb exploded about twenty feet behind the vehicle. Fragments pierced the petrol tank, igniting the petrol and enveloping the vehicle in flames immediately killing Fireman Richard Beacon aged 27 and Leading Fireman David Chalmers aged 31. The third man, Auxiliary-Fireman John H Maynard aged 37 was severely injured. He was dragged from the vehicle by an injured colleague and a Canadian serviceman and carried to a place of safety. He was then taken to Beckenham Hospital and later transferred to Horton Emergency Hospital, Epsom, where he died in November 1941. These three firemen are all buried in Beckenham Cemetery. A fourth man Auxiliary-Fireman Stanley Hudders also died at the same spot aged 30.

The other fireman mentioned on the plaque is Fireman Percy Aitchinson who died on 20th April 1941 aged 27 when a German bomb landed on Auxiliary Fire Service Station 2U which was housed in Old Palace LCC School in Bow along with 21 other colleagues. He is also buried at Beckenham Cemetery.

There is a plaque at the present Beckenham Fire Station to all 30 firemen who died as a result of enemy action in 1941.

It is also interesting to know that Hudders House in Churchfields Road and Chalmers House in Border Crescent are both named after these firemen. Why did the other two not have property or a road named after them? Does anyone have any photos of the plaque or the stained-glass windows that were in the church?

Sheila G

WINDOW VISIT

It seems to me I hear a new expression every day now I'm older. Well, the latest one is to visit someone who is on lock-down. You can't touch them, just wave and leave a card & posters on the step for later collection. It's a social with a difference. Makes me sound like a vicious criminal! Well, 2 weeks ago the staff said I have an appointment along a corridor and could not talk to anyone on the way. When I got there all the windows were wide open but too far away to touch or hear what was said. There in the garden was Nadene dear girl, Elma, Gill, Marion & Anthony. Sheila nearly made it. They brought posters "missing you" and cards and a lovely card from Monica & Alan. I was in tears with joy & surprise and the feeling of god's love even in this horrible "plague" which has been sent to us. How Nadene arranged it with Sloane & my son was magic. I know my faith will see me out of this & I hope that all other Christians will take the same attitude and make us kinder, wiser and more caring of each other. Thank you again my dear church family who made it such a special day. We look forward to a big meet-up when all this is over. A really well sung hymn is "this is the day that the Lord has made", mankind is undoing the Lord's work. Beckenham URC is where I feel his goodness as soon as you enter the door, so let's keep up our great family tradition.

Sending you all blessings in God's name,

Pat Power

Copy for the July-August Outlook by 21st June please

People are going crazy from being in lock down!

I was just discussing this with the microwave and toaster over coffee this morning and all of us agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end the iron straightened me out as she said everything would be fine no solution is too pressing. The Hoover was very unsympathetic, just told me to suck it up., but the fan was more diplomatic and hoped it would soon all blow over. The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything, but the doorknob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me to - yes you've guessed it - to pull myself together.

Jane Ball's niece, Hannah, was asked by school about what she could hear during lockdown. This is her response -

The Orchestra by Hannah Walton-Hughes

The sound of the birds encompasses me,
Just like an orchestra.
The whole world waits,
Listens,
Ears peeled,
Just as if to an orchestra.

First the soprano,
High pitched and tender,
The star act taking the glory.
Twittering the same three beats again
And again.
Just like an orchestra.

Then the lower instruments,
Shuddering their music in a powerful tremor.
They are the canon, maintaining the structure.
Their beats like batons,
Conducting this tranquil cacophony,
Just like an orchestra.

Above my sun-blessed head,
The downbeat cry grows to fortissimo.
To the left, to the right,
But always there.
Dominating, consistent,
Just like an orchestra.

A cheeky flute joins the mass of polyphonic sound.
A blue-tit,
Singing its notes of joy.
A rude but blissful interruption
To the pulsing noise.
Just like in an orchestra.

Then others join the trilling birds.
Two leaves drifting in the tickling wind.
A slow, sighing intake of breath
And in
And out again.
Just like the rustling drum of an orchestra.

Then the concert ends,
And the flowers clap and swing happily in their baskets,
Their joyful faces glinting with pleasure.
A full house,
A worthwhile audience.
Just like the end of an orchestra concert.

Returning inside,
The radio blurts a 20s jazz song.
Professional players;
Saxophones, trumpets and clarinets.
But they could learn something by stepping outside and experiencing
The orchestra of nature.

Although Covid has enveloped the world,
And we all pay the price.
Remember that all is not lost.
For nature still lives, breathes,
And has a stronger heartbeat than ever before.
And we must bow to the natural world,
As an orchestra would to us.

BECKENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Oakhill Road (off Crescent Road)

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Treasurer	Mr. A. Bayley	07983 334946
Outlook Editor	Mr J Ball	020 8659 5337
Asst. Editor	Mr A Bayley	07983 334946

Church organisations

Crescent Club	Mrs. M Aldcroft	020 8650 9518
Luncheon Club	Mrs M Duncan	020 8658 3309
Brownies	Miss L Minett	3rdbeckbrownies@gmail.com
Rainbows	Mrs M Sloper	martine.sloper@btinternet.com
Guides	Ms L Eyres	secondbeckenham@hotmail.com

Pilates	Monday	19.30 – 20.45
	Tuesday	09.30 – 12.00
	Thursday	09.30 – 12.00
	Monday	14.00 – 16.00
U3A Arts Class	Monday	15.15 – 21.00
	Tuesday	16.00 – 21.00
	Thursday	16.00 – 17.45
	Friday	16.45 – 19.15
	Saturday	08.00 – 16.15
Montessori	Mon - Fri	08.30 – 12.30
	Tuesday	20.00 – 22.00
	Saturday	14.30 – 16.30
Spanish Dancing	Wednesday	14.00 – 16.30
	Wednesday	18.30 – 20.00
U3A Guitars(2 nd & 4 th)	Wednesday	17.00 – 18.00
Brownies	Wednesday	19.00 – 20.30
Rainbows	Wednesday	
Guides	Wednesday	

For lettings apply to Mr. Anthony Bayley 07983 334946

This church is a member of **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BECKENHAM**
in partnership with 14 other churches in the area