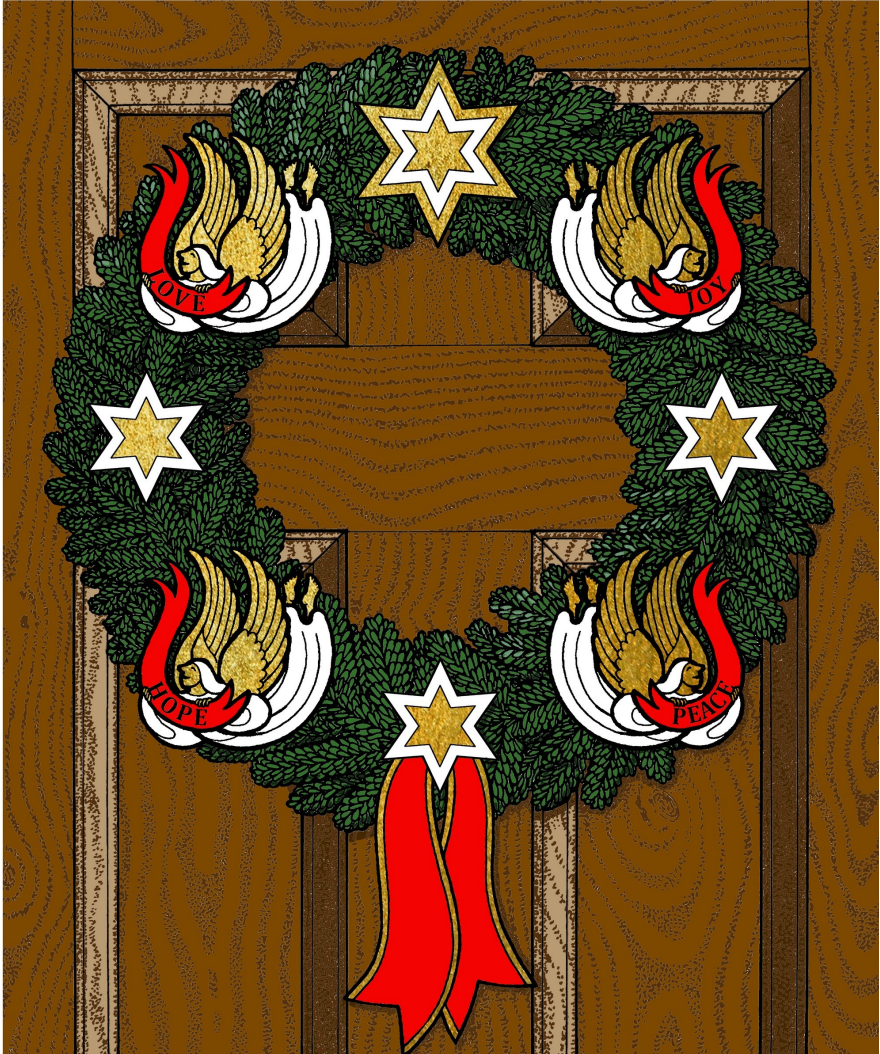




The
United
Reformed
Church

December 2022
January 2023



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church
25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ

www.bhpurc.org.uk



Who to contact

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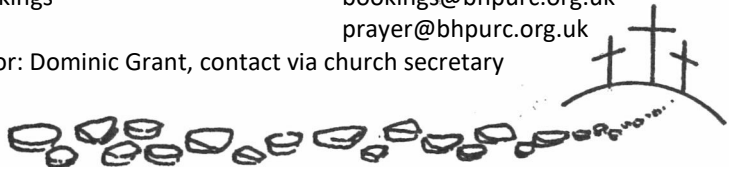
Youth activities

Boys Brigade	bb@bhpurc.org.uk
Girls Brigade	gb@bhpurc.org.uk

Other activities

Baby & Toddlers	toddlers@bhpurc.org.uk
Book Club	bookclub@bhpurc.org.uk

Weekly news sheet	link@bhpurc.org.uk
Newsletter	newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk
Hall & Room bookings	bookings@bhpurc.org.uk
Prayer requests	prayer@bhpurc.org.uk
Interim moderator: Dominic Grant, contact via church secretary	



The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly. To receive email notifications please email newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk

Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy.

Safeguarding Statement

Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church believes that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable (children, young people and adults at risk).

We expect all of our leaders, volunteers and those who use our premises to share this commitment and value the support of those who worship here in achieving this. Park United Reformed Church believes that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable (children, young people and adults at risk).

Please visit <https://www.bhpurc.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding> for further information.

Christmas in another place

Christmas 2022 is going to be different for us – in all likelihood we will be in Australia with our children and grandchildren – and, not meaning to make you jealous at all, but we suspect the temperature will be around 30 degrees Centigrade (we may even get into the sea and have a swim, who knows?!)!



In spite of the fact that 65% of the population are Christian, Christmas feels so far just as commercialised here in Fiji as it is in the UK - on 11th November (Remembrance Day) we went out to the shop in the early evening only to discover all the counter staff wearing Santa hats and there being tinsel and decorations celebrating Christmas all over the shop!

We will be part of an exodus for Christmas this year, with several students having finished their studies and left for their homes, several staff heading out of Fiji as well, to New Zealand or Australia or elsewhere and so we ask for safe journeys for them all, and for your prayers for those who are having to stay here on their own. One of our

new friends (from North India), Alemla (Senior Lecturer in Theology and Ethics), will be many miles away from her husband and family who are still in North India working and living, so we will be thinking of her.

As we participate in an exodus we reflect on how easy (relatively) it is for us to travel and remember how Mary and Joseph had a long journey (on foot and donkey-back?), a birth in an unfamiliar place, the crowding of shepherds and wise people and then a rushed exodus to a foreign country (Egypt) and we keep on being reminded how important it is for those of us who claim to follow in Christ's ways to be open and hospitable to those around us who are finding life tough.

We know that this winter for many in the UK it is going to be an immense struggle – we pray that you will all be able to keep open your hearts to share the warmth of Christ’s love with the

stranger, the foreigner, the ones seeking shelter and food.

With our love and many blessings – we miss you all,
Mark and Melanie



Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed keen to audition for the nativity play...

Smile Lines

Santa

I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.

Presents

December is the month when the children begin to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some insist on getting him a shirt, others a pair of socks. But the argument always ends in a tie.

The Holy Family

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

Another child ventured: "Verge?"

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

He replied hesitantly: "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

New Year's Eve is coming soon...

The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise. -
E K Kruger

The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic piglet under his arm.

Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig. - Alfred Hitchcock.

Here is the News

Congratulations

Congratulations to Paul Trevallion and his partner Cherie who will be welcoming their first child in late May. Best wishes to them both.

Angel Tree

Thanks to everyone who brought in wrapping paper for Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree programme which provides Christmas presents to the children of prisoners, the children should not miss out.

This year our Christmas charity is Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree programme. Collections at the family carol service on 18th December and the Christmas Eve service will go towards making these children's lives more hope filled this Christmas.

A full update will come in the February newsletter.

Call for benefits to rise in line with prices

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Canon Graham Thompson, has joined a call for the Government to affirm its commitment to ensuring benefits rise in line with inflation.

Along with the Revd Fiona Bennett, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church, and the Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary, Baptist Union of Great Britain, he points out:

“The social security system should prevent families from being pushed into hardship, yet foodbanks are facing rapidly rising demand and almost half of claimants receiving Universal Credit report skipping meals to make ends meet.

“The value of benefits has declined for the last decade and already an average family of four relying on Universal Credit will be £1,400 worse off this winter than last – despite the interventions already put in place. Against this background it would be outrageous to erode benefits further.”



Shrink your water footprint to save pennies and the planet. According to Water UK, 46% of people believe their household uses less than 20 litres of water a day when, in reality, the average person uses around 142 litres*! Without even realising it, our daily habits can result in large monthly bills, especially when multiple people live under one roof.

Households across much of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland can receive a range of free insulation and water-saving gadgets. Explore these - and tips to lower your water usage at <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/utilities/cut-water-bills/#gadgets>

*<https://www.water.org.uk/news-item/vast-majority-of-brits-have-no-idea-how-much-water-they-use-each-day>

Post those cards on time!

Final posting dates for the UK this Christmas are as follows:

- Friday 16th December: Royal Mail Bulk Mail Economy
- Monday 19th December: 2nd Class
- Wednesday 21st December: 1st Class
- Thursday 22nd December: Special Delivery Guaranteed & Royal Mail Tracked 24
- Friday 23rd December: Special Delivery Guaranteed with Saturday Guarantee



**Next newsletter deadline:
Sunday 15th January**

All material for inclusion should be emailed to
newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk

11.30am December 18th
Family Carol Service

11.30pm December 24th
Communion at Christmas

10.30am December 25th
Christmas Day Celebration



**SHARE
THE LIGHT**

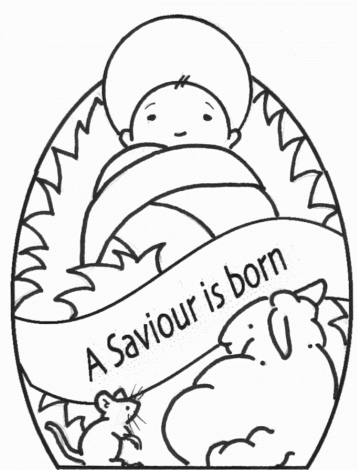
**...A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN
TO YOU, A MESSIAH**

LUKE 2:11

Who is the Baby?

A little girl was examining a Christmas crib with her grandmother and commented, 'Grannie, it's really nice, but there's one thing that bothers me: is the baby Jesus ever going to grow up? He's the same size He was last year!!' The birth of Jesus must be the most well-known birth in the world, but are we really growing in our understanding of this story?

The angels announced, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of a baby is a time of great joy and excitement and Jesus' birth is good news for all people! He is none other than the king of the universe, who has come as our Saviour. To experience this joy, we must let go self-centredness and living as our own saviour. His deliverance and wholeness is a real cause for joy!



'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace with God, ourselves, or even with those closest to us at Christmas. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine be the source of peace between God and man in the 21st century? Jesus came to establish such peace through His death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace in our lives brings peace with God. If we ignore this message of Christmas, we won't benefit from it. As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.'

Canon Paul Hardingham

Sacred Spaces

On Sunday 30 October the Revd Eddie Boon, Thames North Synod's Discipleship Enabler, led an interesting and informative Discipleship service and workshop at Lancaster Road URC, for members of the three churches in the North Enfield Pastorate.

Eddie looked at growing discipleship, using the analogy of **seven sacred spaces** in medieval monasteries and nunneries. He invited us to consider what these spaces were used for and how this is relevant for our churches today.

Although many monasteries had communal dormitories, some had individual **cells** for sleeping and praying to God. The cells were sometimes painted with biblical scenes to assist devotions. The cells were the only private places in the monasteries – this reminds us that we can be Christians both on our own as well as with others.

The **chapel** or church would be used for communal worship, which would include preaching, singing and praying. There were set patterns of worship at regular times throughout the day. This required discipline to attend and participate, as well as patience to wait on the will of God, which we also need today.

In the **chapter house**, usually a rectangular or polygonal structure, a chapter of the Bible or the Monastic Rule would be read out. Decisions would be made after discussion. We were reminded that in our churches we need to listen to each other and to accept decisions made with which we might disagree.

The **cloisters** were covered walkways in the form of a square with an open space in the middle and they connected the various sections of the monastery. Monks and nuns would walk under cover from one part to another in the course of each day and could have unexpected as well as planned meetings with others. Similarly in our churches we

should take advantage of both planned and unplanned meetings to speak to people, especially visitors.

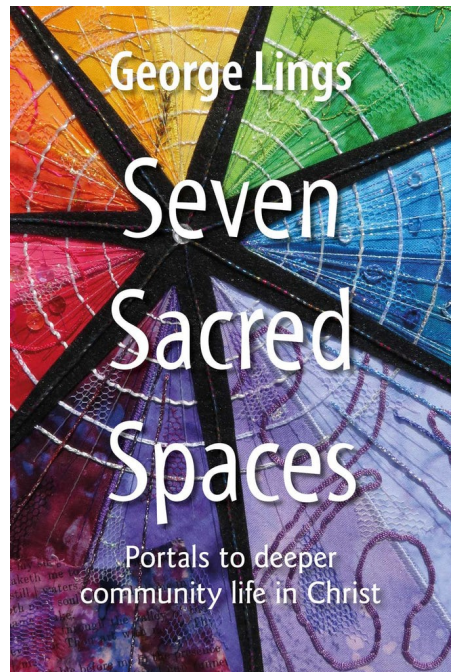
The **garden** was a place of work where fruits and vegetables were grown to provide food and wine to support the monastic community. Medicinal herbs grown in the garden were used to help cure those who were ill in the infirmary (there were also fish ponds, and animals and birds were kept, sometimes by lay brothers, to provide meat, eggs, milk, hides and wool). The physical exercise involved provided a balance with mental work which we also need in our lives.

The **refectory** was where communal meals were taken. There would often be a picture of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples on the end wall, as well as a pulpit so that instruction could be given. The refectory would also be used to provide hospitality to visitors. We can benefit from meeting socially with our fellow Christians for a meal and can also appreciate what we are eating and realise the value of serving others.

Before the invention of the printing press using movable type in the 15th century, scribes in the **scriptorium** would copy out and illuminate scriptures and other sacred texts, together with books of prayers and chants. We can learn and grow spiritually by reading and listening to the word of God, singing and praying.

I am sure that those who participated in the workshop found it helpful and I hope that Eddie Boon may be able to visit us again.

Stephen Gilbert



Diary

December and January

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

The full diary with regular activities is also online at
www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

December		
Sun 4th	10.30am	Communion with David Moir
Mon 5th	10.30am	Book Club
Thur 8th	10.45am	Friends Group
Sun 11th	10.30am	Parade with Anna Erikson
Sun 18th	11.30am	Family carol service with Christine Hall
Mon 19th	7.30pm	Beer and Carols at the Little Green Dragon pub, Winchmore Hill, see page 19
Sat 24th	11.30pm	Communion at Christmas with Revd Martin Legg
Sun 25th	10.30am	Christmas Day worship with Lisa Hamblin
January		
Sun 1st	10.30am	Joint worship at Christ Church, EN2 6NJ
Sun 8th	10.30am	Parade led by the Brigades
Thur 12th	10.45am	Friends Group
Sun 15th	10.30am	Worship with Christine Hall (rededication and renewal)
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Worship with Barrie Thompson
Thur 26th	10.45am	Friends Group
Sun 30th	10.30am	Worship with Revd Dominic Grant

December Prayer Diary

DECEMBER 2022

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.



And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Thursday 1st

Those in gangs and the charities who seek to educate young people about the futility of violence in our streets

Friday 2nd

The homeless on the streets of London as the weather gets colder

Saturday 3rd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 4th

Give thanks for those who faithfully attend our church services week by week

Monday 5th

Olanike

Tuesday 6th

That the gospel would spread and that we might worship God in peace and freedom

Wednesday 7th

Hadrians Ride

Thursday 8th

A reduction in dangerous driving and for safety when travelling

Friday 9th

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

Saturday 10th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 11th

Thanks for our ambulance, medical services and the air ambulance helping to save lives

Monday 12th

Robin (both)

Tuesday 13th

That God would save our leaders, give them wisdom and cause them to promote righteousness and life

Wednesday 14th

Halstead Road

Thursday 15th

A reduction in burglaries and peace for those affected

Friday 16th

Children and staff at Al-Shurooq School in Bethlehem who we support as a church

Saturday 17th

Sunday’s Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 18th

Thanks for all the benefits we enjoy living in England

Monday 19th

Stephen

Tuesday 20th

That the gospel would go forth in power to every nation and people

Wednesday 21st

Hazelwood Road

Thursday 22nd

A reduction in gun and knife

crime, for safety in our neighbourhoods

Friday 23rd

Children and staff at Al-Shurooq School in Bethlehem who we support as a church

Saturday 24th

Sunday’s Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 25th

Give thanks for Jesus

Monday 26th

Sue

Tuesday 27th

Pray that God would save multitudes worldwide

Wednesday 28th

James Street

Thursday 29th

Local “Safer Neighbourhoods” police and PCSOs

Friday 30th

The work of Pam’s Pantry (we support them)

Saturday 31st

Sunday’s Worship Leader and the service tomorrow



January Prayer Diary

JANUARY 2023

Faith in Action

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for
and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

Sunday 1st

Give thanks for all those who
give their time and support to
our organisations and to help in
our community

Monday 2nd

Sylvia

Tuesday 3rd

Leadership and Congregation of
Jubilee Church

Wednesday 4th

John Street

Thursday 5th

Surgeons

Friday 6th

Children and staff at Al-Shurooq
School in Bethlehem who we

support as a church

Saturday 7th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the
service tomorrow

Sunday 8th

Give thanks for our homes and
the shelter we have

Monday 9th

Tom

Tuesday 10th

Leadership and Congregation of
Our Lady of Mount Carmel and
Saint George

Wednesday 11th

Kingsbury Place

Thursday 12th

General Practice Doctors

Friday 13th

The work of The Leprosy Mission
(we support them)

Saturday 14th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the
service tomorrow

Sunday 15th

Give thanks for answered prayers

Monday 16th

Tony

Tuesday 17th

Leadership and Congregation of
Bush Hill Park United Reformed
Church

Wednesday 18th

Ladbroke Road

Thursday 19th

Nurses

Friday 20th

Elijah, our sponsored child in
Zambia

Saturday 21st

Sunday's Worship Leader and the
service tomorrow

Sunday 22nd

Thanks for Sunshine and rain

Monday 23rd

Vikie

Tuesday 24th

Leadership and Congregation of
Enfield Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday 25th

Landseer Road

Thursday 26th

Junior Doctors

Friday 27th

Those suffering from cancer and
the charities who seek to find a
cure

Saturday 28th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the
service tomorrow

Sunday 29th

Give thanks for good health

Monday 30th

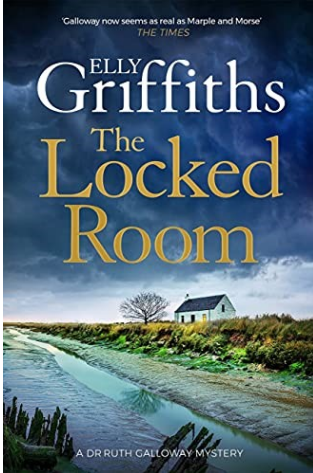
Yvonne

Tuesday 31st

Leadership and Congregation of
St Andrews Parish Church



Book Club



Another excellent book in the Ruth Galloway series set during the Covid lockdown. So much came back to us that we had forgotten!

Three years after her mother's death, Ruth finally starts clearing out her papers and finds a photo of Ruth's cottage, taken before Ruth lived there and the words "Dawn 1963" written on the back. Ruth decides to try to get to the bottom of this photo – her mother actually hated Ruth's cottage, so why would she have a photo of it? However Covid then strikes and she's locked down with her

daughter, Kate, and only a new next door neighbour, Zoe, to chat to over the fence. Meanwhile, DI Nelson is looking into some old murder/suicides of several women, trying to find a connection. He finds an archaeological link between them and, despite lockdown, drives over to see Ruth to ask for her help.

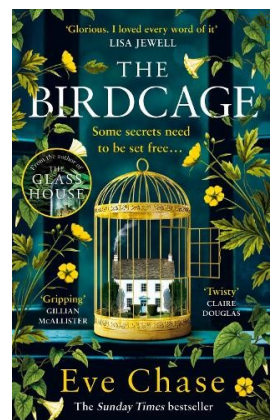
He finds her talking to her new neighbour, whom Ruth really likes. However, Zoe is not who she said she is - she is known to the police as someone who was tried for murdering her employee years ago - but her name then was Dawn...

Nelson and his team are then drawn into a hectic race against time when Zoe, Ruth and Kate go missing.

We all thoroughly enjoyed this book and look forward to the release of the next one!

The next book we're reading is "The Birdcage" by Eve Chase. We will have a discussion about it on 5th December.

Yvonne and Sylvia



Mary's Christmas

As Jesus' mother, Mary plays a crucial part in the Christmas story. It begins with Gabriel's visit to her: 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.' (Luke 1:30,31). This conversation takes us straight to the heart of what Christmas is all about. God was doing something unique, that had never happened before! 'God was beginning, at this divine and human point, the New Creation of all things. The whole soiled and weary universe quivered at this direct injection of essential life.' (CS Lewis).

This child unites heaven and earth: the eternal God entered time and space and became a baby, both a real human being and fully divine. It reminds me of the sci-fi film *Fantastic Voyage* (1966) in which a team of surgeons are shrunk to the size of blood cells and injected into the veins of a patient to perform lifesaving surgery. The Christmas message affirms that God has entered the bloodstream of humanity to put things right with Him on the inside. We can know Him personally and make sense of His world.

God chose an unknown, frightened teenage girl to bring about this new beginning for the world. Her response is the pattern for us, as we welcome God's special gift into our lives this Christmas: "I am the Lord's servant" Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." (Luke 1:38).



Mary gave an unqualified Yes to all that God wanted to do in her life. It was a costly decision, which risked both shame and scandal. Yet she was ready to obey God and trust His plans for her life, despite her many questions. Is the same true for us this Christmas?

Canon Paul Hardingham

The

LITTLE GREEN DRAGON

Ale House

BEER & CAROLS

Monday 19th

December

7.30pm



Enfield
**United
Reformed
Churches**

Raising money for local charities

928 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill, LONDON N21 2AD

Your Countdown to Christmas – 11 ideas

Find the perfect cards.... But hurry! If you don't already have a favourite charity, try the Combined Charities Christmas Shop at <http://www.christmas-cards.org.uk/> for ideas.

Plan your budget – don't let Christmas 'fever' make you reckless. Be careful you don't go over any overdraft with your bank – the penalties are expensive! Also, really and truly, beware using credit cards if you can't pay them off quickly.

Learn some party games. For games that are easy, slightly harder and fiendishly hard, visit: <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/words/puzzles-and-games>

Hang a wreath. You can buy one or get creative with a mixture of foliage from your garden.

Enjoy those Christmas markets and fayres – is there a house-bound neighbour or friend you could take along?

Display your cards with style. The simple ideas are often the most stylish. So have fun with wooden clothes pegs, sprayed gold, and peg your cards along ribbon that can be looped from one end of a curtain pole to the other.

Donate to charities who help the homeless and the migrants.

Sing carols – and play carols at home. Remind your family what it is really all about.

Read your children the Christmas story. There are any number of excellent children's books which tell it with wonderful illustrations.

Make sure your neighbours are all right – is there anyone who could use a helping hand? Anyone needing a lift to church?

On Christmas Eve/Christmas, make time to have a family reading of the Nativity stories in Matthew and Luke. As a family, make time to praise God for the gift of Jesus!

Reflecting Faith: the Cross in our churches

I recently read a web article which was wondering if Christians actually need a 'cross' in our church buildings; or indeed if they were unhelpful in our worship. The major argument against having one, it seems, was that it could become the focus of our worship, and it is not okay to worship idols.

To me this argument is nonsensical. The cross is a graphic reminder of what Jesus Christ has done for us in His death. No one in their senses would dream of worshipping a cross itself, as it was the most humiliating and debasing form of capital punishment – it was a means of gruesome execution.

Christians use crosses in churches to remind people of just how far Jesus was prepared to go to rescue us from what St Paul called 'the dominion of darkness'.

So this Sunday, why not have a look around your local church building, and count how many crosses there are?

I would expect there to be 'hidden' crosses where the building was consecrated, and also under the altar itself. There will also be various paperwork, service books, sheets and hymnals which all have the sign of the cross on their covers.

Perhaps you have candle holders with crosses sculptured into them. And in most churches you will see a cross on or above the altar table itself.

Have a look around your church building – both inside and outside for crosses. What materials are they made from? How extravagant or glamorous are they? Are they Crosses (an 'empty' cross) or Crucifixes (with a representation of Christ hanging on the cross)?

How do they aid you in your worship and how much do they reflect your faith?

Revd Dr Jo White

Prayer

The Lord is near

Lord God,
when we are afraid to say what is in our hearts,
help us to remember that you are near.

When we dare not voice what we need
for fear of being disappointed,
help us to remember that you are near.

When we have given up hope of our prayers being answered,
help us to remember that you are near.

When we are too weary or confused to know what to ask for,
help us to remember that you are near.

When words are not enough,
help us to remember that you are near.

When we cannot remember that you are near,
send your peace, which surpasses all understanding,
to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Jane Leach

From the URC prayer handbook 2012 for 16th December looking at Philippians 4:4-7

Ed: If you have a prayer you would like put in the newsletter instead (or indeed as well as...) do email it to newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk.

If you would like prayer for yourself or family and friends please email prayer@bhpurc.org.uk

Girls' Brigade News

Wow where has that year gone!!

Back from our half term break and we have started a new subject, "Perseverance", and the story of Nehemiah.

Nehemiah was a Jewish exile who worked in the king of Babylon's court as a cup bearer. It was his job to check the king's food for poison, He was very devout. And when he heard about the destruction of the walls of Jerusalem, he asked to go back to his homeland to organise the rebuilding.

He was allowed to but met with a lot of interference and people trying to discourage him. He had to "Persevere".

The mantra we are using is Pray, Persevere and Practice.

We have talked about how we get discouraged and what we can do to encourage others. The girls are practicing various challenges and trying to improve over the weeks. And we are talking about the importance of Prayer.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be thinking about Christmas and looking forward to the holidays.

In the New Year we will look at another character and their strengths.

Thank you once again to Chris, Sue, Margaret & Vicky, and to the parents who get the girls here each week,

Please include us in your prayers

Lynda

Boys' Brigade News

Merry Christmas Everyone! Feliz Navidad! Merry Xmas Everybody! Christmas time is here and here is the latest BB Update as we step into Christmas. The brass band is coming along really well as they continue to develop and move into the time of year where the Christmas songs are practiced, rehearsed and performed. As we go round the Avenues, Roads and Streets of Bush Hill Park, collecting donations as part of our annual fundraising, the brass band will be in full force behind us all the way, there might not be so much of a silent night! Along side brass band, the younger group of the Company section are also continuing in their First Aid. The older group in the Company section have been doing a model craft making model tanks. I could go with the obvious, 'two fish are in a tank, one turns to the other and says can you drive this thing?' joke but I won't. They will be closely following instructions to construct their miniature models, although hopefully not so closely that they walk around wearing two jackets because it says paint with two coats! I



told my friend I'd built a model of the Himalayas, "to scale" he said. "No, just to look at I replied".

Part of our Senior's group have been and will be cooking. Having made burgers, spaghetti, pork and apple sausage rolls (pictured left) and Bifteki with roasted new potatoes and Tzatziki topped

with halloumi (pictured right) already; they will be making their own pizzas with toppings of their choice, last time we made Hawaiian pizzas they burnt so this time we're going to cook them at a lower temperature. They will also be making chipotle chicken burgers and a chicken stir fry in the coming weeks. For the different meals they'll be cooking they'll learn different cutting techniques for the various different dishes, brunoising onions and tomatoes,



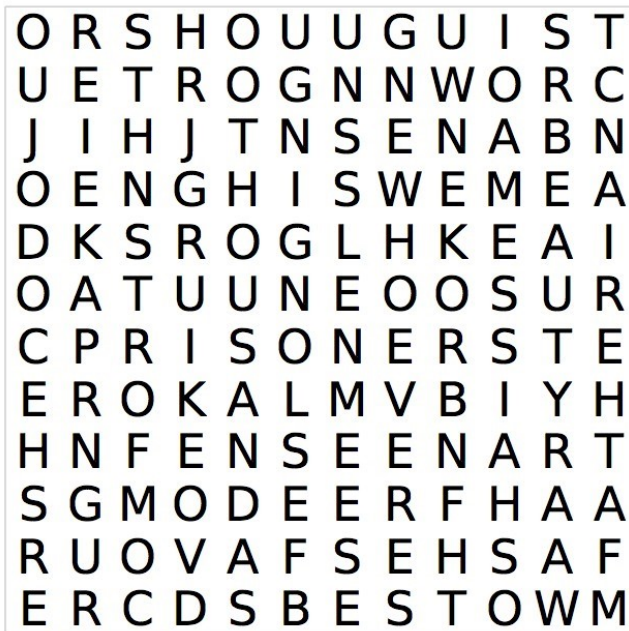
chiffonading parsley and mint and slicing chicken, cabbage and other vegetables, crushing garlic. Brunoising is a fine dicing technique to allow the fine dicing of vegetables and fruit. Chiffonading is used generally on leafy vegetables and herbs, cutting to your own preferred thickness. The other part of the Seniors group have been doing cooking also, in conjunction with other sporting skills activities. One member of the Seniors, who has displayed expert onion cutting skills, has to remain unnamed as they used to belong to a secret cooking society, unfortunately they got kicked out for spilling the beans! We did think that maybe one week we'd move out of the kitchen and write a song about tortillas, well, it'd be more of a wrap.

That's all from me for this update more to come in 2023!
Merry Christmas to all and to all a Happy New Year!

Wordsearch

Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on his people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

messiah	broken	heart	freedom	darkness
favour	prisoners	comfort	mourn	bestow
crown	beauty	ashes	son	god
jesus	seen	father	whoever	longing
thousand				



Other local church activities

Weekly

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Mon	10am	Ladies Bible Study	Living Room
	7.30pm	English Conversation Club	Living Room
Tues	9.15am	Tots and Toys	Gospel Hall
	10.45am	Bumps and Babies	Gospel Hall
Wed	9.45am	Bible Study (Fortnightly)	Lancaster Road
	10am	Prayer (Fortnightly, alternates with above)	Lancaster Road
	2pm	Wednesday Fellowship (alternates between general chat and talks from various speakers)	BHP Methodist
Fri	10am	Shoppers Coffee Morning	Lancaster Road
Sat	9am	Breakfast Club (1st and 3rd of the month)	Christ Church

Other activities take place monthly or fortnightly. See the following websites for details:

Lancaster Road - www.lancaster-road-urc.org.uk

Christ Church - ccurc.org.uk

BHP Methodist - www.bhpmethodist.org.uk

BHP Community Church (Living Room and Gospel Hall) - www.bhpcc.org.uk

Weekly Activities

Monday 6.15pm Boys' Brigade Junior Section
7.30pm Boys' Brigade Company Section
10.30am Book Club (Once a month, see inside for date)

Wednesday 10:00am Toddler Group
6.30pm Girls' Brigade

Thursday 10.45am Friends Group (2nd & 4th Thursday)

Friday 6.00pm Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys

Sunday 10.30am Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday)

Please check the church website to confirm if the activity you want to go to is going ahead. www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

