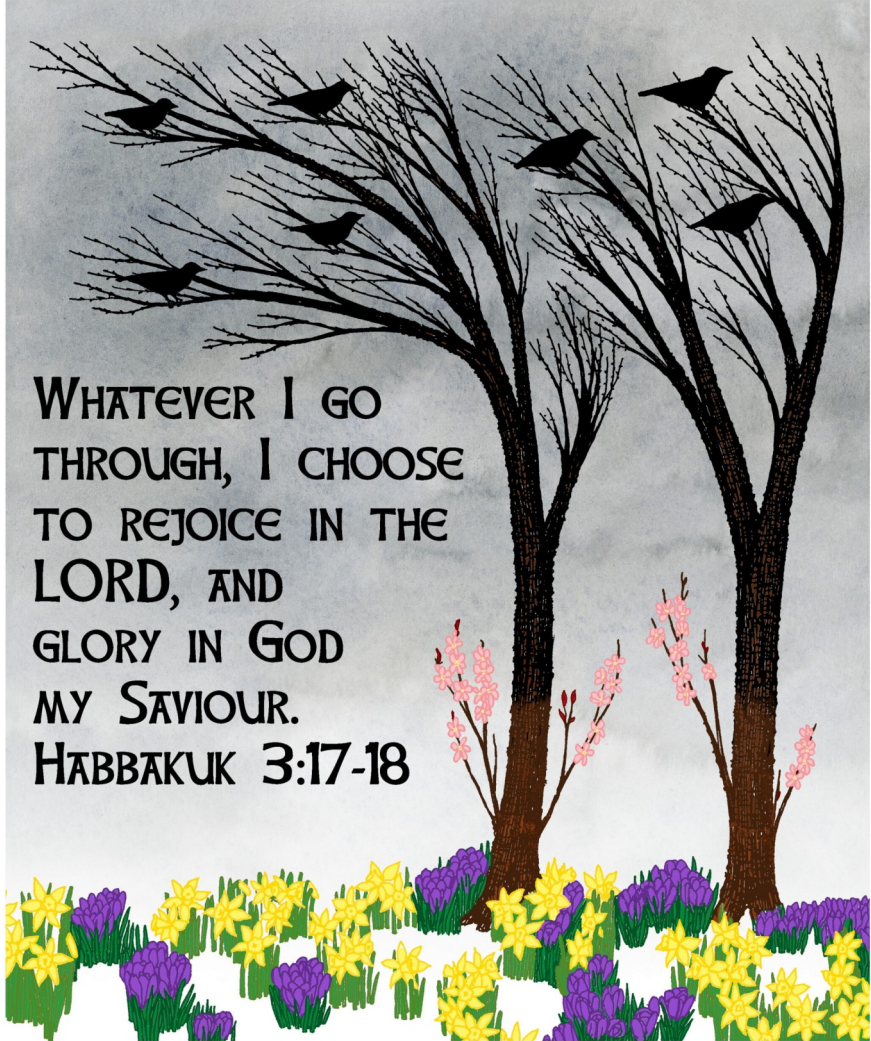




The
United
Reformed
Church

February
2023



WHATEVER I GO
THROUGH, I CHOOSE
TO REJOICE IN THE
LORD, AND
GLORY IN GOD
MY SAVIOUR.
HABBAKUK 3:17-18

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

www.bhpurc.org.uk



Who to contact

Serving Elders

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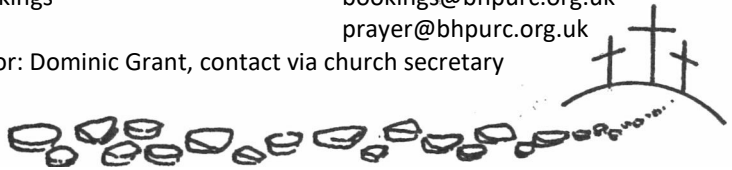
Youth activities

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.

Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply offering flowers and a card? Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34). How can we express love like Jesus in our everyday relationships to our partner, children, neighbours or work colleagues?



Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? How often do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before somebody's finished speaking? Listening takes time; don't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in His world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of His day. For us today, a warm handshake may be of value. Of

course, it should always be an appropriate touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of grace, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of truth, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: 'speaking the truth in love'.

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?

Lisa

Smile Lines

Sick

During a church service my young niece had to go outside, as she did not feel well. She returned a few minutes later and admitted: 'I have been a little sick. But it doesn't matter, there's a box at the door marked 'for the sick'.'

With Valentine's Day in mind... how do you define love?

A group of 4-to-8-year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?' The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight....

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka - age 6 (We need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

"Love is when mummy gives daddy the best piece of chicken." - Elaine - age 5

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day" Mary Ann - age 4

Here is the News

Christmas collections

In the Christmas services we raised £162.90 for Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree programme. Thanks for all your support. We have had this response from them:

Thank you so much for your recent donation of £162.90! Your generosity enables us to come alongside people in prison and support them to make positive changes. We want to see lives transformed through our presence and programmes. One prisoner wrote:

"Prison Fellowship has been very helpful and supportive to me. My children were given gifts through Angel Tree and I have found the Sycamore Tree programme very useful. The volunteers are very caring, wise and understanding. Thank you, Prison Fellowship."

We cannot do this without the support of people like you, who believe with us that no one is beyond hope! Thank you again for your gifts.

Beer and Carols

A fantastic evening was had at the Little Green Dragon pub in Winchmore Hill just before Christmas. The whole pub was full to the brim with everyone singing carols and taking part in the nativity story.

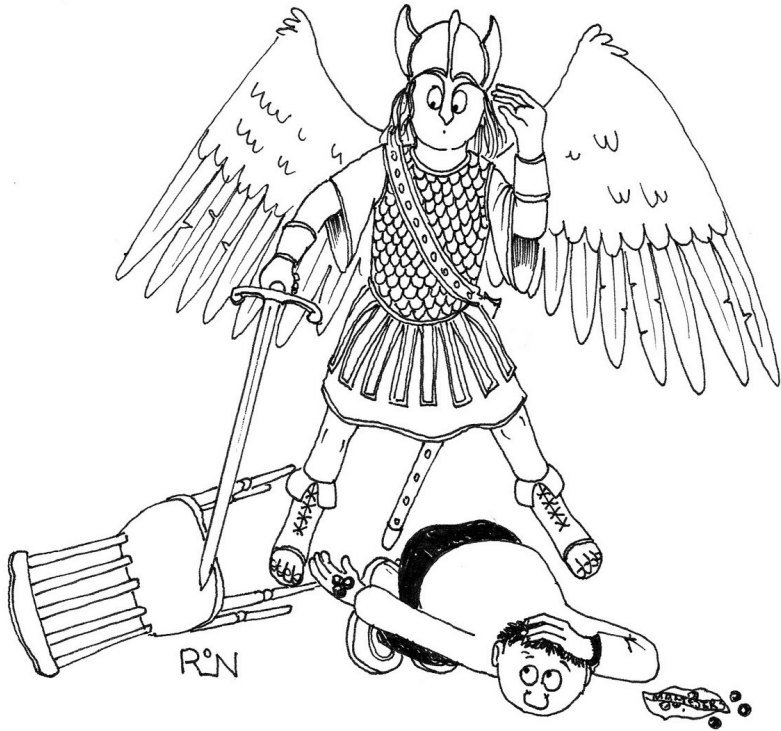
We raised £400 for Cooking Champions - a charity based in Winchmore Hill which provide meals and teaches youth to cook healthy meals. Thanks to all who came and/or prayed for the event.

Short film

Telling It As It Is – Confronting Racism in the Church, is a short film by the URC Mission Committee and is part of the URC's aim in taking active steps to become an anti-racist Church. The film is about uncovering white privilege in the Church and features a range of interviews with ethnic minority members who serve in a variety of positions. Watch on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/1MrzfzX5gGs>



Get to your nearest green space more often. Time spent enjoying God's creation will help set your mind and seek the things that are above. Bring your your sketch or note book, your Bible, or whatever helps you connect with our heavenly Father. Or perhaps God is inviting you to just bring yourself (with some extra layers!) and simply sit.



"But look", said Martin, "Maltesers have hardly any chocolate on"

Ukraine – one year on

On 24th February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine without warning. The area had been overrun for centuries by successive external forces, until absorbed by Russia. In 1991, when the USSR was dissolved, Ukraine voted for independence, by a huge majority. There are still pro-Russian minorities in the East of the country.

In the last 12 months, one-quarter of the civilian population of Ukraine has been displaced, with 5+ million refugees escaping for temporary sanctuary in other countries. 95% of them are women and children. They have had to learn new languages (and a new script), find jobs and schools, and become accustomed to foreign cultures. When it seems safe, they want to return home and some have already done so.

The UK government, in partnership with County and District Councils, launched the Homes for Ukraine scheme last year. Would-be homes were inspected, and prospective hosts checked out for suitability and safety. A young Ukrainian woman lived in my home for six months before returning to Kyiv. In that time my pantry and fridge made room for bulgar wheat, lots of mushrooms and Salo, which is the name for slabs of cold cured pork fat, and much tastier than it sounds!

Most Ukrainians count themselves as Christian, including a number of Greek-Catholics, but the majority belong to what was the Russian Orthodox Church, and is now the independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The two churches separated after the Moscow patriarchate backed President Putin.

The Archbishop of Canterbury visited Kyiv in December and had to take cover in a bomb shelter when air raid warnings were sounded. He said the people of the West needed to realise the costs of this war were not short term, adding “there must be no way in which we force peace on Ukraine... Peace is always better than war. But there are times when justice demands the defeat of an evil invasion.”

One year on there is still an urgent need for British people to open their homes to Ukrainian refugees.

the Ven John Barton

Commitment for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

The United Reformed Church, committed to supporting our global partners Israel and Occupied Palestine

Last year, I visited Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (IOPT) on a trip with the Council for Christians and Jews. The group included bishops, rabbis, members of the Board of Deputies, and Muslims. We were fortunate enough to meet with a politically diverse range of people. This included liberal, moderate, and extreme Jewish voices. We also encountered a range of Palestinian Christian who expressed their views on and experiences of the illegal Israeli occupation of the West Bank.



For most of my Jewish UK travel partners, it was the first time they had ever visited the West Bank. They'd previously never met a Palestinian from the West Bank itself and attended carefully to the dire reality of Palestinian daily

struggle. I was moved to see how an encounter with the 'enemy' impacted on the often-unconscious perception of Palestinians as 'terrorists'. Dialogue, when conducted in a safe space, can open us all to transformative questions about our carefully held and protected worldviews.



One British rabbi said afterwards that what he'd witnessed was not consonant with the demand of Torah that Israel be a light unto the nations. But like so many Israelis and indeed so many Jews around the world, he lived daily with the existential fear of attack, persecution, death, and annihilation. I realised how this deep fear shapes so much of the asymmetric conflict in Israel and Palestine.

Our Commitment for Life partners in IOPT work hard to bring together Jews and Palestinians who, by design, tend to be kept apart. Commitment for Life encourages these kinds of opportunities for encounter and dialogue with the 'enemy'. How else can one find a path towards reconciliation, peace, and justice?

Kevin Snyman

Photos: Kevin Snyman



Lent study - The Prayers of Jesus

This Lent, refresh your relationship with God by exploring the way Jesus Himself prayed to His Father. Focusing on six of the prayers of Jesus leading up to the central events of our faith, encounter the Saviour in a new way and reach new depths of intimacy with God in prayer.

Through six sessions, experience more of God's presence as you pray and reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross.



Each session includes:
Warm up suggestions
Setting the scene
Bible readings
Session focus sections
Discussing starters
Prayer exercises

Sessions will be led by Lisa or Lynda and start on Tuesday 28th February, 7.30pm at Lisa's house.

Diary

February

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

Sun 5th	10.30am	Communion with Revd Martin Legg
Thur 9th	10.45am	Friends group
Sun 12th	10.30am	Parade led by the brigades
Sun 19th	10.30am	Worship with Anna Erikson
Thur 23rd	10.45am	Friends group
Sun 26th	10.30am	Worship with David Moir
Tue 28th	7.30pm	Lent study - The Prayers of Jesus, see page 14 for details

**Next newsletter deadline:
Sunday 12th February**

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

Prayer Diary

FEBRUARY 2023

Dear friends, since God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God;
but if we love one another,
God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:11-12

Wednesday 1st

Lathkill Close

Thursday 2nd

For a more eco attitude to buy
Fairtrade

Friday 3rd

Children who care for a family
member

Saturday 4th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the
service tomorrow

Sunday 5th

Give thanks for our Brigades as
they help local girls and boys to
learn useful skills

Monday 6th

Valerie

Tuesday 7th

Worship God for his mercy

Wednesday 8th

Lincoln Crescent

Thursday 9th

For a more eco attitude to
reduce, re-use and recycle

Friday 10th

Children in Zambia, particularly
those who are helped by Beyond
Ourselves who we support as a
church

Saturday 11th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 12th

Give thanks for the hard won
freedoms we enjoy in the UK

Monday 13th

Alison

Tuesday 14th

Worship God for his compassion

Wednesday 15th

Lincoln Road

Thursday 16th

For a more eco attitude to the cleaning products I use

Friday 17th

Those seeking to free people from trafficking, the people who are being trafficked and the charities which help

Saturday 18th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 19th

Thanks for those who love us and share our lives

Monday 20th

Andrew

Tuesday 21st

Worship God for his justice

Wednesday 22nd

Leighton Road

Thursday 23rd

For a more eco attitude to buy locally

Friday 24th

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

Saturday 25th

Today's Worship Leader and the service today

Sunday 26th

Thanks for the small things people do to help us

Monday 27th

Anne

Tuesday 28th

Worship God for his righteousness



Book Club



The Birdcage by Eve Chase

Three sisters (with different mothers) are invited by their artist father to the family home on a cliff top near St Ives in Cornwall. It is December and very different from the family times they remember spending there during summer holidays many years ago. The girls wonder what lies behind the invitation. What is it that their father is to tell them?

Kat is a businesswoman coming out of a relationship and concentrating hard on her work. Flora is a young married mother but is all right with her marriage? She has brought her son with her on this extended visit.

Lauren, the youngest by some years works in the world of art at the National Gallery in London. Her mother has recently died, and she is suffering from long term 'anxieties'.

Something happened at the house when the girls were young, but what?

Perhaps slow in parts, the story gradually reveals different secrets. In the meantime, who is leaving strange notes in and around the house? Why?

Not a bad read, we quite liked the characters with the siblings so differently raised but still close.

We will have met on Monday the 16th January having read The Christmas Train by David Baldacci but will not have time to review it before the newsletter deadline. We next meet on 6th March having read The Paris apartment by Lucy Foley.

Sylvia & Yvonne

World Day of Prayer

A women led, global, ecumenical movement

“I have heard about your faith”

Our sisters in Taiwan are sending us blessings with the service they have prepared for World Day of Prayer 2023. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.



World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday March 3rd 2023 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Taiwan. Ed: our closest is at St Aldhelm’s Church, Windmill Road, Edmonton, N18 1PA, they are meeting at 2pm on 3rd March.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

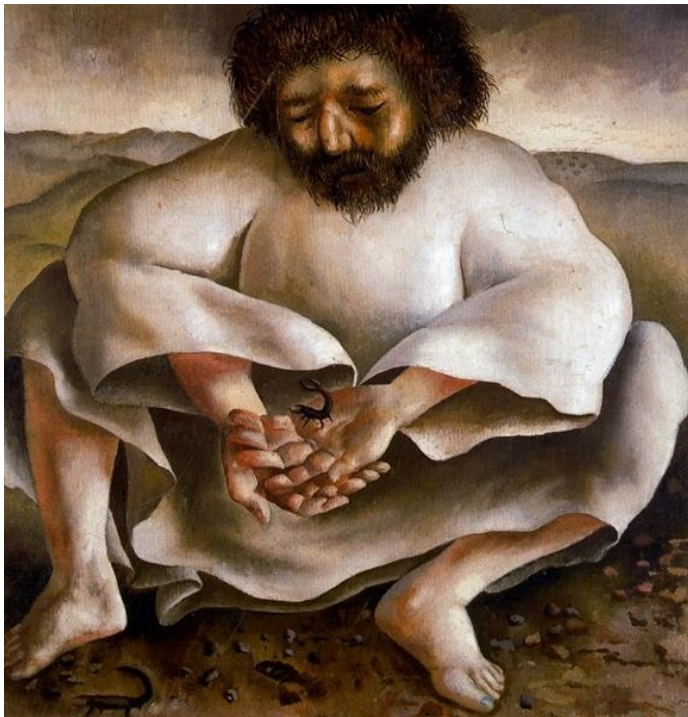
For further information and resources, see the WDP website:
www.wwdp.org.uk

Forty Days and Forty Nights

At the end of this month we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory.

In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is this month's painting from 1939: 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.' It is held in a private collection.

Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for



Picture: <https://www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/christ-in-the-wilderness-the-scorpion>

many of his paintings, and the village's inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. 'Angels and dirt' he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with His head, His hands and His feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about Him, apart from His tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert?

During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God. He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.

he Revd Michael Burgess

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 (27th February – 12th March) will spotlight the harmful effect of the climate crisis on the future of our food.

Thousands of people across Britain are gearing up to take part in Fairtrade Fortnight 2023. This year's campaign will highlight the message that whatever your budget and wherever you shop, when you choose Fairtrade, you support farmers to take care of the environment through Fairtrade's Price, Premium and Programmes.

The two-week campaign will focus this year on the climate crisis and the increasing threat it poses to some of the planet's most beloved food products as well as the livelihoods of the farmers and agricultural workers who grow them.

It will show how the future survival of the world's most popular foods – such as bananas, cocoa, and coffee – hangs in the balance unless we achieve inclusive and equitable climate solutions, with farmers and agricultural workers playing a central role in the climate response.

Support for Fairer prices

Jackie Marshall, Head of Brand and Marketing at the Fairtrade Foundation, said: "Fairtrade Fortnight highlights the urgent threat to the future of British staples produced overseas. Without our support for fairer prices today, farmers will find it even harder to tackle the climate and economic challenges of the future.

"Smallholder farmers have a critical role in addressing climate change and have the expertise and knowledge to do so – but they simply can't afford to foot the bill for adapting to economic and climate change on their current incomes. There is a huge amount we can all do. Fairtrade is asking each and every one of us to act now and shop Fairtrade so farmers can keep going through these tough times.

"By choosing Fairtrade now, you are helping protect nature now as well as the future of our food."

Prayer

The peace of your presence

God of sounds and silence,
of consciousness and subconsciousness,
in your presence is all creation
and in your love all are held.

When our minds are overcome by fear
and shadows merge to monsters,
may we sense your presence and know your love.

When words bombard and the safety of silence eludes us,
may we sense your presence and know your love.

When our thoughts are restless
and we can see no way forward,
may we sense your presence and know your love.

When faith itself seems foreign and we feel abandoned,
may we sense your presence and know your love.

God of this time and all time, this place and all space,
may we trust in your love,
and in oneness find communion with creation,
and peace of mind.

Heather Whyte

From the URC prayer handbook 2023

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

Boys' Brigade News

On December 4th we were part of over 100 people from the Enfield Battalion who participated in the Enfield Parade of Light. Prior to the Parade of Light, we headed to the KB02, an indoor soft play and arcade, in Palmers Green. Following lunch, we headed to Enfield town to the Parade of Light. There was an abundance of community groups and organisations taking part in the loop through Enfield Town. Enfield Battalions "Winter Wonderland of Lights and Music" float had Santa's Sleigh with Christmas themed inflatables backed up by young people and leaders with glow sticks brining together a colourful and festive display!

The year concluded with our Carol collecting fundraising four nights, this could only mean Christmas carols being played by our brass band. A regular favourite is Good King Wenceslas, who likes his pizzas deep and crisp and even! We managed to raise just over £2,000. The Nativity appeared to be enjoyed by those watching and taking part. After offering up gifts of gold and frankincense, the wise men said "wait, there's myrrh".

With the New Year comes new badge classes. The Company Section group will be doing mixed crafts, volcanos and science experiments. What do volcanos do when they are told a joke? Erupt with laughter! The science experiments will include making a non-Newtonian fluid, the state of the fluid changes between solid and liquid depending on the force applied, try to pick it up and it will be solid but then as you pick it up it turns to a liquid. A rainbow water experiment,

where the density of water, based on the amount of sugar in the different colours of water, causes them to layer creating a rainbow effect. Chemists are excellent at solving problems because they always have solutions! What do you get if you cross a volcano with a light bulb? A lava lamps!

The Senior Section has been split in to two groups, the older of the Seniors will be working on their leadership skills by planning how to run a games session and looking at what elements are required for a game's session. Did you know that grasshoppers aren't big fans of football, they prefer cricket! The younger group of the Seniors will be working on script writing, planning, rehearsing, and performing a short 5 -minute sketch. This will be interspersed with weeks of various components of engineering. Why is a thermometer smarter than a graduated cylinder? It has more degrees.

That's all for this month, more to come in March!

Joseph

Quotes around Love for February...

Love is that liquor sweet and most divine, which my God feels as blood; but I as wine. – George Herbert

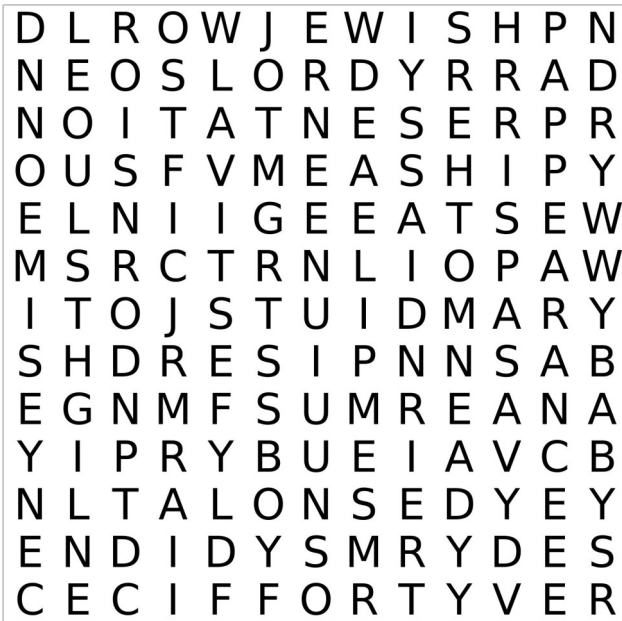
Love may be a fool's paradise, but it is the only paradise we know on this troubled planet. – Robert Blatchford.

There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage. – Martin Luther

Wordsearch

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas. Jesus is described in the Bible as the Light of the World, and so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40, where Simeon makes his great declaration of faith and recognition of Jesus. Simeon's 'Nunc Dimittis', is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer.

Forty	Days	Baby	Boy	Public
Appearance	Mary	Jewish	Mothers	Temple
Jesus				
Purified				
Present				
Lord				
Festival				
Presentation				
Light				
World				
Candlemas				
Simeon				
Nunc				
Dimittis				
Office				
Evening				
Prayer				
West				



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

