

**Bush Hill Park**  
United  
Reformed  
Church

**February**  
**2025**



25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ  
[www.bhpurc.org.uk](http://www.bhpurc.org.uk)

# Who to contact

## Minister

Ruth Dewis      07592 125027      minister@bhpurc.org.uk

## Serving Elders

Andrew Caddies	andrew.caddies@bhpurc.org.uk
Lynda Cook (Secretary)	secretary@bhpurc.org.uk
Martin Hamblin (Treasurer)	martin.hamblin@bhpurc.org.uk

## Youth activities

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

## Other activities

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

## 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).

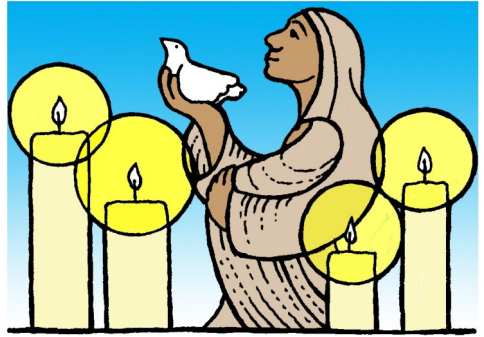
Please visit <https://www.bhpurc.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding> for further information.

## Hello,

It seems a long time since I last wrote a letter for everyone. We are well into 2025 now. The Christmas decorations are long gone but are those of you who had real Christmas trees still finding pine needles?

At the start of February (on the 2nd) some Christians celebrate Candlemas. Candlemas Day is one of the oldest feast days celebrated since the 4th century A.D. It comes exactly 40 days after Christmas and is the time we remember when Jesus was presented at the temple in Jerusalem by Mary and Joseph.

Simeon was promised, through revelation by the Holy Spirit, that he wouldn't die until he had seen the Messiah. In obedience to the Spirit's leading he went into the temple courts that same day as Mary, Joseph and Jesus. How must he have felt? Well apparently he was so joyful he told God he would now die happy.



*“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”*  
(Luke 2:29-32).

Then we hear about the prophetess Anna. She also shared the importance of the Christ child to all she met who, *“were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem”* (Luke 2:38).

Simeon and Anna were discerning of the moment; they had their spiritual ears and eyes open to what God was doing. We need to be like Simeon and Anna especially in the days we live in. We can

be so easily drawn into believing what society says is correct or what the culture tells us to believe. However, we need to listen to God because only God's ways are trustworthy. Society's values change but Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

How do we listen to God? Like Simeon, we are blessed, as believers, with the gift of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us. We have also been gifted with the word of God and the privilege of being able to pray. We therefore have been given the means to listen to God but we have to be willing to receive the Holy Spirit's guidance and revelation, open Scripture to let the Holy Spirit reveal things to us and be disciplined enough to actually pray.

God in his mercy and extraordinary grace speaks to us in other ways but we need to be discerning about what message we are hearing and believing. The only true way

to hear God is through our prayer time with Him and how He speaks to us through his word by the power of His Spirit. We should all make time to read Scripture and quietly contemplate God's Word so we can hear His still small voice (1 Kings 19:12).

2025 gives us the opportunity to reorganise our priorities and put the old behind us so we can look forward to what God has planned for us this year. May this year be a year of putting God first as we are called to do.

Abba Father,  
Help us to be disciplined in our prayer life and in our regularly reading of Scripture so that we can really learn how you want us to live for your glory. We thank you for your gracious gift of the Holy Spirit who can awaken and transform our minds and hearts for such a time as this. In Jesus name we pray,  
Amen.

Blessings for February,

*Yours in Christ, Ruth*

## Smile lines

### **Silly Book titles for churches** (from Evelyn)

Bell Ringing by Paul D. Rope

Bugle Calls by Lars Post

Prayers for All Occasions by Neil Down & Hans T. Gether

The Good News by Haile Delighted

The Story of St. Peter by Pearl E. Gates

### **Visit**

The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet his parishioners. At one house where he knocked, a woman inside called out: "Is that you, Angel?"

The vicar hesitated, and then replied: "No, but I'm from the same department."

### **Those notices which didn't come out quite right...**

Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness.

Spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.

In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

Volunteers are needed to spit up food for distribution.

## Here is the news

### **Tearfund in action in the Middle East**

As conflict in the Middle East continues, millions of people across Gaza, Lebanon and the wider region are still in urgent need of food, shelter and medical care.

One British Christian charity in the region is Tearfund, working through a variety of local churches and partners.

In Gaza, Tearfund International Health Partners provide medicine and healthcare. In Lebanon, Tearfund provides food, mattresses and other essentials through local churches. In the West Bank, Tearfund works with the Diocese of Jerusalem in healthcare and education.

But Tearfund says: “This is only possible with your support. Please, join us in prayer and give if you can, to help us respond to the growing need.”

[www.tearfund.org/campaigns/middle-east-emergency-appeal](http://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/middle-east-emergency-appeal)

### **Recycling at Bush Hill Park URC with TerraCycle**

Working with TerraCycle, in 2024 we sent 1.08kg of cheese wrappers, 6.08kg of biscuit, cracker and cake wrappers, 4.64kg of Pringles® Tubes and 26.18kg of crisp and snack wrappers for recycling. In return TerraCycle donated £36.12 to the church.

The crisp and snack wrapper recycling programme has now closed (wrappers can now be recycled via supermarkets) and we have added bread wrappers to the list of items we can send for recycling.

Full details of our recycling programmes can be viewed at <https://bhpurc.org.uk/community/recycle/>

## **National Nest Box Week – 14th to 21st February**

Where can family-minded birds raise their young these days? As our gardens and parklands become smaller and tidier, too many natural nest sites – such as holes in trees, old buildings and unkempt hedgerows – are rapidly disappearing

No wonder that our sparrows, greenfinches and swifts are in precipitous decline, and that one in four of our UK bird species are now under serious threat.

This makes it more important than ever to care for our remaining birds. By feeding, providing water and putting up nest boxes we can give them a safe space to raise their chicks.

The National Nest Box Week initiative encourages bird conservation across the UK, and it's easy to get involved, whether you're a teacher, part of a local wildlife group, or just wanting to boost the bird numbers in your own garden.

Visit: [www.countryfile.com/wildlife/birds/national-nest-box-week-how-to-help-birds-in-your-garden](http://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/birds/national-nest-box-week-how-to-help-birds-in-your-garden)



With the cold weather all around you might be starting to plan a holiday or dreaming of time in a sunny resort. If you want more of an adventure you might be interested in the Christian nature conservation organization A Rocha which has centres in Canada, France, India, Kenya & Portugal with a range of activities

from laid back bird watching and walking to working alongside the various projects. For more details see <http://www.arocha.org/en/get-involved/centres/>

# Committed to supporting our global partners in Bangladesh

Commitment for Life partners continue to support our Christian Aid Bangladesh programmes. These include programmes on gender justice, climate justice and responding to the needs of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar.



Photo credit: Abdullah Al Masud, Pixabay

In 2024-2025 the priorities remain to advocate for marginalised communities, equipping them to be independent agents of change and good governance. The focus is on the empowerment of women and capacity building. We continue to challenge harmful practices. We are equipping girls and women with more opportunities to gain skills and education for better economic independence.

The update will feature a case study about Suhali, a man with physical and speech disabilities who did not let his limitations deter him from his dreams. Through our Empowering Left Behind Minority Communities programme, they were able to advocate for him and support him to attain a job in IT. People like Suhali are grateful for your support.



# Lent Course 2025: Journey of Generosity



Generosity Path

This year's Lent Course will be held on:

**Tuesday 18th and 25th March,**

**1st and 15th April**

with two follow up sessions after Easter

(dates to be agreed when we meet in person)

**10.30am at Lancaster Road URC** (church lounge)

led by Revd Ruth Dewis

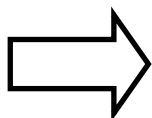
OR

**7.30pm at Bush Hill Park URC** (church lounge)

led by Lisa Hamblin

The Journey of Generosity is simple, free and life-changing. It is an interactive experience that creates a space for people to have conversations about faith, life and money.

Through real-life stories of generous givers from around the world, an exploration of what the Bible has to say about giving, and thought-provoking activities, we pray you'll be inspired and equipped to find new freedom through God's gift of generosity.



**Please let Lisa know if you want to attend**

A booklet will then be sent to you as a pdf  
for you to print out (if required)

If you would like a booklet printed out for you,  
please indicate when you confirm  
your wish to attend the sessions

# Acrostic prayer for the pastorate based on Colossians 3 verse 12, written as a joint congregation on the 29th December 2024

Come Lord Jesus  
Open our eyes,  
Mould us in your way.  
Prepare us for the year ahead,  
Always ready for you to lead us.  
Show us what we should do.  
Show us how to care for each other  
In what we do and say and think.  
Open our hearts  
Now and over this year and into the future. (Compassion)

Heavenly Father  
Under your guidance  
May our pastorate  
In this New Year  
Live, learn, lead, love and laugh  
In the power of your Holy Spirit  
Taking your word out to  
Your people (Humility)

Father,  
Our  
Ruler of the universe  
Guide us  
Into  
Victory,  
Everlasting,  
Never  
Ending  
Safety and  
Security. (Forgiveness)



**Pray for**  
**All**  
**Three churches'**  
**Interests**  
**Encouraging one another to try out**  
**New ideas**  
**Coming together to**  
**Extend hospitality to one another (Patience)**

**Make us holy**  
**Everyday considering your world.**  
**Each one of us a part of your family**  
**Keen to serve you.**  
**Never doubting,**  
**Ever faithful,**  
**Serving you with reverence,**  
**Seeking your kingdom together. (Meekness)**

**King of Kings we worship you**  
**In everything we do.**  
**Never let us wander from your path**  
**Discipline us when we need it and**  
**Nurture us in the faith.**  
**Encourage us to work in the community**  
**Showing your love to all around,**  
**Seeking together your Holy Spirit to guide and to guard us.**  
**(Kindness)**

**In Jesus' name we pray.**  
**Amen**

**Colossians 3 verse 12:**

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,  
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,  
gentleness and patience.

# Love in Action!

‘Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.’ (1 John 3:18).

The writer Gary Chapman describes how love can be expressed in five different ‘languages’: words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred language of love? As we think about St Valentine during this month, let’s consider how God’s love language is expressed in the word agape. This is exclusively found in the New Testament and is uniquely defined by Jesus: *‘This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.’* (1 John 3:16). Jesus’ giving of His life on the cross provides the model for how we can demonstrate God’s love in our relationships with others.

**It is self-giving:** are we ready to put the other person first, as Jesus did when He died for us in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service, whatever the cost?

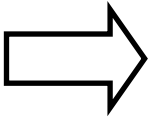
**It takes the initiative:** are we ready to show love to those who don’t deserve it or who we find hard to love? Do we have eyes of compassion to see their needs and a heart to love and serve them?

**It is intentional:** are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of the time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, *‘how much do you love me?’* The child replied *‘lots and lots and lots!’* Then they asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said *‘I love you this much’*, as they nailed Him to a cross.

*Canon Paul Hardingham*

# Diary for February



## See back cover for regular activities

The full diary with regular activities is also online at [www.bhpurc.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.bhpurc.org.uk/whats-on)

Sun 2nd 10.30am Communion with Martin Hamblin

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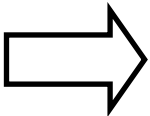
Sun 9th 10.30am Parade with Rev Mandy James

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Sun 16th 10.30am Worship with Rosemary Milns and Rev Ruth Dewis

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Sun 23rd 10.30am Worship with Martin Wells



## Next newsletter deadline: Sunday 9th February

All material for inclusion should be emailed to [newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk)

# Prayer diary for February

A new command I give you:

Love one another.

As I have loved you,  
so you must love one another.

By this everyone will know  
that you are my disciples,  
if you love one another.

John 13:34-35

## **Saturday 1st**

Sunday's Worship Leader and  
the service tomorrow

## **Sunday 2nd**

Give thanks for those who  
lead and help with Boys and  
Girls brigade

## **Monday 3rd**

Robin (both)

## **Tuesday 4th**

For awareness of sanitation  
need globally

## **Wednesday 5th**

Lincoln Road

## **Thursday 6th**

Local Councillor for Bush Hill  
Park – Patricia Gregory

## **Friday 7th**

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

## **Saturday 8th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and  
the service tomorrow

## **Sunday 9th**

Give thanks for family and  
friends

## **Monday 10th**

Ruth

## **Tuesday 11th**

For the work of Toilet Twin-  
ning

## **Wednesday 12th**

Leighton Road

### **Thursday 13th**

Local Councillor for Bush Hill Park – James Hockney

### **Friday 14th**

The work of North Enfield Foodbank (we support them)

### **Saturday 15th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

### **Sunday 16th**

Be joyful in hope and faithful in prayer giving thanks to God for his blessings

### **Monday 17th**

Stephen

### **Tuesday 18th**

For education around hygiene, here and across the world

### **Wednesday 19th**

Main Avenue

### **Thursday 20th**

Local Councillor for Bush Hill Park – Peter Fallart

### **Friday 21st**

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

### **Saturday 22nd**

Sunday's Worship Leader and

the service tomorrow

### **Sunday 23rd**

Thanks for the Peacemakers

### **Monday 24th**

Stuart

### **Tuesday 25th**

Thanks for lives saved through Toilet Twinning and improved sanitation

### **Wednesday 26th**

Melbourne Way

### **Thursday 27th**

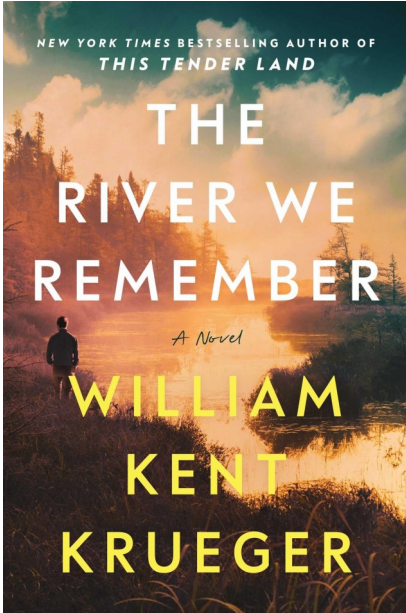
Local politics and council decisions

### **Friday 28th**

Those suffering from addiction, their families and the charities that help them break free



## Book club



The River We Remember by William Kent Krueger

It's 1958 and in a small town in Minnesota a body is found floating in the Alabaster River. The sheriff and his deputies are stretched to find the killer. It brings to a head an old grievance between an indigenous family and the incomer over land boundaries. The plot twists and turns, as does the river.

This is a well written, well researched novel; we were taken

to that place seeing it through the characters, good and bad, young and old, professional or otherwise. It is to be recommended.

Our meetings are on hold at present because a member has sustained fractures but we intend to restart as soon as possible continuing to read as much as possible in the meantime.

*Sylvia*





## How do you keep your life going in the right direction?

‘Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be ...successful.’ Joshua 1.8

Any flying instructor will tell you that periodically all aeroplanes need to be ‘trimmed’ or ‘balanced in flight’. After flying through storms and hitting air pockets, the plane’s instruments need to be readjusted. That’s true of our attitudes too. The air currents of life can ‘knock you out of line’ and keep you from reaching your destiny. ‘Unexpected weather’ like sickness, unemployment, divorce, death and disappointment can drive you off course.

In other words, your attitude needs to be constantly checked and adjusted. Have you checked yours lately? What are you encountering that calls for an attitude change? How are you handling it? Are you adjusting or resisting? So long as you live, you’ll always need to be ‘trimmed and balanced’.

The most important thing that affects your attitude in life is your faith, and that grows only as you live in God’s Word. That’s why God told Joshua to read the Word, speak the Word and obey the Word if he wanted to succeed.

Try the 3 x 5 Technique! Each week, write out one faith building scripture on a 3 x 5 card. Carry it with you wherever you go and memorise it. In one year, you’ll know 52 new scriptures, and more importantly, your attitudes will be in line with God’s Word, your faith will be strengthened, and your life will keep moving in the right direction.

If you prefer an app, try Bible Trainer [www.bibletrainer.co.uk](http://www.bibletrainer.co.uk)

From UCB The Word for Today

# URC Statement on the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas

Published online - 17 January 2025. For the full story and others visit <https://urc.org.uk/our-news-stories/latest-news/>

Israel and Hamas have agreed to a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal, according to US and Qatari mediators. The first six-week phase is set to take effect on 19 January.



The agreement follows 15 months of devastating violence. Israel has attempted to root out Hamas fighters and secure the safety of its citizens. It has conducted a relentless bombing campaign in Gaza destroying homes, schools, hospitals, mosques and churches. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed in what Amnesty International describes as a genocide, though this has yet to be confirmed under international law. International arrest warrants have been issued for leaders in Israel and for Hamas.

The United Reformed Church has been calling for an unconditional and permanent ceasefire for well over a year, and joins with the Methodists and Baptist churches in the UK welcoming the news of the ceasefire deal.

The commencement of a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel will come as an enormous relief for all living in Gaza and for those waiting for the release of hostages held by Hamas. The UN reports that 70% of those killed in Gaza are women and children and, even in the last few days, schools and hospitals sheltering those displaced have been bombed. Our churches deeply mourn the loss of life. Each person lost is uniquely and

equally precious in the eyes of God.

We long for a halt to the violence in Gaza and for the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners. The ceasefire announced today is only a first phase lasting six weeks. As church leaders we call for the ceasefire to be permanent and unconditional so that humanitarian aid can be rolled out unimpeded in Gaza. The UN agency, UNRWA, has unparalleled capacity to deliver desperately needed support. Israel's ban of UNRWA jeopardises vital life-saving assistance. We ask the UK government to make clear that the restriction of humanitarian aid in this way would have consequences for bilateral relations.

We pray for a just, equitable, and lasting peace in the region that goes beyond simply the absence of violence. Our churches will continue to work closely with Israeli and Palestinian partners, agonising with them in their current sufferings yet confident that God's grace and deliverance offers hope for the future for all.

Join us in a prayer, from our Methodist friends, giving thanks for the ceasefire announcement:

God of Love,

We are thankful for the work that has been done to secure a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and pray that it may be implemented and lead to a lasting peace in the region.

With grateful hearts we celebrate the promised release of all those held against their will and pray for their recovery and recuperation as they are reunited with family and friends.

We pray that we never see such death and destruction in this region again.

May justice reign, justice that establishes peace, promotes hope, frees people from fear, encourages neighbours to love another and brings an end to the seemingly endless cycle of injustice, violence and death in the region.

This we ask in the power of your spirit, Amen

## Praying in your Discouragements

‘Moses said to the Lord, “...I am not able to carry all this people alone, the burden is too heavy for me...” Numbers 11:10-15.

Moses prayed this prayer in a day of dark depression and discouragement. The opening verses of the chapter relate how divine punishment fell on the people of Israel because they complained about almost everything. Moses prayed and the punishment stopped but not the people’s complaints. They wanted meat to eat.

For years they had been sustained by manna from heaven, but now they longed for the fish, cucumbers and melons they had eaten in Egypt (vv.5,6). They forget how the Lord had delivered them from Pharaoh’s bondage. Now they preferred Egyptian food, and the slavery that went with it, to the goodness of the Lord and His provision for them.

Moses was beside himself with despair. Would these ungrateful people never stop complaining? Then the Lord’s anger threatened the people again (v.10). Moses was caught in the middle. On one side of him the people complained, and on the other side God’s wrath was about to fall. Moses couldn’t go on.

His frustration broke out in petulant questions to the Lord. ‘Why are you dealing so severely with me?’ ‘Why do you lay this burden on me?’ ‘Did I conceive these people?’ ‘Why am I a nursing mother to them?’ ‘Am I responsible for getting them to Egypt?’ ‘How can I provide meat for so many?’ ‘Lord, this burden is too great for me.’ ‘I’d rather die now than go on like this’ (see vv.11-15).

Moses was depressed, irritable and resentful. He poured it all out before the Lord. It was a prayer born of frustration and anger. He was angry with his ungrateful congregation, and he was angry with God. Why did the Lord leave it all to him? After all, it was God's plan to bring the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. Moses had only gone along with it because God commanded him. But now it was all too much. Worn out with listening to the people's whining and not sure of what God would do next, Moses had had enough. He blamed the Lord for giving him a burden he couldn't carry, and he wanted to die.

But God answered Moses graciously! He understood the frustration, the petulance, the lack of faith and the rebellious spirit that blamed God for it all. He provided Moses with seventy elders who eased the burden of leadership (vv.16, 17). He sent an east wind that brought quails into the camp and provided meat for them (vv.31, 32). In grace and mercy God 'overlooked' the faults of Moses and sent him help and refreshment.



In our deepest disappointments, God understands. In our frustrations, God is merciful. When we lash out at circumstances and even at God Himself, He does not answer in kind. In our deepest discouragement, His love and grace and understanding are with us still.

*Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle*

# Love is all around us

God obviously approves of romance – after all, putting Adam and Eve alone together in the Garden of Eden was His idea. And romance has been around ever since.

The history of the Israelites began with three great romances: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Rachel. The on-going history of Israel was deeply affected by later romances: Esther and King Xerxes, David's love affair with Bathsheba, and Solomon's marriage to hundreds of foreign wives. There is even an entire book in the Old Testament devoted to the love of a man and woman: the Song of Solomon!



When we reach the New Testament, we find real love between Joseph and Mary (even when Joseph thought Mary had been faithless, he did not want to harm her). St Paul, though himself a bachelor, nevertheless spent a lot of time urging Christians to love and be kind and faithful and considerate to their spouses. He even wrote 1 Corinthians 13 – the great love chapter that is read at millions of weddings worldwide 2000 years later.

Down the centuries ever since, romantic love has been critical in shaping history (Antony and Cleopatra), in shaping cultural ideals (King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table). Some of our favourite stories are built on romance : Puccini's Tosca, Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, Jane Austen's Pride and

Prejudice, Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre.

Romance remains as prominent now as it ever was, added to which we have films, television and drama all flying the romantic flag. Wherever we look, whatever we do, romance continues to permeate every aspect of life.

People make amazing sacrifices for love. They defy their family, forsake their culture, turn their back on wealth and position, to be with their loved one. People give their loved ones amazing gifts. Surely the most extravagant was the gift of the Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal in India for his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

Romance is still alive and well in Britain – last year we sent about 25 million Valentines to our beloved ones.

And what of the future? Well, just as the Bible begins with a love story, so it ends with one. And you are involved! For actually the greatest Love Story of all time is that between God and His people.

Christ is described in Revelation as our heavenly Bridegroom, and the Church is His beloved Bride. He has given us the most expensive present of all – Himself. And, just as in all the best romances, the story will end with the bride and groom getting together at last, so at the End of Time, Christ will return for His Bride.



## Girls' Brigade news

As I write this we are preparing for the new term at GB. Christmas is over and we face a new year. But before we look forward, I would like to thank the girls who helped with the Family Carol Service. We made the angels that were displayed on the choir stalls, and we enjoyed getting covered in glue and glitter. Our theme looked at Mary, and there were a lot if angels!

With the help of Boys Brigade, we acted out the nativity from the point view of the different Angels that visited Jesus in the stable, including the Angel of the North and Angel Edmonton.



A scene from the Family Carol Service.  
(I am sorry the picture is not a very good quality)

This half term the Juniors will be looking at the New Testament character of Dorcas, or Tabitha as she is sometimes called. The Christian trait we are looking at is "Kindness".



The Seniors did a communication module. They learnt a few common signs from British Sign Language. They discussed the importance of clear messages using the two Ronnie's 4 candles sketch, and the importance of good listening skills. Also discussed was the need for caution when using social media.

They then went on to First Aid learning about resuscitation, bandaging and responding to minor accidents.

They also used the new dance mat. Very energetic exercise!

This term they will be doing various craft projects.

*Lynda*

## **Write your own Valentine this year**

If you are going to send a Valentine this year, why not write your own?

Most poetry – and especially romantic poetry – comes from the heart. It is a way of expressing your emotions, often saying things that you would otherwise be too shy to say. And if you've ever felt the need to write a poem about something you feel deeply – you've already crossed the starting line!

So – how do you start? Inspiration may come from looking at the world around you, in scribbling down your initial thoughts about your loved one... and then mixing them all together. For instance, a rock is solid, dependable, weathered, even! Does that remind you of your loved one? On the other hand, a flower is fragrant, delicate – and fleeting. Does that remind you of your someone?

# Wordsearch

February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between men and women: Valentine cards and wedding fayres abound. 'Love' as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, Education Sunday and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

Candlemas	naming	Christ	Simeon	Anna
temple	love	Valentine	romance	Matthias
Fairtrade	Fortnight	coffee	bananas	chocolate
justice	poverty	nestbox	marriage	wedding
Holocaust	leprosy	education	sunday	

N	R	S	U	N	D	A	Y	S	I	N	R	C	N
A	O	F	O	R	T	N	I	G	H	T	N	H	U
M	M	A	T	T	H	I	A	S	A	Y	M	R	E
I	A	I	O	L	E	L	M	T	N	N	O	I	P
N	N	R	O	A	H	O	F	T	N	A	A	S	O
G	C	T	T	H	O	L	O	C	A	U	S	T	V
C	E	R	N	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N	E
T	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	C	L	E	R
W	E	D	D	I	N	G	E	D	M	O	S	S	T
H	L	E	P	R	O	S	Y	L	P	F	E	T	Y
C	M	A	R	R	I	A	G	E	L	F	L	B	T
J	U	S	T	I	C	E	A	M	E	E	O	O	T
C	O	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	V	X	A
S	M	B	A	N	A	N	A	S	I	M	E	O	N

# Prayer

Dear Lord,

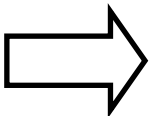
February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

Lord – as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

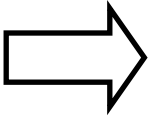
*Daphne Kitching*



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](mailto:newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk).

If you would like prayer for yourself or family and friends please email [prayer@bhpurc.org.uk](mailto:prayer@bhpurc.org.uk)

# Weekly activities



Please check the church website to confirm if the activity you want to go to is going ahead.  
[www.bhpurc.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.bhpurc.org.uk/whats-on)

## Monday

- 6.15pm Boys' Brigade Junior Section
- 7.30pm Boys' Brigade Company Section
- 10.30am Book Club (once a month, date inside)

## Wednesday

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

## Thursday

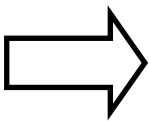
- 10.30am Friends Group (2nd & 4th Thursday)

## Friday

- 6.00pm Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys

## Sunday

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



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

