



The
United
Reformed
Church

Nelmes News



Deuteronomy
8:3

Matthew 4:4

Bread is not enough to keep us alive;
we need to feed on every word of God

February 2024

Dear Friends,

A couple of years ago, I bought a new camera. I've always been interested in photography, and this camera gives me the options to really customize the settings for whatever conditions I want to shoot in. The big problem is that I don't know what any of these settings do!

That Christmas, I received *Digital Photography: A Complete Course*, a book which says it will teach me to be a better, more educated, photographer. It's promise: in only 20 weeks, I can master the art of using my camera in the correct way.

20 weeks? I don't want to wait 20 weeks - I want to know all of that now!

I realize that to learn just about anything properly takes time. It takes patience. It takes commitment. But I suspect I am not alone in wishing that more things in life could just be instantaneous - that things could just happen more quickly.

That desire for instant gratification may seem like a sign of the times, but the Bible reminds us that people have always known what they wanted, and have always been frustrated when what they wanted didn't materialize as quickly as they would have liked.

Our Lenten Bible Study this year will focus on the Book of Jonah - a familiar name to many of us among the Old Testament prophets, who's story is, perhaps, the most un-prophet-like story in the Bible. He thinks he knows better than God what should happen to the people he is sent to preach to, and he throws a fit when things don't happen quickly enough and in the way he would prefer them to happen.

I don't want to give too much away about what we will be talking about, but suffice it to say, Jonah might find himself at home in the hurried and

frantic pace of our lives today. Think about it: we want our churches back to the way they were before COVID. We want a more stable economy, lower inflation, peace in the Middle East and Ukraine, more sunshine in the winter. And when do we want all of this? Now!

The writer of Ecclesiastes, however, reminds us that all of this will be resolved in due time. In recent months, I have been using the following passage as part of my prayer times. I find that saying these words with intention, not only helps calm my general anxiety about the state of the world today, but also helps to give me perspective on some of the larger issues facing our churches. I offer these words to you this month, in the hope that they might aid your time of prayer, as well:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Peace and love,

Brian

PS: Many thanks for the wonderful Christmas card and generous gift. My family and I are very thankful to to be part of such a generous and loving community.

Christmas Appeal



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Appeal which raised a total of £687.00 which I will send to Crisis. Later in the year, I intend to claim about £149 in Gift Aid which will also be given to that charity to help continue their work with the homeless

.John Hawkins

News of Friends

Thanks to all our Church Members who attended the Nelmes AGM on 28 January and especially to Claire and Emily for agreeing to become serving Elders for the coming year. Our congregation may often be few in number but, as I said in my Secretary Report, we hope that we never lose sight of our ultimate aim: to spread the word of God to as many people as possible. 'Blue Sky Mondays' and 'YOUth Matters' are two initiatives that try to achieve this, but if anyone can think of other ideas, please share them with me or another Elder and they will be brought up for discussion at an Elder's Meeting.



Sadly, several of our friends continue to suffer from ongoing health problems that need our prayers.

Pauline is still awaiting a new date for her operation so this is obviously a very difficult time for her and Keith.

Barbara Sanderson has been experiencing difficulty seeing clearly after a cataract operation before Christmas; she's hoping things will improve in the long term.

Owen continues to be frustrated by his lack of mobility following a hip operation but he is trying to remain positive.

Alan has had a couple of falls recently but stoically refuses to give in despite experiencing periods of frailty.

Eva is hoping to move to Devon and we wish her success in what everybody knows can be a very stressful process.

Keith reports receiving several photos of Don enjoying time with his great-grandchildren during the festive season. Although Don and Enid are now in Care Homes, we should never forget that they remain part of Nelmes Church. In a similar fashion, both Moreen and May continue get to follow what we are doing by reading 'Nelmes News' and they send their regards to us all.

Please remember all these friends in your prayers.

Jill Hilton



Barbara Ashworth

3 March

Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting. So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this.

For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old.

A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs:

*And every man and maide doe take their turne,
And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne.*



We are most grateful to all who have continued to support our Church. In January we received £1,934.00 in offerings and donations.

Lenten Bible Study

This year's Lenten Bible Study will focus on the Book of Jonah. Many of us will have grown up knowing the story of Jonah and the whale, but when was the last time that you spent time thinking about what happens to Jonah after he and the whale part company?



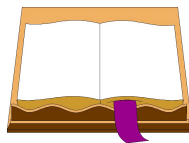
Please join me for lively conversations about Jonah, his call, and his frustration with God. . We'll meet on Tuesdays for four weeks from 27 February in Roope Hall at Trinity URC, Upminster, starting at 9:45 am.

As has been our recent practice, our Bible Study sessions will be recorded to view on our YouTube page within 24 hours of each session. If you have any questions, please contact me at buschkill@gmail.com

Revd Brian Buschkill

Sunday Readings

4 Feb	Is 40:21-31	Mk 1:29-39	1 Cor 9:16-23
11 Feb	2 Kgs 1 2:1-12	Mk 9:2-9	Heb 2:14-18
18 Feb	Gen 9:8-17	Mk 1:9-15	1 Pet 3:18-22
25 Feb	Gen 17:1-7, 15-16	Mk 8:31-38	Rom 4:13-25
3 March	Ex 20:1-17	Jn 2:13-22	1 Cor 1:18-25



This month's worship leaders

Brian Buschkill is a minister within the Heath, Havering & Forest Group.
Claire Bottone and **Barry Smith** are Elders of our Church.



The Editor needs items for March Nelmes News by 22 February.

Publication date: **1 March.**

Make a note in your diary



February

- 4 11.15 am Morning Worship: Revd Brian Busckill
M 5 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
Tu 6 9.45 am First Tuesday Prayers 

- 11 11.15 am Morning Worship: Mrs Claire Bottone
M 12 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
W Ash Wednesday
5.30 pm H & H Communion Service at Nelmes



- 18 11.15 am Morning Worship: Revd Brian Busckill
M 19 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
W 21 7.30 pm Elders' Meeting 




- 25 11.15 am Worship with Communion: Mr Barry Smith
M 26 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
Tu 27 9.45 am Lenten Bible Study (1/4): Roope Hall, Trinity URC
March



- 3 11.15 am Morning Worship: Mr Keith Finch
M 4 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
Tu 5 9.45 am Lenten Bible Study (2/4): Roope Hall, Trinity URC

- 10 11.15 am Morning Worship: Revd Brian Busckill
M 11 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
W 13 9.45 am Lenten Bible Study (3/4): Roope Hall, Trinity URC
5.30 pm H & H Communion Service at Nelmes



- 17 11.15 am Morning Worship: Mr Chris Pearson
M 18 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
W 20 9.45 am Lenten Bible Study (4/4): Roope Hall, Trinity URC
7.30 pm Elders' Meeting 

24 Palm Sunday

11.15 am Worship with Communion: Revd Brian Busckill

Contact keithf2006@btinternet.com for zoom details

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Sunday Worship

Morning Worship for all ages at 11.15 am.
Communion Service on the 4th Sunday of each month

Blue Sky Mondays

7.00 pm: A quiet hour to spend time with the Lord

Activities in the Halls

Nelmes Pre-School	School-days	08:00 - 15:00
Zumba Fitness	Tuesday	19:00 - 20:00
Nelmes Womens Institute	2 nd Wednesday	12:30 - 16:30
EP & AG Residents Association	1 st Thursday	20:00 - 22:30
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Friday	16:30 - 21:30
Woodcarvers' Group	2 nd Saturday	10:30 - 14:30

Nelmes URC is part of the Heath, Havering & Forest group of Churches
www.heathandhaveringurc.co.uk