

# *The* HEATH



News, Views & Comment from the  
United Reformed Church, Chadwell Heath

50p



**The  
Prince  
of  
Peace**

December 2023  
& January 2024

Dear Friends,

As I write to you today, I have just returned home from carolling with the Churches Together group at Upminster's Christmas Kick-off event. Like similar celebrations in many of our communities, it was a festive evening marked by bright lights, cheerful music, wonderfully-smelling food, and lots of over-excited and well-sugared young people. As the costumed characters made their rounds for photos with the kids, it was hard not to smile and be in a joyful mood.

But for many in our church families and communities, the holiday season is not necessarily a time for joy and cheer. Depending on life circumstances, Christmas may not bring the joy that it once did. And the constant barrage of joyful music and well-wishes can make some people feel left out and excluded from the celebrations others seem to enjoy so much.

It's important to remember that the very first Christmas was not all that joyful either. Mary and Joseph were miles away from their home as Mary neared the time when she was to give birth. They had no place to stay...no place to sleep...no help with the labour and delivery of the baby. They had to have been lonely, scared, frustrated and angry.

Even though we like to sing "Silent night, holy night," the reality is that it probably didn't feel like much of either of those to Mary and Joseph.

If you can relate to some of these feelings, I invite you to join me on Friday 22 December at 7pm at Trinity URC for our first "Blue Christmas" Service. It will be a time to meditate, to pray, to reflect, to remember, and most of all, a time to remind ourselves that it is only in times of darkness that we can most clearly see the light of the world. I hope you will join us for a time of reflective worship followed by light refreshments and camaraderie.

I have found Blue Christmas services to be among the most powerful services that I've led, and I look forward to sharing the evening with all of you.

Blessings on your Christmas celebrations,

Brian





# Church Diary December

3rd December 11:15am	Morning Worship & Holy Communion.	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
10th December 11:15am	Worship	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
17th December 11:15am	Morning Worship	Led by Cassie Baker
24th December 11:15am	Morning Worship With Mince Pies Tea/Coffee	Led Diana Baker
25th December 10:00am	Christmas Morning Worship	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
31st December 11:15am	Morning Worship Favourite Hymns/Readings and a time of remembrance	Led by the Elders

## Worship Themes December

*The Church will use the themes listed below*

December 3, 2023	<u>Isaiah 64:1-9</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</u>	<u>Mark 13:24-37</u>
December 10, 2023	<u>Isaiah 40:1-11</u>	<u>2 Peter 3:8-15a</u>	<u>Mark 1:1-8</u>
December 17, 2023	<u>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</u>	<u>1 Thessalonians 5:16-24</u>	<u>John 1:6-8, 19-28</u>
December 24, 2023	<u>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16</u>	<u>Romans 16:25-27</u>	<u>Luke 1:26-38</u>



# Church Diary January

7th January 11:15am	Morning Worship & Holy Communion. Rededication for the coming year.	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
14th January 11:15am	Morning Worship	Led by Tim Marshall
21st January 11:15am	Morning Worship Followed by an Elders' Meeting	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
28th January 11:15am	Morning Worship	Led by Rev. Martin Wheadon

## Worship Themes January

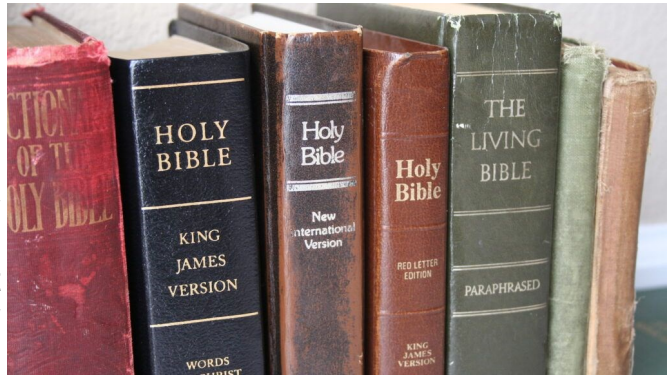
*The Church will use the themes listed below*

January 7, 2024	<u>Genesis 1:1-5</u>	<u>Acts 19:1-7</u>	<u>Mark 1:4-11</u>
January 14, 2024	<u>1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 6:12-20</u>	<u>John 1:43-51</u>
January 21, 2024	<u>Jonah 3:1-5, 10</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 7:29-31</u>	<u>Mark 1:14-20</u>
January 28, 2024	<u>Deuteronomy 18:15-20</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 8:1-13</u>	<u>Mark 1:21-28</u>



# Bible Thoughts

As you will no doubt be aware there are many versions and translations of the Bible, one of those that comes to my mind is The New English translation which took many years to complete, first published as a full Old and New Testament in 1972 and was well received.



Many of us, of a certain age were brought up and weaned on the King James 1 (KJ 1) Authorised English translation which was published in 1611. The KJ1 version was therefore predominantly used in our Churches for over four Centuries and the Bible that mostly influenced our Christian heritage and other countries throughout the world. Although many churches have now moved over to using other versions of the bible, no doubt the KJ1 Bible is still used in many congregations to this day.

What we may not be aware of is how the KJ1 has over the centuries implanted itself within the English language. In our every day conversations we sometimes unknowingly use phrases and words, not necessarily in the same context but to maybe make a point or opinion, words that come directly from the Bible. Apparently there are about 122 of these and some are

Listed below with its Bible ref. others with no ref shown;

A law unto themselves. Rom.2:14 / Go the extra mile. Matt.5:41  
Hearts desire. Psalm21:2 / A cross to bear. Luke 14: 27  
Laughing stock. Job 12:4. / Letter of the law. 2 Cor.3:6  
Pride goes before a fall. Prov. 16:18 / A voice crying in the wilderness. John 1:23  
Manna from heaven. Exod. 16:15

A peace offering. / A wolf in sheep's clothing. / As old as the hills.  
As white as snow. / At his wits end. / Eat drink and be merry.  
Ashes to ashes dust to dust. / Scapegoat. / Skin of your teeth.  
Sour grapes. / See eye to eye. / Sign of the times. / Fat of the land.  
Put words into ones mouth. / Sweat of your brow. / The blind leading the blind

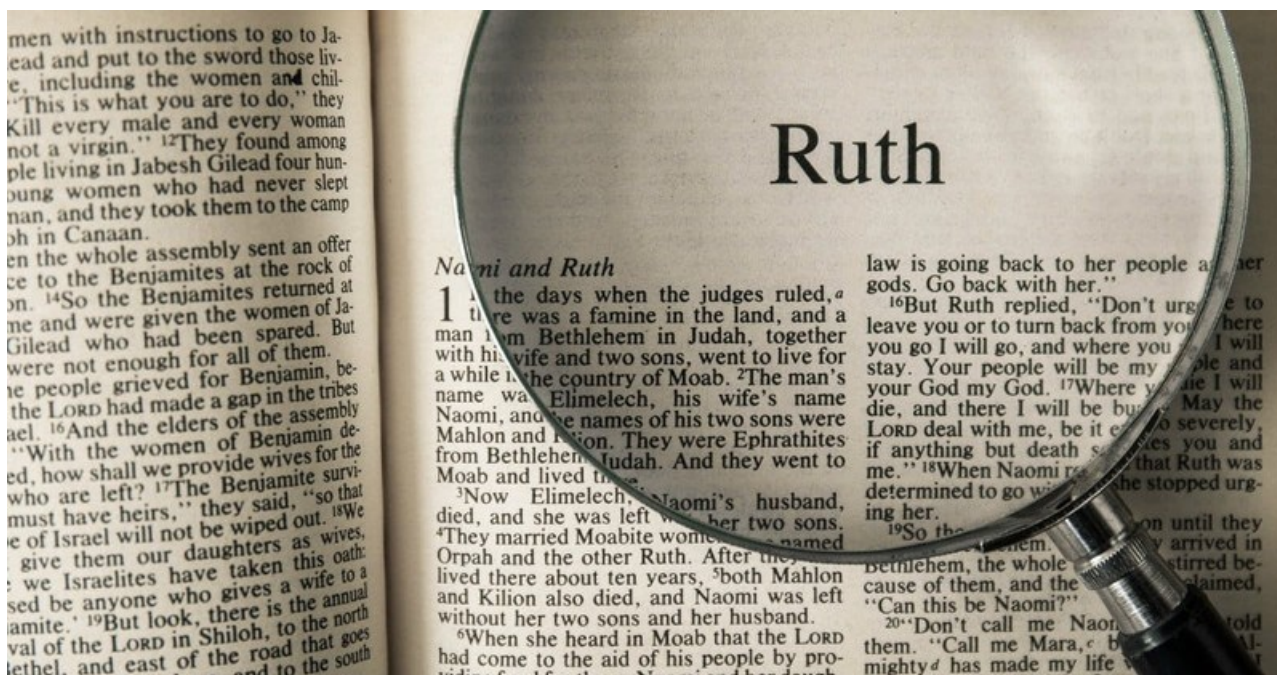
Ring any bells?

It has also been said that the Bards, William Shakespeare's works, have also somewhat left a similar mark on our language, A pound of flesh / Once more into the breach come to mind.

Whether this has been to the same extent as the KJ1 is debatable.

As I'm at my wits end on how to finish this piece, by the skin of my teeth, not wanting to be a scapegoat for any inaccuracies, but hoping we see eye to eye on its content, not of course wanting to put words into your mouth and me a laughing stock, I'll close with a comment as old as the hills that it is my heart's desire that you will enjoy the read.

Go the extra mile!      Len Clarkson.



Hello Everyone!

I just wanted to let you know that I will be leading an Advent Bible Study on the Book of Ruth. The study will last four sessions, meeting on Tuesday mornings at 9:45am in the Roope Hall at Trinity URC, Upminster. The first session will be Tuesday 21 November. All are welcome to join us!

So...the Book of Ruth for Advent? Interesting choice, you might be thinking. Certainly not what we are accustomed to hearing at the time of year that when Christmas trees and holiday wreaths grace our homes and our churches. But I promise you...there is a reason for Ruth here and now...and it is my goal to lead us through one of the most beautiful...if least read...books of the Old Testament.

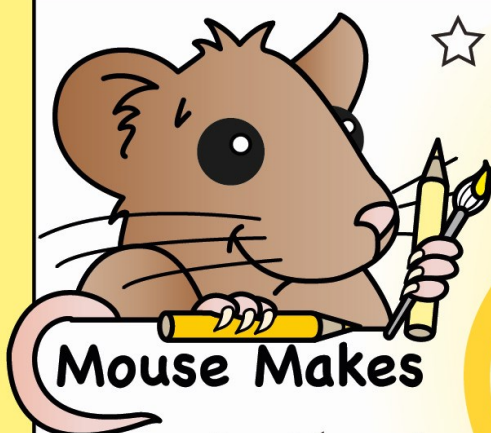
As we have done recently with other studies, these sessions will be recorded and made available on YouTube after each session is completed. There are no materials to purchase this time...just take a few minutes and read at least the first chapter of Ruth before our first session.

I hope to see you there! Brian

**01708 784701**

**07548 447067**

**[buschkill@gmail.com](mailto:buschkill@gmail.com)**



**Mouse Makes**



### GOD'S PROMISE

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

CHILD • BORN • SON  
GIVEN • WONDERFUL  
COUNCELLOR  
MIGHTY • GOD  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER • PRINCE  
PEACE • LORD



### AN ANGEL MESSENGER

*Luke 1:26-38*

ANGEL • GABRIEL  
JOSEPH • MARY  
FAVOUR • SON  
JESUS • GREAT  
THRONE • REIGN  
FOREVER • HOLY  
SERVANT • WORD

**ADVENT**  
comes from  
the Latin  
'AD VENTO'  
which means  
**ARRIVAL**

In Advent we  
celebrate Jesus' birth  
and look forward to  
the time when Jesus  
will come again.



### A LONG JOURNEY

*Luke 2:1-20*

BETHLEHEM  
REGISTER • BIRTH  
MANGER • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK  
ANGELS • JOY  
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE  
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



### THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

*John 3:16*

GOD • SO • LOVED  
WORLD • HE • GAVE  
ONLY • SON  
WHOEVER • BELIEVES  
ETERNAL • LIFE

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





## Christmas Tree Festival at Western Road





# Christmas Tree Festival

Following the success of last year's festival, Western Road URC hosted another Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Market on 18 November.

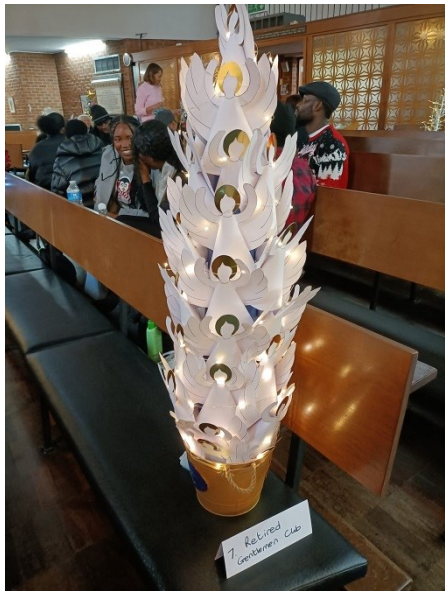
This event was well supported and there were 30 decorated trees displayed in the Church. In addition to Western Road's own groups' trees, the various uniformed organisations were well represented, with smiley Rainbow faces, a paper chain tree from Chadwell Heath Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, and a tree shaped stack of drink cans from the Boys Brigade.

Trees from other users of the premises included yoga, dancing classes, music and theatre groups. Tree decorations ranged from the simplicity of angels made from large paper clips with small bead heads, more plain white paper angels in the shape of a tree, and the Elders stack of bibles, to the cleverly crafted detail showing all the characters mentioned in the Twelve Days of Christmas.

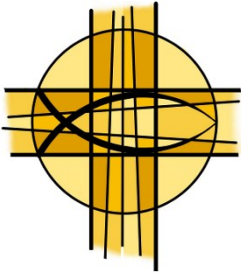
Our tree this year carried greetings from all our Church Family. Dating from 1254, the name Chadwell Heath is thought to derive from St Chad's Well, which until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was enclosed in a brick alcove in Billet Lane (the northern boundary of Marks Gate Estate). Whilst the original was lost in later road construction, its position near 62 Billet Lane is now marked by a brick pillar and bronze plaque, placed in 1951 to commemorate the Festival of Britain. Our tree decorations reflected this historic site and the name of Chad "well" Heath with decorated wishing wells, each carrying the names of our Church Family. Our decorated tree will form part of our own Church Christmas decorations.











# Follow the Star

Jesus' welcoming committee included Eastern scholars who learned about His birth through their study of astrology. I can't help thinking that the arrival of these people at Bethlehem is a link between a very early form of science (albeit mixed in with their own form of religion) and Christian faith. What better way to discover God than to explore the world and follow the evidence wherever it leads? But what exactly was the star of Bethlehem? Scientists have investigated this question over the centuries, coming up with a variety of answers.

First, there is the idea of a supernova: the massively bright explosion caused by a dying star. On rare occasions a supernova can be seen from Earth with the naked eye, remaining visible for several months. We now know that Herod the Great died around 4BC, so the actual date of Jesus' birth must be a little earlier. The supernovae that might match this timing were one in the Andromeda galaxy between March 8BC and September 7BC, and another in the constellation of Capricorn in the Spring of 5BC.

Next, comes a planetary conjunction. The alignment most commonly associated with the star of Bethlehem was between Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces in 7BC, but not everyone is sure whether this would be extraordinary enough to be the 'star' mentioned in the Bible.

Finally, the bright astronomical object that drew the Magi could have been a comet. This idea came from Sir Colin Humphreys, Professor of Materials Science at Cambridge University, and Oxford astronomer WG Waddington, who found that a comet was recorded by Chinese astronomers between March and May, 5BC. Humphreys then speculated that the 'no room at the inn' scenario came about because Jesus was born during Passover, and the Magi visited Jesus in May or June.

People interpret the biblical account of Jesus' birth in all sorts of ways, but there's very little argument from serious historians that Jesus of Nazareth actually existed. Whatever the true explanation for the 'star of Bethlehem' may be, there's plenty of evidence that an astronomical event could have happened at the time of His birth.

I think it makes perfect sense that if God was going to enter His own creation and take on the form of one of His own creatures, it should be marked by a very significant physical event!

*Dr Ruth M Bancewicz*

## Wordsearch clues

## The story of 'Silent Night'

This much-loved carol comes from Austria, where it was first sung as *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht* on Christmas Eve, 1818. It was written by Father Joseph Mohr, a young priest at St Nicholas parish church, in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg. As Christmas 1818 approached, he asked the local schoolmaster, Franz Xaver Gruber, to compose a melody for his carol. Gruber was organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf, and so was happy to oblige. On Christmas Eve they presented the carol to the church during the midnight mass. The carol went on to become loved world-wide; and the version sung by Bing Crosby is the third best-selling single of all time.

Silent	Christmas	Young	Melody	First
Night	Eve	Priest	Single	Sung
Loved	Father	Organist	Bing	Stille
Carol	Joseph	Midnight	Version	Nacht
Austria	Mohr	Mass	Third	Heilige

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





## Matthew 1:22      Long-awaited Immanuel

*All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')... And Joseph gave Him the name Jesus.*

The plan of salvation is intimately connected to the Old Testament, and was the fulfilment of prophecies made long ago. God was sending His Son into the world that we might be saved. God is with us – this astonishing, mind-blowing truth underpinned Joseph's straight-forward trust in Him. Today as you get on with your life, pray that the wonder of knowing that God is with you will never be far from your awareness.

## Luke 2:1-7      Bethlehem

*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world... so Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

This is perhaps the most familiar picture we have of the Christmas event—but remember what was happening. This was no ordinary child. In Jesus God became a human being and dwelt among us, perhaps the greatest miracle (and mystery) of all. As you visualise the scene again, let worship arise in your heart: *'From heaven you came, helpless Babe, entered our world your glory veiled.'* Emmanuel, God with us! The Servant King, worthy of all our adoration and love.

LORD God, in this season please help me to live in the wonder of your upside-down Kingdom where your love for us compels you to become helpless, vulnerable and dependent. May your Kingdom come in and through my life today.

## Luke 2:16-20      Mary ponders

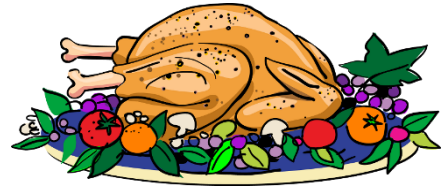
*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ... Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen...*

The shepherds became the first evangelists, proclaiming the good news... That was their response, and it should be ours too.

But for Mary there followed a time of reflection. Exuberant witness and quiet contemplation are not opposites. They are in fact good companions in the spiritual life.

Thank you, LORD Jesus, that you are still found when we search for you. May I be willing to share the discovery I've made with others at this time. But I also want to know you better in my inner life, too. Please give me that balance of active following and heart-pondering reflection, especially in this Christmas season.

# The Everlasting Turkey



On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me  
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard  
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,  
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old  
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,  
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.  
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince  
When he sat down at table – and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,  
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,  
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,  
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,  
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,  
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.



# The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

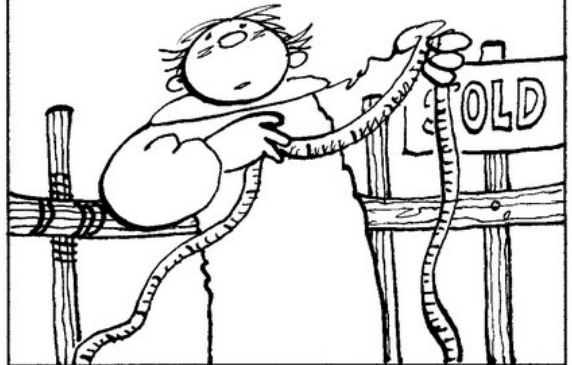


OH!  
NO!!

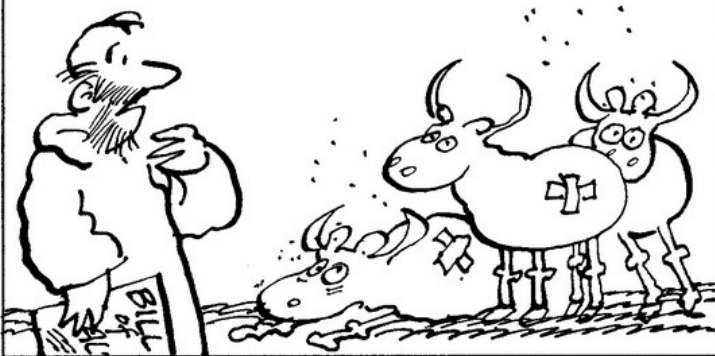


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN  
COME TO YOUR  
PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.



*Nigel Beeton writes: Although of course we will heartily wish one another a Happy New Year, we have to be honest and realise that for very many the future in general, and the new year in particular, holds a great deal to be feared. War, energy costs, inflation, The future looks very frightening indeed.*

*So it did for the Israelites in the time of Jeremiah. Exiled to Babylon, surrounded by their enemies and by false prophets, there was nothing whatsoever for them to look forward to.*

*And yet, in Jeremiah 29:11-13 we read this promise by God to His people:*

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find me when you seek Me with all your heart.” Because of our faithful God, we can truly say:*

*Happy New Year!*

## 25<sup>th</sup> January – time for haggis and bagpipes!

He died 'lang syne' – long ago, back in 1796, but the Scottish poet Robert Burns is still remembered each January, over many a 'Burns Night' supper of cockaleekie soup, haggis, neeps and tatties - and whisky. Scots and other Burns lovers throughout the world, from Canada to the USA to Russia, still celebrate the poems this most beloved of Scots poets wrote so long ago.

Burns wrote about ordinary things – food, love, death, friendship, and disappointment. We still quote him: 'the best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men'. And at the end of our lives, we can use his 'Prayer, in Prospect of Death': 'Thou art good; and Goodness still/Delighteth to forgive'. Indeed, the Bible promises that if we put our trust in God, He will forgive us and give us new life in Him. A good thought at the beginning of a New Year!

### Big Ben

Do you stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve? If so, this year will be special – it is 100 years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1923, that the BBC first broadcast the chimes of Big Ben to welcome in the New Year. For it was not until 31<sup>st</sup> December 1923 that the chimes of Big Ben were ever heard outside of Parliament and Westminster. But then the BBC got permission to broadcast them to the nation, and history was made.

That first year, the BBC engineers were not allowed into Parliament, and so had to access Big Ben from the roof of the Palace of Westminster. This meant that their microphone picked up not just the chimes, but a lot of traffic noise as well. But a tradition had started, and by 1924 the Big Ben bongs were being broadcast every day.

By then the BBC had installed low sensitivity microphones very close to the bells, so that they missed the sound of the clock mechanism.



The nation quickly came to love the sound of Big Ben, and during the Second World War the chimes were broadcast across occupied Europe – encouraging millions in their struggle against the Nazis.

The Big Ben daily time signal on the BBC is still cherished today, and Big Ben rings live for important events such as Remembrance Day and New Year, when the BBC sends the sound right around the world.



## **Babies do that to you**

After the lights and the kisses,  
the visits and the visitors,  
the presents and the promises,  
only a Baby remains;  
and parents who have never  
been this way before.

After the dreams and the  
whispers,  
the angels and the  
merrymakers,  
comes the silence;  
comes crying in the night,  
a long, interrupted journey,  
along a strange path.

Things will never be  
as they were before

Babies do that to you;  
Jesus does that to you.  
But He comes with you all the  
way,  
carrying love in His tiny hand,  
holding heaven in His heart.

*by Tim Lenton*

Almighty Father,

Thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus – the Light of the world. Thank you that He brought light and life to all who received Him during His life on earth and that He still brings light and life to all who receive Him.

Lord, how this broken world needs your light today. As we rejoice and give thanks for Christmas, we pray that the light of Jesus will pierce the darkness of self-interest and hatred - and change the hearts of those who do not love you or their neighbours.

We pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit you will deliver your people from evil, and that Your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven. Thank you, Father, that because of Jesus, light will *always* shine in the darkness and the darkness will *never* be able to extinguish it.

Glory and thanks and praise to You Father God, this Christmas and always.

In Jesus' saving and powerful name.

Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## **Diary/Noticeboard:**

**Chadwell Heath + Heath & Havering Group of Churches**

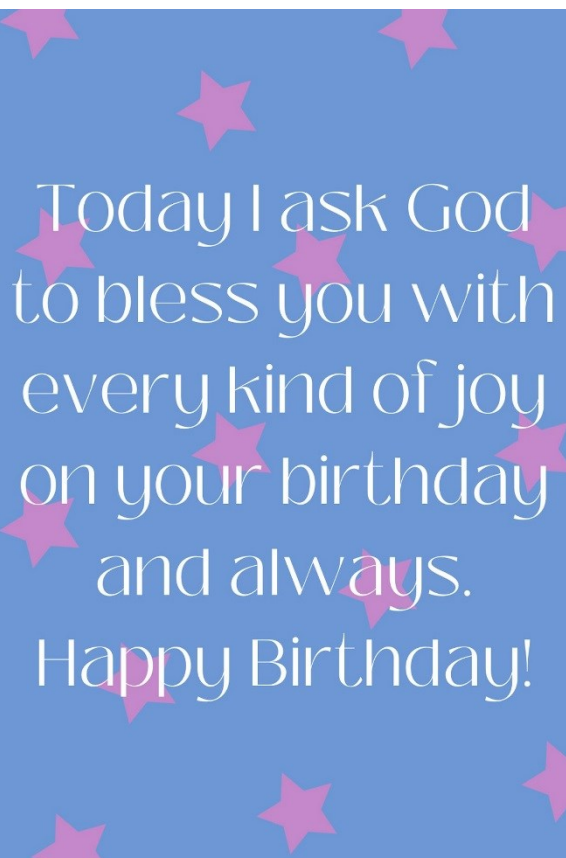
### **Foodbank:**

Thank you for your continued support. We are short of Long-life milk – full fat & semi-skimmed, Long-life fruit juice, Breakfast cereal & porridge oats, Savoury snacks – crisps, crackers, etc, Jars of pasta sauce, Tinned spaghetti, Cooking oil, Nappies – size 3 and above, Washing powder and Toilet Rolls

We are very grateful to receive any non-perishable food items, as well as general items e.g. washing powder/liquid, washing up liquid, tin openers – plus all important personal/ female/ toiletries including soap, toothbrushes & toothpaste/toilet rolls & baby nappies, sizes 5/6.



## **Happy Birthday's in December**



Karen Bailey 6th, Margaret  
Rose 8th, Anna Buschkill  
10th, Samantha Bailey 21st,  
Emily Catlin 25th

### **and January**

Pauline Clarkson 9th,  
Jeanette Zarrate 12th





WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES  
Foodbank, Tuesday &  
Thursday 10:00am - 12  
noon.



Web site: <http://www.heathandhaveringurc.co.uk/chadwellheath.html>  
Chadwell Heath URC is part of the Heath and Havering Group



Our Minister's contact details are:

**Revd. Brian Busckill**



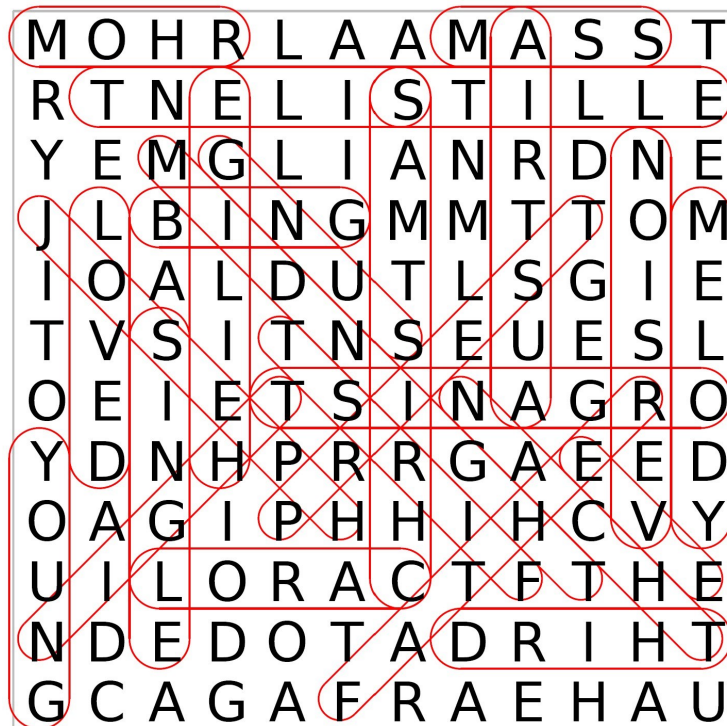
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**216 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, RM14 2BL**

**01708 784701      07548 447067**

**[busckill@gmail.com](mailto:busckill@gmail.com)**

## Wordsearch answers



Please send any news, information or an article for the Heath to  
Dianne Crisp. Email [Dianne.Crisp@ntlworld.com](mailto:Dianne.Crisp@ntlworld.com) The deadline is  
Friday 26th January for the February issue. *Thank you*