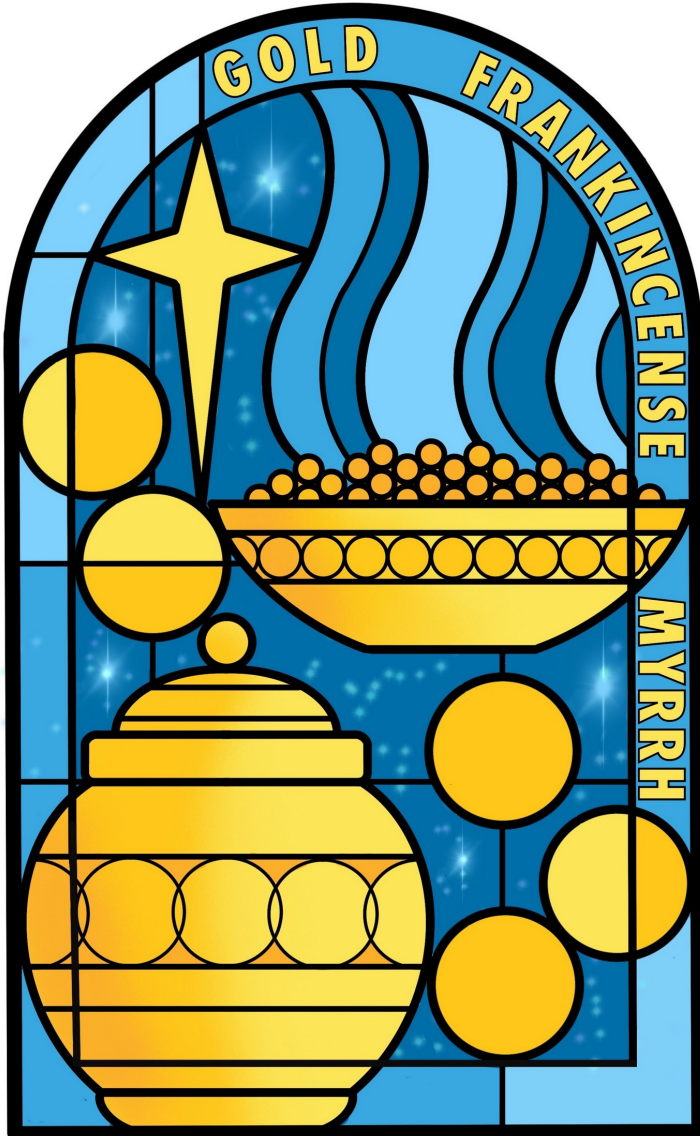




The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Nelmes News



January 2025

Dear friends,

“New Year, New You.” That’s the advertising message for so many things around this time of year, isn’t it? Whether the advertisement is selling gym memberships, diet plans, smoking cessation classes, or even going back to school, this is the message we get from our pop culture year after year. And whether it is a result of the advertising - or the cause for it - many of us think of the new calendar year as a time for change.

But, we’re not as good with the follow through as we are with the good intentions. Recently, the makers of the fitness tracking app, Strava, analysed over 800 million user-logged activities and have determined that the day most people are likely to give up on their New Year’s Resolutions is 19 January (Strava calls it “Quitter’s Day”!) So, for all the planning, and membership fees, and other investments we make in trying to change ourselves, most of us won’t make it through 5% of the year without giving up. *Change is hard.*

But one area of our lives where we don’t have to worry about change is when it comes to the promises of God. God’s promises to us do not change with the calendar or the latest fitness trend. And so, for the next few weeks, instead of focusing our energy and attention on making (and in all likelihood breaking) promises to ourselves, I’d like for us to focus instead on ways that we can better attune ourselves to God’s unfailing promises.


I think we all know most of these promises - things like the promise of new life, faithfulness, blessing, freedom - but we might not always remember that, in order to fully receive these promises, we need to make efforts to open ourselves to be able to accept these graces from God.

Maybe this means making more time for Bible reading and prayer. Maybe it means making an extra effort to join the next Bible Study group. Maybe it means volunteering to help out with what’s needed around the church.

Maybe it's prayerfully considering if you'd like to serve as an elder next time around.

There's really no limit to the ways in which we can make ourselves more aware of God's presence in our lives - and more attuned to the movement of God around us. Every little action adds up to big changes.

So, whatever you decide to strive for in the new year, I pray that you decide to take God along for the ride. After all, He is the source from whom all of our blessings flow.

 2025 Happy New Year,

*Brian*

## Christmas Appeal

Cash Offerings made on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day along with other donations already amount to £399.22, so it looks like our Christmas Appeal in support of Crisis is heading for a good total.



Friends may still support our Appeal by making a bank transfer or writing a cheque. Donations are eligible for Gift Aid which will be forwarded to the charity at a later date. Please use one of these methods:

- Make an online bank transfer to "Nelmes URC", sort code 40-52-40, account number 00025856. Use "Xmas" as a reference with "+ GA" if you wish us to claim Gift Aid .
- Issue a cheque payable to "Nelmes URC" writing "Xmas" on the back with "+ GA" if you wish us to claim Gift Aid. Put your cheque in the church offertory or post it to me.

Please be as generous as you can. Thank you.

*John Hawkins*

# News of Friends



Christmas has come and gone, and now move into 2025. Hopefully everyone was able to enjoy the festive season, although we recognise it could also have been an emotional time for those missing loved ones.

As usual in the lead up to Christmas several friends succumbed to the seasonal bugs and Brian, Karen & Anna battled on despite bad colds and coughs.

Hazel fell off the bed a few weeks ago and has recently been finding walking extremely difficult and painful.

Don continues to be a marvel at 102 years old. He sent a lovely e-mail re-establishing contact with those he hasn't had the opportunity to speak to for a while and thanking those who sent him birthday cards. He says he's doing pretty well and enjoying life at Anisha Grange. He continues by saying that he tends to lay in a little bit each morning, makes the weekly quiz on a Mondays and enjoys having coffee with friends before lunch.

We hope that Stella & Alan enjoyed their cruise. They would very much appreciate prayers for their son-in-law, Michael, who is receiving treatment for cancer, and for their daughter, Caroline, as she supports him through this difficult time.

Congratulations to Owen who has become a great-grandfather for the second time.

It was lovely to see the 'Craven Clan' join us for Claire's interactive Nativity Service. Keith, Emily and I enjoyed the Zoom chat and prayers with Imogen, Amelia & Jacob during our latest 'YOUth Matters' session. Our young people are inevitably growing fast but it's always lovely to see how well they're maturing, even if it does make us feel old!

Moreen posted on Facebook that she missed the notorious Nativity at Nelmes - and we also miss you, Moreen. The Church also received greetings cards from Martin & Helen Wheadon and Gillian & Colin Standfield

“Happy New Year” to all friends currently worshipping at Nelmes, as well as those who are unable to attend because of distance or ill-health. We wish you all the best for 2025.

*Jill Hilton*

Peter Hilton	4 January
Magdalen Smith	5 January
Peter Craven	8 January
John Hawkins	13 January
Peter Cross	20 January
Moreen Cross	26 January
Matthew Smith	29 January
Shane Banda	3 February



## News from the Scouts



In the run up to the holiday period, outings were arranged for all three sections; the Beavers went to see "Cinderella" at the Queen's Theatre on 10 December and the Cubs went there a couple of days later.

The Scouts will be going on a different type of outing early in the New Year and all sections will resume their Friday meetings on 10 January.

*Ian Sanderson*

*Thanks*

## Church Offerings

We are most grateful to all who have continued to support our Church. In December we received £1,341.00 in offerings and donations.

Brian will be spending some of his office time in our local cafes and coffee shops in the coming months. You are welcome to stop by to say 'hello,' stay for a chat, or just share some light conversation over a refreshing beverage.



**All sessions will take place from 9:30 to 11.00 am**

**Hornchurch:** *Costa Coffee* (across from Sainsbury's)

Wednesday 22 January

Wednesday 19 February

Wednesday 19 March

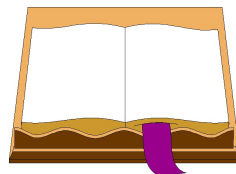
**Upminster:** *Costa Coffee* (across from Trinity URC)

Wednesday 29 January

Tuesday 25 February

Wednesday 26 March

## *Sunday Readings ....*



<b>5 Jan</b>	Jer 31:7-14	Jn 1:10-18	Eph 1:3-14
<b>12 Jan</b>	Is 43:1-7	Lk 3:15-17, 21-22	Acts 8:14-17
<b>19 Jan</b>	Is 62:1-5	Jn 2:1-11	1 Cor 12:1-11
<b>26 Jan</b>	Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Lk 4:14-21	1 Cor 12:12-31a
<b>2 Feb</b>	Jer 1:4-10	Lk 4:21-30	1 Cor 13:1-13

## *This month's worship leaders ....*

**Brian Buscklil** is a minister within the Heath, Havering & Forest Group.

**George Watt** is the Moderator of the URC's Thames North Synod

**Ann Woodhurst** is a retired URC minister




Items for February Nelmes News need to be submitted by 24 January.

Publication date: **1 February.**

# Make a note in your diary

Jan 2025



- 5 11.15 am **Morning Worship: Revd George Watt**  
Moderator of Thames North Synod
- M 6 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
- Tu 7 9.45 am First Tuesday Prayers 
- W 8 5.30 pm Evening Communion Service at Nelmes



- 12 11.15 am **Morning Worship: Revd Brian Busckill**
- M 13 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
- W 15 7.30 pm Elders' Meeting 

- 19 11.15 am **Morning Worship: Revd Ann Woodhurst**
- M 20 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
- W 22 9.30 am Cuppa with the Minister: Costa Coffee, Hornchurch



- 26 11.15 am **Worship with Communion: Revd Brian Busckill**  
Followed by Nelmes Church AGM
- M 27 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
- W 29 9.30 am Cuppa with the Minister: Costa Coffee, Upminster



Feb

- 2 11.15 am **Morning Worship: Mr Barry Smith**
- M 3 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
- Tu 4 9.45 am First Tuesday Prayers

- 9 11.15 am **Morning Worship: Mrs Claire Bottone**
- M 10 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
- W 12 5.30 pm Evening Communion Service at Nelmes



- 16 11.15 am **Morning Worship: Revd Brian Busckill**
- M 17 7.00 pm Blue Sky Mondays
- W 19 9.30 am Cuppa with the Minister: Costa Coffee, Hornchurch
- 7.30 pm Elders' Meeting 



- 23 11.15 am **Worship with Communion: Revd Brian Busckill**

Contact [keithf2006@btinternet.com](mailto:keithf2006@btinternet.com) for *zoom* details

# Nelmes United Reformed Church

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### Sunday Worship

Morning Worship for all ages at 11.15 am.  
Communion Service on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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
Indian Dance	Monday	17:00 - 19:00
Jump Fit	Tuesday	19:00 - 20:00
Nelmes Womens Institute	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	12:30 - 16:30
EP & AG Residents Association	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	20:00 - 22:30
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Friday	16:30 - 21:30
Woodcarvers' Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	10:30 - 14:30

*Nelmes URC is part of the Heath, Havering & Forest group of Churches*  
[www.heathandhaveringurc.co.uk](http://www.heathandhaveringurc.co.uk)