

***DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
AND
CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS***



MAGAZINE

MARCH 2020

Free

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Finance Deacon: Trevor Oakley

Property: Ray Saunders

Site Manager and Caretaker: David Hobbs

Cross Street: 01727 846891

Bookings: bookings@dsbc.org.uk/01727 568162

Charity Registration Number: 1127791

March Services

	10.30 am	6.30 pm (except where noted)
March 1st	<i>Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals ...</i> Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Communion	<i>Church in the Café</i> Revd David Skinner <i>Houghton Regis</i> NB 4.00pm
March 8th	<i>I will make you into a great nation.</i> Genesis 12:1-4a	<i>Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus ...</i> John 3:1-17
March 15th	<i>Give us water to drink!</i> Exodus 17:1-7	<i>Now he had to go through Samaria ...</i> John 4:5-42 Communion
March 22nd	<i>Church4Everyone</i> Mothering Sunday	<i>Who sinned, this man or his parents?</i> John 9:1-41
March 29th	<i>Now a man named Lazarus was ill ...</i> John 11:1-45	<i>All Change</i> Revd Ian Laine at Marshalswick NB: 7.00pm

Notes for all sermons are available online at www.dsbc.org.uk or from the minister in person

Dear Friends,

The introduction of named major storm systems seems to have made us more aware of windy weather. In March 2018 Storm Emma combined with a severe cold front to send us the 'Beast from the East' that caused some of the worst winter weather for several years. Just last month Storm Ciara caused considerable disruption, damage, flooding and some loss of life as winds of up to 80mph swept across the UK. The storm hit St Albans over a weekend and it was certainly breezy as we came to church that Sunday morning.



If the wind had come a day or two earlier I might have reflected the weather in our hymns that weekend. Going out in a lifeboat, as some did during the storm, is a frightening prospect and we could have sung the great seafarers' hymn, "For those in peril on the sea". If we wanted to treat the storm as a metaphor, we could have sung the Boys Brigade hymn, "Will your anchor hold in the storms of life". Alternatively, we could have thought about the way in which God's Spirit is often compared to the wind.

The Acts of the Apostles tells how God's Spirit was poured out on the disciples at the Jewish festival of Pentecost. Luke records how a violent heavenly wind blew through the house where they were all staying. However, the *natural* wind, which we know only too well we are unable to control, can be calmed by just a word from Jesus.

The word that Jesus would have known for 'wind' is *ruach*. This was also the word that the Bible uses for 'breath'. So it is the *ruach* of God that birthed creation in Genesis chapter 1 and it is that same *ruach* that conferred life on the human beings that God moulded from the earth of the ground.

Jesus breathed the life-giving Spirit of God on the disciples when they were hiding away for fear of the Jews after the exe

cution of their leader. So we hold in tension the Spirit of God that is both wild and untamed with the breath of God that breathes life into us in creation and when God breathes new life into us to restore our relationship with him.

One of my favourites of modern worship songs written by Leith Getty and Stuart Townend seems to capture something of this. This is the first verse:

*Holy Spirit, living Breath of God
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord
Come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your word to come alive in me,
Give me faith for what I cannot see,
Give me passion for Your purity;
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me*

Best wishes

Simon





Pastor's News

A brief update on a number of items that might be of interest to the congregation and the wider readership of the magazine.

Bible Studies

This month we will be starting this year's Lent Course. You will find information about both this series elsewhere in the magazine.

Church Meeting

Our next church members' meeting will take place in the Cross Street Centre on **3rd March at 7.45pm**. If you are a member of Dagnall Street Baptist Church, please try to attend.

Winter Beds Project

We are now on the home straight with the WBP scheduled to finish at the end of March. These are the latest statistics:

- We were needed every night in January and open every night.
- We have had an average of 4 guests referred per night (up from 3 in December) and have accommodated an average of 4 guests per night (up from 2 in December).
- 12 different individual guests have been referred to the project this month.
- 69 different individual volunteers have covered 191 shifts in January.
- On average those volunteers have covered 3 shifts, the most shifts covered by one individual volunteer is 8 in one month.

Church in the Café – 1st March

We welcome **Revd David Skinner**, minister at **Houghton Regis Baptist Church**, to talk about the exciting project the church is undertaking in response to the large-scale housing estates cur

rently being built. We are supporting this work as part of this year's 300th Anniversary celebrations.

Preaching away this month

Jonny will be preaching at **Haddenham Baptist Church** on 8th March. I will be preaching at **High Street Baptist Church, Rickmansworth**, on 29th March, when I will be conducting a service of dedication for the daughter of the minister, the Revd Gareth Garland.

Free Church Choirs

I have taken over chairing the Free Church Choirs committee. The Free Church Choirs organise a biennial service of hymns and anthems which next year will be held at **Lichfield Cathedral** on **16th October 2021**.

5th Sunday Evening with Marshalswick – 29th March

As March has 5 Sundays we will be joining with our friends at Marshalswick Baptist Free Church for worship in the evening. This month we will be meeting at Marshalswick when **Revd Ian Laine** will be the preacher for the last of Churches Together in Marshalswick's Sunday evening Lent series. **Please note this will be at 7.00pm**

Premier Christian Radio

I will be talking about some of the latest film releases on Premier Radio's Inspirational Breakfast Show between 8.00am and 8.45am on **19th March**. You can also hear Danny Smith and I chatting about films at the cinema and on TV on the **St Albans Podcast: Film Guide**.

Jonny

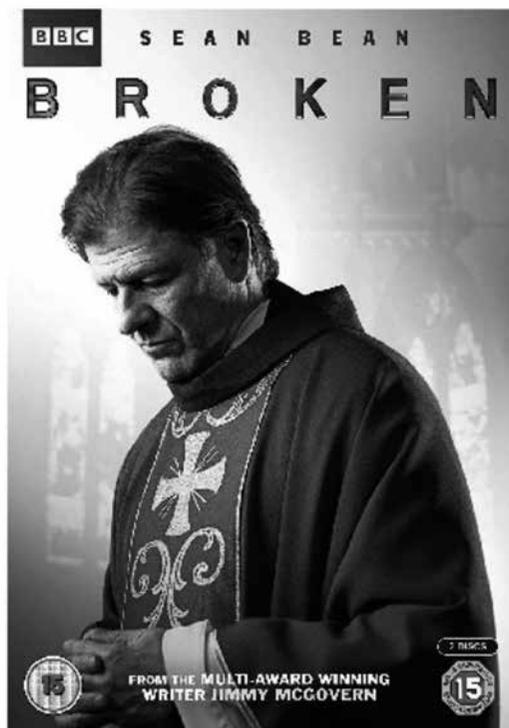
March 2020

Dagnall Street Baptist Church

Lent 2020

Broken

***A 6 Week Lent Course
written by Paula Gooder***



**Tuesdays at 10.30am and 7.30pm
Starting 3rd March.**

NB The first evening session is MONDAY 2nd March.

Everyone Welcome

PASTORAL NEWS



Please join us in praying for the following people:

For those grieving - Douglas family & Saunders family

For those struggling - Les and Marjorie Jones, Denis and Marie Rowson, Brian and Olly Branch

For families - Gaz, Caz Jordan & the boys, also Sam, Rinnie & Abi

For Jonny and family as he seeks another ministry position
For Colin & Sue Owen and family

Noreen and Ewen Gilhespy as well as Richard and Shannon Beadle - as both families prepare for a life away from St Albans and all the decisions that this will entail for them.

And we pray for those who are unwell, especially two friends of Ruth Sayers – Clare and Emily.

Let us give thanks for all that God provides for us and take time every day to pray for those that are unwell, facing challenges or coping with the loss of loved ones.

In final months of winter, come rain or sunshine, may we all find time to rest regularly and be close to God.

***‘Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.’
1 Peter 5 v 7***

Liz Blight

PASTORAL TEAM

The Ministers, Simon and Jonny, and members of the Pastoral Team are always happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

Marjorie and Leslie Jones (01727 841845), Jill Potter (07779 797928), Liz Blight (07884 431051), Alison Ashmore (01727 867335), Sue Owen (01727 867784) and Ewen Gilhespy (01707 267682) are also active members of the Pastoral Team.

Simon, Jonny and the team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.





BIRTHDAYS MARCH

**1st-Dennis Rowson
7th-Marjorie Jones
8th-Vera Moiles and Mike Plant
9th-Liz Blight
21st-Pat Rowley**

SAVING LIVES OF MOTHERS-TO-BE IN UGANDA

By supporting the BMS Birthday Scheme you are helping thousands of pregnant refugees get vital medical checks that we take for granted, and it could save their lives. They've fled civil war and trekked thousand of miles across from South Sudan to the Bidi Bidi refugee camp in Uganda. There they are faced with surviving pregnancy and childbirth in one of the least nurturing environments in the world.

Your gifts have been used to distribute a hand held device that measures blood pressure and monitors heart rates which can detect life threatening conditions. 7000 pregnant women have received a medical check, potentially saving their lives and that of their unborn children. These women have lost everything and are having a baby in an overcrowded camp. This must seem terrifying. We can't give them

back their previous lives but we can provide them with basic healthcare, and increase the chances of their babies being born both healthy and safe.

Happy Birthday to all those born in the Springtime.

Linda Williams



Pippa and Toby Vokuhl

WHEN THE EARTH SHAKES

January 2020

www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl



So what I've always suspected turns out to be true...it really does take more than a (small) earthquake to wake my sleeping kids.

Sitting quietly at home one recent evening, I don't really expect the house to start shaking, but it does. Not a lot to be honest, but the odd window rattling and door clattering. Was it? Could it have been an earthquake? Toby pops his head out of the bedroom door - yes, it was. No stirring at all from the kids of course...

Social media brings news to us in real time faster than any other source. Within minutes the Pokhara Facebook community is alive, "Did you feel that in Nayagaun?", "Definitely in Lamachaur!", "Just a bit of a shake for us in Chhoripaani!"

Some are dismissive - bah! 3.8 on the Richter scale - that was nothing! True, it WAS just a small shudder, no damage done, no one hurt. However, through subsequent posts it is easy to see how close to the surface the trauma is still for those that lived through the 2 major quakes in 2015, with literally hundreds of aftershocks. Each new shake revived the fear for the safety of themselves, their loved ones and their possessions, and with it the lives they had built up and security they had.

The reality of life in Pokhara is that it sits right above a geological fault line, one which failed to fully discharge all its tension in the 2015 earthquakes. Another earthquake is coming - maybe tonight, maybe in 50 years, no one knows. As I look out of our windows at home, it is easy to see straight away who may be the worst affected. In anything other than a catastrophic shake, the concrete houses such as ours will have an element of sturdiness - we hope. But for families such as those living in our compound in breeze block sheds, with large rocks holding down their tin sheet roofs, even a moderate earthquake could be devastating.



I spend the next week checking the emergency earthquake box that we keep outside. Shovels, sturdy gloves, axes, crowbars, copious bandages, medicines, emergency rations. I pray that we never need to use them. We remind the kids of earthquake drill at home -at school it is as routine as a fire drill - ' drop - cover -hold': even our 5 year old can recite the mantra.

The night of the tremor I look at my precious kids, safely sleeping in their beds, and ponder what I am prepared to give up for God. I know that God has called us here as a family, into a zone where natural disasters are commonplace, in a society with limited resources to cope with the devastation those disasters cause. Every day here, on their bikes to school, through the lack of emergency healthcare, even sleeping in their beds in an earthquake zone, my kids are subjected to risks they wouldn't encounter in the UK. I know that He is able to divinely protect those I love - but I also know that He has never promised to shield us from suffering.

Book Alphabet Challenge

Can you come up with a book themed word
for each letter of the alphabet?



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



Where did the Seed fall?



**All are welcome as we think about
What soil helps us grow!
Join us for some super crafts,
family-friendly games, a story or two
and a light lunch.**

**Dagnall Street Baptist (AL3 5EE)
Saturday 21st March 10:30am-12:30pm
All Are Welcome**



Church Members Meetings

Our next Church Members meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd March at 7.45pm in room 3 of the Cross Street Centre, when amongst other matters, we will be receiving reports about church property and looking at future plans.

At their recent meeting, the deacons agreed that there needs to be a more informative process when advertising church meetings in order to obtain full engagement by church members. Although our current processes fully meet the requirements of our constitution, we felt that the following additional actions might help to better engage members in matters of church business.

- Encourage prayerful consideration of the agenda prior to the meeting.
- Enable members who wish to receive a copy of church meeting minutes to do so.
- Provide more information about specific agenda items.

We currently have 6 ordinary members meetings each year, in March, May, July, September, November and December, on the first Tuesday starting at 7.45pm. Last November's meeting was fairly well attended with 38 members present and 11 apologies for absence. However, the December meeting was less well attended, with 23 members present and apologies for absence from a further 13. The constitution requires a quorum of 15% of church members to be in attendance for business to proceed, so with our current membership a quorum would be 16.

Reports to be submitted to church meetings this year are:

March 3 rd	Property, Future Plans
May 5 th	Finance, Cross Street
July 7 th	Young Spectrum, Mission
September 1 st	Environment, Safeguarding, Property
November 3 rd	Election, Toddlers, Messy Church, DayCare, Cross Street
December 1 st	Budget, Mission, Appointments

If you have any views or comments about church members meetings, please speak to Simon, Jonny or one of the deacons.

Chris Penn



March 2020

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
TERCENTENARY

“Celebrating 300 years of Baptists at Dagnall Street”

Stating the obvious, tercentenary's only come along every 300 years, so when we realised last year that next year, (this year!), would be 2020, the penny dropped, it would be 300 years since the first Baptist Chapel in Dagnall Lane opened in 1720.

Now many of you will be thinking, “--- but DSBC began around 1640,” and you would be right, except that for around 80 years from 1640, we were part of the Kensworth group of dissenters that regularly met there, away from the beady eyes of the established Church.

Whilst this year marks our 380th anniversary as a fellowship of Baptist believers, it also marks 300 years since we established our own chapel in what we now know as Dagnall street.

We are planning a number of commemorative events which we hope will pay tribute to the many people who have been involved over so many years, particularly since the first Baptist Chapel opened in Dagnall Lane in 1720, on what was then the outskirts of St Albans.

As well as celebratory activities we are also focussing our giving on 2 local Baptist appeals; the redevelopment project at Marshalswick Baptist Church, and Houghton Regis Baptist Church who, like us, trace their beginnings back to the 1640 Kensworth group, and are involved in an ecumenical venture to supply a pioneer worker on a new housing estate.

Outline of proposed Programme of Events:

Church in the Café: Houghton Regis BC Project – Sunday 1st
March 4pm

Church in the Café: MBFC Project – Sunday 5th April 4pm

Gift Day: Easter Day Sunday 12th April

Pilgrimage: Kensworth to Dagnall Street – Saturday 19th September

Quorum Concert: Saturday 10th October 7.30pm

380th Church Anniversary: Rev'd Steve Chalke Sun. 11th October 10.30am

Historical Pageant: Sunday in October date TBA

We are also planning:

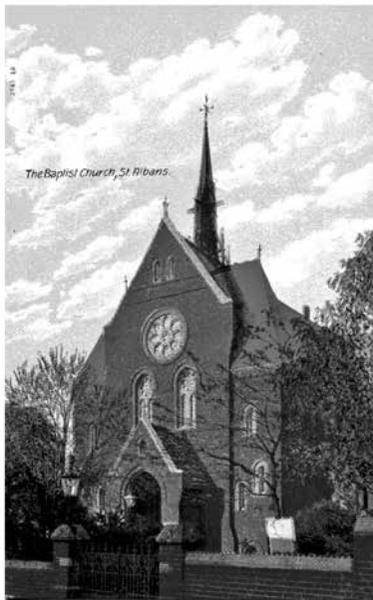
An Archive brochure

Children's competition

Local publicity

If you have any comments, please speak to Simon, Jonny, or one of the deacons.

Chris Penn





***Gift Day
Easter Sunday
12th April 2020***

As this year marks the tercentenary of Baptists at Dagnall Street, we felt it would be appropriate to focus our gift day giving this year on local Baptist causes.

Some of us remember the beginnings of Mashalswick Baptist Free Church and the involvement at the time of DSBC's minister Rev. Dr Morris West. They recently celebrated their 50th anniversary and are now embarking on a redevelopment project which we decided would be an appropriate cause for our gift day.

Alongside this, but a little further north in Bedfordshire, is Houghton Regis Baptist Church who, like us, can trace their beginnings back to the 1640 Kensworth group of dissenters. They are involved in an ecumenical venture to supply a pioneer worker on a new housing estate and it was felt appropriate to share this worthy cause for our Tercentenary gift day.

Gift Day will be Easter Sunday, 12th April, and gift envelopes will be available in church for your contributions to these local worthy causes. We will be hearing more about these projects during Church in the Café on Sunday 1st March and Sunday 5th April.

Chris Penn





Christian Aid **“Count Your Blessings”**

Each year Christian Aid produces daily reflections for Lent. As well as helping to guide our daily devotions, the Lent Guide raises our awareness of the lives of those who are pushed to the brink of survival by climate change and of how it impacts our sisters and brothers around the world.

Through Lent themes of awareness, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, transformation and blessing, you meet people pushed to the brink of survival. Each daily action helps you give, act and pray, together striving for a greener future. Lent is the ideal time to pause. Take a deep breath. Turn our attention to our impact in the world. Refocus our relationship with God, neighbours and creation. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It's a time to pause and a chance to see others through the eyes of Jesus, by prayer, fasting and repentance.

A number of the booklets, for adults and children, are available on the table in the link, and in Cross Street, so please take one; and if we run out please let me know and we'll get some more! You can also follow the reflections online.

Read: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Pray for the Count Your Blessings Lent resource to transform hearts and minds. May we all take time to journey into the wilderness with our partners in Kenya who are working to help communities facing increasing water shortages due to a changing climate. Pray that Count Your Blessings would generate much support for our partner Anglican Development Services Eastern in Kenya. Pray that they would be able to provide early warning systems and help communities to adapt to the variable rainfall and drought conditions. Pray too for effectiveness in their policy and campaigning work – that the government would respond effectively to climate change. Visit [caid.org.uk/lent](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/lent) for more information. 'Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.' Joel 2:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-11/Prayer-Diary-Dec-2019-March%202020.pdf>

March 2020

37th UNLOCK WALK
Saturday 25th April 2020



Unlock is one of the Christian charities we support through planned mission giving and once again there will be an opportunity to support their annual fundraising London Sponsored Walk. Working in deprived urban areas across the country, they “UNLOCK” real life stories of ordinary people by revealing the good news of the down to earth Christ by releasing life changing skills and confidence. Their main single source of income is from sponsorship and donations received by walkers and churches supporting their annual London walk. Last year’s walk raised £23,500, for which UNLOCK are extremely grateful, although this was some £2,000 less than the previous year.

As well as raising money for the charity to continue its work, the walk also aims to raise awareness of the issues of exclusion and to showcase the ministry of churches in urban areas. It also gives churches from more affluent areas an opportunity to support the work of fellow Christians in inner cities, as well as providing us an opportunity for an unusual and enlightening day out in London.

This year’s 8 mile circular walk is “In The Shadows of the Tower,” and takes us around the inner city East End London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The borough came into being in 1965

from a merger of Bethnal Green, Poplar and Stepney, and is one of the capitals poorest. Well-known names from the area include the infamous Jack the Ripper and Kray twins, as well as radicals and reformers like the Booths, Barnardo and Annie Macpherson. If historic buildings are an attraction, then they don't come more magnificent than Hawksmoor's Christ Church, Spitalfields. For nature lovers the route follows the Regent's canal and crosses Green Bridge at Mile End, and for social history, we traipse around the borough's first council estate, Arnold Circus, built in 1900.

The population of Tower Hamlets is 308,000 of which 38% are Muslim. Of particular interest on the route, is the East London Mosque, one of the largest in Europe and the biggest in the UK, and walkers are encouraged to take a look, where a friendly guide will be on hand to provide a 5 minute tour. As well as Christ Church, other checkpoint churches en-route include, Bethnal Green Methodist, East London Tabernacle, E1 Community Church (Baptist), St Matthew's, and Bethnal Green Mission.

The Unlock London Walk is remarkable; a unique way of seeing London and engaging with some of its churches. Copies of the route map are available to view on the table in the link, (you're welcome to take one if you plan to take part.) If you want to join us for the walk, meet at St Albans City Railway Station at 8.30am, on **Saturday 25th April**, for the journey to St Pancras and Aldgate East, and an inspiring day out.

If you are interested in supporting UNLOCK but without the walking, you may like to sponsor the church group. You can do this either by sponsoring someone you know who will be walking, or by using the church sponsor form which will be on the table in the link. Last year we appeared in 15th place on the list of money raised by church groups. Whilst I don't wish to appear competitive, there was another St Albans Baptist Church who were in 12th place! Let's see if we can move up the list this year!

Thankyou.

DO NOT FORGET

- A2Z map of London (if you have one)
- Some of the churches on the route may provide refreshments
- A walk or a short run, some food may be available in the route too
- We walk whatever the weather, please be prepared for all weather
- Look for things to pray about as you walk
- Start at any time after 8am or any church checkpoint, but will have to get back again by 5pm
- Get your map stamped at each checkpoint
- On the day
- Take time to learn about the churches you visit and about Unlock.

Please work with us to ensure that the 2020 walk generates more income to fund Unlock's vital work. You can do this by:

SPONSORSHIP & BENEVOLENCE Consider how you can support Unlock's ongoing work

SPONSORS - get your company logo printed by members of our team, who have 10% off on items that they get as part of our accounting services. Contact us

PROVIDING OBJECTS TO YOUR CHURCH OF AREA - we can provide you with a list of items for your church

BUYING AND SELLING ITEMS - encourage you to sell your items on the Unlock website or at our events

THE 100th YEAR CHURCH - celebrate your church's 100th birthday with us

BENEFITERS - you can make a donation towards Unlock's work on behalf of your church or other charities

The aims of the Unlock London Walk are:

- To raise money for Unlock's work in deprived urban areas across the UK
- To raise awareness of the issues of exclusion that Unlock exists to address.
- To showcase the ministry of churches in urban areas. Come and see what God is doing in the city.
- To encourage churches in more affluent parts of the country to support the work of their fellow Christians in the inner city.
- To give 10% of people an opportunity for an unusual and enlightening day out in London.

Unlock works by running local projects in UK cities, where a trained Unlock Development Worker, accompanied by a local team, is employed to encourage and enable local people and their leaders to grow in faith and confidence by:

- **HELPING LOCAL LIVES STORIES OF HUMAN PEOPLE**
- **HELPING LOCAL NEWS OF THE BIBLE TO ENLIGHTEN GUESTS**
- **HELPING ART COMMING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE**



2019 walk sponsorship and donations have reached over £23,500. In a difficult economic climate this is a fantastic testament to the commitment of our faithful band of walk supporters, and we really appreciate it. However, we must not be complacent and Unlock continues to need your support. Unlock relies heavily on income from the Unlock London Walk to fund our work. Because we are directly engaged in Christian Mission it is very difficult to secure other types of funding. So please keep up the momentum and do all you can to maximise the returns from the 2020 Walk. Unlock local projects are making a real difference, bringing the gospel to people that the churches haven't been able to reach, and there's more we can deliver if we have the resources!

MAKING YOUR DONATION COUNT EVEN MORE

Donating on-line saves Unlock valuable staff time and money and is quick and easy to do via:

Virgin Giving
If you want a quicker simpler way to collect your Unlock sponsorship you can now register with Virgin Giving, who will collect all your sponsor money, claim the gift aid, and send it all to Unlock on your behalf. This allows you to promote your fundraising for Unlock via your Facebook page or by email, and to collect sponsorship from people at a distance who you do not regularly meet up with. It saves you managing a pile of small change or writing cheques. It also saves Unlock time and money making your support more valuable to us, because more of it can be channelled straight into our trust line work with the Bible amongst the urban poor.

For further details on how to request sponsorship or make a donation go to unlock-urban.org.uk/support/walk.php

Give as You Live - For On-line Shoppers

Should you like to support Unlock every time you shop online it is now so easy and so cost to set up. Give as You Live, thousands of major brands including Amazon, Primark, John Lewis and Sainsbury's have signed up to donate a percentage of every purchase you make online to Unlock. The average shopper will raise £12 per month through what they already buy online. It's a simple and easy way to set up. Simply add Give as You Live at give.asyoulive.com/yourshop for full details. It's today and help raise valuable funds for Unlock.

The following are available from

unlock-urban.org.uk, or from The Unlock National Office:

- More copies of this report brochure & sponsor forms.
- Resources to help you promote Unlock's work.
- Information about Unlock local projects - real stories of real people.
- Unlock resources free to use.

Unlock
Hawthorn Old Factory
832011
Sheffield S13 9EJ
Tel: 01142 830600

UNLOCK LONDON WALK 37 IN THE SHADOWS OF THE TOWER SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2020 9AM TO 5PM



TOWER HAMLETS



HISTORY, HOSPITALITY AND HOUSING

RICH OR POOR?
This year's walk takes place within one of London's poorest - that of Tower Hamlets, known to be one of the poorest areas of the capital. It certainly has quite a few lower blocks and lots of unconnected rubbish! It has a large population of social housing rather than owner-occupied. The unusual nature of the area, where significant poverty sits beside great wealth such as Canary Wharf, makes the situation particularly acute. However, Tower Hamlets is rich in other ways: rich in history and unexpectedly rich in green spaces like West Victoria Park. The splendidly well-maintained and continuous canal side walk, is a rich in 'live' churches which have grown over the past 50 years. A right-of-way is provided every month of the year by a partnership of local churches. Every night of the week the theatre is a different church and run by volunteers.

HEROES AND HOSPITALS
The East End is famous for its heroes (William and Catherine) who founded the Salvation Army in 1862 and Dr Barnardo who established the first Ragged School in 1867 and went on to provide homes for poor children. Less well-known is Annie Macpherson who assisted 'ragged' boys and girls, creating 'The Bazaar' in Bethnal Green. Another Christian institution is the Royal London Hospital, founded in 1751. Since 2012 it has been in a pretty grim state, overlooking its previous premises which are to become Tower Hamlets Town Hall, and making good public use of heritage buildings in Bethnal Green. The Chel Hospital, built in the 1850s, has now moved to St Bartholomew's in the city. The Grade 2 building is to be developed into luxury flats.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
The average cost of living in Tower Hamlets is now more than the average household income it is a big issue. The issue has been 170 years ago when the first council estates were built in 1900 under Arnold Casson. The very poor were largely removed from the notorious Old Nichol and could not afford to build in the beautiful new Boundary Estate in the NW of Bethnal Green. In the 1960s housing was a problem that concerned Roger Chelvey, a member of East London Labour and co-founder of Evangelical Urban Training Project - now Unlock. He created a housing association making it possible for volunteers to stay in the inner city. The association, now called Gateway, has named property after Harry Hooper Dugdale Court is

between Bethnal Green Methodist Church and Bethnal Green Baptist Church. Another housing initiative from workshops at East London 'Barracks' in the Landmark Trust, which campaigned for affordable housing when St Clements, Dow, opened a workshop and then a Psychiatry Hospital was redeveloped in the last decade.

SPITALFIELDS
Spitalfields Hall and Vegetable Wholesale Market, which had traded from 1630, moved to Hackney Marshes in 1991 to get easier access for buses. The old site bordering Bethnal Green (with its luxury offices) is now full of trendy 'urbanist' estates. Whelsh market, in complete contrast, is cheap and cheerful. As in

Whitechapel or Bethnal Green, it would be a challenge to find a shopkeeper whose first language is English. If you want to buy Bengali ingredients, this is the place to go! If you want to buy a curry, Brick Lane offers you a wide choice. Once an area lived in by French Protestant Huguenot workers and silk-merchants escaping persecution, it was then the centre for Jewish immigrants and the big trade. It's now 'Bangla-town' and the clothing factories have almost disappeared. Look out for Brick Lane Mosque which started life as a Protestant chapel, was then a synagogue and is now a Muslim place of worship.

TO KEEP OR TO LOSE?
In the grounds of the Chel Hospital there is one of the last remaining masonry towers in the East End, said to be more than 400

years old. It is under threat by developers. Similarly, Whitechapel Road Church, which ceased making bells in 2017 after 450 years (of which 200 were on the site) needs to be preserved. Land is extremely valuable and so the pressure to make money is always in conflict with the desire to protect our heritage. Each contemporary demands more vigilance and energy to keep or to lose?

GOING GREEN
Finally, what does can the 2020 Walk show the natural? The longest stretch of off-road walking is between Drayton and Mile End. Take note of the Green Bridge over the Mile End Road at the 4-way junction. It's part of the scheme to 'have green' all the way from Victoria Park down to the River Thames. You may be surprised if you still recall Tower Hamlets has no tall

Church in the Café ***First Sunday- 4pm***

Church in the Café is an opportunity to do church in a slightly different way as a once a month alternative to the traditional 6.30pm evening church service. We meet in the Cross Street Lounge at 4pm over tea coffee and cake, and listen to a visiting speaker on an issue of topical interest. We usually finish with a Q&A session followed by prayer.

A reminder of what's coming March - July:

Sunday 1st March, we will be hearing from Rev. David Skinner of Houghton Regis BC, who are involved in an ecumenical venture to supply a pioneer worker on a new housing estate. Houghton Regis BC, like us, can trace their beginnings back to the 1640 Kensworth group, so we thought it an appropriate project to support in our tercentenary year.

Sunday 5th April, Rev. Graham Clarke from Marshalswick BC will be coming to tell us about their redevelopment plans. Built just over 50 years ago, the church grew as the Marshalswick estate developed and they are now embarking on a redevelopment project which we will be supporting along with Houghton Regis BC in our tercentenary year, through our gift day this year.

Sunday 3^d May, we will be welcoming Sue and John Claydon who have been involved with the Christian Aid Kenya project supporting children affected by HIV/Aids. They have recently visited the project in Kenya and will be talking to us and bringing news of latest developments.

Sunday 7th June, we will be having a visit from local A Rocha representative, Philip Nalpanis. This will be one of our Sustainable St Albans events and Philip will be telling us about A Rocha, Eco Church and how churches and communities can

better care for the earth.

Sunday 5th July, not yet confirmed, but we hope to be welcoming back our BMS Partners the Vokuhl family for another visit to update us on their work with BMS World Mission in Nepal.

Chris Penn

Next Delivery to the Genesis Shop – Sheffield

Our next delivery is likely to be towards the end of March or early April and the need for good quality clothing, footwear and household furnishings, is as great as it has ever been. So keep your donations coming in – search out those unwanted but serviceable clothes and household goods, bag them up and leave them in the lower store room at the Cross Street Centre. If you need help with bringing your items to the centre, please let me know. You can be assured that your contributions will end up in a very worthwhile place, whilst at the same time helping our sustainability aims!

Chris Penn





KEEP CALM AND RECYCLE

The very best way to **reduce** the amount of rubbish we throw away is not to buy it in the first place. The second best way is to **reuse** or repurpose the old, and especially to buy secondhand or to choose reusable products instead of disposable ones where possible. To **recycle**, though flawed and often suffering a bad reputation, is our last resort, but a very important one. Waste which isn't recycled or repurposed, though it's 'out of sight, out of mind' for us, ends up in one of three places; in the environment where it harms ecosystems and wildlife and pollutes our food chain; being burned, and polluting our air; or in landfill where it will stay for hundreds or thousands of years, literally turning our earth into a gigantic rubbish dump as the number of humans in the world – and the amount of stuff we're buying – increases.

The Trouble With Recycling

Recycling seems a mysterious art, with lots of rules and complexities. Because it is done by so many different companies in many different locations, there are few standards and the rules vary regionally. Because of the complexity of many modern materials, they must be carefully separated and treated individually – even if some of them look identical to the untrained eye! It uses energy, it produces its own pollution, and it's vulnerable to waste when contamination occurs. But these problems can be reduced if we all play our part and take care when getting rid of our rubbish.

Of course, recycling sometimes feels like hard work for us too, washing and sorting – sometimes transporting – our own rubbish. But with the convenience and luxury of modern society comes the duty to prevent our consumption from harming the world; we must take responsibility for all of our rubbish and not neglect those recycling bins.

Golden Rules for Recycling Success

1 – Sort your waste carefully and respect the rules; just one item

going in the wrong bin can cause problems further down the line, and might mean that your rubbish doesn't get recycled at all. For example, drinking glasses are made from a different type of glass to drinks bottles – one wrong item can ruin a whole batch of recycling glass.

Each tonne of recycled paper saves 17 trees!

2 – Always check recycling labels and the instructions at collection points. If you need a reminder of what can and can't go in your bins at home, go to **www.stalbans.gov.uk/about-my-bins** and problems can be reduced if we all play our part and take care when getting rid of our rubbish.

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If all cans in the UK were recycled, we'd need 14 million fewer dustbins.

3 – Empty and rinse out all items to be recycled – leftover food etc. can cause contamination and damage.

4 – Leave metal lids on glass bottles and jars. Leave plastic lids on plastic items, but remove them from metal containers. Throw pump dispensers in the bin, but rinse and replace trigger sprays.

5 – The local Household Waste Recycling Centre or HWRC (the tip!) can recycle a large number of items not collected from our homes: wood, metal, electrical goods, broken china and glass (put it in the rubble bin), oil, fluorescent tubes, textiles and more.

6 – Don't bag your recycling unless instructed – just put items directly into the bins. Those plastic bags can't be recycled along with the other stuff!

Recycling aluminium drink cans saves up to 95% of the energy needed to make aluminium from raw materials.

The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle is enough to power a light bulb for four hours.

7 – Minimise or contain small scraps in your recycling, which are likely to literally fall through cracks in the system, or get blown away. Also squash plastic bottles and metal cans – it saves space AND stops them rolling away!

8 – Recycle everything you can! Thanks to a number of special schemes (mostly through re-

ycling specialist Terracycle), drop-off points are popping up all over the place to help you recycle more items that were once destined only for landfill. You can find recycling points for some of these tricky items at the following locations in St Albans:

Batteries – Robert Dyas, and most supermarkets

Water Filters – Robert Dyas

Lightbulbs (energy-saving) – Robert Dyas, or the HWRC

Food/juice/milk cartons (e.g. Tetrapak) – these are notoriously tricky because they're made from several layers of plastics, card and foil, but you can find a recycling bin for them outside Waitrose

Cosmetics packaging (all brands) – The Body Shop, in the Maltings – yes, they seem to take all those awkward bits like lip balms, makeup containers, pumps, pouches, squeeze tubes etc. – check individual items with the staff if it's your first time or you're not sure.

Plastic bags, bread bags, frozen veg bags – all STRETCHY plastic can be recycled together with carrier bags at most big supermarkets – Sainsburys at the bottom of the hill certainly has this facility

Crisp packets (all brands) – the Inn on the Park

Pens and Printer cartridges – Ryman

Toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, other dental packaging – High Oaks Dental Practice

Contact lenses and blister packs (all brands) – Boots or Leightons Opticians, St Peters Street

Asthma inhalers – Boots, at the pharmacy counter

We have started an ‘awkward recycling’ box at home to collect some of the items above, and once in a while when we’re going near one of the locations we’ll see what’s building up and drop a few things off. It’s not hard to do and means more of our waste gets reused in a productive way instead of going into landfill. Why not give it a try?

To find excellent local info on recycling tricky items, see www.recyclenow.com/what-to-do-with

For more on Terracycle schemes nationwide, explore www.terracycle.com/en-GB

‘For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works’ Ephesians 2:10

Naomi Distill





Full capacity or low capacity?

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.”

1Timothy 2:1

God is interested in every aspect of our lives, both the seemingly trivial and the undeniably important. Nothing is too small for him. He wants us to ask, he’s waiting to hear, and he’s longing to reply. Andrew Murray said of prayer: “God’s giving is inseparably connected with our asking. Only by intercession can that power be brought from heaven which will enable the Church to conquer the world.”

George Mueller, who fed several thousand orphans simply in answer to prayer, said that he never came to requests or petitions in prayer until he had “an active and living realization of the presence of God”. Hudson Taylor, after so many painful breakthroughs in China, wrote, “The prayer power has never been tried to its full capacity. If we want to see mighty works of Divine power and grace wrought in the place of weakness, failure and disappointment, let us answer God’s standing challenge, “Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know”.

Maybe I should decide to call out more loudly, boldly and persistently so that God will show me “great and mighty things” of which I do not know.

Maybe I'll pray bigger prayers, as I'm naturally inclined to pray little ones.

Maybe I'll pray more risky prayers, as I'm all too good at offering up qualified petitions couched in religious verbiage to lessen my disappointment if my will isn't done.

Maybe I'll pray more specific prayers, as I'm an expert at vague ones which are hard to see whether they've been answered or not.

Maybe I'll pray more uncomfortable and dangerous prayers, in case I've set the bar at a safe height and am missing out on more lofty exploits for God's glory.

A Prayer

Father, increase my capacity to pray today. Take me deeper. Use me however you like, for your glory. Amen!

From: CHOOSE LIFE (365 readings for radical disciples)
by Simon Guillebaud.
Published by Monarch Books.
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Submitted by *Ewen Gilhespy*
(Co-ordinator of Bible Reading Notes)

Proud members of



quorum
Singers of St Albans



 SPRING THYME
SONGS OF LOVE AND NATURE



Featuring music by
John Rutter, Bob Chilcott & Alexander L'Estrange
Supporting and raising funds for choral music at St Helen's church.

7:30 PM | MARCH 28TH
ST HELEN'S CHURCH,
WHEATHAMPSTEAD
FREE ENTRY
(RETIRING COLLECTION)

Find out more and join the event:
quorumsingers.org.uk || @quorumsingers
Or contact Michael (mj.hollick@virginmedia.com)



March 2020



World Day of Prayer Friday 6 March

‘Rise, take your mat and walk’

Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year’s service and they encourage us to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. But their theme, ‘Rise, take your mat and walk’, looks forward to a better future, as they continue their journey towards full reconciliation.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and then the wave of prayer travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas – before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

Do join us at one of our local services on Friday 6 March:

10 am St Leonard’s Church, Sandridge

2.30 pm St Stephen’s Church, Watling Street

Christine Boot





The Woodlands Lovefeast

In light of our historical celebrations this year I thought I would share with you some details about an annual event in Derbyshire on the first Sunday of July. If this article has caught your eye in the magazine, then you will be relieved (or perhaps slightly disappointed) to hear that this isn't quite what the name might suggest! There are no classical or bohemian aspects to it – it is a special church service with traditional hymns and readings. The service takes place annually in a barn on a remote farm in the Peak District. I have attended for a couple of years and if you are interested I can show you where it is on a map.

The history of the service stretches back to around 1662 where the earliest people to use the barn for worship are thought to have been the Dissenters who came to this remote place following the Act of Uniformity when they were unable to worship openly in towns and villages. The hills around the farm would have given good vantage points to watch out for anyone coming

up the valley and to give the worshippers warning if they needed to disperse quickly. There may have been some interesting parallels with our forebears going to Kensworth at this time.

The Methodists adopted the Lovefeast early in the Methodist revival (1738 onwards) and the local church chose to meet annually in this spot, dear to the memory of those earlier dissenting worshippers. Hence this barn has been used for worship for over 350 years and, continuously, for celebrating the Lovefeast each year for some 250 years.

The service starts at 1.30 with the opening hymn “Jesu, lover of my soul” (Charles Wesley). After a welcome and opening prayer the service takes its own course with lots of different hymns, readings and other contributions. Then preparations are made for the actual feast. This involves singing the Lovefeast hymn “Come and let us sweetly join” (Charles Wesley). A special cake is shared and spring water is passed around in an ancient loving cup (or modern communion glasses if preferred). There are further contributions and the service ends with “God be with you till we meet again” (Sankey hymnbook). Afterwards there is a lovely tea in the farmhouse garden which overlooks the hills.

If you would like to know more about the service let me know and I can share some more details and directions if you would like to attend.

Megan Thompson

Daycare Coordinator
Job description
Tuesday 10am to 2pm at Age Concern

There is an experienced, caring group of 9 people who work very hard to support the activity. Three helpers look after the food and are up to date with health and safety issues. All the money side is looked after by an experienced assistant leader. Another helper looks after birthdays and chiropody. A driver and escort bring most of the guests by mini bus and the food is cooked at Maple School.

The Coordinator needs a mobile phone which the guests will ring if they are not able to come on any particular Tuesday. The Coordinator communicates this to the driver or escort. They also let the kitchen staff at Maple school know the number of lunches required.

When there are guest vacancies and a request is made to attend - the Coordinator visits and assess if the person is suitable.

The transport provider will also do an assessment to see if a wheelchair is needed.

The team of helpers assist in arranging the programme and know the activities that work well. They are also very receptive to new ideas. We have two outings during the year that need organising.

We have a happy, interesting group of 16 guests who the helpers know well.

Additional Helper

Daycare would really benefit from a person able to come at 9am on Tuesday mornings to set up the tables.

If you are interested please contact the Minister, Simon Carver, or any of the Deacons

Mother's Day 22nd March

Flowers for You!

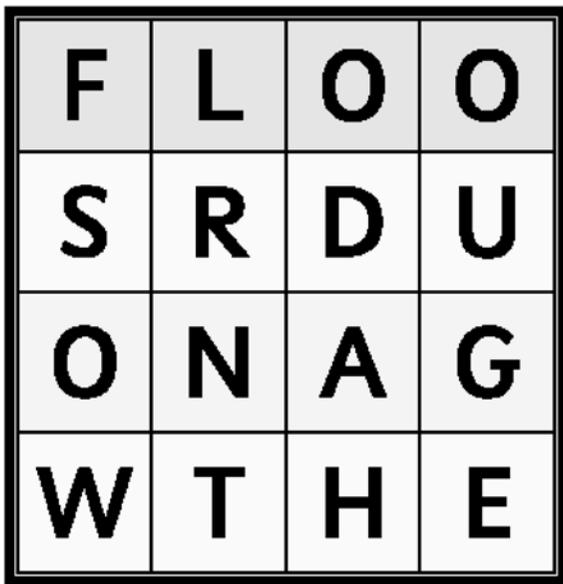


Write a story about what is happening in this picture



Extreme Weather Boggler Puzzle

How many words of 3 letters or more can you find using the letters below? Words are formed from adjoining letters. Letters must join in the proper sequence to spell a word and may join horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, to the left, right, or up-and-down. No letter square, however, may be used more than once within a single word. You may use plurals if available. Score 1 point for each 3 letter word, 2 points for 4 letter words, 3 points for 5 letter words and so on. Score an extra 2 points for every extreme weather themed word that you make!



My points _____

March

Never mind March, we know
You're not really mad
Or angry or bad.
You're only blowing the winter away
To get the world ready
For April and May.



Developments at Lokichar

Thank you to those who helped make this possible.



**It is very much their School and a community project
-this is their WhatsApp message:**

Good morning Noreen, We are all doing well and hoping the same to you and your family. This is just to inform you that the four toilets with urinals for boys is complete and in use and we managed to use the money wisely which has enabled us to start another hole of four toilets again for girls to make us be on the safe side of enough toilets to accommodate the 250 or more pupils. The men and women will finish construction of the girls toilets.

The parents will equip the classrooms with desks.

March 2020



Now children from this poor rural community have the opportunity for an education.

Noreen Gilhespy





Friday Bible Study Group meets with Doris Cox in her new home.
She has settled well and goes to her local village church.

Noreen and Ewen



**COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF
THE MAGAZINE
19th MARCH**



I hope Ciara and Dennis left you unscathed. Unfortunately I lost my fence and my gates as you can see in the picture! Thankfully the son of my good friend, Jean, is in the process of mending both the fence and the gates. Let's hope the next storm (as yet unnamed) won't add anymore to the chaos already reeked. Let's hope the villages and towns that have experienced terrible floods will not have to deal with anymore.

We have had the news at Daycare that Noreen is leaving us very soon. Noreen and Ewen have sold their house and have found a lovely house in Broadstairs; So don't miss the advert for a new co-ordinator in this magazine. Perhaps you would like to join this wonderful team (I am one of them!) or know of someone who would relish the position.

G\lynis

glynis.griffiths1@gmail.com

01462 733665

07709 618571



CHURCH & CENTRE ROOM BOOKINGS

To contact Danny Smith regarding Church and Centre room booking enquiries:

Tel: 01727 844348

email: bookings@dsbc.org.uk



Monday Table Tennis/ Games Club

We meet every Monday from 10.30am till 1pm in the main Hall

Table Tennis – Snooker – Pool – Carpet Bowls – Chess – Draughts and other table games.

Refreshments available in Cross St; Centre Cafe

Everybody welcomed for a time of fun and fellowship

Look forward to seeing you



Trevor Oakley

DAYCARE

Daycare meets every Tuesday during school term time, at the Age Concern Centre, St Peters Street. If you know of anyone who would like to come along for lunch and companionship please contact: **Noreen Gilhespy on email noreen.gilhespy@gmail.com or phone: 07947 029556.**



WHO LET THE DAD'S OUT!!

*The next meeting will take place on Saturday,
14th March in the Lower Hall from 10am to
12pm*

*Everyone welcome, Dads, Uncles, Grand-
dads*



KNITTING GROUP

The knitting group will meet on Tuesday, 17th March in Cross Street from 11am—12.30pm and welcomes anyone who would like to join with us. Some bring their own knitting or crochet projects whilst other knit and crochet for the charity 'Knit for Peace'.

Judy Pental



SCRABBLE CLUB

Scrabble Club will be held on Tuesday's 10th and 24th March at 2.30pm in the Cross Street Centre.

John and Vera Mills



What, When and Where March 2020

Monday	2	Lent Study Group 7.30pm Cross Street Centre
Tuesday	3	Lent Study Group 10.30am Cross Street Centre
Tuesday	3	Church Members Meeting 7.45pm - Cross Street Centre Room 3
Wednesday	4	Free Church Service in the Abbey 11am Mr Stephen Poxon, Salvation Army Officer and Freelance Writer
Friday	6	World Day of Prayer 10am St Leonard's Church, Sandridge
Saturday	7	Prayer Hour 10am Cross Street Room 5
Tuesday	10	Lent Study Groups 10.30am & 7.30pm Cross Street Centre
Tuesday	10	Scrabble Club 2.30pm Cross Street Centre
Saturday	14	Who Let the Dads Out? 10am – 12noon Lower Hall
Tuesday	17	Lent Study Groups 10.30am & 7.30pm Cross Street Centre
Tuesday	17	Knitting Group 11am – 12.30pm Cross Street Centre
Thursday	19	Deacons Meeting 7.45pm Cross Street Centre
Saturday	21	Messy Church 10.30am – 12.30pm Lower Hall
Tuesday	24	Lent Study Groups 10.30am & 7.30pm Cross Street Centre
Tuesday	24	Scrabble Club 2.30pm Cross Street Centre
Saturday	28	Muffins with Mums 10am – 12noon lower hall
Tuesday	31	Lent Study Groups 10.30am & 7.30pm Cross Street Centre

Regular Events

Mondays: Table tennis & Games Club 10.30am – 1.30pm Lower Hall

Tuesdays: (term time) Daycare 10am – 2pm Age Concern St Peters Street

Wednesdays: (term time) Toddlers 9.45am – 11.15am Lower Hall

Wednesdays: Prayer 12.00 noon Prayer Corner in the Link.

Sunday Services

10.30am, with groups for children, every Sunday

4.00pm Church in the Café, 1st Sunday each month

6.30pm remaining Sundays, unless otherwise advertised

Sunday Communion usually first morning and third evening each month