

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



**MAGAZINE**

***FEBRUARY 2020***

**Free**

**Minister:** Rev Simon J Carver, MA, BSc, - [simoncarver@btinternet.com](mailto:simoncarver@btinternet.com)

**Associate Minister:** Rev. Jonny Fillis [jonnyf87@aol.com](mailto:jonnyf87@aol.com)

**Church Secretary:** Chris Penn

**Finance Deacon:** Trevor Oakley

**Property:** Ray Saunders

**Site Manager and Caretaker:** David Hobbs

**Cross Street:** 01727 846891

Bookings: [booking@dsbc.org.uk](mailto:booking@dsbc.org.uk)/01727 568162

**Charity Registration Number:** 1127791

### ***February Services***

	10.30 am	4.00 pm In the Cross Street Lounge
<b>February 2nd</b>	<i>Making Good Work</i> <i>Fruitfulness on the Frontline III</i> Communion	<i>Fruitfulness on the Frontline III</i> – Study Group
<b>February 9th</b>	<i>Ministering Grace and Love</i> <i>Fruitfulness on the Frontline IV</i>	<i>Fruitfulness on the Frontline IV</i> – Study Group
<b>February 16th</b>	<i>Moulding Culture</i> <i>Fruitfulness on the Frontline V</i>	<i>Fruitfulness on the Frontline V</i> – Study Group Communion
<b>February 23rd</b>	<i>Mouthpiece for Truth and Justice</i> <i>Fruitfulness on the Frontline VI</i>	<i>Fruitfulness on the Frontline VI</i> – Study Group

Notes for all sermons are available online at [www.dsbc.org.uk](http://www.dsbc.org.uk) or from the minister in person

Dear Friends,

I've become aware of a couple of expressions over the last few years, both of which have to do with relationships. The first is sometimes used as an acronym – LAT – 'living apart together'. It describes the situation when a couple are in a relationship but do not live in the same house. The second expression is 'conscious uncoupling'. This was coined by Katherine Woodward Thomas but came to public attention when used by Gwyneth Paltrow to describe her divorce from Chris Martin. As with most things to do with Ms Paltrow, the explanation of 'conscious uncoupling' seemed to complicate matters more than it elucidated. The nub of it seemed to be that Paltrow and Martin were divorcing, but without blaming one another for their split.



At the time of writing these two expressions – 'living apart together' and 'consciously uncoupling' – could both be applied to two current situations. With the election now a distant memory and Brexit having been 'sorted', if we wondered what we would have to talk about, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex have decided that they want to 'step back' from the frontline of Royal life. They are 'consciously uncoupling' themselves from the rest of the Royal family but plan to 'live apart together' with the rest of them.

This also seems to apply to Brexit. The UK is 'consciously uncoupling' itself from the European Community, but we will be 'living apart together' with our friends from across the Channel.

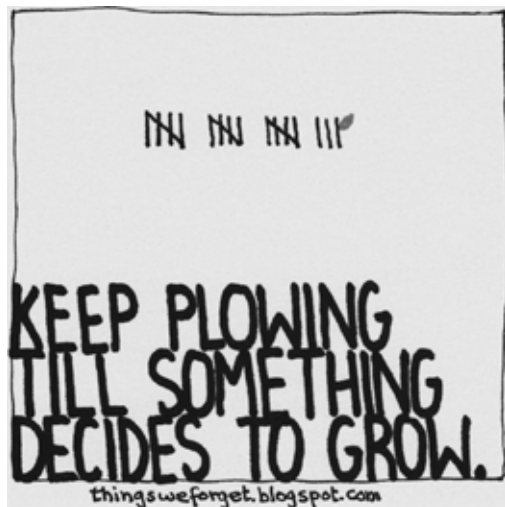
Human beings have all sorts of relationships. There are relationships between groups of people – including between nations. Then there are relationships between us as individual people – within our families, with colleagues, with our friends, with those we serve and those who serve us.

The Bible tells us that God is personal – meaning that God relates to human beings personally. This implies that God chooses to be in relationship with us. In the Old Testament that relationship is expressed in terms of covenants – mutual promises between God and his people. The New Testament tells us that God has made a new covenant with us. The New Testament tells us that God came to live amongst us and has promised always to be with us through God's Spirit.

This 'new thing' that God has done means that we now have the opportunity to 'live with' God, rather than 'live apart' from God. The story of Jesus is of a God who wants to 'live with us' and wants us never to be apart from him. This is the new covenant – a promise that is made to all people. This 'new thing' that God has done means that we now have the opportunity to 'live with' God, rather than 'live apart' from God. The story of Jesus is of a God who wants to 'live with us' and wants us never to be apart from him. This is the new covenant – a promise that is made to all people.

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**

Our February and March study groups will both be part of two separate series. In February we will be continuing with Fruitfulness on the Frontline and in March we will be starting this year's Lent Course. You will find information about both these 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 held our third training evening in January and by the end of that month we will be halfway through a busy winter. The five beds at Trinity URC are full most nights even though the winter has been exceptionally mild so far. There are 49 volunteer shifts scheduled every week and as at the end of December 63 people had taken at least one shift, with one person having been on duty 9 times in that month!

More volunteers are still needed as every week there are urgent appeals to cover one or two shifts as without all 7 shifts per night being filled, we are unable to open. If you would like more information, please speak to me.

### **Premier 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 **23rd February**. You can also hear Danny Smith and I chatting about films at the cinema and on TV on the **St Albans Podcast: Film Guide**.



## The Winter Beds Project

As the winter months approach and temperatures plummet there are people preparing to bed down and make the streets their home in St Albans, one of the wealthiest cities in England. The number of people rough sleeping on the streets of our city increases year on year and in winter time already vulnerable people risk their lives living on the streets.

The Open Door Night Shelter offers 12 bed spaces to homeless people in St Albans and additional beds when the weather becomes severe, but there still aren't enough bed spaces. This winter to prevent people from dying on the streets The Open Door Charity supported by the City Centre Churches will be setting up The Winter Beds Project to provide shelter to rough sleepers not accommodated in The Open Door Night Shelter.



Registered Charity Number: 1028528

## Can you help?

The Open Door Winter Beds Project is run by volunteers and we are looking for others to help support the running of the Winter Beds Project this winter. Volunteers are needed in the evening, throughout the night and in the morning to perform a variety of roles.

Could you help with:

- \* Coordinating volunteers
- \* Administration
- \* Setting up and greeting guests
- \* Supervising overnight
- \* Clearing up
- \* Preparing breakfast
- \* Laundry

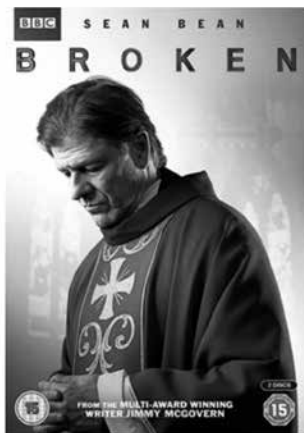
If you can volunteer your time this winter please get in touch

## Get in touch

Email:  
[winterbedsproject@opendoorstalbans.org](mailto:winterbedsproject@opendoorstalbans.org)

Website:  
[www.opendoorstalbans.org](http://www.opendoorstalbans.org)





## ***Lent 2020 Broken***

The TV series, *Broken*, written by Jimmy McGovern and starring Sean Bean is set in an estate parish somewhere in the UK. The series focuses on the life and ministry of Father Michael Kerrigan, a Roman Catholic priest who, despite past trauma and anxiety about his own inadequacies, attempts to bring the light of Christ into the lives of the people amongst whom he ministers.

The series portrays real life at its most gritty and unvarnished, and in doing so raises many questions along the way about how to live faithfully when life is very hard. **A word of warning: there are a number of disturbing scenes and there will be some bad language.**

This Lent course, written by theologian Paula Gooder, arose out of numerous conversations she had with people after the series aired. "So many people commented that they thought it would make an excellent Lent or study course that I thought it would be interesting to have a go. I have shaped the course around the principles of the series itself – which raises far more questions than it ever answers."

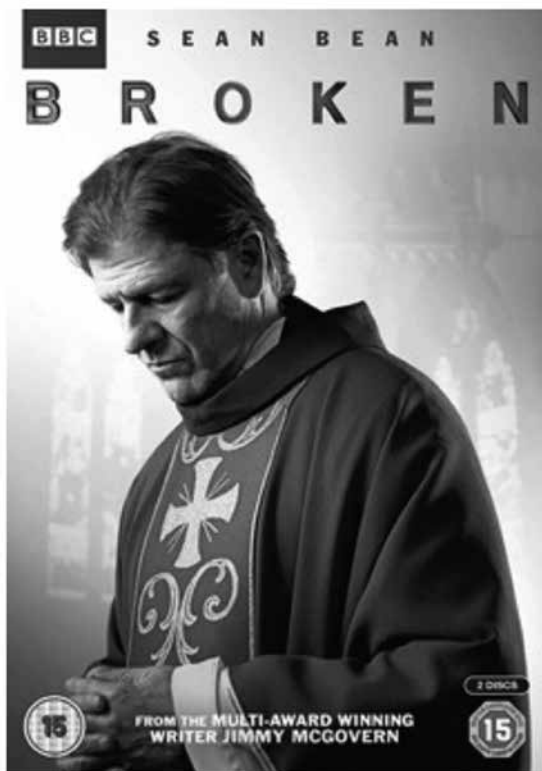
Each week in our Lent groups we will be showing one episode (approximately 60 minutes long) following which there will be discussion and prayer.

These groups are intended to be ecumenical and it is likely that there will be other groups in the city working on the same material – further information to follow.

Cont..

**The groups at Dagnall Street will take place on Tuesdays in the Cross Street Centre at 10.30am beginning on 3rd March. The evening meetings will be at 7.30pm and the first of these will be on Monday 2nd March, but thereafter they will revert to Tuesday evenings.**

*Simon*





## ***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.



## ***PASTORAL NEWS***

The following friends in our church family would benefit from your prayers:

Linda Douglas died in Watford Hospital on Saturday, 11th January. She had been a member here for the past 20 years. We pray for all her family at this sad time.

Linda's funeral will be on Friday, 14th February at 12 noon in our church.

We think of

Ray Saunders and family as Ray's sister died recently.

Brian and Olly Branch

Dennis and Marie Rowson

Gaz Jordan, Caz and their boys

Jenny Johnson

Sam, Rini and Abi

Julia and Mike Plant—Julia is now home where she continues on her path to recovery. It is good to see her back in church and getting involved again in church activities.

Jonny and Becky Fillis—we continue to pray for God's guidance as they visit other churches for their next ministry after Dagnall Street.

It is good to have Ewen Gilhespy on the Pastoral Team since November. He can be contacted on his home phone: 01707 267682.

With the beginning of 2020 the evenings are still dark and the weather somewhat cold and wet. Unfortunately, it is also the season for colds, coughs and viruses. However, daylight hours are lengthening gradually.

On January 12th Jonny led services and introduced the 'Frontline Fruitfulness' courses (see details in the magazine).

In the autumn the initial 'Frontline' course was well attended. As well as learning more about Christian discipleship, we enjoyed fun and fellowship together. Based on this experience I would recommend the 'Frontline Fruitfulness' course which is now ongoing.

The following verses are from the hymn 'How sweet the name of Jesus sounds' which is no. 194 in our 'Songs of Fellowship' book.

*How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
In a believers ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
And drives away his fear*

*It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
And calms the troubled breast;  
Tis manna to the hungry soul  
And to the weary, rest.*

*Dear name, the rock on which I build,  
My shield and hiding place,  
My never-failing treasury, filled  
With boundless stores of grace.*

*Jill Potter*



## **MISSION NEWS**

### **BMS Partners:**

It's always good to hear from our BMS partners and Toby and Pippa Vokuhl's latest prayer letter is included in this edition. Also, just after Christmas, they sent us a video clip in which they recalled their visit to us last July and thank us for the Christmas gift voucher which was sent from the DSBC fellowship. You can see the clip by logging on at:

**<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2le2lmwafgb9p6d/AACaUqrCzUj7Pwy6hfZ3V30Ya?dl=0>**

We also sent an Amazon voucher to our other BMS partner Judy Cook, who runs the Hope Home for children with special needs in Chiang Mai, Thailand. She responded with a special 'colourful' Amazon reply thanking us so very much.

### **2019 Christmas Gift Service:**

What an amazing response, once again, from you all as over 100 gifts were presented around the crib at our family Nativity service. They were gratefully received by St Albans and Hertsmere Women's Refuge for distribution amongst the children of the families which they care for. (There is a rumour that the Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, left at the crib during the nativity, also went to SAHWR!)

You may recall that representatives from SAHWR, including their children's support worker, also visited us on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December and provided an inspiring insight into the work they do. Here are a few bullet points from their talk:

- The refuge started in 1982.
- Since 2017, they also cater for men.
- They currently cater for over 60 children aged up to 17.
- Birthday and Christmas presents are distributed.
- On average, 3 months are spent in the refuge.
- They appreciate the gifts for children, but there is also a need to provide for the women and men.

SAHWR offers services to all victims of domestic abuse regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or ability. What they can do to help:

- One to one support in the community.
- Drop ins for support and advice.
- Safe accommodation.
- Safety planning to support leaving an abusive relationship.
- Support for children who have been affected by abuse.

Triple R programme (Recognise; Recover; Resilience.)

### **Planned Mission Giving**

Mission Grants to the following organisations were sent out during October last year and grateful thanks and appreciation have been received from the following local, national and international organisations:

***Manipur Trust; Bible Society; Regent's Park Baptist College; Central Baptist Association; Step; Centre 33; Open Door; Fund for the Future; UNLOCK; TWAM; Knit for Peace; Living Room; FEED, Herts Welcomes Syrian Families; Release International.***

### **News from the Genesis Shop on the Manor Estate in Sheffield**

Following our October trip, I received the following letter from Lisa Carr who runs the Charity shop:

*"To Chris and all at St Albans,  
Myself and all at Genesis would like to thank all who have contributed in the donations of such lovely items. Your continuous support which is appreciated by not just the staff here but the people of our community and those from further that come to Genesis especially with the countdown to Christmas beginning.  
Also as always a pleasure to see Chris and Ray too. It is lovely to chat and catch up with things from over your end and remembering people to which some are sadly missed. We have a lot of fond memories which we will always cherish.*

*Alongside of this, we would also like to thank all at the Cross Street Centre for the lovely donations of food, (sausage rolls, sandwiches and cakes), we were so surprised and you have some wonderful bakers too, keep up with all your lovely work. Many thanks to you all again – you're all amazing!!!  
God Bless,  
Lisa Carr xxx”*

It just shows how much a little effort from us can make such a difference to many others. Keep up the good work and remember to keep filling those bags with unwanted but serviceable clothes and household items for our next trip to sunny Sheffield in a couple of months time.

*Chris Penn*

### **Central Baptist Association (CBA) Prayer Focus: Ramridge Baptist Church Luton:**

Ramridge Baptist Church has served the Ramridge estate and north east Luton for the last 60 years. Our community consists of a diverse mix of ages, nationalities, backgrounds and faiths and, although we are a small church, we seek to provide a distinctively Christian voice within this mix. Dave Sunman joined the church as our new Pastor last Easter and has helped to develop a ministry to children with a new Kids' Club and ministry in one of the local primary schools.

Dave asks for us to pray:

- for opportunities to minister in more local schools in the coming year and for the integration of this children's work into the life of the church.
- for our new youth Bible study to develop and grow and for the introduction of a new youth club to make provision for the older children.
- that we make meaningful connections within our area as we face challenges in trying to become more visible in our local community.
- for our leadership development as we are an aging church and, in particular, need to develop new leaders.

### **Breachwood Green:**

Is a village in Hertfordshire, near to the perimeter of Luton Airport. It boasts a JMI school, the Red Lion, a Community Hall and the Baptist chapel – and people and houses, of course. Population ca 1.000 (2011 figures). The church is a C19th listed building, and the congregation's roots are linked with the activities in the area of John Bunyan in C17th. The chapel is one of the hubs in the community. It hosts a community library and regular coffee mornings. Harvest - with its distinctive straw plait decorations, Christingle and Christmas are still community occasions. The chapel has good links with the local school and children usually take part in the special services. Congregations usually number between 16 and 25 with a mix of ages. Café Church is a more recent occasional experiment, and Christingle and Toy Sunday services are shared with the local Anglicans. Members also take part in an ecumenical Bible study group. Stephen Copson acts as Moderator and occasional preacher.

Pray for the church as it shares in the life of the village. There are all the joys and the hurdles of a small and rural community. Pray that newcomers will feel welcome. Pray for the school, its staff, governors and children. And pray for the congregation as they witness to Jesus in this small rural neighbourhood.

### **Kings Community Church Letchworth:**

David & Christine Wheatley minister on a needy estate of about 1700 homes on the edge of Letchworth. With only a handful of folk in the church in full time employment, Home Mission helps to keep this vital work going. You can see more on this year's Home Mission video at [centralba.org.uk](http://centralba.org.uk)

David asks for our prayers at this Christmas time as they have a particular opportunity: the church and the Central Methodist Church managed to get a shop in Leys Avenue (shopping centre Letchworth) for the Christmas Period and opened a Christmas Cafe for anyone to drop in on the three Saturdays before Christmas. Alongside giving free refreshments there were a craft corner, free gift wrapping service, free food distribution and the CAP and Experienced Christians to give advice and support at this time of year.

### **Carey Baptist, Hemel Hempstead:**

Carey has just celebrated 340 years of Baptist witness in Hemel Hempstead. We celebrated in some style with food from around the world and with a special anniversary cake made by Jailza from Brazil, who has been recently joining us, with her son, at Sunday worship. Carey has been encouraged by the numbers of young families from a wide variety of origins, who have been joining us recently. But we are conscious that we face a range of challenges, as well as finding new leaders for Junior Church and for the church as a whole. Parking and finances are both issues which have been challenging us recently. We need, as ever, to ask for an increase in faith and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus during a troubling time for our communities and our nation. In the next few months, a large complex of flats will be built close to our church building, which will quickly increase our immediate mission field. So our prayer, in this season of a big potential harvest but few workers, is for the Lord of the harvest to send workers into the harvest field. We continue to thank God for being clearly at work in Hemel Hempstead.

Colin Cartwright (Minister)

### **Aston Clinton Baptist Church:**

Pastor Nick Harris says "At Aston Clinton there is a growing harvest field. Once the church stood in isolation, but now approaching it's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year the surrounding area is vastly swelled by housing developments. Hence we have our phones alarms set for 9.38 to remind us to pray to the Lord of the harvest for workers to enter the harvest fields. [Matthew 9.38].

As well as an 'Ebenezer' moment of thanksgiving for the Lord's leading, this time represents a time of exploring new doorways the Lord is opening for us. There is a desire for the church community to look to new ways of reaching into the local community and beyond. Community engagement so far involves holding an Alpha course in the local pub, running an after-school club, two toddler groups and a holiday club for youngsters. The youth work has had to be reshaped following the early death of our Youth worker and now has a mid-week drop in Youth Café as well as a Friday youth club, next year a group will be going to Mexico to build



housing for locals. A weekly lunchtime meal is planned for the September with a focus on the elderly and lonely.

Rejoice with us as we begin to see an increase in workers committing to the church and Sunday services morning and evening increase in numbers attending.

We would value your prayers as we reach out to families, building closer ties with the primary school commencing messy church and employing a children and family worker.

Please pray that we would know God better [Eph 1.17]. We are seeking more of the Spirit as we try and walk in step with him, not lagging behind or running ahead of him. Thank you"

### **Tilehouse Street Hitchin:**

We have a long history; this year we have celebrated our 350th anniversary and have much to give thanks for. But now we look forward and are trying to discern, "Where do we grow from here?"

Between 35 and 45 folk meet on a Sunday morning; the majority of whom are retired which brings its challenges. But we have good links with the community through hiring out our extensive premises. Perhaps our focus should be on older folk? A new retirement complex is opening behind the church. Pray for wisdom and courage to reach out through events such as our annual 'Holiday at Home'. And we have just appointed a Church Administrator. Pray that this will help free up time and energy for mission. Our Messy Church-type events enable contact with many families. Pray for opportunities to build on these occasional encounters.

*Chris Penn*



BMS World Mission have set aside Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February as a day of prayer to focus on the work they do around the world. Here are their prayer points:

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."  
(Romans 12: 12)*

Pray for wisdom, safety and resilience for our mission workers serving around the world.

*"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11: 24)*

Pray for encouragement for our partners around the world. Pray that lives would be transformed through their work.

*"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34: 18)*

Pray for those affected by disaster and conflict today. Pray that God will bring peace and stability to their lives.

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5: 14)*

Pray for those who offer and receive training at BMS' training facility. Pray that the growth of the kingdom is served through our work there.

*"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." (Colossians 4: 2)*

Give thanks for the prayers and generosity of our faithful supporters. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless them.

*"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10: 10)*

Pray for opportunities to share faith and for disciples to be made in places where Jesus is not yet known.

*Chris Penn*



***Baptist Assembly***  
**Baptist Assembly 2020, 8 – 10 May**

Please save the dates for next year's Baptist Assembly at the Bournemouth International Centre. The draft programme begins with an opening celebration on the evening of Friday 8 May and finishes with closing worship before lunch on Sunday 10 May 2020. The Baptists Together team are hard at work developing the full programme for the event over the coming months and look forward to seeing you there. As the Government has moved the May bank holiday to Friday 8 May, we recommend making early enquiries on accommodation as Bournemouth is likely to be busy.

For more information visit the website,  
[supportservices@baptist.org.uk](mailto:supportservices@baptist.org.uk)

*Chris Penn*

## Pippa and Toby Vokuhl

### NEW SONGS - OR - WHOEVER INVENTED THE RECORDER ...

December 2019

[www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl)



"Whoever invented the recorder should be ...." I moan to myself as our children practice their noisy instruments for the upcoming Christmas play at Pokhara Study Centre. Am I the only parent to struggle with those particular sounds? They are practicing some new songs, and they are having a great time. And yes, I admit, the school choir does sound much better now, than when I cycled past the grounds a few weeks ago, swerving. Very soon Jakey, Ella and Millie will proudly play, sing, and act in the PSC Christmas Play, to which Green Pastures Hospital patients are always invited.

On the topic of new songs, I am reminded of Psalm 96 (NIV):

*1 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. 2 Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.*

As it happens I have been asked to speak on Psalm 96 at our local church service on the 14th of December. Nepali brothers and sisters, as Christians, are singing a new song here. Having just witnessed the Dasain and Tihar religious seasons where gods and goddesses are worshipped and appeased all round us, it is a wonderful thing to hear biblical truths sung out loudly into the neighbourhood every Saturday, when church services take place. Sometimes too loud for us, sometimes off-key, sometimes with content which one might have tweaked. But nevertheless, the living God is being experienced here, and is declared here in word and song. In fact, the psalmist's words could have been spoken directly into a Nepali context:

*4 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.*



In returning to Nepal as BMS long term personnel, Psalm 96 also has relevance for us as a family. We have returned to the same place, but we also are singing a new song. That means rejoicing with local Christians and celebrating the Christmas season here with song and dance as customary. It also means working through the implications of a more permanent existence in country and culture. This is not a short career break anymore, but a very different professional and life journey. Whatever the temporary challenges with work or culture were, these have to be accepted as ongoing challenges now. Temporary uncertainties, due to visa or educational uncertainties, become ongoing facts of overseas life. Friends coming, and friends going, that is also part and parcel of what we have signed up for. Our new song therefore this season, is that of being ready to be changed by circumstances, to become resilient as necessary, but in doing so to carry out the works God has prepared for us to do, and to 'declare His glory among the nations'.

We were delighted to have met with so many friends in the UK this summer, and to continue our journey in a very conscious partnership with you.

We would love you to join us in prayer for the below:

1) It has been a real pleasure, and answer to prayer, to see the Multi-Purpose Learning Centre (Chapel) come into use at Green Pastures and witness the first church services and INF events in this beautiful and functional space. Please also continue to pray for good progress with the new Palliative Care Building, which my colleague Gordon Russel is project managing, and some new GPH staff accommodation, which I am taking through the design stages.

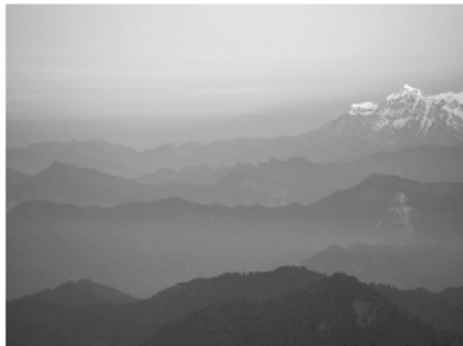
2) Please pray that Gordon and I can set up good systems for the INF Engineering Team and can recruit another local engineer to complete the team. It would be great if we can find a suitable Christian engineer.

3) There seems to be a possibility opening up for me to conduct much needed research into the sociological implications of post-earthquake housing here. Do pray that this can be formalised and progressed.

4) Jakey, Ella and Millie are thriving at their school, for which we are very thankful. Please pray for educational arrangements from summer 2020, as most teachers at the school are due to leave the country, and no replacements are currently firmed up! Pippa also appreciates prayer for teaching history and RE to year 7/8s, this is not her professional background, but fulfils a need here.

5) We are delighted with our new household help Tara, who is a pleasure to be around, and makes tasty cakes and biscuits. Tara is Hindu, and it would be amazing if she experienced God's love for her and her husband, who suffers from motorbike accident induced injuries.

6) Please pray that God will keep our hearts at peace in the midst of uncertainties, and that He will make clear where future work and educational possibilities lie here in Nepal whilst we make the most of our day to day opportunities in the now.



This is the season of clear mountain views here, God's wonderful creation. In drawing this update to a close I therefore want to quote one last verse from Psalm 96 which reminds the reader *"6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary."* Would this be your and our song and experience this Christmas, leaving the recorders to one side...

Much love,

Pippa, Toby, Jakey, Ella, and Millie

If you would like to support Pippa and Toby Vokuhl by prayer and committed regular giving, visit [bmsworldmission.org/partners](https://bmsworldmission.org/partners) or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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mail@bmsworldmission.org bmsworldmission.org

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### ***Thank you!***

Mike and I would like to thank everyone who, by sending cards, texts, e-mails, phone calls, flowers and visiting (especially those of you who trekked to Watford!) over the last five months, have supported us through what has been a difficult time. The love and care shown and all the prayers have been much appreciated.

I am gradually hoping to get back to where I was and, as I write this, I have actually done one Cross Street duty!

***Julia Plant***

### ***CORRECTION TO 2020 CHURCH LIST***

***Susie Wyeth email—  
susannahwyeth@gmail.com***

## ***Fruitfulness on the Frontline – Being Whole- Life Disciples***

Last Autumn we spent five weeks looking at the idea of life on the Frontline, using the excellent resources produced by the London Institute of Contemporary Culture. Frontline was an attempt to remind us all that being a Christian isn't just about 'religious' things... going to church services, believing certain things. No being a Christian is about our whole lives. Our relationships, work, hobbies, everything. Being a Christian should impact everything we do and everything we are. Because above all else being a Christian is about being on a Mission -- to join with God's work of bringing his Kingdom to earth.

It was a timely reminder that wherever and whoever we are and whatever we do, we all have a frontline on which God can use us. It was well received by the church and people were asking us, "What's next?"

The answer is... Fruitfulness on the Frontline. This will be an opportunity to think about **how** we can make a difference on our frontlines. It will shine a light on what God's mission looks like and what we can all do in our daily lives to help bring it to earth. The series is structured around that that awful preaching technique, 6 ideas that all begin with the same letter. The 6 M's. Modelling Godly Character. Making Good Work. Ministering Grace & Love. Moulding Culture. Mouthpiece for Truth & Justice. Messenger of the Gospel.

We will look at each in turn during our Sunday mornings and then in the week that follows we will gather in smaller groups to share and learn from one another's experience. We would really encourage everyone to come along to one of the groups. You will have already missed Modelling Godly Character, don't miss any of the rest!

The Groups are as follows:

**Week commencing Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan and then for the following 5 weeks:**

Sunday afternoon	4pm	Cross Street Café Jonny & Simon
Monday evening	8pm	Cross Street Room 5 Julia
Tuesday morning	10:30am	Cross Street Room 5 Simon
Tuesday afternoon	2:30pm	Cross Street Room 5 Flo
Tuesday evening	8pm	39 Spencer Street Jonny

*Jonny*





# Happy Birthday!

## ***FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS***

19th—Chris Penn

The Birthday Scheme is an amazing way to support BMS World Mission by giving a gift on your birthday. We have so much, is it hard to give to those who have so little? You will then be helping to transform lives far away.

I shall be writing in the next few months about how this happens. If you would be interested in joining the scheme, please see me and I can give you a leaflet with further information.

Happy Birthday, Chris, and to everyone with a birthday in February.

*Linda Williams*

*PS* Don't forget to put your Christmas stamps in the box in the vestibule, trimmed and put in a sealed envelope.



## ***Relationship or Rules?***

(The older brother said to his father): “Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.” **Luke 15:29**

A poor Burundian woman found herself in a violent marriage. Her overbearing husband would write out a long list of household chores to be done each day before he returned from work. At the end of each day, he would tick off all that she’d done, and he beat her mercilessly if anything was outstanding. So she was beaten every night. To her relief, he became sick and died, and within a few years she was blessed to remarry – this time to a kind and loving husband. Gone were the lists. She simply loved serving him. Months into the new marriage, she found a crumpled piece of paper behind one of the cupboards. It was one of the old lists from her previous husband! She read through it nervously, wincing as the old memories came flooding back. But then, to her amazement, she realised that she had completed everything on the old list that very day. What she couldn’t accomplish motivated by fear and punishment, she had fulfilled out of energising love.

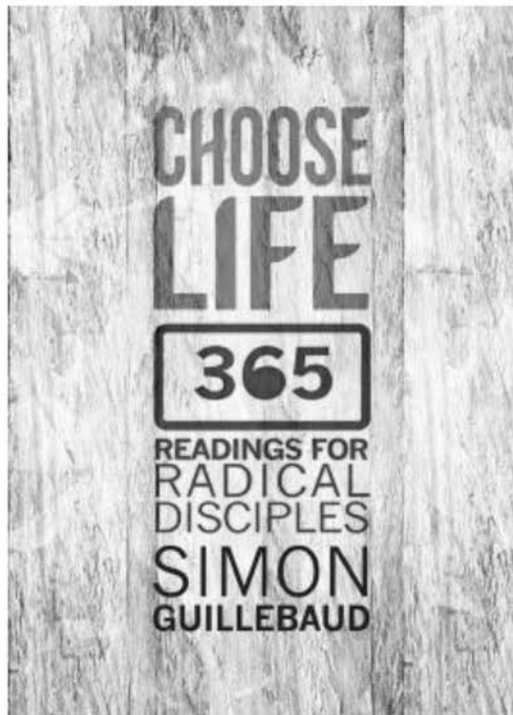
In Jesus’ famous parable of the lost son, which son was more lost? Ultimately the older one was, because he was exposed as being lost even when at home. He had, as John Wesley spoke of his own pre-conversion experience, “the religion of a servant, not a son”. He’d played it by the rules while completely missing out on the relationship. Tragic!

It may sound like a cliché, but there is nothing you can do to make God love you more, and there is nothing you can do to make him love you less. God is a God of relationship. Away with images of a hard taskmaster or a cranky old man, he is the best loving Father, beyond what you could possibly imagine. Enjoy him!

Father, I choose to follow you today, grateful that you want a relationship with me, not my obedience to a long list of rules.  
Amen!

**From:** CHOOSE LIFE (365 readings for radical disciples)  
by Simon Guillebaud.  
Published by Monarch Books.  
**With permission.**

Submitted by *Ewen Gilhespy*  
(Co-ordinator of Bible Reading Notes)



## ***Solution to the Christmas Poem Puzzle The Muddleton Magna Pantomime***

1) An engine purred – a shadow  
**Crossed** the open ground  
The driver flashed her headlamps  
Through the snow **that** swirled  
around

2) She barely saw the carpark  
In the gloomy night  
She found she could **pull over**  
In a space just on the right

3) She disengaged her **seatbelt**  
An owl began to hoot  
As she moved around the car  
And opened up the **boot**

4) **She** ran her cold hands over  
The contents of a **bag**  
She took out several objects  
Each labelled with a tag

5) She **tied** them in her trolley  
And **wheeled** it past a wall  
**Bringing** them together  
To her local village hall

6) She **skirted** round the outside  
Although the light was poor  
She went through a back entrance  
To the **dressing** room and store

7) Some actors **watched** her enter  
Her trolley was quite wide  
She caught it on the brickwork  
Whilst **jerking** it inside

8) She laid out all the items  
On a packing **case**  
**According** to her lengthy list  
Each had its proper **place**

9) **Soon** the actors gathered  
And took their props away  
She thought she would look **over**  
**All** the items for the play

10) She sidled past the scenery  
A **short** step on the floor  
Dislodged a hidden lever  
She fell through a trapdoor

11) **Escape** was now impossible  
But in the dark and damp  
Something gleamed in front of her  
She found and rubbed a lamp...

-----  
(All words above this line)

12) A heavy crash of thunder  
And a jet of flame  
Carried through the village hall  
And she was now to blame!

The lamp being used in the Muddleton Magna Christmas play contained a special mechanism provided by an over-enthusiastic set designer. The whole of the backstage area has vanished including the clothes rail containing the actors' personal effects. Thankfully some of their clothing has been caught in the lines of this poem. Can you find 20 items of externally worn clothing, (including accessories and jewellery but not underwear) before it disappears?

Megan Thompson 2019

Clothing (including accessories and jewellery) typically worn externally. This puzzle initially involved 15 hidden words but some others were found later. Original 15: Hat (several), pullover, belt, boots, tie, ring, skirt, dress, watch, jerkin, laces, overall, shorts, cape, cap (cap and cape are both in 'escape') Additional words identified later: cross, heel, bag, case, cord



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## ***Buy less RUBBISH in 2020!***

Convenience has become catastrophe: our world is awash with plastic waste. An estimated 8.3 billion tons of plastic have been produced since the 1950s – that's equivalent to the weight of more than 800,000 Eiffel Towers – and only 9% of it has been recycled. The rest is still milling about in our ecosystems – mostly our oceans – where it will take hundreds of years to decompose.

Around a truck-full of waste ends up in the sea *per minute* (that's 8 million tons per year) and plastic pollution can now be found on every beach in the world – even on uninhabited tropical islands and in arctic ice – with an average 5,000 pieces found per mile of beach in the UK. Microscopic particles of plastic can be found in seafood, sea salt, honey, tap water and bottled water. The human health consequences of this are not yet known, but we do know that plastic pollution kills at least 100,000 marine mammals and 1,000,000 seabirds each year, threatening some 700 species with extinction. This is surely not how God would have us care for the world he entrusted us with. It's estimated that UK consumers throw away around 295 billion pieces of plastic each year, only around a quarter of which is recycled, and more than half of which is single-use packaging: items that are used for a very short period of time and then disposed of. That's drinks bottles, straws, stirrers, cotton buds, carrier bags, and of course the packaging of our food, toiletries and cleaning products. Though we assume that when we put things like this in our bin, or our recycling bin, they will be dealt with responsibly, this is sadly not always the case and much of our plastic waste escapes the system.

**It seems like it might be almost impossible to avoid, but actually with a few small changes we can all buy (and throw away) less plastic packaging if we try.**

**At The Refill Pantry** on London Road (just a few doors down from the Pea-hen) you can buy dried goods such as pasta, rice, beans, lentils, cereals, nuts, dried fruits, herbs, loose-leaf tea – even chocolate buttons! – all without any plastic packets. Just bring along your own jars, tins or boxes, fill them up, weigh and pay – or use the paper bags provided in the shop for a small extra cost. The staff are very friendly and always happy to show new customers the ropes!

You can also find plastic-free toiletries and soaps for sale here, and liquid refills such as household cleaning products, oils and vinegars. You can learn more about them, and find a full list of what they stock, at [www.therefillpantry.co.uk](http://www.therefillpantry.co.uk)

**Eat Wholefoods** is another small business providing a similar service and you can find them on the market on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and in their shop in Fleetville on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (it's tucked away down a small alley next to KwikFit – follow the sign!). They refill containers with Ecover cleaning products at both locations, and can also refill your containers with dried goods in their shop. Meanwhile their plastic-bagged products are wrapped in cellophane, which is made from wood pulp and biodegrades when buried. Find out more at [www.eatwholefoods.co.uk](http://www.eatwholefoods.co.uk)

**Buying local produce** often means less packaging, and plastic-free food can be found in abundance at the market and monthly farmers' market (remember to bring your own shopping bags!) as well as local farm shops such as Carpenter's Nursery (Sandridge) and Smallford Farm Shop (their St Albans-grown tomatoes are fantastic!).

**Old-fashioned butchers and most supermarket meat/fish counters** usually allow you to bring your own containers for your purchases too.



So why not make a little change this year and buy less plastic waste? Just one extra stop on your weekly shop could easily mean hundreds fewer pieces of rubbish in your bin across the year! Think global. Act local.

***'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it' Psalm 24:1***

*Naomí Distíll*





## ***The Meta Vitae Vac***

1) Are you struggling this Christmas  
To be calm and at your best  
But the cleaning and maintaining  
Means there isn't time to rest

2) Do you need a special sparkle  
Is your life a lumber room  
Are your bright horizons narrowed  
By a dust cloud full of gloom?

3) When the world is so chaotic  
And you need a sense of calm  
Do you wish for a solution  
You could hold within your palm

4) There is a new way forward  
The meta vitae vac  
And when you once have tried it  
There'll be no turning back

5) It copes with all the cleaning  
So you don't need to fret  
And scrubs each sticky surface  
With its multi-pressure jet

6) Crumbs are taken care of  
The refuse whisked away  
It's all so quick and easy  
As I'll demonstrate today

7) And there's a special function  
If things are going wrong  
Just switch on the suction  
You'll find its very strong

8) Schedules, unwanted guests  
Will all be pulled away  
Giving you an empty space  
And peace 'till New Year's Day

9) Be careful how you use it  
Or things that you've enjoyed  
Your telly and your sofa  
Could be drawn into the void

10) And if you're caught up with it  
(Which would be far much worse)  
You'll find there is no option  
To throw it in reverse

11) All the things you vacuumed  
The debris and decay  
Will cycle round right with you  
And they'll be there to stay

12) And so too in the wider world  
Can life get clogged inside  
With grime that will not go away  
A choking rising tide

13) There's only one solution  
From many years ago  
A truth beyond the tinsel  
The baubles and the snow

14) Emmanuel, God with us  
Who conquered death and sin  
Offering renewal  
And a cleansing deep within

15) He lived on earth among us  
This child of which we sing  
He shared our human frailty  
Yet became our risen king

16) In Him we find true freedom  
A heart that is restored  
And there's a new beginning  
In a life now with our Lord

*Megan Thompson 2019*



Megan performing her poem

## ***ADVENT CAROLS***

**On the 8th December we held an Advent Carol service in the Church. The Choral Quartet led by Rory Carver were mesmerising and set the Christmas season off with a flourish.**

**The tea after the service, which was organised by Catriona, was Christmas themed and looked and tasted delicious.**

**Here are some photographs taken by Frank Iddiols of the occasion.**



The Choral Quartet



The Celebration Christmas Tea

## **STEP**

**STEP** is the St Albans and Harpenden Christian Education Project.

They are charity made up of core staff and volunteers from local churches. Step works in schools in a number of ways such as lessons, assemblies, supporting Christian Unions, running social action projects, delivering courses, mentoring and much more. You can find out further details about what they do by visiting their website. You can also sign up to their email newsletter if you would like to know more and this includes volunteering opportunities and a prayer calendar. They have previously visited Dagnall Street and would be pleased if you would keep their work with young people in your prayers.

<https://www.stepschoolswork.org.uk/latest-step-news>

*Megan Thompson*



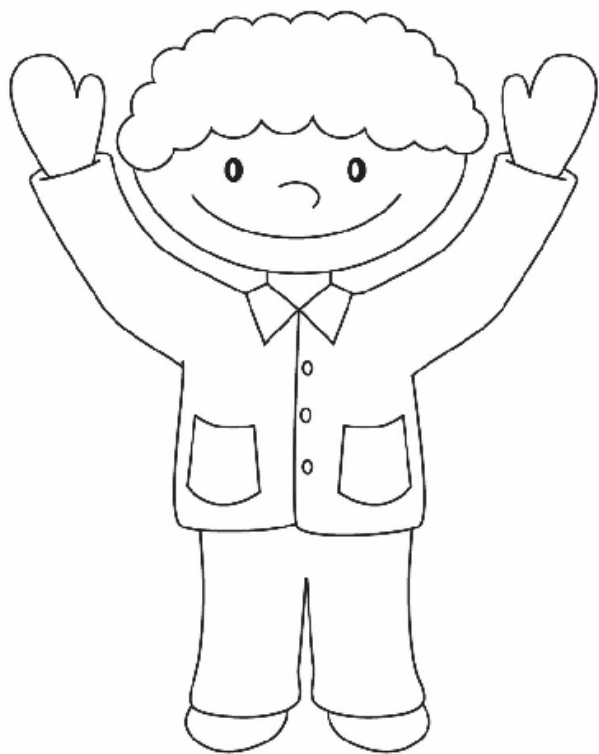
# Winter Boggler Puzzle

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 winter themed word that you make!

I	W	M	A
N	O	I	N
S	T	T	E
K	I	E	R

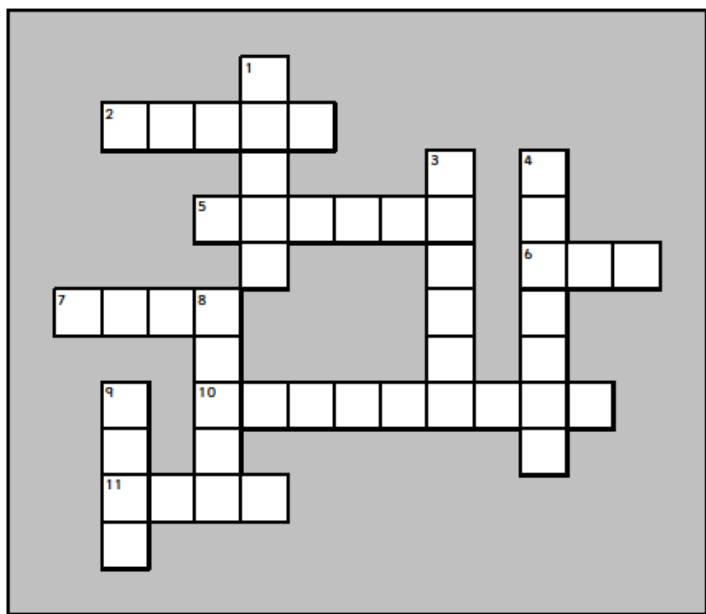


My points \_\_\_\_\_



February

# Pancake Day Crossword

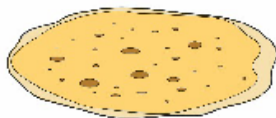


## Across

2. Pancake ingredient ground in a mill.
5. Uncooked pancake mix is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Ingredient you need to crack.
7. You mix the ingredients in this.
10. In some parts of the world Shrove Tuesday is celebrated with a carnival called \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Pancake Day marks the start of this fast.

## Down

1. Sprinkle this on your pancakes to sweeten them.
3. You cook a pancake in this type of pan.
4. Pancake Day is sometimes called Shrove \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Squeeze the juice of this fruit on to your pancakes.
9. Pancake ingredient that comes from cows.



Activity  
village



## It's Pancake Day!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



How many pancakes are there on Dad's plate? \_\_\_\_\_

What is Mum holding in her hand? \_\_\_\_\_

The little girl is rolling her pancake, but her brother has folded his. How do you eat your pancakes? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What pancake toppings can you see on the table? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Make up an extraordinary pancake topping! \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior,  
and my hope is in you all day long.

**Psalms 25:5**

DailyVerses.net

## **SENIOR MOMENTS**

**Old age is golden, I've heard it said,  
But sometimes I wonder, as I get into bed.  
With ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
My eyes on the table until I get up,  
Ere sleep overtake me, I say to myself,  
Is there anything else I can lay on the shelf.  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits  
And pick up the paper and read the 'obits'.  
If my name is still missing, I know I'm not  
dead  
So I have a good breakfast and go back to  
bed.**

**PS God loves us as we are, even our false  
teeth, forgetfulness and all our frailties!**

*Given to Jill Potter by a good friend.*



## **CHURCH & CENTRE ROOM BOOKINGS**

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

Tel: 01727 844348

email: [bookings@dsbc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@dsbc.org.uk)



## **Monday Table Tennis/ Games Club**

Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> will be the last meeting for 2019

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](mailto:noreen.gilhespy@gmail.com) or phone: 07947 029556.**



### ***WHO LET THE DAD'S OUT!!***

***The next meeting will take place on Saturday, 8th February in the Lower Hall from 10am to 12pm***

***Everyone welcome, Dads, Uncles, Granddads***



### ***KNITTING GROUP***

The knitting group will meet on Tuesday, 18th February 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 11th and 25th February at 2.30pm in the Cross Street Centre.

*John and Vera Mills*



## ***AMERICAN BLUEBERRY PANCAKES***



### ***Ingredients***

200g self-raising flour  
1tsp baking powder  
1 egg  
300ml milk  
Knob butter  
150g pack blueberry  
Sunflower oil or a little butter  
for cooking  
Golden or Maple Syrup

### ***METHOD***

Mix together the flour, baking powder and a pinch of salt in a large bowl.

Beat 1 egg with 300ml of milk. Make a well in the dry ingredients and whisk in the milk/egg mixture to make a smooth thick batter.

Beat in a knob of melted butter and gently stir in half of the blueberries.

Heat a teaspoon of sunflower oil or a small knob of butter in a large non-stick frying pan.

Drop a large tablespoonful of batter into the pan to make a pancake about 7.5cms across. Make three or four pancakes at a time.

Cook for about 3 mins over a medium heat until small bubbles appear on the surface, then flip and cook for another 2-3 mins until golden..

Serve in a pile pouring over the golden or maple syrup.



**Find the differences**



## ***IN MEMORY OF A HAPPY DAY IN FEBRUARY***

Blessed by Thou for all the joy  
My soul has felt today!  
O let its memory stay with me  
And never pass away!  
I was alone, for those I loved  
Were far away from me,  
The sun shone on the withered grass,  
The wind blew fresh and free

Was it the smile of early spring  
That made my bosom glow?  
'Twas sweet, but neither sun nor wind  
Could raise my spirit so.

Was it some feeling of delight,  
All vague and undefined?  
No, 'twas a rapture deep and strong  
Expanding in the mind.

Was it a sanguine view of life  
All its transient bliss-  
A hope of bright prosperity?  
O no, it was not this!

It was a glimpse of truth divine  
Unto my spirit given  
Illumed by a ray of light  
That shone direct from heaven!!

I felt there was a God on high  
By whom all things were made.  
I saw his wisdom and his power  
In all his works displayed.



But most throughout the moral world  
I saw his glory shine;  
I saw His wisdom infinite,  
His mercy all divine.

Deep secrets of his providence  
In darkness long concealed  
Were brought to my delighted eyes  
And graciously revealed.

But while I wondered and adored  
His wisdom so divine.  
I did not tremble at his power,  
I felt that God was mine.

I knew that my Redeemer lived,  
I did not fear to die;  
Full sure that I should rise again  
To immortality.

I longed to view that bliss divine  
Which eye hath never seen,  
To see the glories of his face  
Without the veil between.

*Anne Brontë*



## ***COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH MAGAZINE THURSDAY, 13th FEBRUARY***

I hope you noticed the picture on the front cover of this months magazine. It was taken by Megan at the beginning of January. It is even better in colour!!

We've had quite a busy time at Daycare. In October we had the Jumping Fleas Ukulele Band which we all enjoyed and in November we had a Bonfire Party with a bonfire (it was a pretend one!!) and sparklers. The members iced firework biscuits. Both activities were very successful. We had our Christmas outing to Blackberry Jacks at Jersey Farm. We all really enjoyed the meal. We also had Christmas lunch on our last Tuesday at St Peters Street supplied by Maple School. Here are some photos of our activities.



Jumping Fleas Ukulele Bank

February 2020



The very realistic pretend bonfire!



Firework biscuits

*Glynis*

glynis.griffiths1@gmail.com

01462 733665

07709 618571

## **What, When and Where February 2020**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Prayer Hour</b> 10.00am Cross Street Room 5.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Free Church Service in the Abbey</b> 11.00am Revd. Rosemary Fletcher, Superintendent Minister, The St Albans & Welwyn Methodist Circuit.
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Who Let the Dads Out?</b> 10.00am – 12.00noon Lower Hall.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Fruitfulness on the Frontline Session</b> 8.00pm Cross Street Centre Room 5.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Fruitfulness on the Frontline Sessions</b> 10.30am & 2.30pm Cross Street Centre Room 5, & 8.00pm 39 Spencer Street.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Scrabble Club</b> 2.30pm Cross Street Centre.
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Messy Church</b> 10.30am – 12.30pm Lower Hall.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Fruitfulness on the Frontline Session</b> 8.00pm Cross Street Centre Room 5.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Fruitfulness on the Frontline Sessions</b> 10.30am & 2.30pm Cross Street Centre Room 5, & 8.00pm 39 Spencer Street.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Knitting Group</b> 11.00am – 12.30pm Cross Street Centre.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Fruitfulness on the Frontline Session</b> 8.00pm Cross Street Centre Room 5.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Fruitfulness on the Frontline Sessions</b> 10.30am & 2.30pm Cross Street Centre Room 5, & 8.00pm 39 Spencer Street.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Scrabble Club</b> 2.30pm Cross Street Centre.
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Muffins with Mums</b> 10.00am – 12.00noon Lower Hall.

## **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** 12.00noon Prayer Corner in the Link.

## **Sunday Services**

10.30am, with groups for children, every Sunday.  
4.00pm Church in the Café, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month.  
6.30pm – there will be no 6.30pm services during February; instead we will meet at 4pm in the CSC lounge to study “Fruitfulness on the Frontline.”  
Sunday Communion usually first am and third pm each month.