

# St Mildred's Church

## Newsletter

### December - January 2022



#### Remembrance Sunday Reflections

Sara reflects on the service and the blessing of being part of it.

Page 4

#### Welcome back...

...to the Guides, Rangers, Rainbows and Brownies.

Pages 5-7

#### A tribute to Pastor Colin Urquhart

A heartfelt tribute to this incredible man of God!

Pages 11-12

**CHRISTMAS @ ST. MILDRED'S**

Sunday 12th December  
4pm: Blue Christmas

Saturday 18th December  
6pm: Community Carols in the Car Park

Sunday 19th December  
6.30pm: Carol Service

Christmas Eve  
4pm: Children and Family Carols  
11pm: Midnight Communion

Christmas Day  
10am: Family Service

St Mildred's Church, St. Mildred's Road, Lee, London, SE12 0RA  
Reg. Charity No. 1128995

[www.stmildreds.org.uk](http://www.stmildreds.org.uk)  
(Services will be live streamed)

*Every Heart Prepare Him Room*

**The call of God on our lives at St Mildred's is to make and equip disciples of Jesus Christ locally and globally in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**[www.stmildreds.org.uk](http://www.stmildreds.org.uk)**



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### Newsletter Articles

Anyone who regularly attends St Mildred's can contribute articles to the newsletter.

Articles should be sent to the editors no later than Wednesday 26th January for the February 2022 edition, which will be available on Sunday 6th February.

Newsletter editors:

Edna Petzen

Elisabeth Harris

#### Email:

[newsletter@stmildreds.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@stmildreds.org.uk)

## Tom writes



How will you look back on 2021?

It has been quite a year. At the start of it, we were in another long lockdown. Then the vaccination programme rolled out quickly, giving hope of a way forward. We were able to sing indoors by July!

All the way through there has been great uncertainty and, even now, news from Europe and concerns about the Flu Season still bring difficulties in planning ahead with conviction.

Each of us will have had our own experience of the trials of the past year. The pandemic has had a significant disrupting and challenging effect in many different ways.

Recently, I visited my home town of Derby and was shocked to see the cinema/restaurant complex I loved visiting when growing up closed and being demolished. A sad legacy of the past 2 years.

Maybe some of us have known this kind of disruption in our own working life. Some of us will have experienced other kinds of loss. The isolation and loneliness of the last year may have affected our emotional health. The difficulty in planning may have caused more stress. Our concern for family members might have brought anxiety to us.

And then there will have been the joys too. Over the summer we were pleased to host 3 weddings. New-born babies have joined our congregation! And the return of singing in church has been a real blessing.

In our own lives, we may have found new work or the glad return of old work. Maybe we found a new home, or had some good news about our own or a loved one's health.

Life's mixture of happiness and sorrow may have been particularly stark for some of us this last year. Or maybe we have felt one or the other the

majority of the time.

At Christmas time we celebrate the birth of Jesus and remember that he was born into exactly this mixture. He was born a real human, in a real human family, in a real human community facing real human happiness and sadness.

The disruption of a census, forcing Mary and Joseph to travel miles at the most inconvenient of times. The stress of finding a place to give birth when no room was available at the inn. The joy of a new baby and the arrival of shepherds rejoicing and wise men bearing gifts. The terrible news of a jealous, tyrant king bent on revenge and murder: Jesus was a refugee in Egypt immediately following the stable, star, angels, animals and surprise visitors' scene we love at Christmas.

But – that is the point. He was authentically human. He wasn't pretending. He didn't dip his toe in and stay just enough to have some basic kind of human experience. Nor did he come to look at us, study us and examine our lives from a safe distance like an alien in a spaceship.

*“The word became flesh and made his dwelling amongst us”* (John 1:14).

He immersed himself fully, lived truly, experienced authentically. He became one of us – completely, genuinely, warts and all.

For He is our childhood's pattern;  
day by day, like us, he grew;

he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.

It is so important that we understand this. Jesus became human, because he came to rescue humanity. It was only by becoming one of us that he could, ultimately, save us.

For the message of Christmas is not just that Jesus authentically experienced human life. He did and, as a result, he understands and sympathises with our experience (as the above carol and



Hebrews 2:14-18 and 4:15 explain). But the message is more besides. Jesus came to experience and to save humanity by living a perfect human life and then dying the death that came as a result of our imperfection – our sin.

So as we go through our own human experience, let us remember the Christmas message. Our Lord Jesus, who became one of us, is able both to sympathise with us and also to help us. Praise the Lord! Amen!

Rev Tom Lake

## Remembrance Sunday Service 14 November 2021

Hello, I thought I'd share with you my thoughts from the Remembrance service. What an uplifting and poignant service. For me it combined real sadness with real happiness: the sadness for all the lives lost in War, cut so short through humankind's brutality and futility. I went outside after the service to look at the memorial on the South Circular – so many of the men killed were so young – the names and the roles of the dead were so varied, some died on ships. We must not forget them, nor war casualties worldwide.

It's so very sad, how humans can destroy one another. But there was also a truly happy side of the service, which shone through – it was so good to see all the young people, the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and their brilliant flag procession and interviews re their activities in Lockdown; the vibrant music from the band (with actions which radiated throughout the church!) and the wonderful moving playing of the Last Post; the girls who read so well the story of St Stephen; the message of hope conveyed through this story; a church with lots of people; one member, Daniel, you know who you are, in full Military Uniform; the moving prayers; the heartfelt tributes by the ladies at the War Memorial which was 'effortlessly' beamed into Church via the screen at the front!; Tom's sermon to us all; the fellowship afterwards with tea/coffee/ setting up for Parents and Toddlers (it's a blessing to have such a big and versatile space in Church).

So, I'd like to say thank you to everyone who helped put together the service – you conveyed a message of hope – and to all who were there, good to see you!

Lest We Forget.

Sara Jones



It certainly moved me to see Daniel proud to wear his grandfather's medals and suited up for Remembrance Sunday. He also wore a bus drivers badge which he enjoyed showing off.

Ian Christie

## Welcome back to the Guides, Brownies, Rangers and Rainbows!



It was lovely to have the church full on Remembrance Sunday and for the Guides, Brownies, Rangers and Rainbows to take part in the service and lead the 2-minute silence and Act of Remembrance. I interviewed some of these inspirational young women during the service and you may have seen or heard Julia de Villiers playing the trumpet, which was

wonderful and I found very moving.



**I wonder if you recognise these planters?** They looked beautiful over the summer months and were built, painted and planted by the Guides, who watched the flowers grow at their weekly meetings. And grow they did! That wasn't the end of the story because after the sunflowers had died away, the Guides harvested the seeds to make bird feeders to hang in the local area. They were



filmed doing this by the RSPB to feature in training videos to inspire other Guide units to do nature-based activities – all within three metres of the South Circular!

Growing giant sun flowers wasn't all they were doing. We were pleased to be able to let the groups use our grounds for their meetings in later lockdown and now they are back in the church. This summer they became world record breakers as they took part in the largest virtual camp. They slept in dens and tents in their homes and created campfires along with 95,000 scouts and guides across 68 different countries. That sounds like fun!

There was no end to their ingenuity, and they also learnt how to code their own computer games, completed a Harry Potter escape room, made Mars Rovers out of recyclable materials before watching the rover land on Mars and spent Thanksgiving on a Treasure hunt around the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in America.



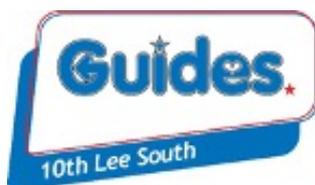
The Guides helped the community by creating artwork, poems and songs to thank the NHS for their work in the pandemic, sending puzzle books they made to local care homes.



A message from Marie, who is one of the leaders:

“We would like to thank St. Mildred’s for enabling us to meet at the church and the carpark and for allowing us to put planters outside. Meeting in a car park on the edge of the South Circular is not the greatest venue so we wanted to make it as appealing as possible as well as giving the girls useful DIY, gardening and teamwork skills. We also hoped the flowers would bring cheer to members of the church the local community.

We would love to have more adult volunteers join us to help us provide more experiences for the girls. If you or anyone you know would like to join the group, please contact us to find out about the range of roles available.”



Guides 10-14 years old.

Thursday: 7.30 - 8.30pm



Rangers 14-18 years old.

Thursday: 7.30 - 8.30pm



Rainbows 5-7 years old.

Tuesday 6.15 - 7.15pm



Brownies 7 - 10 years old.

Tuesday 6.15 - 7.45pm



There is a badge for every activity, and I was delighted to be presented with my first ever Guiding Badge after the Remembrance Sunday service. With Christmas looming there was a Santa badge to be worked towards and our ADVENT candles proved a helpful

contribution to the badge. The Brownie Sixers did a super job putting together the natural Advent ring candles for lighting during the four Sundays of Advent, as we prepare our hearts and minds to welcome Jesus into our lives.



Rev. Daphne Clifton

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## Businesses to pray for:

We need to pray for businesses that are closing post-Covid: Vape Nation, Bellamy's Citroen dealer and Sway Dry Cleaners.

Thank you for praying for my business – currently thriving!

Hyperion on Chiltonian estate

Visaga beauty

Timeless Beauty

The Crown Pub

Coopers Lane Primary School

CPJ Field Funeral Directors

Not in parish

Brindishe Schools

Not in parish

The Lord Northbrook

Not in parish

Sir Edmund Halley (Leegate)

Not in parish

Trinity School

Not in parish

Safe Haven shops

Cafes of Good Hope

Not in parish

Clifton Consulting

Rev Daphne Clifton

## Thoughts About the Bible Part 5: The Bible and the Spirit (part 2!)



In our last study we considered the Holy Spirit's central role in the giving of Scripture. The Bible contains the words of the Holy Spirit through human authors.

This concept might raise other questions in our minds, such as: How did the Holy Spirit give his words to human authors? Does this mean the human authors were in a trance like state when they wrote the Bible? Were they entirely passive in the process – like a pen in the hands of a writer? Is the Bible in any way a human book?

Again, we should look to the Bible to answer these questions. The book of Hebrews begins with this instructive verse:

*“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways.”* (Hebrews 1:1)

“*Many times*” reflects the fact that the Bible was written over a long period of time by different people; it didn't land, fully formed, from heaven. “*Various ways*” shows us that God did not communicate through the prophets in one way only. He had different ways of speaking through them.

Moses had a unique experience of hearing from God directly (Numbers 12:6 – 8). Other prophets heard from God in different ways. Considering some of those ways is the theme of this paper. We shall see that the Bible is both a human and a divine book. The Holy Spirit gave his words through human authors, including them in the process. He did not manipulate or control them forcefully. He worked through them.

When a child is learning to ride a bike, oftentimes a parent will hold the saddle of the bike for them whilst they ride. Who then is riding? It wouldn't be right to say the child is; nor the parent. Instead, parent and child are cooperating. This is not a perfect illustration, but it helps us to understand that the Bible was written cooperatively so that, at the same time, it is both a human and divine book. It is the words of the Holy Spirit through human people.

One of the verses we looked at last month summarises this most succinctly, "*David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 4:25). David spoke by the Holy Spirit. They cooperated and the result was the Bible (as we saw last week, Acts 4:25 goes on to quote Psalm 2 at this point – Psalm 2 was the result of David speaking by the Holy Spirit). Peter says something similar when he speaks of the prophets being '*carried along by the Holy Spirit*' (2 Peter 1:21).

So what are the "various ways" that the Holy Spirit enabled the human authors to speak his words? How did he 'carry them along'? Again, we look to the Bible to answer this. Here are some of those ways:

**1. Careful research.** Luke describes this in Luke 1:1-4. He undertook a 'careful investigation' to provide an 'orderly account'. The Holy Spirit enabled him to do this by equipping him for the task. Other parts of the Bible were written in a similar way. For example, the history books of the Old Testament (Samuel, Kings, Chronicles etc.). The historical style, coupled with some of the author's comments in the books, show that they were written using careful research. For example, the author sometimes links historical events with current situations using the phrase "...to this day" (e.g. 2 Kings 10:27).

Sometimes the author tells us that their writing is based on or can be supplemented by other texts available to the people at the time (2 Chronicles 20:34; Numbers 21:14). They were clearly researching and recording their research carefully just like Luke.



**2. Dreams & Visions.** The books of Revelation and Daniel and portions of the prophets (e.g. Ezekiel 1 and 37) contain examples of significant dreams or

visions given to the human authors that they recorded. Ezekiel tells us, "*the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God*". Daniel 7:1 says, "*Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.*" Other writers say similar things.

**3. Gifting.** This refers to portions of the Scripture written by someone the Spirit had gifted with a specific ability or role. One obvious example is Solomon. We are told that the Lord gave him amazing wisdom (1 Kings 5:12). Then in Ecclesiastes we are told that he used this wisdom to carefully construct wise sayings now kept for us in Scripture (Ecclesiastes 12:9-10). The Holy Spirit gave wisdom to Solomon

which he used to write Scripture. Much of the New Testament was written in this way. This is why the NT authors often begin their letters with phrases such as, “*Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God.*” As apostles they were given a specific calling and gifting to write authoritatively about the Word of God.

**4. Hearing.** Various parts of Scripture refer to the Lord speaking to human authors. For example, Samuel is audibly called by the Lord in 1 Samuel 3. Other prophets also refer to this. Hosea 1:2 says, “*When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, “Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife.*” This seems to be what is meant by the often-repeated phrase, “*the word of the Lord came to [the prophet]*” (e.g. Jonah 1:1). Some writers of Scripture were, occasionally, able to hear the Lord speaking to them. We can’t always tell how this happened. Did the Lord appear to the prophets as he did to Abraham (e.g. Genesis 17:1)? Did they have a vision/dream as in point 2 above? Did they hear an audible voice like Samuel? The phrase “*the word of the Lord came to [the prophet]*” doesn’t answer these questions precisely, but we are meant to understand that, in some way, the prophet was able to hear the Lord.

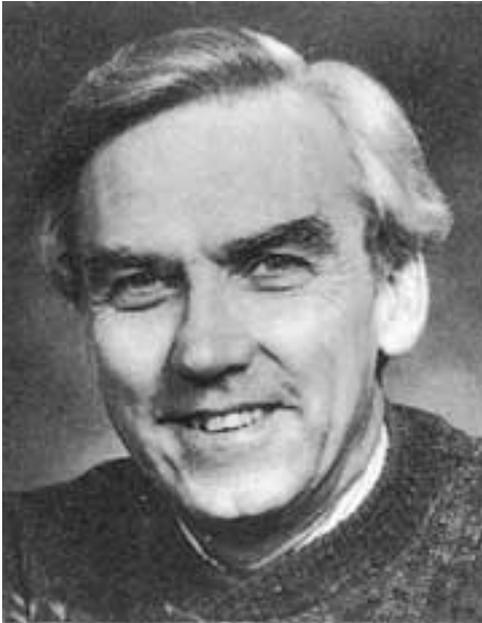
**5. Inspired moments.** We have many songs, poems and prayers recorded in Scripture that were written in a specific context (e.g. many of the Psalms record the context they were written in or see Jonah 2, Habakkuk 3 etc.). In the midst of great trials and difficulties or times of wonderful celebration, the authors wrote prayers and praises based on their experience that were inspired by the Spirit.

Sinclair Ferguson wrote that, “The inspiration of Scripture is the fruit of the multi-dimensional activity of the Holy Spirit.” We can see that this is true. We can also see that the Spirit did not manipulate or control the human authors. Rather, He worked through them, including them in the process. This means that the Bible is, at the same time, a human and divine book.

We will consider its human aspect more another time, but it is important that we start by convincing ourselves that the Bible was written under the authority and power of the Holy Spirit. We are reading God’s word to us through human authors. Only when we understand and believe this will we be able to respond to the words of the Bible in the way that we should respond – as God’s authoritative word to his people.

Rev. Tom Lake

## Pastor Colin Urquhart: 1940 - 2021 - A Tribute



At the age of 10, Colin Urquhart was living in Twickenham in a non-Christian family, when one Sunday evening he heard the bells ringing from the local church. They seemed to be saying to him, "Come to church!" so he went! This was to be the first - and by no means the last time that he was to hear from God and to do what He said.

He became a choirboy, taught himself to pray, (as there was nobody else available!) and had such a vision of the Lord in Glory that he immediately submitted his life to Him. Although naturally very shy, he trained for the ministry but just before ordination in 1963, he was in such depths of despair that he told God that he had called the wrong man! Then in the midst of heart-wrenching prayer, he found that he was praying in another language and he had no idea what it meant - he had never heard of Baptism in the Holy Spirit or Speaking in Tongues!

By 1970, he was vicar of a "very high" Anglican church in Luton where his own breakthroughs in faith and teaching (including allowing the Lord to speak through him, so that his own natural fears were overcome) could be shared more widely. As revival broke out many 100s came to faith, many visited (literally) from all around the world and for about 15 months, every single person who needed healing or deliverance was miraculously liberated, some from impossibly serious diseases and conditions.

A few years later (very reluctantly) he resigned from his parish ministry and with a small group occupied a house in Sussex from which he led teams to minister and teach both in the UK and abroad. They always arrived two hours before a meeting, one hour to worship and one hour to pray, to hear and receive from the Lord Words of Knowledge and guidance concerning the shape and pattern for the meeting itself. Many people were saved, healed, delivered, revitalised, generally fired-up and called to ministry at this time - through what became Kingdom Faith Ministries and later Kingdom Faith Church.

Many hundreds of thousands were addressed "face to face" and later through radio, television and the internet - many millions. Also, many books were written. "When the Spirit comes" tells how things began in Luton, Other titles include "In Christ Jesus", "Faith for the Future", "The Truth that sets you free", "The Blood speaks", "My Dear Child", and

a whole series of short books (about 60 pages each). "True Faith, True Worship, True Holiness, True Authority" and so on - written for those who say they don't have time to read!

He also translated the whole New Testament under the title "The Truth", the "Study Version" of which contains helpful footnotes and about twenty one-page articles on single

some of those songs in our own congregational worship.

In addition to all this, Kingdom Faith Horsham runs a Bible College which has always been an extremely "full-on" "hands-on" and practical institution. The revelation imparted and received is expected to be put into whole-hearted practice as the Kingdom of God is furthered in faith, holiness and obedience.



subjects such as Forgiveness, Faith, Overcoming the enemy, "In Christ", Discipleship, The Holy Spirit, and many others.

For more than 35 years "Faith Camps" were held at Peterborough which blessed many of us from St. Mildred's. There, apart from hearing from God, seeing Him at work, hearing teaching and testimony from around the world, we experienced and learned that there is a profound difference between "worship" and just "singing songs"! We were privileged to share some of that anointing as we introduced

So farewell Pastor Colin. These few words cannot do justice to the call of God on your life. Thank you for receiving so much from the Lord and for sharing it with us in power, purity and passion. The One you once saw and heard so clearly- albeit from a distance - you now see radiantly in the full depths of His majestic glory! Lost in wonder, Love and Praise - Well done, Good and Faithful Servant!

David Nicholls

## Finance Update

The last 18 months have been a testing time financially for both individuals and organisations throughout the country. The pandemic has meant that in many cases income has dried up and expenditure has had to be cut back. I am pleased however to be able to report that our God has provided for our needs through the generous and sacrificial giving of the congregation.

Some people may think that as a church we receive funds from the Church of England or from some other funding body to help pay our running costs. The truth is that all the expenses and running costs that we incur have to be paid for by ourselves, which effectively means by the congregation and other supporters. About 99% of our income comes from donations. Indeed, rather than receiving money from the Church of England we are required to pay them substantial sums every month which cover not only Tom's salary and other costs but also goes towards paying the "head office" costs of the Church of England.

Last year we were very fortunate to have a healthy surplus on the year, especially since we were closed due to lockdown for part of the year. From time to time we need to make expensive repairs to the building and this year is one of those years. We have had to make repairs to the stonework which some of you may have seen going on and these have cost round about £25K. This is something we have known about for some time, so it has not come as any surprise, and we are fortunate to have had the funds to pay for this. We are not yet at the end of the year so figures are not yet available, but I anticipate that, if we ignore the stonework costs, we should roughly break even. We may have a small surplus or a small deficit but either way it should be quite manageable.



My purpose in putting together this brief update is really to say a big thank you to every one of you who has generously contributed to the running of the church and accordingly to our mission in this last year. We are so very fortunate to have so many generous donors who support the work of the church. And we also have a generous and faithful God who supplies all of our needs and to whom we are truly thankful.

I have not mentioned the building project in this article for which we have a separate fund. The truth is we are certainly going to face a challenge in raising the further funds that are going to be required to build the hall. But we go forward in the knowledge that we have a faithful God who will supply all our needs.

Paul Nicolson  
Treasurer

## Diary - December 2021

In these uncertain times, it is hard to plan exactly what our diary will be. We have tried to be as accurate as possible. Changes are likely—both in terms of new events appearing and some listed here being cancelled.

Wednesday	1	8pm Prayer Meeting
Friday	3	1.30pm Alpha
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5</b>	10am Holy Communion 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	6	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	7	Parent and Toddlers (see website for details) 8pm Homegroups
Wednesday	8	8pm Homegroups
Thursday	9	8pm Homegroups
Friday	10	1.30pm Alpha
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>	10am All Age Worship 4pm Blue Christmas 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	13	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	14	Parent and Toddlers Christmas Sessions
Wednesday	15	8pm Prayer Meeting
Friday	17	11am Christmas Cuppa and Cake 1.30pm Alpha
Saturday	18	6pm Community Carols in the Car Park
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19</b>	10am Holy Communion 6.30pm Carol Service
Monday	20	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	21	8pm Homegroups
Wednesday	22	8pm Homegroups

Thursday	23	8pm Homegroups
Friday	24	4pm Children and Family Carols 11pm Midnight Communion
Saturday	25	10am Christmas Day Service
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26</b>	10am Morning Worship

## January 2022

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	10am Holy Communion
Tuesday	4	Parent and Toddlers
Wednesday	5	8pm Prayer Meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9</b>	10am All Age Worship 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	10	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	11	Parent and Toddlers 8pm Homegroups
Wednesday	12	8pm Homegroups
Thursday	13	8pm Homegroups
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>	10am Holy Communion 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	17	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	18	Parent and Toddlers 8pm PCC
Wednesday	19	8pm Prayer Meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	10am Morning Worship 6pm Sunday @six
Monday	24	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	25	Parent and Toddlers 8pm Homegroups

Wednesday	26	8pm Homegroups
Thursday	27	8pm Homegroups
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30</b>	10am Morning Worship 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	31	9.30am Prayer Meeting

## February 2022

Tuesday	1	Parent and Toddlers
Wednesday	2	8pm Prayer Meeting

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**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December - 11am to 1pm**

## **Cuppa & Cake**

Chat over a cuppa. Delicious homemade cakes. Join us (inside church).

*Louise, Jenny and the team*

# Bible Reading Plan

Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6/12/21	Mark 1:21-45	Mark 2:1-28	Mark 3:1-19	Mark 3:20-35	Mark 4:1-20	Mark 4:21-41
13/12/21	Mark 5:1-20	Mark 5:21-43	Mark 6:1-29	Mark 6:30-56	Mark 7:1-23	Mark 7:24-37
20/12/21	Mark 8:1-21	Mark 8:22-38	Mark 9:1-32	Mark 9:33-50	Mark 10:1-31	Mark 10:32-52
27/12/21	Mark 11:1-19	Mark 11:20-33	Mark 12:1-27	Mark 12:28-44	Mark 13:1-37	Mark 14:1-26
3/01/22	Mark 14:27-52	Mark 14:53-72	Mark 15:1-32	Mark 15:33-47	Mark 16:1-20	Numbers 10:11-36
10/01/22	Numbers 11:1-35	Numbers 12:1-16	Numbers 13:1-25	Numbers 13:26-14:10	Numbers 14:11-45	Numbers 15:1-21
17/01/22	Numbers 15:22-41	Numbers 16:1-27	Numbers 16:28-50	Numbers 17:1-13	Numbers 18:1-13	Numbers 18:14-32
24/01/22	Numbers 19:1-22	Numbers 20:1-13	Numbers 20:14-29	Numbers 21:1-20	Numbers 21:21-35	Numbers 22:1-20
31/01/22	Numbers 22:21-41	Numbers 23:1-12	Numbers 23:13-26	Numbers 23:27-24:14	Numbers 24:15-25	Numbers 25:1-18
7/02/22	Numbers 26:1-65	Numbers 27:1-23	Numbers 28:1-15	Numbers 28:16-31	Numbers 29:1-40	Numbers 30:1-16

# Prayer Page

## Pray for PCC

- as we consider the way forward following our successful appeal in the building project.
- as we consider appointing a paid person or people to our youth and children's work.

## Pray for Parents and Toddlers Group.

Thank God for:

- The team working so hard and for being committed.
- The way we have all worked so well together.
- The cake sale at Toddlers which raised £300 for Covenant Home for Christmas

**Pray for the Parents and Toddlers Christmas nativity puppet show** December 14 at both sessions.

**Pray for harmony** as many reunite with friends and family over the Christmas break.

**Remember in prayer all children and young people.** Pray for them in their education, friendships and families.

**Pray for all returning home from university.**

**Pray for all those** who are finding their work or lack of stressful. Pray that they will receive all the practical, spiritual and emotional support they require.

**We pray for all businesses** within our community for guidance in all their decisions.

**Pray for businesses that are closing** post-Covid: Vape Nation, Bellamy's Citroen dealer and Sway Dry Cleaners.

**Thank you** for praying for my business – currently thriving! Daphne

***“Give thanks to the LORD,  
for he is good.***

***His love endures forever.***

***Give thanks to the God of gods.***

***His love endures forever.***

***Give thanks to the Lord of lords:***

***His love endures forever.”***

Psalm 136:1-3

**Pray for our Christmas outreach** - that people would receive our invitations and come to hear the good news about Jesus.

**Pray** for all those who have attended an Alpha group. Pray that they will continue to be encouraged and challenged.

**Give Thanks** for all those who help to run children and youth groups. Inspire and motivate them and may more of us be encouraged to volunteer our help.

**Please pray for my parents & sister** in Japan that in His grace and mercy, the Lord will set His divine work on their path, bless them with His church/people in their local area and reveal Jesus to them.... *Keiko*

**Father God,** please relieve the anxious thoughts of those who experience Anxiety and Depression. May they know your relief, and fill them anew with good thoughts.

**Pray for all those who are unwell** and receiving treatment. That the treatment given would be timely and appropriate to the need.

**Pray for all refugees.** For governments to be united and wise in finding a way to ensure their journeys are safe and that they are cared for with respect for all their needs.

**Pray for schools** receiving children who have had to flee their home countries.

**Pray for all those enduring change.** Thank you Lord that you are unchanging.

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me.  
Let me hide myself in thee.**

Send Prayers to [lisharris68@yahoo.com](mailto:lisharris68@yahoo.com)

# Christmas Notices



**BLUE CHRISTMAS**  
*Join us for a quiet service of remembrance and hope*  
**SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER @ 4PM**  
**ST MILDRED'S CHURCH**  
or join online at  
[www.stmildreds.org.uk](http://www.stmildreds.org.uk)



**COMMUNITY  
Car Park  
Carols**  
**Saturday 18th December at 6pm**  
*Come and join us for some Open Air Carols and refreshments in our Church Car Park*  
St Mildred's Church, St. Mildred's Road, Lee, London, SE12 0RA      Reg. Charity No. 1128995

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## The True Meaning of Christmas

In today's day and time,  
It's easy to lose sight,  
Of the true meaning of Christmas  
And one special night.  
When we go shopping,  
We say, "How much will it cost?"  
Then the true meaning of Christmas,  
Somehow becomes lost.

Amidst the tinsel, glitter  
And ribbons of gold,  
We forget about the child,  
Born on a night so cold.

The children look for Santa  
In his big, red sleigh  
Never thinking of the child  
Whose bed was made of hay.

In reality,  
When we look into the night sky,  
We don't see a sleigh  
But a star, burning bright and high.

A faithful reminder,  
Of that night so long ago,  
And of the child we call Jesus,  
Whose love the world would know.

--By Brian K. Walters

