

St. Mildred's Church

Newsletter

May 2022



New church hall – an alternative energy solution?

Stella shares with us St. Mildred's concerns for using an alternative energy solution in the new Church Hall.

Page 7

Ella's Artwork

Look out for Ella's artwork. Enjoy these beautiful line drawings. Thank you Ella.

Happy Easter!

Daphne shares some photos and takes a look at how St. Mildred's celebrated Easter this year.

Pages 10-12



Happy Easter! Pages 10-12



Look out for Ella Shimwell's artwork



Genesis pages 4-6

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

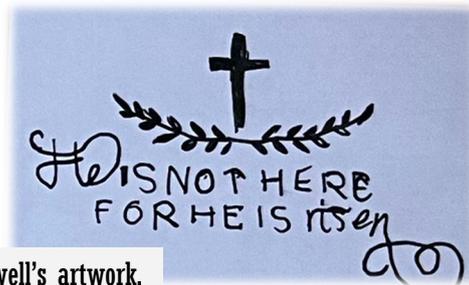


Tom writes

On May 26th we celebrate the ascension of Jesus followed by Pentecost on June 5th. These celebrations are fundamental to the Easter story. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to several disciples at various time for a period of 40 days ending in his ascension. During those appearances, he promised that he would send the Holy Spirit on the disciples after he had ascended (Acts 1:4-5). In this way, Jesus ties both his ascension and the sending of the Spirit at Pentecost to the Easter story.

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Ella Shimwell's artwork.

Jesus' ascension is recorded for us at the end of Matthew and Luke's gospels and the beginning of Acts. Its significance is explained more fully in other parts of the New Testament. One of the key places is Ephesians 1:19b-23:

“God’s power is like the working of his mighty strength,²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,²³ which is his body, the fulness of him who fills everything in every way.”

This passage describes Jesus' ascension as him being 'seated at God's right hand in the heavenly realms' after the resurrection. It then spells out the implications of this: He is far above all rule and authority, power and dominion. His name and title are far above any that can be given both now and forever. All things have been placed under his feet. He is the head over everything. And he does all this 'for the church'.

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 25 May for the 5 June 2022 edition, which will be available on Sunday 6 June 2022.

Newsletter editor:
 Elisabeth Harris
 Email: newsletter@stmildreds.org.uk

It is an incredible description containing profound concepts. In its original context, it comes at the end of a prayer for the Ephesian church in which Paul is praying that they might understand these things. And no wonder, for these really are profound truths that cannot be perceived naturally. It takes God's mighty power to enable us to grasp them.

Our Saviour is our King! Our Saviour is the King of all the universe! Our Saviour rules as King of all the universe for the sake of his church!

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless Righteousness
The great unchangeable I am
The King of glory and of grace.

The first thing Jesus does in this position of exalted glory is send the Holy Spirit. The first act of our Saviour King, who rules over everything for the sake of his Church, is to pour out the promised Holy Spirit on his people.

This should make us stop and consider the unrivalled significance that the Holy Spirit has in enabling us to live an authentic Christian life. The New Testament shows us that it is the presence of the Holy Spirit in us that creates, inspires and sustains our God-oriented, Christ-honouring new life.

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25)

Jesus gives us a profound promise in Luke 11:13. He tells us that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. We all go through times of trial; times of need; times of sorrow; times of joy; times of strength; times of weakness; times of hope; times of fear; times of temptation; times of peace; times of stress; times of calm.

Through them all we have the opportunity, because of our exalted Saviour, to ask God for the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of counsel and strength; the Spirit of knowledge and the



Ella Shimwell's artwork.

fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2); the Spirit of grace and supplication (Zechariah 12:10); the Spirit of holiness (Romans 1:4) and truth (John 16:13); the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:17).

So let us make use of our great privilege in all the seasons of life and ask God to give us his Holy Spirit. Whatever we are going through right now, the Holy Spirit is able to meet us in our need, to sustain and comfort us, the help and strengthen us. God has not promised to act in exactly the same way every time we pray, or in exactly the way we might anticipate. But, he has promised he will always give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. So let us ask in Jesus' name. Amen!

Holy Spirit, living
Breath of God,
breathe new life into
my willing soul.
Bring the presence of
the risen Lord
to renew my heart and
make me whole.



Tom Lake - Vicar

Genesis

Recently as we studied Genesis, we observed that after the Flood, God blessed Noah and told him and his family to increase in number and fill the earth, (Chapter 9:1). Then in chapter 11, "As men moved eastward" they came to Shinar, which is the plain of Babylon between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates. Instead of continuing to move east "and fill the earth," they stopped and decided "to make a name for themselves" (verse 4) by building, blaspheming and, eventually, babbling. They began to build a city in which was a great tower, and indeed there is much evidence (albeit from a much later time, from about 3000BC onwards) that a number of cities with temple towers were built in this region using mud bricks held together with bitumen, as seen in verse 3. Since there was very little stone, rock or materials for mortar in this area, they had to be inventive, resourceful and became very proud of themselves!



The great Ziggurat of Ur, in Iraq.

These later structures were called ziggurats and were like brick-built pyramids, with platforms at intervals - the structure in Babylon itself is said to have had five levels and to have risen to some 300 feet. Babel was much earlier and may have been much higher. There was clearly a belief that in a land with no hills you needed to build upwards to get closer to heaven and the gods. Some of these towers had exotic names like, "The Link between Heaven and Earth" or "The Foundation Platform of Heaven and Earth"

Now just as these men had said, in verse 4, "Let us build....", so in verse 7 the Lord (who is Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit) said, "Let us go down and confuse their language...." Verse 5 may suggest that the Lord *had* to come down, because although this tower seemed huge from an earthly view-point, from the throne-room of heaven it is likely to have looked much less significant!

Another reason for the close inspection would be to assess the exact heart attitude of the builders. Here it is all about religious pride and the common belief that if we try hard enough and achieve enough somehow, we will impress the Lord and force Him to bless us.

That is clearly blasphemous thinking - religion is often the enemy of faith and humility - so the Lord decides to confuse their language. Since they no longer understand each other, the work stops and they are scattered. The word "Babel" not only represents the region of Babylon, it also sounds like the Hebrew for "confusion" and so it has come into English as "babble". So they built, they blasphemed and finally, they babbled!

Precisely when all this happened is beyond explanation - presumably long before the ziggurats for which we have archaeological evidence - but here is an amazing fact. The Chinese language is not based on individual letters which make up different words, but like the ancient Middle Eastern languages, each word is represented by a picture or pictogram. Apparently, it is possible to reconstruct much of Genesis chapters 1 - 11 from the pictograms for Chinese words. The Chinese for "to create" is a picture of mud, life and someone walking. The word for "devil" is made up of a man, a garden and a secret - the devil is a secret person in a garden. The word for "boat" is made up from a container, a mouth and the number 8. A boat, in Chinese, is a vessel for eight people - as was Noah's Ark! This suggests that long before Buddha or Confucius appeared (circa. 500 BC), Chinese language and culture derived from people who had spread eastwards and had *not* stopped in Babylonia but had spread thousands of miles further east until they ran out of land!

Of course, we cannot leave this subject without considering the New Testament view of Babel/Babylon. Revelation 17 onwards describes the fall of Babylon the Great - the mother of all human evil. When these chapters were written, circa A.D. 95, the city of Rome was the centre of a brutal empire of greed, violence, deception, occult practices and sexual depravity. Rome was assumed to fit this description, but over the centuries many similar civilisations have come and gone and they have all grown out of the same terrible heart attitudes and appetites. One day the Lord will finally intervene to bring history to a close by defeating the Antichrist and bringing in the era of Christ's direct and holy rule. This victory will not be achieved by humanity striving upward (religion), but by the Lord, in His compassion, reaching down to us - in the same way that He came down to deliver Israel from Egypt; or as He came down Himself in human flesh, setting aside His glory and choosing to be born amongst the poorest of human beings. The Magi who worshipped Him soon after His birth may well have come from Babylon, or further East, following the stars and the zodiac, but returned home by the godly leading of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus was baptised in the Jordan, He was standing in one of the lowest places on the earth's surface - so as the Holy Spirit descended and the Father's words rang out - they "came down" from the highest heaven to lowest earth. As Jesus died enduring crucifixion - the most agonising and degrading form of punishment - He could go no lower! Then on the day of Pentecost, some of the curse of Babel was untangled. As the Holy Spirit came upon the assembled Church, as they exploded in divine worship they found themselves praising God in many different languages and dialects, even though they were not expert linguists. Many God-fearing Jews, who heard all this, were astounded to hear this miracle of divine communication -

- this spiritual gift of tongues and the holy fervour of the Apostle's worship. As the "Babel effect" is reversed, God's people are one in the Spirit, they co-operate with each other, and are also one in Christ. This means that they co-operate with Him and His commands.

Finally in Revelation 21 the City of God comes down from Glory as a bride beautifully prepared for her husband. (*Seen here depicted in our stained-glass East window*) This city is circa. 1400 miles wide and as long and as high - so quite a lot bigger than Babel!



This is the dazzlingly pure Kingdom of God which Jesus came to bring and which He taught and demonstrated in power in the Gospels. "Now the dwelling of God is with men" says chapter 21 verse 3, under a new Heaven and on a new earth. No one on earth could ever deserve, earn or work their way up to such a glorious honour " but only those whose names, as it says in verse 27, are written in the Lamb's Book of Life". Only by grace can we enter.

David Nicholls

Sources:

David Pawson, *Unlocking the Bible*, Collins (London 1991-2001)

David Pawson, *Commentary on Genesis 1-25* www.davidpawson.org

Gordon D Fee & Douglas Stuart, *How to read the Bible, book by book*. Zondervan, (Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2002)

New church hall – an alternative energy solution?

Climate change is becoming more and more of a concern and energy prices have been rising rapidly. What does this mean for the new church hall project?

The mechanical and electrical elements of our proposed new church hall were designed back in 2018. Since then, the General Synod of the Church of England has adopted a target of “carbon neutral” by 2030 and conventional fuel is becoming more and more expensive. The building for which we have planning permission includes a conventional heating system based on two new gas-fired 115Kw condensing boilers and associated plant. It would be great if we could find an alternative to gas, but this is not a straightforward matter. There are no easy answers here.

Back in the autumn of last year, we applied to the Greater London Authority for a “London Community Energy Fund” grant to help us to investigate whether a low carbon energy solution might be available. We are delighted that the GLA has agreed to give St Mildred’s a £5,000 grant to pay for a detailed energy options appraisal.

Chris McLaren and Sarah Peterson of Harley Haddow, mechanical and electrical consultants, will shortly be starting this work. The study will involve detailed consideration of alternative low carbon solutions including the potential use of an air source heat pump or ground source heat pump system.

The study will analyse and shortlist the potential options for moving away from a fossil fuel heating system. The detailed review of each alternative solution will include a calculation of the annual energy demands, carbon emissions and running costs for each option. Each option will be ranked and a recommendation made.

The overall output of the energy options analysis will be an energy strategy report which details these findings, together with an annual carbon impact study for the preferred option showing the predicted carbon emission pathway to 2050. This report will then be used as the basis for selection of an appropriate heating/energy solution.

We don’t yet know whether the proposed study will enable a low carbon solution to be found: watch this space!

SUPPORTED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON



Chris McLaren of Harley Haddow



Sarah Peterson of Harley Haddow

Palm Sunday



From the children's activity at last all age service.

During the hymn "Jesus be the centre", the children set about creating 'flames' to create a visual for the story of Abraham on Mount Moriah, Genesis 22:1-19.

Marion provided the knife and matches to complete the telling.

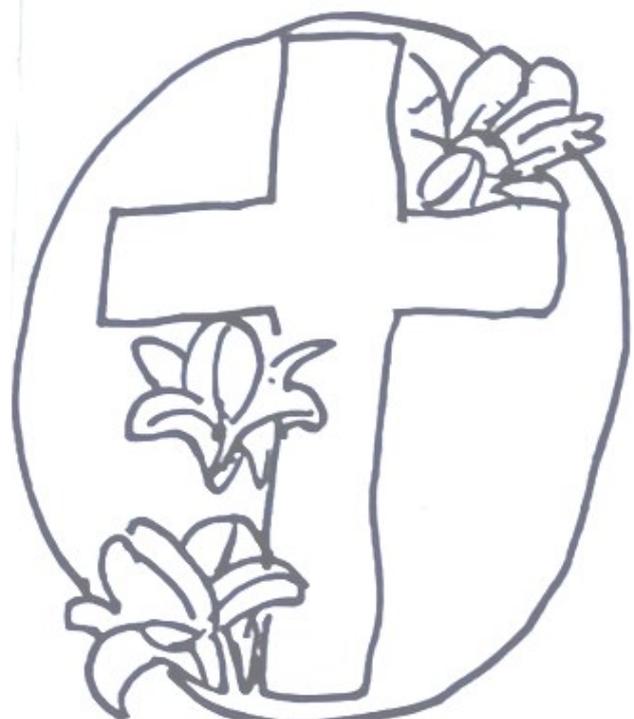
The lamb was provided by Elisabeth, as God provided Abraham with a ram.

He will provide

How has God provided for you?

If you would like to share how God has provided for you to bring encouragement to others then please send to:

newseditor16@gmail.com





The Lord Will Provide

So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide.

Genesis 22:14

My anxiety increased throughout the summer between my undergraduate and graduate programs. I love to have everything planned out, and the idea of going out of state and entering graduate school without a job made me uncomfortable. However, a few days before I left my summer job, I was asked to continue working for the company remotely. I accepted and had peace that God was taking care of me. God provided, but it was in His timing, not mine. Abraham went through a far more difficult situation with his son Isaac. He was asked to take his son and sacrifice him on a mountain (Genesis 22:1–2). Without hesitation, Abraham obeyed and took Isaac there. This three-day journey gave Abraham plenty of time to change his mind, but he didn't (vv. 3–4).

When Isaac questioned his father, Abraham replied, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering” (v. 8). I wonder if Abraham's anxiety grew with each knot he tied as he bound Isaac to the altar and with every inch he raised his knife (vv. 9–10). What a relief it must have been when the angel stopped him! (vv. 11–12). God did indeed provide a sacrifice, a ram, caught in the thicket (v. 13). God tested Abraham's faith, and he proved to be faithful. And at the right time, to the very second, God provided (v. 14).

By: **Julie Schwab**

USED WITH PERMISSION..<https://odb.org/GB/2019/05/11/the-lord-will-provide-2>

Happy Easter! Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

According to the church calendar the season of Easter lasts until 4th June, which gives us plenty of time for more ALLELUIA's and reminders of what Christ has done for us on the cross. Of course, our prayers and Bible reading remind us of that regularly but it's great to make a 'big deal' of it for a season. Easter 2022 was the first time we had been able to celebrate Easter together, in the church building, with no Covid restrictions; you may remember that last year we were mainly in the car park and the year before 'home alone' on Covid lockdown.

I've put together some photographs of this special season and want to thank everyone who helped to make it such a fun, noisy celebration of Christ's resurrection. You may have noticed how we use the old church entrance and stone seat for Christmas and Easter; that's one of the best things to come out of lockdown for me – an outward visual sign to our community of what is happening within the building.



This year, a few of us put our heads together to come up with something different and I hope you agree the result was very eye-catching. Louise, who made the banner out of recycled material, Stella who designed it and I had been acutely aware of the pain in people's lives over the past couple of years and with the war in Ukraine raging. We put nasty thorns and brambles under the cross to represent this pain and the pain Christ suffered for each of us, on the cross.

Marion led a beautiful 'last hour at the cross' service on Friday, which we didn't livestream as it is a very personal and moving hour. We

were all given the opportunity to write things we wanted to confess to God, on paper, and leave them at the foot of the large cross, which stood at the centre of the church.

Holy Saturday is always special to me; very sad because remembering Christ dying makes me sad but the anticipation of Sunday builds as a few of us decorate the church and this time, transform the outside 'screen' for all to see from the south circular.

This year, as well as the pain post Covid and with war in Ukraine on our minds, we wanted to celebrate Christ's resurrection with flowers and a smaller than usual budget because



April is the month when utility bills are increasing and becoming very challenging for many in our local community.



I hope everyone enjoyed the colour on display, as well as the fantastic band and singers who helped us worship Christ's resurrection – with drums, mandolin, violin, bass guitar, piano and mouth-organ! Purple is the royal colour, so we re-used our material to supplement flowers.

Last year was our first 'sunrise service' and we repeated it this year with the added bonus of breakfast afterwards! During the service, we lit a chiminea and enjoyed the dawn chorus and felt the sun rise above us as we worshiped together. We placed all the confessions from Good Friday into the chiminea and bade them farewell, giving thanks that, as Christians, we have someone to take our sins away.

Stella and Trevor came up trumps and there was something for everyone at breakfast - vegan and non-vegan. (No, the sauce wasn't for the hot-cross buns.)



Thank you to everyone who was able to come to church on Sunday; we still make it as safe a space as possible and some of us continue to wear masks, which is fine. To have just over 100 adults and 50 children was **AMAZING** and we raised the roof with our singing. Thank you!

And thank you to the youngsters who dressed as Roman guards, angels and women/Mary to take part in the dramatic reading, which brought the Easter story alive. There is a huge team of technicians, musicians, kitchen team, money-counters, readers and many more who plan, prepare and help make services happen each and every week. If you'd like to join them this year and bring your own gifts, that would be marvellous. It's great to be back in church – the more the merrier!



Daphne

Rev. Daphne Clifton

Being Found (Mary Magdalen)

*The garden feels so empty,
A hollow tomb
Like me, no heart left, no will to move.
The world has stopped since he is gone.
How shall I live the empty days,
Or stem the oceans of my weeping?*

“Why are you weeping?”

*“Who speaks? A gardener?
Perhaps he knows..?”
“They have taken away my Lord.
Do you know where to find him?”*

“Mary”.

My name. His voice. His nuance.

*Am I dreaming? Am I ill again?
Dare I turn around?*

(Turning point)

“Rabboni, Master”.

*Not dead? Alive? A real body, no ghost?
Living, breathing, before my eyes,
Can it be true?*

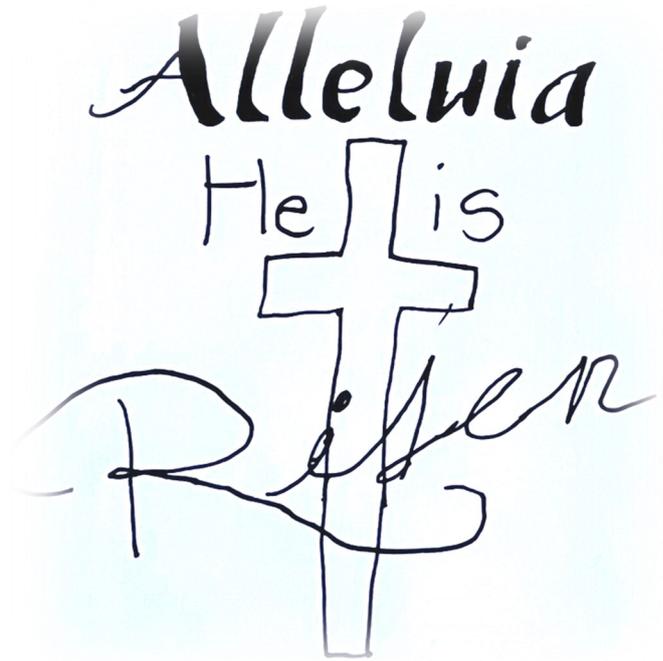
“Do not cling to me”.

*No touch? No hug? No kiss?
So close, so distant; so familiar, but
changed.*

(Point of No Return)

*How reach, then?
How bridge the chasm?*

*Oh joy! Oh pain!
Oh loss! Oh gain!
My dead Jesus. My living Lord.
I just don't know how to love you.*



Ella Shimwell's artwork.

*Out of my depth,
Uncharted waters,
Adrift, and yet,*

“By faith I'll cling; show me the way”.

(New Turning)

*First step Galilee? Let you out of my sight?
I might lose you again!*

*“Oh you of little faith,
Trust and you will see”.*

“My Lord, I go”.

*I must tell the others.
Good news beyond belief.*

The Lord is Risen.

(Copyright: St. Mary's Abbey, West Malling)

Diary ~ May 2022

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.

Sunday	1	10am Holy Communion 6pm Sunday@six
Tuesday	3	Parent and Toddlers (see website for details) 8pm PCC
Wednesday	4	8pm Prayer Meeting
Sunday	8	10am All Age Worship 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	9	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	10	Parent and Toddlers 8pm Home Groups
Wednesday	11	8pm Home Groups
Thursday	12	8pm Home Groups
Friday	13	11am-1pm Cuppa and Cake
Sunday	15	10am Holy Communion 11.30am Annual Parochial Church Meeting 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	16	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	17	Parent and Toddlers
Wednesday	18	8pm Prayer Meeting
Sunday	22	10am Morning Worship 6pm Sunday@six

Diary ~ May 2022

Monday	23	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	24	Parent and Toddlers 8pm Home Groups
Wednesday	25	8pm Home Groups
Thursday	26	8pm Home Groups
Sunday	29	10am Morning Worship 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	30	9.30am Prayer Meeting

June 2022

Wednesday 1 8pm Prayer Meeting

JUNE ISSUE

This year Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II celebrates 70 years of reign.

Do you or your family have memories you would like to share from Queen Elizabeth's 70 year reign and/or her Coronation?

Perhaps photos of street parties of past Jubilees?

Photos of memorabilia you have stored away?

Send to: newseditor16@gmail.com

Or phone Elisabeth Harris (see directory)

Photo by [Kalineri](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Bible Reading Programme

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Beginning						
2/05/22	Hebrews 9:15-28	Hebrews 10:1-18	Hebrews 10:19-39	Hebrews 11:1-12	Hebrews 11:13-28	Hebrews 11:29-40
9/05/22	Hebrews 12:1-13	Hebrews 12:14-29	Hebrews 13:1-14	Hebrews 13:15-25	Psalm 71	Psalm 72
16/05/22	Psalm 73	Psalm 74	Psalm 75	Psalm 76	Psalm 77	Psalm 78
23/05/22	Psalm 79	Psalm 80	Deuterono- my 1:1-21	Deuterono- my 1:22-46	Deuterono- my 2:1-15	Deuterono- my 2:16-37
30/05/22	Deuterono- my 3:1-11	Deuterono- my 3:12-29	Deuterono- my 4:1-14	Deuterono- my 4:15-31	Deuterono- my 4:32-49	Deuterono- my 5:1-21
6/06/22	Deuterono- my 5:22-33	Deuterono- my 6:1-25	Deuterono- my 7:1-11	Deuterono- my 7:12-26	Deuterono- my 8:1-20	Deuterono- my 9:1-14

Prayer Page

**“You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”**

Revelation 4:11

We pray for 5 May elections. That elections will be safe and those elected will work to the good of our communities.

We pray for those whose voices are often unheard or dismissed like the women who first spread the good news.

We pray for those with little or no power like Mary as she watched her son crucified.

We pray for those who stand for social justice, as Jesus did to address issues society might try to quieten or suppress.

We pray that we might be examples of all the love and the good that was shown to us through the Easter story.

Pray for those without strong family connections. That they might be repaired or that they may come to be part of a safe and loving church family.

Let us join together in praying for our loved ones that they may be blessed with knowing the work of God in their lives wherever they are and whatever their circumstances.

Pray for the next steps committee considering responses to the Living in Love and Faith initiative.

Pray for adverts to appoint a person/s to work in our children and youth work. May God raise up the right person/s for this ministry.

Pray for people returning to church following the Pandemic. May God continue to build his church in this season.

Pray for the APCM in mid May. That God would raise up people to serve as wardens and on PCC.

We pray for all people and nations caught up in conflict across the world.

We pray for all leaders of the nations, churches and numerous organisations.

We pray for wisdom, humility, justice and above all for your voice Lord to be heard by those ready to listen.

And equip us all in whatever task you have given us in fulfilling your desire that we should be peacemakers wherever we are.

Pray for all our students at home and away May their friendships be supportive and loyal and their school/university community be a positive influence in their lives.

Pray for them as they prepare for and sit their exams.

Building Project

The contract for the demolition of the old church hall has been tendered . Please pray that we appoint the right contractor of God's choice, at the right price. Please pray, too, that that pre-commencement planning conditions are discharged straightforwardly, so that demolition can proceed without delay.

Please pray for Adrian's mum that by God's grace she will soon be well and recover her confidence. Lord, please replace fear with faith.

AMEN

Pray for all those who are seeking employment that the Lord may guide them and that they would receive timely and wise counsel from friends and family.

Please, pray for all who are suffering and for friends, family and services supporting them. We pray that those who do not have adequate support might have their needs met promptly.

Send prayers to: newseditor16@gmail.com

Brave and Kind



Photo by Rod Long on Unsplash

I clearly remember preparing at length for the interview for the CEO post here at the Evangelical Alliance. As I prayed and sought the Lord for a strategy to present to the interview panel, two words were etched in my mind: “brave and kind.” It was 2019 and I had been sensing very profoundly that, if I got the role, I was going to need to be extremely brave to handle the season that lay ahead and to stand firm on God’s word in the face of so much opposition. This was not to be foolhardy bravery in isolation, it had to be coupled with the kindness that can only come from the love of God and the consequential love of His people that flows from this. I wondered at the time quite why bravery and kindness would

be so important for the season ahead and now a couple of years on it’s utterly clear that they were both vital for navigating the Evangelical Alliance throughout this pandemic.

Bravery seems an even more timely subject than ever as we consider the devastating scenes in Ukraine following the invasion. In the face of such cruelty and challenge, we have also witnessed the remarkable bravery, resilience and strength of many.

The book of Esther has spoken to me many times about bravery. Here we find an incredible woman who risked her life for her people. A heroine who was prepared to stand no matter what the cost. Approaching the king to ask him to save the Jewish peo-

ple was like asking to be hung on the gallows (Esther 7:1 – 4). And yet the Lord steps in to save, redeem and transform. It's so comforting to know that as we make the move to be brave, He joins us as we advance. He removes our enemies before us (Esther 7:9 – 10) and throws them into confusion (Judges 7:19 – 22). If the Lord is calling us to be brave, He will make a way. Esther was not born brave but she had an opportunity to be brave and took it. We too are empowered to be brave if we are willing to take a stand and make the most of the possibilities in front of us.

Brave steps can lead to mighty breakthroughs. I clearly remember a line from the actor Matt Damon in a film a few years ago: "All it takes to change the world is 10 seconds of outrageous bravery." These moments of bravery are like Stephen standing up and declaring the full counsel of God to his listeners even though it costs him his life (Acts 7). Often acts of bravery only take a few moments and we have to lay aside our concern over what people might say or do as a result, knowing that it's to make Jesus known and see His kingdom come. We have opportunities right in front of us. We are in a time of rampant secularism, living in the midst of compromise, in danger of allowing culture to form our view of faith. I sometimes think about my children's chil-

dren, and what they will face in their lifetime. I am aware that how we respond in our day profoundly impacts the world that they will inhabit. The church needs to be bold in our moment and stand firmly on His word. Let's be those who model lives of bravery to our children so the mantle is passed to enable them to stand on ground that has been taken for the gospel. If we display bravery now, they will catch it and know they too can stand in front of their own Goliaths and defeat them no matter how small they may feel. What is your Esther moment? How could you be brave to see salvation and transformation come? Let's do our best to be brave... and kind.

Gavin Calver

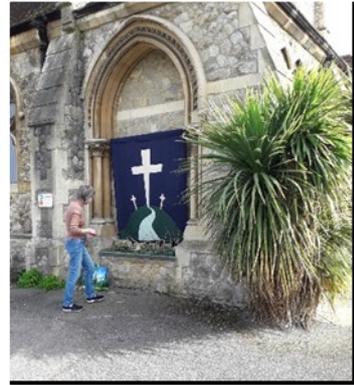
is the CEO of the Evangelical Alliance. He has a burning passion to see the church working together to share the Gospel throughout the UK. Formerly the leader of Youth for Christ and chair of Spring Harvest, he's an ordained evangelist and regular public speaker, and has authored six books. Married to Anne, they have two children, Amelie and Daniel. He loves new challenges, is a passionate AFC Wimbledon supporter and was part of the team that broke the World Record for the longest 5-a-side football match.

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<https://www.eauk.org/news-and-views/brave-and-kind>

Thank you

Easter

Thank you to Louise Wayman and the team who set up the lovely Easter display in the car park. We gathered round it early on Easter Sunday morning for an act of worship (which was followed by a hearty breakfast prepared by Trevor and Stella). The display was a great way to mark the Easter celebrations.



Newsletter

Thank you to Edna who has been one of our newsletter editors for over 6 years! Edna has done a great job and it has been a privilege to work with her. We will miss her from the team.

Elisabeth is continuing as one of our editors, but we need someone else to step up and take Edna's place if we are to continue with the current frequency of publication.

If this might be something you could do, please do ask Elisabeth or Edna about what the commitment involves.

Let's pray that God would raise up the right person for this ministry.

Notices



Action For Refugees In Lewisham



**NON PERISHABLE
FOOD ITEMS
WANTED**

**PLEASE PLACE IN THE
FOOD BANK BOX**

**TINNED MEAT, FISH, VEGETABLES, FRUIT
(TINS WITH RING PULLS)**

PASTA, RICE

CARTONS OF FRUIT JUICE, UHT MILK

BISCUITS, COFFEE, SUGAR

JAM, CHOCOLATE, SAUCES

CONTACT MONICA, SHIMONA OR JOSE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Notices

On the second Friday each month...



Friday 13th May 11am to 1pm

Cuppa & Cake

Tea & coffee. Chat. Homemade cakes.
Scrabble & Dominoes available.

Everyone is welcome.

Save the date:

Church Annual Meeting 2022

AGM Sunday 15th May 2022 at 11.30am

The church's annual general meeting will be held after the morning service. Please save the date. We will spend some time reviewing the past year and looking forward to the year ahead. We will also be holding elections for warden and PCC member positions.

Notices

Businesses to pray for in May 2022

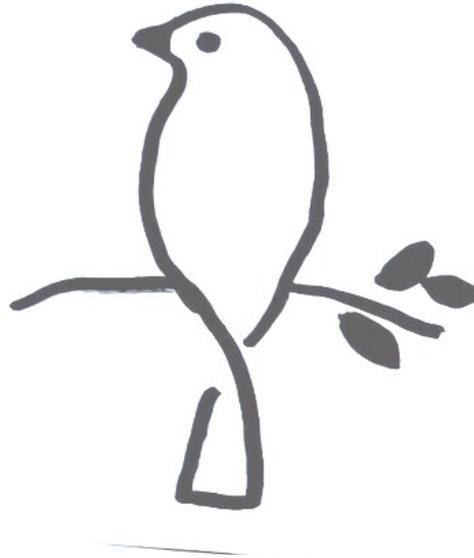


Please continue to pray for our local businesses, many of whom have had to close.

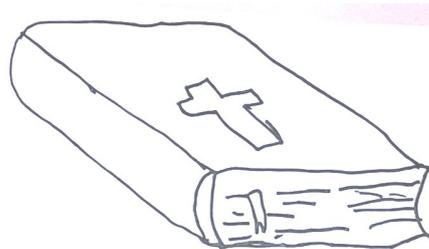
Kinleigh, Folkard &
Hayward
Lee Station
Travis Perkins
Bellamy's Citroen
St Winifred's Nursery
St Winifred's infant /
junior school

Rose Chinese
Polish Tavern
Cat & Dog grooming
ishopsmart
Classy Design
Lite Up

The Back Page



**Holy Spirit,
living Breath of God,
breathe new life
into my willing soul.
Bring the presence
of the risen Lord
to renew my heart
and make me whole.**



**"All Scripture is God-breathed and
is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in right-
eousness, so that the servant of
God may be thoroughly equipped
for every good work."**

Timothy 3:16

Ella Shimwell's artwork