

# St Mildred's Church

## Newsletter

### March 2022



#### Mission Focus

Our Mission Partners express their thanks for the generous support from St Mildred's church.

Pages 4-6

#### Genesis - part 2

David reflects on key learnings from the book of Genesis

Pages 7-8

#### AFRIL

Let's continue to support local families and individuals in the community. Find out how you can help.

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**'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.'**

**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 23rd March for the April 2022 edition, which will be available on Sunday 3rd April.

Newsletter editors:

Edna Petzen

Elisabeth Harris

Email:

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

## Tom writes



With the dreadful events happening in Ukraine at the moment, we thought we would share a pastoral letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in Tom Writes this month:

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.*

John 14.27

Many of us will have troubled hearts as we watch with horror the attack by Russia on Ukraine. As we have already said, this attack is an act of evil, imperilling as it does the relative peace and security that Europe has enjoyed for so long. The attack by one nation on a free, democratic country has rightly provoked outrage, sanctions and condemnation.

We lament with the people of Ukraine, and we pray for the innocent, the frightened and those who have lost loved ones, homes, and family.

We continue to call for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces as well as wide-ranging efforts to ensure peace, stability and security.

These events remind us powerfully that peace is precious and it is fragile. In Chapter 14 of John's Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples at the Last Supper and he leaves them his peace. This is not a mere greeting, but rather something deep and abiding. This peace is something that only Jesus gives; for it is a gratuitous gift, a way of living, something to be received for the gift of peace is the gift of Jesus himself. That is why the Lord is able to offer reassurance to our hearts, why those who receive the gift of the peace of Jesus Christ at the deepest of levels should not be afraid.

Peace, therefore, is so much more than the absence of war. It is a gift, and it is also a decision, a gift that must be received. It is a choice we make that shapes the way we live well alongside each other. It characterises our relationship with God. It comes into being by seeking justice.

In these days of uncertainty and fear, we pray that each of us might again turn to the Lord and receive God's gift of peace, work for God's justice, know God's reconciliation and love, and choose paths not of hatred or destruction, of violence or retribution, but God's way of justice, mercy and peace.



As Christians, our response to a crisis must always be rooted in prayer. And so we invite you to join with us in praying most earnestly for an outpouring of the Spirit of God, that the world may once again choose peace, strengthening those international bodies that enable us to work and live together as one humanity inhabiting one world.

We pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people and leaders of Russia too.

You can find liturgical resources on the Church of England website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/praying-peace-world>

However and whenever you pray, pray that the world may choose peace, and be assured of our prayers for you.

With every blessing,

The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

# MISSION FOCUS

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I'm delighted to share with you the notes of thanks from our Mission Partners. The last couple of years has been difficult for all charities yet our Mission Partners have continued to move forward in their outreach and work of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with many. Let's continue to pray for God's grace, provision and wisdom for their ongoing work and that it will multiply to create an abundant harvest.



## 30 Days of Prayer

Over the past 30 years, the **30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim world prayer guide** has seen millions of Christians joining together across denominations and cultures to pray for Muslim people during Ramadan. The material contains daily readings that focus on various topics, people groups and geographical areas of the Islamic world. Each day's subject focus is followed by prayer points. It also features informative background articles and resources for involvement.

This year Ramadan starts on 2nd April and will continue until 2nd May. AWM Pioneers is calling for people to join them in praying for the Muslim world during this time, whether or not you have done so in previous years. If you would like to receive a FREE copy of the guide please visit the website at [www.awm-pioneers.org](http://www.awm-pioneers.org)



Thank you

Your generous support and your committed prayers make such an enormous difference for our persecuted church family. Thank you so much for answering the call of persecuted believers. We are very grateful for your continuing support, enabling Open Doors to minister to those who follow Jesus no matter the costs.

Our impact report details the import of your 2021 gifts of £3,200 and how it is helping provide vital practical and spiritual support to persecuted Christians. You'll also find up to date prayer requests (below), please feel free to share these with prayer partners and friends. We know that 'if one part suffers, every part suffers with it' (! Corinthians 12:26), and God continues to use your giving and prayers to support, comfort and equip the suffering.

Andy Worthington  
Head of Church Relations

### **Please pray**

- For church leaders to care for their flock and for churches to have a heart and vision for its role in society
- For Open Doors partners to receive wisdom and compassion as they train and distribute aid.
- For safe meetings and trips, as bad roads and reckless drivers make the road a dangerous place.
- For those women who need to keep their newfound faith hidden from their family. Pray that the Lord helps them to grow in their faith and will bring people on their path who can help them grow.



# tearfund



We are so thankful for your continued support of Tearfund's work over the past year, especially during challenging times here in the UK.

Thanks to the generosity of churches like yours, more people have been equipped with the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty. For example, more people in at-risk communities can now be trained to prepare for and respond to flooding and other disasters. And more farmers can be equipped with resilient seeds which can withstand extreme weather conditions so that they can grow enough food.

Thank you for being part of the solution – please share this update with your church and be encouraged that your support is making a real difference.

## Pray

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- Afghanistan is in the grip of a catastrophic food shortage – half of the population don't have enough to eat. Please pray for immediate provision, and protection over the most vulnerable.
- Following the commitments made at last year's COP26 United Nations climate talks, pray that governments and world leaders turn the promises they made to tackle the climate crisis into actions during 2022.
- Pray for churches that are at the heart of communities living in poverty, especially those experiencing the impact of climate change. Pray that they will be equipped and empowered to lead their communities into a better future. Pray that resources will overflow and that people will flood to the church.
- Pray for local church leaders around the world. Lift up any who are feeling overwhelmed at the prospect of another year of difficulty. Ask that the knowledge of God's loving-kindness will overpower any anxiety. Pray for comfort and refreshment for all church leaders.

# Genesis - part two

In our studies of Genesis we see how the human race is partly physical (like the animals) and partly spiritual (like the angels), but primarily like God Himself - "made in His image" (Ch1:26).

Psalm 8 says that Man is made "a little lower than the angels" but is destined to be "crowned with honour and glory" to have dominion over "all flocks and herds, beasts and birds."

We have seen how the Lord planted a Garden in Eden - presumably not far from the rivers Tigris and Euphrates in the Middle East (though the other

become cursed and they are working against the new (dis)order of the world. (Gen 3:17,18)

We have also seen the creation of Eve - how God used a general anaesthetic to painlessly remove one of Adam's ribs and from it formed Eve. As Matthew Henry (a Bible commentator from 300 years ago) says: "she was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm for protection, close to his heart for affection."



As the Lord is "the Father of the bride", He was the first to give His daughter away in marriage. Adam is entranced by her, "Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh" (2:23), and so they live together in Paradise - with a vast range of permission, ("You may freely eat from

two named rivers are no longer identifiable). Adam was placed in this heavenly parkland to manage it and to tend it. Because he was working with God it would have been creative and fulfilling, In chapter 3 after the Fall, their future work would be back-breaking and unrewarding, because they have changed and the whole created order has changed. The ground has

any tree of the Garden") and with only one limited prohibition, ("If you eat from the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil....you will surely die! Gen 2:16-17)

There is so much to be said about Adam and Eve's disobedience, (The Fall) but just for now to say that whatever questions we may

have, we need to see that the actual event must have happened in one specific time and one specific place in actual, factual reality, just as Jesus' great act of Redemption to unlock the Fall, (the Cross) also occurred in actual factual history, in one specific moment and one specific place.

One moment mankind was still doomed - the next there is

criminals who have saving faith! (Luke 23:45).

However mysterious all this can seem, God has made amazing promises and woven them together throughout Scripture. In Revelation 2 we read: "To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life which is in the Paradise of God". We were not made just for this world alone, which is why we



deliverance! In Luke 23 Jesus says to the condemned criminal next to Him, "Today you shall be with me in Paradise" (Eden restored). As He did this the Lord's side was wounded (as Adam's was at the forming of Eve). He wore thorns on His head (like the thorns which were part of the curse on the land that Adam was to experience and which the Lord came to reverse) and in the moment of Jesus' saving, priestly, sacrificial death, the Temple curtain was torn apart so that the way into the Holy of Holies should no longer be shut off - not even from hardened

cannot find complete fulfilment here. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life and may go through the gates into the City.....Whoever is thirsty, let him come, and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the Water of Life." (Revelation 22:14,17) Clue: "Whoever" includes you!

David Nicholls



The Helping Hands Food Bank is the only food bank in Lewisham providing sustained support for refugee, asylum-seeker, and vulnerable migrant families who are struggling to feed themselves. St Mildred's PCC agreed to support this local charity and Janice Nash used to take the donations to St. Peter's Church, Eltham Road, Lee on Saturdays between 10am and 12pm.

Janice has moved and can no longer deliver our donations, which are so vital.

WE HAVE AN URGENT NEED FOR ONE OR TWO PEOPLE WHO HAVE A HEART FOR HELPING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY, who will take this on and maybe even grow our donations and involvement. Perhaps one of our HOME GROUPS could do this as part of your service to the community? Or an individual who will put together a small, sustainable team.

**PLEASE DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED.** Pray about this and listen to what God is putting on your heart. **Don't be shy** – we want new volunteers for this project rather than the same old people stepping up. Please do let Daphne or Victoria know if you are able to take on this valuable ministry. Thanks.



The Food Bank provides parcels of food and toiletries. Typically, this translates to one meal a day for the whole family. The box sits at the back of the church and it is the contents of the box that need to be delivered to St Peter's Church when it is full.

Though mainly catering to families who live in



## Diary - March 2022

Tuesday	1	Parent and Toddlers (see website for details) 8pm PCC
Wednesday	2	8pm Prayer Meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>	10am Holy Communion 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	7	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	8	Parent and Toddlers 8pm Homegroups
Wednesday	9	8pm Homegroups
Thursday	10	8pm Homegroups
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>	10am All Age Worship 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	14	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	15	Parent and Toddlers
Wednesday	16	8pm Prayer Meeting
Friday	18	11am- 1pm Cuppa and Cake
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20</b>	10am Holy Communion
Monday	21	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	22	Parent and Toddlers 8pm Homegroups
Wednesday	23	8pm Homegroups
Thursday	24	8pm Homegroups
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27</b>	10am Morning Worship 6pm Sunday@six

Monday	28	9.30am Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	29	Parent and Toddlers 8pm PCC
Wednesday	30	8pm Prayer Meeting

## April 2022

<b>Sunday</b>	3	10am Holy Communion 6pm Sunday@six
Monday	4	9.30am Prayer Meeting



**Spring forward 1 hour**  
**Sunday 27th March 2022**  
**Daylight saving time starts!**

# Prayer Page

**“But those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength. They will soar on  
wings like eagles; they will run and not grow  
weary, they will walk and not be faint.”**

Isaiah 40:31

**Blessed are you, Lord our God. How sweet are your words to the taste,  
sweeter than honey to the mouth. How precious are your commands for our life,  
more than the finest gold in our hands. How marvellous is your will for the world,  
Unending is your love for the nations. Our voices shall sing of your promises  
and our lips declare your praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God for ever. Amen**

**God of peace and justice**, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

**Building project:**

Please pray that everything that we need for demolition will come together well, particularly as to discharge of planning conditions. Please pray too for the demolition contract tender - that we would find the right contractor.

**Lord, have mercy on those who mourn** who feel numb and crushed and are filled with the pain of grief, whose strength has given up. You know all our sighing and longings: be near to us and teach us to fix our hope on you through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Please pray for Keiko's 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.

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

**Pray for our preparations for the Easter weekend** in April; that God would give us wisdom about what is best this year.

**Alpha:**

Please pray that those who have recently completed the in-person Alpha course and those who are currently doing the Zoom course will all be encouraged in faith.

**Pray for the appointment process** to find two part time people to work in our youth and children's ministry. May God give us wisdom and direct us to the right people, and them to us.

**Pray for all students as they prepare for exams.**

That they are filled with hope for the future and a desire to commit all their ways to the Lord.

**Loving God,**

your Son told his disciples to become like little children. Lead us to work for the welfare and protection of all young people.

**Pray for all those who are unwell and receiving treatment.**

That the treatment given would be timely and appropriate to the need.

**Please pray for Sue Harriman** for relief from pain and wisdom of professionals to find the right path to take in order to alleviate her suffering.

**Pray for all those enduring change in:** employment, accommodation, relationships, home extensions and health, may they all find their strength and refuge in you Lord.

# Bible Reading Plan

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Beginning						
7/03/22	Ecclesiastes 2:1-16	Ecclesiastes 2:17-3:8	Ecclesiastes 3:9-22	Ecclesiastes 4:1-16	Ecclesiastes 5:1-17	Ecclesiastes 5:18-6:12
14/03/22	Ecclesiastes 7:1-18	Ecclesiastes 7:19-29	Ecclesiastes 8:1-17	Ecclesiastes 9:1-12	Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:15	Ecclesiastes 10:16-11:10
21/03/22	Ecclesiastes 12:1-14	Amos 1	Amos 2	Amos 3	Amos 4	Amos 5:1-17
28/03/22	Amos 5:18-27	Amos 6	Amos 7	Amos 8	Amos 9	Hosea 1:1-10
4/04/22	Hosea 2:1-13	Hosea 2:14-3:5	Hosea 4:1-19	Hosea 5:1-15	Hosea 6:1-11	Hosea 7:1-16



**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March**  
**11am to 1pm**  
**Cuppa & Cake**

Join us in church. Chat over a cuppa and homemade cake.

A warm welcome awaits you.

*Louise, Jenny and the team*

# ***The Back Page***



*“How’s the Psalms’ title-page coming along?”*

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