

UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM

A local union of the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church

JANUARY, 2019

Dear Friends,

As I write, we are coming to the end of 2018 and standing on the threshold of a New Year - 2019 beckons!

Looking back over the past twelve months, you might consider 2018 to have been a 'good year'. Certainly, in our family, this past year has been somewhat eventful. It began in April when Anthea was inducted to serve as Minister of St Paul's United Reformed Church, Bracknell. Following this, in June we were delighted to become grandparents for the first time following the birth of Isobel to her parents Charlotte and Chris. Then in October, we were proud parents at the marriage of our son James to his fiancée Zoey, which was a wonderful family occasion. Whilst these events have all been joyful times, we have also had some sad occasions following the death of a number of good friends. This is all part of life's rich tapestry.

So we look forward to whatever 2019 has in store for us, but we do so in confidence and trust. A few years ago, Anthea and I had a fantastic holiday in Austria, and whilst there, we took the opportunity to travel up a mountain in a cable car. I have to admit that, not having a good head for heights, this was something of a challenge for me. Depending on where you were seated in the cable car, you could either look up to the peak where we were heading or you could look back and see from whence you came. This seemed to me to be a good analogy as we begin this new year. We look forward to the things to come - some of which are unseen until we reach the top. Conversely, we look back with thanks.

I often liken life to being on a journey. As we enter a new year, there will be new things to see, new people with whom to travel and new experiences to absorb. What we take with us into the New Year, as reassurance and challenge, is the unfailing love of God. Even life lived within God's love isn't always an entirely comfortable journey. It doesn't always make things right for us. It doesn't mean we will never know suffering. It doesn't mean we will never find the world a difficult place to live in. God's love means that God is always with us (Emmanuel) in all our times of joy and in our experiences of sorrow too. Christmas will never be over, it is always just the beginning. I recall the opening words of the popular hymn '*New every morning is the love...!*'. These are words worth pondering daily as we discover the riches and marvels of that love as we journey together!

Wishing you a happy and peaceful 2019!

Your friend and Minister, ***Alan.***

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UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM - JANUARY, 2019

Sunday 6 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Alan Wickens
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Mr Paul Murphy
Wednesday 9 th	12.30 pm	Craft Club
Thursday 10 th	2.30 pm	Bible Study at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Windsor
Sunday 13 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mrs Thelma Roberts (this will include sharing the United Church's Covenant with each other)
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Revd Alan Wickens
Thursday 17 th	2.30 am	Bible Study at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Windsor
Sunday 20 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Father John Dickson
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Mr Jonathan Perkins
Wednesday 23 rd	12.30 pm	Craft Club
Sunday 27 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mr Paul Murphy
	12.30 pm	Annual General Meeting of the Church
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Alan Wickens

Regular Meetings: we have - RAINBOWS (Mondays at 5.00 pm); BROWNIE GUIDES (Mondays at 6.30 pm); BEAVER SCOUTS (Tuesdays at 6.00 pm); CUB SCOUTS (Thursdays at 7.00 pm); SCOUTS (Fridays at 7.30 pm).

COFFEE AND TEA will be served in the Vestibule of the Church each THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY from 10.00 am to noon, when the Church will also be open for prayer. On each THURSDAY there will be a LUNCHTIME SERVICE at 12.30 pm followed by a TIME OF FELLOWSHIP (bring your own sandwich or salad, and coffee and tea will be available).

DUTY ROTA FOR JANUARY, 2019

	<i>Sunday Deacons</i>	<i>Sidesmen</i>
6 th	am Di James	Christine Maynard and Jean Bradley
	pm Graham Burrough	Graham Burrough
13 th	am Harry Cumming	Rowena Ferneley and Marion Mason
	pm Lindsay Mair	Lindsay Mair
20 th	am Jane Leckie	Janet Figgins and Frank Clark
	pm Graham Burrough	Graham Burrough
27 th	am Anthony Long	Jill Reynolds and Nyree Long
	pm Lindsay Mair	Lindsay Mair

FLOWER ROTA FOR JANUARY, 2019

6th: Jane and John Mackerness; 13th: Gordon McCallum; 20th: Jenny White;
27th: Di James

DATA PROTECTION ACT

In common with most other churches and organisations, the United Church of Egham keeps pastoral records of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of regular worshippers and friends. The information is used for church purposes only, is never communicated to any other body and is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.