SUNDAY SERVICES

11.00 am - Morning Service and Junior ChurchHoly Communion 1st Sunday of each month.

4.00 pm - Afternoon Service on Special Occasions.

4 - 6.00 pm - Higher Kingdom Church International in the Hall—(Pastor Sam)

ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK

SUNDAY - MWA - Meeting 3rd Sunday after service.

WEDNESDAY - 7.30 pm - Bible Studies, on Zoom.

THURSDAY - Men's Fellowship Meeting at 1pm - (Normally on 3rd Thursday of the month on Zoom / Hall)

FRIDAY - Intercessory Prayers - 1:30 p.m. on Zoom

SATURDAY- 7.30—8:30 p.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting – (Before Communion Sunday—Meeting on Zoom)

Choir Practice. (To be confirmed).

Disclaimer: Any personal articles expressed in the focus magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor.

St. Margaret's & St. George's United Reformed & Moravian Church Nicoll Road Harlesden London NW10 9AX

50 YEARS AND COUNTING







Focus: Church Magazine



January—February 2025 - Focus No 354

"The LORD is King; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake. 2The LORD is great in Zion; He is exalted over all the peoples" [Psalms 99:1-2 [NRSV, 1989].

MINISTER

Revd. Edwin Quildan

Sr. Theresa Agard

108 St. Joseph's Road

London N9 8NT

SECRETARY

Telephone: 07840 946 102

Sr. Heather Anderson



INTENTIONAL KEEP OUR LORD JESUS IN ALL THAT YOU DO EACH DAY!

Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings, in the wonderful Name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

We remember with sadness the ongoing wars around the world. The lives that have been lost and the suffering experienced by those whose livelihood, families and homes are now destroyed.

Coming closer to home, it is with extreme sadness that we note the shooting in Harlesden during the early hours of Sunday 15th December, killing a young woman and injuring two others eight minute walk from our Church (near Church Road). We need to continue to prayer for peace and encourage our young people to walk close with God.

As you read this message we have now entered the New Year, 2025. A time early in the year where we sometimes ask the question, 'Where has the year/s gone?' The older you get the quicker time appears to fly. What do you think? Is time really speeding up or is our awareness of the past bringing the notion of time to reality.

What were you hoping to achieve last year in 2024? Have you met your goals and aspirations?

Cont..

Read Luke 2:16-20

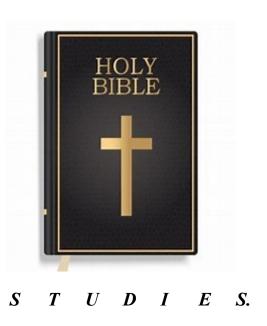
9. How do the shepherds share the story?

Read from the book page 11 paragraph 1 and 2

10. what does the term "Christ for the World" mean to you? Read from the book page 11 paragraph 3 to the end.

- 11. Do you think, are there many people who know Jesus today?
- 12. what do you think of the term "Jesus is monopolized by the Christian church?"

Bible Study prepared by Revd. E. Quildan.



Bible Studies on 11th Dec 2024.

Book Title: God is with us (pages 8-11)

Luke 2

Introduction:

Today we are reflecting on the Christmas story from St. Luke's Gospel.

Read Luke 2:1-2

Read from the book page 8 paragraphs 1-3

1. Was there anything new from the two readings?

Read from the book page 8 paragraph 4 page 9 para 1.

2. Is anything familiar to us today?

Read from the book page 9 paragraph 2 to the end.

3 What does the term "Real Christmas" mean to you?

Read Luke 2:2-7

4. Why were the people registering?

Read Micah 5:2

5. What is the reading from Micah telling us?

Read Luke 2:8-15

6. What do we know about the shepherds?

7. Was it easy to do a census at that time?

8. How are census carried out in our time?

As we now focus our attention on the future, time continues to ebb and flow. As we move through 2025, it is good to consider some realistic goals, target or resolutions for the year ahead. As an individual, are you able to commit to any of the following alongside your other focus:

- A) reading your Bible every day
- B) praying daily
- C) attending a Bible study session
- D) telling one person each week about Jesus.

As a Church, we now need to review and to hone our Natural Church Development actions plans that we started last year. We need to sharpen ourselves to build the Kingdom of God. We have looked at our interaction as small groups and have been grappling with the activity of trusting each other. We have also looked at sharing our faith / making make disciples.

If you have any other suggestion for betterment please speak to any of the Elders, use the suggestion box and pray about the ideas. Ask yourselves,' What is God calling me to do'?

In January and February you may experience the colder and harsh weather in the UK; yet the days are lengthening. We are reminded that spring is near. Be also assured that God near and is with us.

Wishing you a Happy New Year.

Revd. Edwin.

DEVOTIONAL CORNER

Ezekiel 34:30 [NRSV 1989]

"They shall know that I, the LORD their God am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people, says the LORD God."

Ezekiel 34:31 [NRSV 1989]

"You are my sheep, the sheep of My pasture and I am Your God, says the LORD God."

Hymn MHB 33 v1-2 John Henry Newman (1801-90). Praise to the Holiest in the height, And in the depth be praise, In all His words most wonderful, Most sure in all His ways.

2. O Loving wisdom of our God1 when all was sin and shame, A second Adam to the fight, and to the rescue came.

Psalms 99:3-5 [NRSV 1989]

Let them praise Your Great and Awesome Name, Holy is He!

4. Mighty King, lover of justice, You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. 5. Extol the LORD our God; worship at His footstool. Holy is He!

Hymn NMHB 447 v1 Frances Havergal

Standing at the portal, Of the opening year, Words of comfort meet us, Hushing every fear; Spoken thru the silence By our Saviour's voice, Tender, strong and faithful, Making us rejoice.

Refrain: Onward, then, and fear not, Children of the day; For His word shall never, Never pass away.

Cont...

- 8. What did Paul's teaching signify as the change of circumcision verse 13? (Read Genesis 17.9-14)
- 9. What was the most manifestation of the change to circumcision Verses 14-15?
- 10. Who in Paul's teaching were disarmed and what was taken away from us? (Read Ephesians 4.23-24)
- 11. What was Paul's teachings on Freedom from Human Rules verses 16-17?
- 12. Who did Paul warn against in verse 19?
- 13. What is being said in verse 20-21?
- 14. What does the rules in verses 21-22 tell us?
- 15. What are the main points in Paul's teaching?
- 16. How relevant are they to today's Christian living?
- 17. How can we adhere to Paul's Teaching?

Bible Session led by Br. S. Wilkie

Bible Study Wednesday 13th November.

Paul's teaching to the new churches at Colossae and Laodicea.

INTRODUCTION

Laodicea was located a few miles from Colossae, in Asia Minor. The Laodicea church was probably not founded by Paul but by some of his converts. The city was wealthy in trade and commerce. But later Christ would criticise the believers in Laodicea for they lukewarm commitment read (Rev 3.14-22). Paul wanted this letter passed on to the Laodicean church indicating that false teaching may have spread there. Paul was counting that ties of love would bring the churches together against heresy and encourage each other to stand together, and remain true to God's plan for salvation in Christ.

Read Colossians 2.1-5— Questions

- 1. What do you think of Paul's introduction to the church at Colossae?
- 2. What was Paul's stated goal, and how would you describe it?
- 3. What are your thoughts of Paul's statement in verse 5?

Read Verses 6-9

- 4. What are Paul's thoughts and instructions verses 6-7?
- 5. How do you see the narrative in verses 8-9?
- 6. What is being taught in verses 9-10?
- 7. What was the significance of the act of circumcision in verses 11-12?

- 2. I, the LORD am with thee, Be thou not afraid; I will help and strengthen, Be thou not dismayed. Yea, I will uphold thee, With My own right hand; Thou art called and chosen in My sight to stand. *Refrain*.
- 3. for the year before us, O what rich supplies! For the poor and needy Living streams shall rise; For the sad and sinful Shall His grace abound; For the faint and feeble, perfect strength is found. *Refrain*.
- 4. He will never fail us, He will not forsake; His eternal covenant He will never break. Resting on His promise, what have we to fear? God is all-sufficient for the coming year.. *Refrain*.

Great is the LORD.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His Holiness. While I live and keepth Truth, I will praise the LORD. I will sing praises to my God, while I have my being, which made heaven and earth. Which keepth Truth forever, put our always in the LORD.

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Scriptures to read: Psalms 146.

Blessings

Sr. Precious.



News of the Fellowship

We continue to remember with love and prayers our members and friends who have been absent from worship due to illness or are housebound; as we lift the to the LORD in prayers.

Anyone who is aware of members or friends, who might be away due to illness, or for any other reason, please advise the Minister in order that pastoral visitations may be arranged.

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It is our custom to welcome all visitors to our services. We trust that they enjoyed fellowship with us. Refreshments are usually served after the service in the hall. Please join us, if possible.

Congratulations, prayers and blessings to all those who have celebrated a birthday or an anniversary since our last Focus. We continue to ask for prayers for members and friends.

Condolences are extended to the recently bereaved families. We remember before God all those who mourn the loss of loved family members, friends and colleagues.

Kindly keep them in your prayers, as well as those who have been absent from church services for a very long period.

Cont..

While we also recognise the WATER relations and all that they add to our lives, might we be wise enough to give them their due credit. Yet at the same time, may that same wisdom allow us to see which relations ought to be our top priority. At the end of day, when all is said and done, the words of our elders still ring true – BLOOD THICKER THAN WATER.

Prayer

Creator God, help us to safeguard our familial blood relations especially in difficult times. Amen

by Revd. Mikie Roberts

Appreciation

Many thanks to all Brothers and Sisters who contributed towards Church funds through your Christmas card donations.

May God richly bless you all and those who will be donating later.

Thank you all once again.

Cont..

Yet, it was the same electorate that a few months ago told him that he was too old to run for a second term. That's WA-TER relation. It is the same electorate that chose not to elect his vice president less than a month ago. That's WATER relation. It is the same electorate that in a few years' time may not even remember his name. That too is WATER relation.

Even though he is president of the USA, it is Joe, the father, who was there for his son's birth and witnessed up close in his adulthood, seeing him going down the wrong path but not being able to deter him. Yet he still loved him as his son. That's BLOOD. It is the same father Joe, who would have comforted a three-year-old Hunter after his mother and sister died in an automobile accident. That's BLOOD. Joe the father would have been there to try and stabilize Hunter when tragedy again hit the family with the death of his older brother Beau.

That's BLOOD.

Politics aside, I see in Joe Biden's action this week a true demonstration of this island proverb – BLOOD THICKER THAN WATER. As the holiday season draws near, in the midst of our rushing here and there, trying to get the perfect gift or meet end of year deadlines, might we pause long enough to appreciate and give God thanks for the BLOOD relations that are in our lives.

Church Services in January 2025

5th - 11 a.m. - Morning Worship —Revd. Edwin Quildan.

12th - 11 a.m.- Thanksgiving Service — Sr. G. Adjei.

19th - 11 a.m. - Morning Worship— Revd. D. Elliott

26th - 11 a.m. - Morning Worship - Revd. E. Quildan.

Church Services in February 2025

2nd - 11 a.m.-Morning Worship - Revd. E. Quildan

9th - 11 a.m.— Morning Worship — Sr. V. Williams

16th - 11 a.m.— Morning Worship — Revd. E. Quildan.

23rd - 11 a.m.— Morning Worship — Sr. H. Anderson

Stewards' Rota – January 2025

5th Br. Cecil Sr. Akua 12th Br. Tony Br. Paul.

19th Sr. Margaret L. Sr. Heather B.

26th Sr. Ava Sr. Maya L.

Stewards' Rota – February 2025

2nd Sr. Avis. Sr. Betty.

9th Sr. Pat F. Sr. Vivienne N.

16th Sr. Heather A. Sr. Geneva.

23rd Sr. Pauline Sr. Denise.



IN APPRECIATION Flower Donations - November 2024

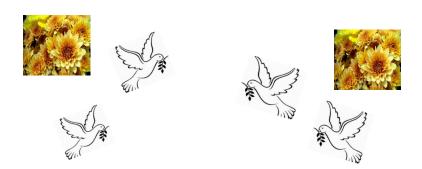
3rd — Br. and Sr. Sinclair for their Wedding Anniversary and also in memory of their late daughter Joan.

Sr. Cynthia Jacobs in memory of her late husband Bill Jacobs.

10th— The Flower Fund.

17th — Revd. Donald Elliott for his wife Sr. Odette's birthday

24th— Sr. Mary Dabreo in memory of her late parents. Sr. Pauline Laud in memory of her late brother Norman, and in memory of her dear friend Patricia.



Cont.

No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter's cases can reach any other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son – and that is wrong. There has been an effort to break Hunter – who has been five and a half years sober, even in the face of unrelenting attacks and selective prosecution. In trying to break Hunter, they've tried to break me – and there's no reason to believe it will stop here. Enough is enough.

For my entire career I have followed a simple principle: just tell the American people the truth. They'll be fairminded. Here's the truth: I believe in the justice system, but as I have wrestled with this, I also believe raw politics has infected this process and it led to a miscarriage of justice – and once I made this decision this weekend, there was no sense in delaying it further. I hope Americans will understand why a father and a President would come to this decision.

As I read Biden's statement, it led me to today's FF which is a very popular local saying that we all grew up hearing as children on the Caribbean Antigua – BLOOD THICKER THAN WATER. Simply put, your family relations take priority over every other connection or relationship in life. It is true Biden has had a political relationship with the American electorate for the vast majority of his life.

FRIDAY FOCUS

The first few days of this last month of the year continues to draw attention to US politics. Now that the elections are behind us, all eyes are focused on Biden's actions with just a few more weeks to go before the end of his presidency. There are several actions that he has taken that have drawn attention. But the one that has been trending is the December 1st 'full and unconditional pardon' that Biden gave to his son Hunter. Just in case you have not had the chance to read his full statement, permit me today to present it to you.

Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter. From the day I took office, I said I would not interfere with the Justice Department's decision-making, and I kept my word even as I have watched my son being selectively, and unfairly, prosecuted. Without aggravating factors like use in a crime, multiple purchases, or buying a weapon as a straw purchaser, people are almost never brought to trial on felony charges solely for how they filled out a gun form. Those who were late paying their taxes because of serious addictions, but paid them back subsequently with interest and penalties, are typically given non-criminal resolutions. It is clear that Hunter was treated differently.

The charges in his cases came about only after several of my political opponents in Congress instigated them to attack me and oppose my election. Then, a carefully negotiated plea deal, agreed to by the Department of Justice, unravelled in the courtroom — with a number of my political opponents in Congress taking credit for bringing political pressure on the process. Had the plea deal held, it would have been a fair, reasonable resolution of Hunter's cases



Flower Donations—October 2024

1st — Sr. Victoria for her son Br. Ernest's birthday and from the flower fund.

8th—Sr. Pauline in memory of her late Dad Roy Morrison on 3rd December, and Sr. Denise Allison in memory of her late Mother Avis and Uncle Ira.

15th — Sr. Pauline for her brother Delroy's birthday; and from Sr. Beverley McLeod for her granddaughter Rosaria's 16th birthday.

22nd — The flower fund.

25th—Sr. Clarice Prosser for her granddaughter Michelle's birthday.

29th—Sr. Pauline and family for Trafford's 15th birthday and also for her son Scott's birthday.

In Appreciation: Thanks are extended to all who have anonymously donated towards the flower fund. May our God continue to refill your storehouses, as you remain faithful towards His ministry.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Find the missing word and complete the passage (1 Corinthians 12 vv 12 - 27) 12 Just as a body, though one, has many_____, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with 13 For we were all baptized by [c] one Spirit so as to form one body whether Jews or , slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 Now if the _____ should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the body were an eye, where would the sense hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are , 23 and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with _____ honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modestv. 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

St Margaret's & St George's United Reform & Moravian Church AND

St Kitts and Nevis London Association (SKANLA)

Working in the Community





SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2025 2.00-5.00PM

Serving up a fun filled relaxing afternoon of companionship and laughter, sandwiches, savouries and cakes all washed down with a cup of tea of choice

Join us at

THE CHURCH HALL, NICOLL ROAD, HARLESDEN NW10 9AT





19

Cont..

Jonty has put great effort into his on-line business this year and it has grown considerably. He enjoyed holidaying in Gran Canaria with friends and, this is the really big news, has moved out. He still lives locally and comes for a roast dinner once a week!

Pip, the dog, will be seven years old in January. Her walks do us all good!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with our best wishes Ian and Rachel Amersham 2024











Cont..

Cont													
26 If one part suffers, every part with it; if one part is honoured, every part with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.													
Christ Division Foot Gentiles Indispensable Parts													
Reason Rejoices Sense Special Suffers Whole													
———I. Making words Make as many words as you can from the word; Ash Wednesday'													
Z. Can you complete the line of the hymn; All things bright and													
_ead us heavenly													
Be bold be strong, for the													
Now thank we all													
Stand up stand up for Jesus													
Amazing grace how sweet													
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CHILDREN'S CORNER

Ash Wednesday Bible Born Brother

Church Easter Sunday Epiphany Good Friday

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Hymn Joy Lent Life Sister Year You





Christmas 2024



We send you Christmas greetings with a bit of news from Amersham.

Ian and Rachel enjoyed overseas visits to Portugal, Sweden and Czechia. We also spent a long weekend in Malvern with Jonty, Matthew and Zoe. Rachel celebrated her 60th birthday with a family party. Ian has now been Minister of Amersham Free Church for twelve years and is really grateful for their love and support. Rachel is still teaching, and this year has spearheaded an Environmental Area and Learning Barn project at her school.

Matthew and Zoe enjoyed a belated honeymoon to Thailand and are loving their band and regularly 'gig' most weekends. Matthew continues to teach at a school on the outskirts of Aylesbury.

Noticeboard



British Province of the Moravian Church invite you to join us for a

Day of Prayer

Monday 6th January 2025 from 12pm - 8 pm on Zoom

Feel free to drop in and out of Zoom as your schedule allows

Our theme will be journeying

Topic: Provincial Day of Prayer: Monday 6th January 2025

Time: From 12:00 PM London until 20:00 PM

The Provincial Board invite you to a scheduled Zoom prayer session. Join Zoom link

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85679958667?

pwd=Smzvo6QWd2p0RxNWaLsM2BOHCWcHMu.1

Zoom ID 856 7995 8667

Passcode: 539921

EVENTS FROM THE URC

Reflecting on Epiphany Monday 6-10 January 2025 online. Book

Online Green Finance Training on Monday 20 January 2025 (7–8.30 pm). Book here.

Discipleship Matters / Vital Signs on-line meeting - Tuesday 28th January and Monday 24th March 3pm OR 7.30pm. Meeting details are: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96647460063? pwd=dnhRWGtlK2tOdUpPUGo0OXRwTWRMUT09

Carbon Literacy Training on 21, 28 January and 4 February 10am – 12 noon via Zoom. Contact Colleen modpa@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Theology of Worship Group Monday, 20th January 2025 7:30 -9pm Via Zoom Contact rgoldring23@gmail.com

Intergenerational Fun Day on Saturday 1st February 2025 11am - 4pm at Lumen WC1H 9RS. Book by 17 January at www.bit.ly/fun-day2025

URC Youth Assembly 7 - 9 March 2025 Kings Park Conference Centre NN3 6LL

Thames North and Southern Synod Youth Residential Thursday 29 May-1 June 2025. Book by 31 January 2025 at www.bit.ly/residential2025

If interested, kindly contact Revd. Edwin.

Noticeboard

Prayer Meetings on zoom — Every 1st Saturday before Holy Communion on the Sunday of each month. Kindly contact Revd. Edwin if you are interested. Thank you. For all meetings on Zoom kindly contact Revd. Edwin for the Identification (ID).

Calendar January - 2025.

Saturday 4th —11: 00– 12:30 a.m.—Church Prayer Meeting.

Monday 6th — Moravian Church Day Prayer 12-8 p.m. Sat—Sat 18th - 25th—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Sunday 26th—Quarterly Church Meeting.

Calendar February 2025

Saturday 1st Feb—Church Prayer Meeting on zoom at 7:30—8:30 p.m.

Saturday 22nd—Management Team Training at 11 a.m.

Noticeboard

Gift Aid: Are you a taxpayer? The one way that taxpayers can give more to the Church, without it costing them anything, is to Gift Aid their contributions, this is money that can be claimed back from the Inland Revenue and can make a difference to a congregations' income.

Therefore, if you are not already doing so, I would urge you to contact the treasurer and complete a Gift Aid Form.

The coronavirus Protocols

The coronavirus is still around. As a church we believe in looking after each other. The wearing of mask is optional. However, hand sanitizers are to be used frequently.

Thank you for maintaining the coronavirus protocols.

Children's Activity: We are thinking about running some children's activity during the year. If you have any ideas of the things we can do (either on-line or physical) please let the Church Committee members know or the minister.