

BEXLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

“CORONA CLARION” Issue 13: 28th September 2020

THE FINAL ONE!

No more Corona Clarion! Now we are back at Church we are able to resume the monthly newsletter, ‘Outreach’, and you will be able to obtain it at Church from November 1st. Thanks to all those who have contributed to the CC (as it has become affectionately known!) & to those who have distributed it. John Johnstone was the only person who entered the competition to guess how many issues there would be & he has received his prize! By the way – he wasn’t right!

If you are not able to go to Church & have been receiving your Corona Clarion by email you will be able to read the monthly ‘Outreach’ newsletter on the Church website. If you cannot access it either at Church or online but would like a copy please let your Pastoral Elder know.

Family news Several of our friends have recently had operations, or are due to do so shortly. Our thoughts are with all of those who are undergoing medical interventions.

Prayer calendar. **Sept 27th:** Ann Markey, Doreen Litchfield; **Oct 4th:** Dorothy Down, Kathy Shaw; **Oct 11th** : Sandy Lewis, June Bobby; **Oct 18th:** Francis Christou, Linda & Ricky Wells; **Oct 25th:** Helen & Mike North, Bee & John Twidale. Please remember these friends in your prayers.

Pause for thought You will, I’m sure, be familiar with the chorus ‘Count your blessings’. Count your blessings & it may surprise you what the Lord has done. I recently read the following: ‘The more you focus on your blessings the less stressed your life will be’. This isn’t always easy to do, particularly in challenging times such as we are all still faced with. But the blessings are there! You may just have to look a bit harder!

What is a Blessing

A blessing is something we ask God to give
Like joy and good health and a nice place to live.
It's someone to love us and a little help too,
When we have to do something not easy to do.
It can be a bright flower or a beautiful day,
At times it's an answer to a prayer that we say.
A blessing's a favour God grants from above,
It's a wonderful way that he shows us His LOVE. *(Taken from Fred Wade's Book of Delights (2016))*

My thanks. It is often said that the church is the people and not the buildings. Since March this has become so true in my experience. As treasurer, I had huge doubts as to how we could cope with a sudden loss of over a quarter of our routine income for this year. Gradually the situation has improved and this has mainly been due to how the vast majority of our congregation has responded. Although we have been assisted by some cuts in our expenses the main effort has come from you. You accepted that we could not use the envelope scheme or cash and have provided a ready supply of funds through bank transfers and cheques. For some it has been keeping up your regular giving; others have chosen to give more. It has truly been a team effort for which I give thanks that we are now on course to meet our needs for this year.

It has been good to see people in our services of worship recently and to know that others are praising God in their homes. Whatever building you are in I hope that you feel part of us. God has challenged us to do things differently this year. I never expected to enter a bank wearing a face mask on your behalf but for all you have done and continue to do, I thank you all. **Philip Shepherd**

Editor’s comment: Look out for the following local headline: “Church Treasurer pleads innocence. ‘I was only paying money in, honest!’ he maintained. “!!

Items from Church Meeting the following are some of the items that were raised at yesterday's Church meeting: the meeting voted to continue to worship in the Hall during the Covid-19 crisis; karate club is meeting again & Rainbows will start in October. It's good to be able to welcome them back; leaders of the Church-run groups were invited to contact Peter Roberts if they wish to restart their groups. Suzanne will help them with the paperwork required; Peter Roberts has resigned as Hall lettings secretary & Ellie Stocker has kindly volunteered to take on this important role from 1st January 2021. Many thanks to them both; Suzanne Whitnall has resigned from the Eldership & from the Church Secretary role as of 1st January 2021. A new secretary has not yet been elected; the next Church meeting will be on November 22nd & will include the election of Elders.

Inkjet cartridges – RECYCLE4CHARITY A number of us have been using the envelopes and sending our used inkjet cartridges to Recycle4Charity. I have received information from this organisation about changes which are taking place and it will now be possible to print a pre-paid label from their website to send ink cartridges to them. The existing prepaid envelopes can still be used until the end of the year, after that no donation will be generated for cartridges received in the old paper Recycle4Charity Freepost envelopes. So we need to use up the envelopes we have. If you would like one please ask an elder who will retrieve them from the side classroom for you. When I have managed to log on to their new website and found out how to get these labels I will let you know, but I imagine it will be fairly straightforward. There is apparently a new 300+ wanted list available on the website after the end of this month and a £2 minimum value per pack sent will now be applicable to all packages received so we will no longer be sending in one used cartridge at a time. **Kathy**

Puns for educated minds (Admit it – you're going to miss these! Blame Bee for supplying them!)

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'

Thoughts about angels written by 7-9 yr old American boys

Angels don't eat but they drink milk from Holy Cows!

Angels talk all the way while they're flying to Heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you died!

My Guardian Angel helps me with Math but is no good at Science!

When an Angel gets mad he takes a deep breath & counts to 10. And when he lets his breath out again somewhere there's a tornado!

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses & boys didn't go for it!

A prayer

Wise and loving God,

fill me with your wisdom and understanding,

may I grow daily in my knowledge of you.

May my life be pleasing to you.

May I bear your fruit in the actions I take.

May I be strong with your strength.

May I be patient when faced with challenges and in times of difficulty.

Fill my heart with thanksgiving for the people with whom you call me to live and share together.

Amen