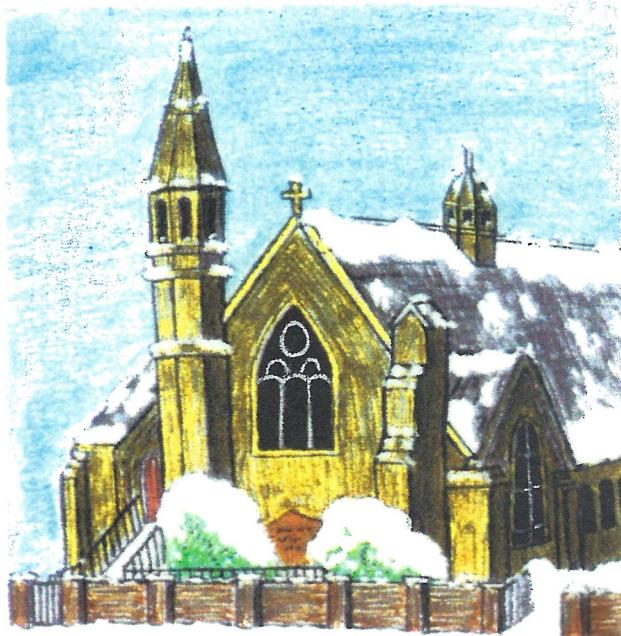


# BEXLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



*Alan Rose 1987*  
*Bexley United Reformed Church*

**WINTER  
JANUARY 2026**

**50p**

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Disclaimer

This Magazine is published by Bexley United Reformed Church but the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Church.

Deadline for the next Magazine will be  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**BEXLEY URC CHURCH HALL  
& RUXLEY ROOM**  
Junction Bexley High Street and Hurst Road  
Facilities include a Stage and a Fitted Kitchen  
Reasonable rates include Heating and Lighting

Inquiries to: Letting Secretary 07702 185702  
[elliestocker@talktalk.net](mailto:elliestocker@talktalk.net)

## Services for January 2026 at 10.30am except where stated

	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Elder</u>
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Rev. Ian Gow	Mavis
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	The Minister	Keith
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Val Loader	Philip
	Holy Communion	
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	John Twidale	Suzanne

### Communion Fund

The Communion Fund is for those who are known to us who are in need. Gifts may be placed in the box near the entrance of the church on any Sunday whether or not there is a Communion Service.

Thank you. *Philip Shepherd*

### Family News – on our prayer calendar for January are:-

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Ellie Stocker, Peggy Simmonds
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Suzanne Whitnall, Keith Thomson
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Kim & Tim Kleinschmidt, Val Fox
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Tony & Ann Ball, June Bobby

Please also continue to remember in your prayers –

Tony and Ann Ball

### Pause for Thought

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Essie Boateng
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	John Johnstone
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Linda Wells
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Bee Twidale

### Flowers for January

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Michael
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Mavis
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Ann
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	

## **PASTORATE LUNCH**

**A two course lunch (main and dessert) is booked  
for 12 noon on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**at**

**Sophies Choice**

**The cost will be £24 inc tea or coffee (drinks extra)**

**Please put your name on the list at the back  
of the church if you wish to come**

## **SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT**

**SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY  
3.00pm – 4.30pm**

**MARK SEDGEWICK  
will sing us into  
the New Year**

**All are welcome**

**SCOTTISH SOCIAL**

**SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

**7.00pm – 9.30pm**

**Tickets: £10.00  
Incl: Supper**

**Tickets are available  
from Social Committee**

**Charity cards**

Thank you all so much for supporting the 2 charities – Bexley Mencap & Demelza House – again this year with your card purchases.

You may be aware that they are sold both at Bexley & Geddes Place URCs, & in total we have raised an amazing £750! This is the best we've ever done, and it's all down to our friends who help by making cards for us, & to you, who so generously buy them.

We hope that you will continue to support us in 2026.

Many thanks.

*Suzanne Whitnall (for Bexley URC)*

## Looking back

Looking back over the last year we can see that some of the activities provided to reach out into the community have done well. The two Keep Fit Classes held each week have expanded so much that we shall have to have a waiting list for new people to join us because we have to comply with the safeguarding requirements to keep everyone safe (stretching arms and legs takes up a lot of room).

The monthly Sunday Afternoon Concerts have continued to welcome regular visitors and some folk who have never stepped into a Church before. The relaxed atmosphere and friendly welcome have encouraged many to return time and again to enjoy the music and singing provided by a variety of artists and groups.

Sunday afternoons are no longer spent just in front of the TV watching old films. A laugh and chat with others over refreshments and enjoyment of music and songs we love makes all the difference to a Sunday afternoon.,

Knit and Natter with others and a game of Whist are all popular and all are welcome.

Saturday evenings with supper are also popular and varied and occur regularly every other month including socials, quizzes, card games etc.

Thank you for supporting these activities, you know you are always welcome, and if you would like to participate in helping in any way, your support would be welcome too.

*Mavis*

## **A New Year**

Last month I was reflecting on the many changes that have occurred in my lifetime. This month I am trying to predict what may lie ahead in the future. The growth of data, from which those who make decisions on our behalf, has grown to such an extent that the human brain cannot process it. At this moment giant warehouses, the size of many football pitches, are being built in a desert location in the U.S.A. Their sole purpose is to house hundreds of giant computers which will analyse this flow of information. Also, at this time, Artificial Intelligence is taking over many tasks previously managed by humans. Thus, the rate of change in the next decade is probably already beyond our imagination. What will happen to the many millions, world- wide who will become jobless? Experts predict that many different types of jobs will emerge.

How does this predicted future affect our faith and the scriptures so important to it? I think most people would not now accept the story of creation in Genesis as fact. Charles Darwin and recent science have now provided different explanations for the origin and development of our world. The biblical stories were written to try and explain how God created the world and human beings. However, the recent science does not preclude the hand of God. The essential questions which perhaps only religion can answer remain.

Why are we here?

What is the meaning of life?

What is good/truth

What will happen after death; is there an afterlife?

I would be remiss in writing an article as a New Year dawns without mentioning resolutions. What might you resolve to do which could strengthen your faith? How about deciding to read a chapter from the Bible each morning after you have had your breakfast and reflecting on it before tackling your chores. Another possibility is setting aside a time each day in which to pray for things not directly associated with yourself. Remembering that making resolutions and keeping them is not easy but repetition can become a good habit.

John Johnstone