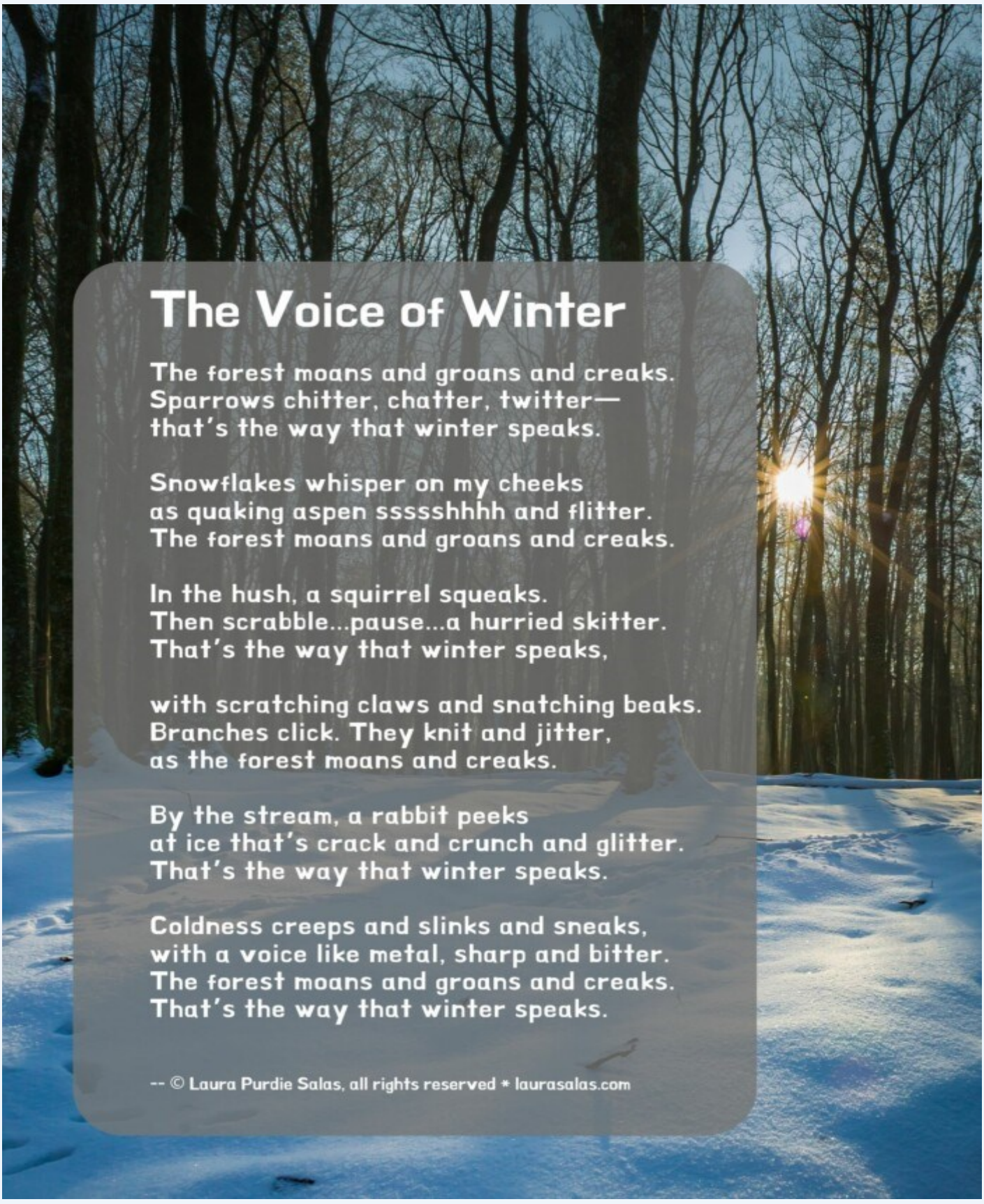
EGERTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER DECEMBER 2021- JANUARY 2022 EDITION



Covid Church Blues.

When did it start?
I can't quite remember
September, October, or November?
When the dreaded Covid lockdowns
hit our cities and our towns
And all over our poor old world
reluctantly, we all were hurled-
Into a world of curbs and rules,
closing churches, shops and schools!
Grandparents and babies must not hug,
in case they get the dreaded bug.
Government said "we must compel"
Not to attempt to try to tra-vel.
Just stay at home and watch TV

Church Bloopers and Blessings

Church Bulletin Blooper

Diana and Don Jones request your presents at their wedding.

Exam Howlers

"Gods people were called Israel Lights".
"David fought Goliath who was a very tall Philatelist".
"The 5th Commandment is humour thy Father and Mother".

Crazy Christenings-The Most Unfortunate Names in Britain

Helen Back	Will Power
Terry Bull	Paige Turner
Justin Case	Anna Sasin
Jo King	Mary Christmas

Witty Messages from Church notice boards

Children's Musical Misquotes.

"All things Bright and beautiful, all teachers great and small"

"In Morecambe, invisible, God only wise...."

"Dance, dance, wherever you maybe,
I am the Lord of the dancing fleas,
I'll eat you all wherever you may be,
I'll eat you all in the dance, said He"

"Get dressed you married gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay".

Submitted by Doreen

INSPIRATIONAL CHRISTIAN WOMEN (3)

Fanny Crosby 1820-1915 (Frances) a famous hymn writer of the 19th century

When the doctor was called to help six-week-old Fanny Crosby with a minor eye inflammation, his visit had a reverse effect. He placed hot poultices over the infant's eyes, insisting it would draw the infection out. Instead, Fanny became blind. And while it might have been the end of her sight, it was only the beginning of God's great work!
Frances Jane Crosby was born on March 24, 1820 in the Puritan community in the town of Southeast, New York, the only child of Mercy and John. Her father became ill and died in November of the same year, leaving her mother a widow at age twenty-one. She worked as a housemaid to provide for Fanny and Fanny was left to her grandmother, Eunice Crosby. It was Eunice who was determined to have Fanny not see herself at a disadvantage because of her blindness. She practiced multiple textures, scents, and descriptions with her granddaughter, enhancing her skills and powers of memory. This instruction would prove its lasting effects in Fanny's life. Mercy Crosby's work moved her and Fanny around New England twice. At age fourteen, she read about the newly established Institution for the Blind in New York City. Fanny was riddled with happiness at this discovery and began attending in March, 1835. With the exception of math, Fanny proved herself an excellent student and a warm, exuberant girl who made friends and wrote poetry with equal ease. It was her poetry and musical abilities that the Institution began counting on to show the need for more of their schools across the states. Fanny's name and her talents were becoming well known, dubbing her 'The Blind Poetess'.

Fanny performed at other universities, and a special presentation at Congress in Washington, D.C. in 1844, among others from America to Britain. Fanny was grateful to the Institution for her education and wanted to promote its chances to other blind children. She was content to travel and teach for the Institution as a grammar, music, and poetic instructor. Fanny published The Blind Girl and Other Poems in 1844. Presidents, ambassadors, war generals, and the nationwide church knew her poetry and music and devoured it. But Fanny's accomplishments did not lead to pride, her poems were what the public expected, but didn't contain half of what her soul was proclaiming about God and Heaven. She wanted her poetry to lift people's souls toward Jesus and salvation, not to coddle them with false warmth. That, and the travelling and teaching were taking a toll on her health. After a rest, Fanny went back to her teaching at the school, with the occasional poetry reading. She taught until 1858, when she married Alexander Van Alstine, also a teacher of the school for the blind and as blind as Fanny herself. For the first year, Fanny thrived in the role of a housewife, before she felt the restlessness for God's work. She also battled depression with the death of her first and only child in its infancy. It was something Fanny would not talk much about in her life. Crosby and Alstine led a very saturated married life, even so much as having different addresses. And this suited them fine, freeing them to pursue their individual careers, up until Alexander's death in 1902. Married or not, Fanny's passion was in hymn-writing and she was soon writing three to six hymns a week for Sunday School publications of Biglow and Main publishers in New York City.

She wrote for those who didn't want to hear preaching from the pulpit, but also for the poor of the world. Fanny identified with the poor enough to move into the same run-down, crowded apartments of the city. Fanny's uncanny ability to set words to music and likewise to improvise music to words made her noticeable to many in the world of church music. One of them was William B. Bradbury, who hired Fanny as a regular writer for his publishing company. Fanny worked for Bradbury-composing several hymns a day until his death in 1868. There was Philipp Phillips, a singer, author, and seller of musical instruments out of Cincinnati, Ohio. Of the many big publishing names that Fanny wrote for, she also wrote under many pen names. Because she wrote so many, her publishers needed the public to think that it was more than one writer composing them! By the 1870s, her number of compositions exceeded six thousand! She had this way of attaching the message of Jesus into daily life, which gave worshippers something to relate to. Sylvester Main, another publisher and friend of Fanny's, died in 1873, but that paved the way for Fanny to write more hymns for Dwight L. Moody and his soloist, Ira Sankey, only three years later. By then, Fanny's title of 'The Blind Poetess' had surmounted to 'The Queen of Hymn Writers'. Fanny composed hymns and gave inspirational speeches to audiences across the United States until 1894. But writing wasn't her only occupancy for God. She contributed her ministry and preaching to several local missions. She saw both of these ways to offer hope and lead people to the decision to follow Christ. In fact, many of her hymns were inspired by her missions work in New York City. Blindness didn't stop Fanny from writing or helping in Christian rescue missions. From 1880 to 1915, Fanny moved about the slums of New York, living among the poor that she worked to improve the living conditions of. She worked at these missions and wrote until her death in 1915, at the age of ninety-four.

Posted by a contributor, to Inspirational Christians.

Tha'rt clearin' eawt, an' one thing's very sure,
'At when we hear th' church bells ring eawt at midneet,
Tha'll tak' thi hook, an' trouble me no moor.
Still, one thing rayther plagues me, neaw aw think on't;
Heaw wilta get fro' Blackpool, 'Eighty-Nine?
We've noa trains leov as late as twelve o'clock; but,
P'raps tha meons to walk, as th' neet's so fine.

At onyrate, sit deawn, an' warm thi shanks weel;
Tha's getten twenty minutes yet to stop.
Sarah, bring up another cob o' coal, lass,
An' bring this pilgrim here a sope o' pop.
Wheer are thi friends to-neet, those pets tha's favoured?
They're dinin' off a goose at th' Queen's Hotel.
There isn't *one* to shake thi hond at partin';
Aw've ole these kindly acts to do misel'.

Neaw, sup that pop, an' eat this bit o' parkin;
Tha's far to goa, an' noan mitch brass to spend.
Shove him a moufin in his pocket, Sarah;
He'll need it ere he gets to th' journey's end.
Aw'm noan a very *bad* sort, after ole, mon;
A chap may love his enemies, tha sees.
Aw think he'll find that moufin rayther dry, lass;
Tha'd better let him have a bit o' cheese.

Neaw wheer does t' find tha's met wi' th' nicest treatment?
At th' sea-side cot? Or 'mongst thi wealthy friends?
Well, never mind; but get thi cooat an' hat on;
Two minutes moor, an then eawr campin' ends!
Neaw what's to do? Come, come, tha'rt cryin', arto?
Aw've touched thi feelin's, have aw? Well, o reet!
Tha met ha feawnd thi *friend* eawt twelve months sooner:
But time's neaw up! Well, 2021, good-neet!

THE FIRST NATIVITY SCENE

We might imagine that bemoaning the commercialisation of Christmas, with its emphasis on materialism through lavish gifts and its loss of spiritual meaning, is a very contemporary state of affairs. But we would be wrong. Even in the thirteenth century, there was concern about the approach that some people took to Christmas.

The role of St Francis

In 1223, Francis of Assisi (he was made a saint after his death), who was a church deacon, wanted to bring the Christmas message alive. He was concerned that people didn't understand it or were lacking in wonder about what had happened on that night in Bethlehem,

and what it meant for mankind. That Christmas, he was visiting Greccio in Italy, and decided to recreate the Christmas story at that year's Midnight Mass, so everyone could experience it for themselves. Having received permission from the Pope, Honorius III, Francis created a living tableau of the Nativity in a cave near Greccio. He brought an ox and an ass, and filled a manger with hay.

The stories about this first Nativity scene differ, with some saying that Mary and Joseph were represented and others saying that the scene only contained animals. However, there was no baby lying in the manger. Yet it was said that while Francis preached to the congregation, his friend, John of Greccio, looked into the manger and saw a baby, which he believed to be a manifestation of the infant Jesus. A series of miracles that occurred afterwards, involving the hay that had been placed in the manger, were taken as confirmation that Christ had indeed materialised at that Mass. Women who were struggling with long labours were able to give birth easily when a few strands of hay were placed on top of them, and ailing local cattle were cured of long-standing illnesses when given the hay to eat.

The spot where this first Nativity scene was acted out is said to be marked by the Franciscan Sanctuary of Greccio.

The development of Nativity scenes

Word soon spread about this special Nativity tableau and it has been re-enacted in many Christian countries ever since.

By the end of the thirteenth century, static Nativity scenes were being crafted from a variety of materials, including wood, marble and pottery. And they continue to be popular today, frequently combining the Wise Men mentioned in St Matthew's Gospel with the shepherds and angels mentioned in St Luke's.

In many junior and primary schools, children celebrate the start of Christmas with nativity plays. Not only do these combine the characters from the two Gospels but they sometimes feature an entire menagerie of animals that receive no mention at all in the Bible. Would St Francis have approved? Let's hope so.

The Bag of Nails.

There once was a little boy who had a very bad temper. His father decided to hand him a bag of nails and said that every time the boy lost his temper, he had to hammer a nail into the fence.
On the first day, the boy hammered **37 nails** into that fence.
The boy gradually began to control his temper over the next few weeks, and the number of nails he was hammering into the fence slowly decreased.

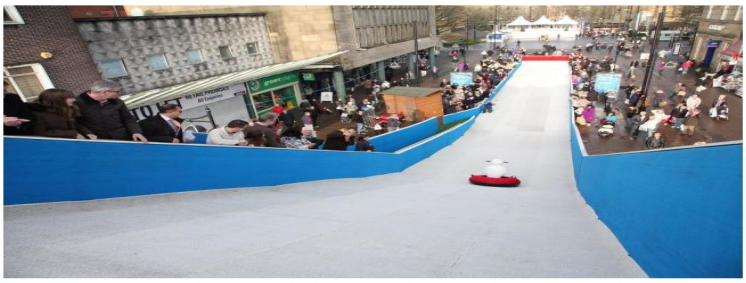
He discovered it was easier to control his temper than to hammer those nails into the fence. Finally, the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father the news and the father suggested that the boy should now pull out a nail every day he kept his temper under control.
The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence.
"you have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry,

Moral of the story:
Control your anger, and don't say things to people in the heat of the moment, that you may later regret. Some things in life, you are unable to take back.

Same moral; different perspective

Toothpaste

Amy Beth Gardner's daughter started middle school recently. She did all the usual back-to-school preparations, decorated her locker, bought new uniforms, even surprised her with a new backpack. Then, on the night before her daughter's first day of school, she took out a plate and a tube of toothpaste.
"I gave her a tube of toothpaste and asked her to squirt it out onto a plate. When she finished, I calmly asked her to put all the toothpaste back in the tube," Gardner explains. Of course, her daughter looked at her like it was an impossible task, because it is. Her daughter began to say things like *But I can't! It won't be like before!*
That's when mum dropped some serious knowledge, with some words her daughter will probably never forget:
Think before you speak. Use your words wisely. This is a lesson we can all use. It's a reminder we all need.
We can't just hope that our children are going to turn into fair, kind adults. We have to teach them just what that means. Especially today, in a world that sometimes feels like it's brimming with insults and aggression — it's so important to teach them and remind ourselves about the power of words.



Winter months may see the sun disappear and frost come out, but winter is made 10x more fun in Bolton!

Who ever said that the cold weather was bad?

Winter is going to be so much fun with lots of things to do for all the family!

Here's just five things that you can do in Bolton this winter:

1. **Slide down the super fun snow slide from December 10th**

That's right, the snow slide is back! The slide that reaches a height of 55 metres will return again onto Newport Street for the inner thrill seeker in everyone.

2. **Watch Bolton get lit up by Olympians Jason and Laura Kenny at the Bolton Christmas Lights Switch On – November 17th**

This is going to be a fantastic winter night filled with fireworks and snow men! Click here for more details.

3. **Find the perfect gift**

Bolton will be introducing late night shopping hours leading up to Christmas so you can find the perfect gift in adequate time – stress free!

4. **Have a taste of winter at your fingertips and visit Bolton's local restaurants for festive dining this season**

Join family and friends for a lovely warm meal or fresh desserts. A perfect addition to any cold winter day! Visit our food and drink page to see a list of all your local restaurants.

5. **Visit the one and only Father Christmas**

What would winter be without a trip to see Father Christmas himself? Be sure to visit him in his Bolton grotto, where he will be waiting with a gift for every boy and girl.

I hope that you have a fun filled winter this year, but remember, above are only five things out of a vast selection to do in winter. There's so much more!

Check out the Bolton Winter Festival site to see more on what to do this winter.

Or, visit our own website for upcoming details of events in Bolton!

Have fun, but remember to stay warm this winter!

From the Manchester Evening News

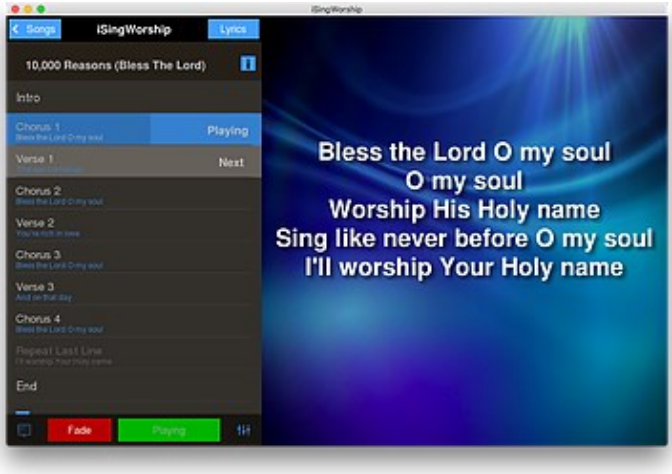
Churches in modern times embrace all forms of music to support and enhance the worship and uplift the congregation. However, not all churches have a bank of musicians on hand and churches with small congregations are challenged in this regard. In addition the Covd Pandemic meant other creative solutions had to be found in order to keep services fresh, appealing and meaningful to the heart of even the smallest gathering.
Many of you will have noticed the change the way service is presented at Egerton but not all of you will be aware of the reasons for the change or what is.

At the start of the recent pandemic the church was looking to avoid using hymn books etc with the risk of transmission so initially thoughts were to replace the aging hymnal which cannot display lyrics to an updated version which can at a cost of circa £2400 excluding the necessary software.

It was felt there must be a better solution so we spent some time looking at different options, what other churches used etc. The aim was for something simple to use that was cost effective. Eventually we stumbled on a programme called iSingWorship (isw) for short which can run on almost any device i.e. tablet, phone, laptop or pc consequently the church invested in a new laptop to replace the old one that was past its sell by date.

The software runs at a click, well a couple to be precise but plays the music displays lyrics on screen with backgrounds that can be changed to suit the season, Christmas, Easter etc for example & includes vocals which was very important when no one was able to sing!
We may well turn down/off the vocals after the first verse at church, this won't be a technical issue but to encourage you all to practise you vocals!

Furthermore the volume of vocals can be turned down or even off without affecting the rest of the hymns/music & is a welcome tool when a new song or hymn is introduced.



There is a large library that is currently expanding and includes traditional hymns, more modern hymns, organ (sound & lyrics only) Christmas songs & Carols & even kids worship - when we have any!
Currently we use a combination of Ruth on the organ when she is available, iSingWorship operated by Lindsey & YouTube for occasions when it is more appropriate.

Although the app is free the songs are not. those are bought– we thank the very kind people who have contributed to the buying of hymns. It means that we are building up quite a healthy selection!
When the Order of Service is known we prepare the service mid week partly in Microsoft PowerPoint (readings, prayers, YouTube etc) & usually switch to isw for the hymns.

The aging hymnal is now virtually redundant.
The rest as they say is history!

Egerton URC Website; Many of you will be aware the church web site has been up & running again for over 12 months. Stuart Bromley has worked on it to make it more accessible and engaging.
We have a Facebook section for those who prefer this platform, mainly at the younger end & the main section for those who don't use Facebook with a 'what's new' at the bottom & a blog for those that are interested.

Don't forget we need regular material, news etc to keep the site alive & fresh.

Basic Life Support and Defib Training

Making our community a safer place…. on Thursday 14th October 24 enthusiastic people came from as far as Sharples and Westhoughton to brush up on their Basic Life Support and Defibrillator Skills. Once again, the training was expertly delivered by Dave Cook from Bolton Mountain Rescue with opportunity for everyone to 'have a go' on the manikins.

Many thanks to everyone for their generous donations towards the work of Bolton Mountain Rescue raising over £145.00

Remember, training is obviously the best course but lack of training should not be a barrier to attempting basic life support.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT EGERTON URC

1ST Sunday in Advent 28th November led by Mr Graham Scott
2nd Sunday in Advent 5th December led by The Worship Team
3rd Sunday in Advent 12th December Christingle and Nativity
4th Sunday in Advent 19th December Carol Service
Christmas Day at Egerton URC 25th December led by -
Walmsley Unitarian Chapel
All services commence at 10am.

Fun activity;

Disappearing Snowmen

This game is somewhat similar to hangman, a basic spelling game that kids are probably familiar with. The idea is for a team to correctly answer more questions about winter words than another team. You may want to choose snow-related words due to the theme of this game.
Start out by drawing two identical snowmen on a whiteboard or chalkboard, each with 10 to 16 parts, like two or three circles for the body, arms, buttons, eyes, nose, mouth, and so on.
Divide the children into two teams.
Ask the first team a question about a winter word. You could give them a word and ask them to spell it, define it, read it, or answer a question about it.
Allow a set amount of time for the team to confer before they have to answer.
If the team answers the question correctly, they can erase one part of the other team's snowman.
Repeat with the second team.
Continue playing until one snowman has completely disappeared (or "melted").
The team with any of their snowman left on the board wins!
Hint: If you start erasing at the top and move down, it'll look more like the snowman is melting.

For the Knitters;

Christmas Bauble Pattern

Using double knitting wool and number 8 needles cast on 40 sts.

Knit 20 rows and gather stitches on the needle to make the top of the bauble. Gather the base of the bauble and stuff firmly to form a ball. Add a loop.

Can be worked in stocking stitch (knit a row pearl a row) as shown

JERUSALEM

And did those feet in younger days
Run up and down the stairs with ease
And when we went to church to pray
Could we still get down on our knees.

And could we scrub and clean all day
The weekly wash we would not shrik
And could we dance the night away
And still get up in time for work.

Bring me my embrocation rub
Bring me my glass of tonic wine
Bring me the Radox for my tub
Bring me my pills, I shall be fine

I will not yield to aches and pain
Nor shall I bow to housemaid's knee
Till I have got my zimmer frame
And Age UK set me free.

Not William Blake. (Unknown)

Winter Password Game

Winter password is a great word guessing game. You could also title it "Winter Clues" or "Name That Winter Word."

- **Pick two kids to stand in front of the room, facing the other players.**
- **Select a winter word and show it to the rest of the kids on a poster board.**
- **The other kids should come up with clues to help the players at the front try to guess the word. Instruct the kids to raise their hands when they have a good clue.**
- **The two players at the front of the room will take turns calling on kids who have their hands raised to hear their clues.**
- **The two players must attempt to guess the answer, continuing to alternate calling on participants for more clues until someone guesses correctly.**
- **The player who guesses the answer correctly remains at the front. The one who gave the winning clue takes the other player's spot.**
- **The game starts over with a new word, repeating through a set number of rounds or a set amount of time.**

The winner of the final round is the winner, and so should be recognized as the Winter Password champion!

12 Days of Christmas

The Secret Message Within Twelve Days of Christmas Song

12 Days of Christmas in short for The Twelve Days of Christmas is a very popular Christmas song although many consider it as a 'nonsense song' for children. But between 1558 and 1827 the words of this song were used as a memory aid for young children and to help them learn aspects of their faith.

What Each Symbol Means in 12 Day of Christmas

- My true love: God
- Me: Christian
- A partridge in a pear tree: Jesus Christ, God's Son (Luke 13:34)
- Two turtle doves: the old and new testaments
- Three french hens: Faith, Hope and Charity the three Theological Virtues (1 Corinthians 13:13)
- Four calling birds: the four gospels
- Five golden rings: the 1st five books of the old testament
- Six geese a-laying: the six days of creation
- Seven swans a-swimming: the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6-8)
- Eight maids a-milking: the eight beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)
- Nine ladies dancing: the nine fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)
- Ten lords a-leaping: the ten commandments (Exodus 20:1-17)
- Eleven pipers piping: the eleven apostles who remain faithful
- Twelve drummers drumming: the Apostle's Creed (12 points of doctrines)

9 New Year's Traditions from Cultures Around the World

Happy (almost!) New Year!

Around the world, cultures welcome the change of the calendar with unique New Year's traditions of their own. Here are some of our favorite New Year's traditions around the world (we're especially fans of Colombia's!).

In **Spain,** it is customary to eat 12 grapes – one at each stroke of the clock at midnight on New Year's Eve. Each grape represents good luck for one month of the coming year. In bigger cities like Madrid and Barcelona, people gather in main squares to eat their grapes together and pass around bottles of cava.

In hopes of a travel-filled new year, residents of **Colombia** carry empty suitcases around the block. That's one New Year's tradition we can get behind!

Residents of **Denmark** greet the New Year by throwing old plates and glasses against the doors of family and friends to banish bad spirits. They also stand on chairs and jump off of them together at midnight to "leap" into January in hopes of good luck.

In **Finland**, people predict the coming year by casting molten tin into a container of water, then interpreting the shape the metal takes after hardening. A heart or ring means a wedding, while a ship predicts travel and a pig

Panama

To drive off evil spirits for a fresh New Year's start, it is tradition to burn effigies (muñecos) of well-known people such as television characters and political figures in Panama. The effigies are meant to represent the old year.

You'll find round shapes all over the **Philippines** on New Year's Eve as representatives of coins to symbolize prosperity in the coming year. Many families display piles of fruit on their dining tables and some eat exactly 12 round fruits (grapes being the most common) at midnight. Many also wear polka dots for luck.

During **Scotland's** New Year's Eve celebration of Hogmanay, "first-footing" is practiced across the country. The first person who crosses a threshold of a home in the New Year should carry a gift for luck. Scots also hold bonfire ceremonies where people parade while

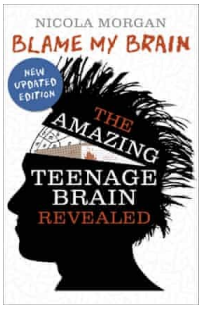
In **Brazil,** as well as other Central and South America countries like Ecuador, Bolivia, and Venezuela, it is thought to be lucky to wear special underwear on New Year's Eve. The most popular colors are red, thought to bring love in the New Year, and yellow, thought to bring money.

An onion is traditionally hung on the front door of homes on New Year's Even in **Greece** as a symbol of rebirth in the New Year. On New Year's Day, parents wake their children by tapping them on the head with the onion.

How will you ring in 2022?

Beating the January Blues – especially for teenagers

There are lots of good reasons why people often feel down in January, whether teenagers or adults. But teenagers have extra triggers, such as exams and specific teenage stresses and turmoil.
The Christmas period often produces a feeling of anti-climax – either you had a great time and now it's over or you didn't but it feels as though everyone else did. Whatever is dragging you down, simple strategies can help.



1. Understand that this is normal; There are biological reasons why many people feel low and lack energy during the dark months. Understanding that it's a natural response is helpful.

2. Get as much daylight as possible; Lack of daylight is partly why people suffer "winter blues". So, take every chance to be outside during the day.
3. Beware of New Year resolutions!; People tend to make resolutions now because of guilt, and that's not the best long term motivator. They tend to make difficult and vague resolutions, such as "save money", "be more organised" or "lose weight". Then they fail, and feel worse. If you're going to make a resolution, make sure it's one you can manage and measure, such as "On school evenings, do an hour of homework with my phone off, because I'll work better." Then do it and feel better! (Which will encourage you to do it again.
4. Exercise; One of the best ways to fight depression and improve wellbeing and mood. The good news (for me!) is that it doesn't have to mean getting hot and sweaty – a brisk walk is perfect (and gives you daylight, too.) You may not fancy exercise but you'll feel *much* better afterwards.
5. Identify your worries; If you have specific things that are making you feel anxious or sad, make a list and add possible solutions. If a solution is "ask someone for help", do it! Writing things down helps.
6. Do something new; Every year is different. How will you *make* this one different rather than waiting for it to happen to you? On your own or with a friend, throw ideas around till you find *one thing* you'd love to achieve, do or learn this year. Work out what steps you need to take. Make a plan and start the first step.
7. Read for pleasure; Winter reading: ah, the joy of reading a great book in the chill of January.

Burying yourself in a gripping book of your choice is a great way to take your mind off feeling low. Reading for pleasure has so many health benefits that I see it as a necessity, not a luxury!
8. Eat properly; When feeling down, we are often drawn to sugar and junk food and we eat too little or too much. You can improve how you feel by eating a good, varied diet with things like nuts, fruit and veg, dairy, fish, pulses and grains. Learn to cook! What we put in our bodies makes a difference.
9. See a doctor if necessary; If your low mood is severe and lasts more than a couple of weeks, see a GP, in case you need treatment. Although my other advice will help, it won't be enough if you have clinical depression.
10. You are not alone; Lots of your friends and peers will be going through the same or similar feelings, but you may not realise it. Find someone to talk to – a friend or a trusted adult. Or team up with a friend to support each other. If the first person you talk to doesn't understand, try someone else. We're all in this life together and there are people out there who want to help you.
Spring and lighter days are not far away! Until then, take care of yourself and let the people who love you help you.

Draw It: Winter Pictionary ;
This winter word game has an artistic twist. t's essentially a simplified DIY version of Pictionary. Children can play individually or they can be divided into teams.
1. Set up a whiteboard or flipchart at the front of the room.
2. Write some winter words on index cards or slips of paper and place them in a container.
3. Decide who will go first and have that child (or team) draw a word from the container.
4. One player (or team) goes to the board and starts drawing a picture that represents a winter word.
5. The child (or team) that guesses the word first gets a point.

The child (or team) that scores five points first is the lucky winner of a treat. Depending on the number of children or teams, you may want to opt for a higher or lower number of points

24th Annual Church Dinner

Thomas Egerton

Sunday 14 November

12.30 for 1.00pm

Please see Sue or Ian

Bromley Cross WI

Wreath Making

Thursday 25th November

11.30– 3pm ish

Everyone Welcome

Come and join us

Make a Christmas Wreath

Our next event

Christmas Brunch

Saturday

November 27th

12 -2pm

Christmas and Gift Stalls, Tombola and Raffle and maybe

No Coffee morning/ brunch in December

Monthly Brunch

Saturday 22nd

January

12-2.00pm

150th Anniversary (1873 - 2023)

Our Church has been in this building for 150 years in 2023.

Are we going to celebrate this milestone? Planning needs to start now.

Any ideas of how? Suggestions so far are – A service of thanksgiving, invite previous ministers, Flower Festival, display of Archives, Social evening .....

Will we still be here? It's up to all of us.

Numbers are falling – ill health, Covid and other reasons

Congregation getting older – age is just a number, not an obstacle

Few younger members joining. – help is needed to encourage younger people.

Talking to members and the community, they feel it would be a great loss if it were to be closed. Most think our community work is very important to our mission.

BUT who is helping to keep it going?

Preparing services, organising ministers, moving chairs, keeping the building in good repair, gardening, fundraising, baking, helping at events, and supporting events, etc.....

It seems to fall to a very few willing horses. They are getting disheartened by the lack of support, from others who are able.

Are you just a Sunday worshipper?

Do you still want a church?

Please ask yourselves how **you could** lighten the load for those few. Before it's too late.

Without more help/effort from more volunteers

The church will close sooner than later.

So it depends on your response now.

The United Reformed Church

We are still here after 50 years. What does that say to us? And what is God saying to us? What opportunities does it give us to reflect on our story, on who we are, on what we stand for, on who we follow - and to share that with others?
As local churches and as the URC, marking our 50th year can help us to plan for the future – not only to keep pursuing our ecumenical vision, but also to plan for how we will continue to be an active, engaged and faithful Christian presence in our communities and in new ones. Not least, marking our Jubilee will be an opportunity to give thanks

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Christmas Gift Suggestions
By Oren Arnold

Christmas gift suggestions;
To your enemy, forgiveness.
To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart.
To a customer, service.
To all, charity.
To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect.

Preachers and Readings

November

7th	14th	21st	28th	
Mrs Susan Holme	Alan Nuttall	DoreenGoodship	Rachel Cronshaw	
Mark 12: 38-44	Mark 13: 1-8	John 18: 33-37	Luke 21: 25-36	
	Remembrance		1st Advent	

December

5th C	12th	19th	25th	26th
Worship Team	Christingle/ Nativ-ity	Carol Service	Christmas Day	No service
Luke 3: 1-6	Luke 3: 7-18	Luke1:39-45 (46-55)	Rev. Tony Mcneile	
			Egerton URC	

January

2nd C	9th	16th	23rd	30th
tba	Neil Carter	tba.	tba	tba
Matthew 2: 1-12	Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22	John 2:1-11	Luke 4: 14-21	Luke 4:21-30

November		December		January	
4th	Diwali	10th	Christmas Jumper Day	17th	Martin Luther King Day
5th	Guy Fawkes Night	21st	Winter begins	25th	Burns Night
11th	Remembrance Day			27th	Holocaust Remembrance Day
28th Nov – 6th Dec	Hanukkah			28th	International Lego Day

Do you have a good news story? (for the next edition)

Share your thoughts and prayers through our newsletter. Email **Sue** for details; suetoppinguk@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday Worship and Sunday School

10am with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month
(Still socially distanced at the moment)

Minister: Rev Jacky Embry

Church Secretary: Mrs Roma Hooper romafay@talktalk.net

Church Treasurer: Mr Nigel Anderson