

EGERTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

November, December 2023 January 2024

However Cold the Winter



However cold the Winter,
I find the golden sun.
However dark the night hours,
The dawn is sure to come.
Though storm clouds often gather,
There still is peace to lend,
And when the storm is over,
A rainbow 'round the bend.
However cold the Winter,
The Spring will melt the snow,
And then the Maytime flowers
Will set the world aglow.
The ever-changing seasons
Have so much to impart,
And somehow each in turn it seems
Lends laughter to my heart.
The beauty of the Autumn,
The Summer's magic bliss,
And each December snowflake
Is like an angel's kiss.
Each sunrise - every sunset
Has so much warmth to bring.
However cold the Winter,
It always ends in Spring.

- Garnett Ann Schultz



Dear Friends,

It's with mixed feelings that I write what will be my last regular letter to you all, as I am soon to retire. My last working day will be 10 November.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with you. I'd like to thank you all for welcoming me into your churches and your lives – especially as I arrived in the middle of the pandemic, when you all had more than enough on your hands already. With that to contend with and the 'new animal' known as a Missional Partnership to get used to our relatively short time together has not been run of the mill.

When I arrived there were 16 churches, although one, Patricroft, was already moving towards closure. Since then one other church, Chapel St. and Hope, has closed and one, Oasis, has moved partnerships, to join the other inner city churches in the South Area. There are now 13 churches in our partnership and that does not at all feel like an 'unlucky' number because all the churches are filled with faith and love and potential.

We do not know what will happen as we journey on, which is probably just as well, but God does and we can be content that the future is in God's hands. Where God is concerned surprise is often on the horizon. New links and possibilities arise all the time and with God's guidance each of you will find the path to tread.

I am well aware that it can feel as though a number of the churches are more frail now than before the pandemic. In many ways that is true. However, we have also journeyed through a difficult time together and that has also grown the bonds that already existed and offers new possibilities. Our God is the God of the weak – the ones Jesus called the 'little ones'. (Matthew 18)

You are all well used now to having less ordained ministry than you have had at times in the past. Despite this you have not simply survived but pulled together and in many cases grown in yourselves, even though it may not always feel like that. A number of the churches are also growing in numbers.

I pray that it will not be long before you not only have a new minister to replace me but also another member of the team, so that going forward you will have three ministers. I say that not because you cannot cope without, but because you deserve the icing on the cake.

One of the reasons that I felt called to Bolton and Salford is that I thrive on variety and I could see potential in all the churches from your profile. However, the main reason that I have found ministry here a very positive experience is because you have all been gracious enough to understand that I could not do everything that your previous ministers could do. As a result and because even I could see that I could not do everything that I would like to, I have found the role of partnership minister less stressful than some of my past ministries, even if that might seem counterintuitive.

I pray that you will carry on in the same vein, so that your future ordained ministry **can** be the icing on the cake and help you to thrive and to live life in all its fullness together.

Thanks be to God for all of you,

Jacky





Egerton URC is very pleased to be involved in the farewell to Rev Jackie Embrey as she starts on her new journey into retirement.

This took place on Sunday 5th November 2023 at St Andrew's and St George URC Church.

Some people from our church watched online and some went to the church. It is a very beautiful church and everybody was made very welcome.



Insight from Carol

Hi there, can you believe we are nearly at the end of yet another year? As a Fellowship our numbers are dwindling a little, we sadly don't attract many new members, but we are very happy to welcome the ones who have joined us (you know who you are!) and we remain as enthusiastic and keen as ever, well most of the time. We all have our little niggles and moans but overall I for one, am trying to remain upbeat and positive. Life is too short not to.

Around 2018 I learned I had Pulmonary Fibrosis. Not that rare, it's estimated that over 200,000 people live with it in the UK, but little understood. When I got over my initial disbelief at my diagnosis and prognosis of 3 to 5 years life expectancy, I thought, okay, so what next? But the reality was, nothing. It's progressive, there's no cure, and the only treatment there is was severely restricted and I didn't meet the criteria. Hmmm, I thought. I'll go home and stick to short stories. If you believe that you don't know me. I decided I wasn't going to take this lying down! This was so wrong, not just for me, but for all the lovely people I had met who had just been put on the scrap heap. My disbelief turned to anger. I was so furious I contacted my MP, Mark Logan, who really couldn't believe what he was hearing and together with the Chair of the Bolton Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group, Stephen Milward, and the charity Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis (APF) we have been campaigning to raise awareness, to reach people living with Pulmonary Fibrosis and drive research.

In 2021, a medicine (Nintedanib) which slows down the progression of the disease was approved for almost all Pulmonary Fibrosis patients in the UK. It took over a year for me to have it prescribed (some are still waiting) and I resorted to buying it privately from India during that time. Many people don't have that luxury.

We have had celebrity support [from Julie Hesmondhalgh](#) as the face of the campaign and you may have seen weather presenter and meteorologist Sarah Keith Lucas, who has a personal connection to the disease, present the BBC Lifeline Appeal on behalf of APF.

Funding in the first year of the charity exceeded £50k in 2013. Ten years later, in 2023 APF is on track to raise over £1m to help reach more people than ever and fund vital new research. Impressive? I'll let you decide.

More recently Mark (Logan) set up an All Party Political Group (APPG) which is an effective way of bringing parliamentarians and interested stakeholders together to discuss Pulmonary Fibrosis and examine issues of policy, new developments and inviting stakeholders and government ministers to speak at their meetings and hold inquiries with relevant people to discuss the way forward. Stephen, my sister, Marie and I attended one such meeting.

In addition, APF with Mark [and Mohammed Yasin MP](#), also arranged a 'Drop-in' event at Portcullis House, Westminster. So, on Wednesday 25th October, straight after Prime Ministers Questions, I arrived in the sunshine, with my sister Marie (she has been fantastic) at Portcullis House and met with Bradley and Stef from APF. After passing through airport type security we entered into a huge atrium with a glass ceiling. I understand trees were planted in its early days but sadly didn't survive and were removed. How I would love to have sat and just watched who came and went but, duty called and we made our way upstairs to room 8 and waited patiently. Slowly but surely, they started to arrive. It was informal and we started by asking them what they knew about Pulmonary Fibrosis.



Portcullis House

The charity had invited the MPs and had provided them with an email briefing and many had been encouraged to attend by their own constituents, many of whom were living or had been affected by Pulmonary Fibrosis. It was encouraging how warm and receptive they were. There were lots of pertinent questions and wanting to know how they could help and what did we want them to do. We had members from the three main parties, SNP and Welsh Party. We even had Lords and Dames. There were ample photo opportunities for the MPs to make use of. Mark came as did his secretary Maya Roberts who offered a tour around the Houses of Parliament. Well, it would have been rude not to! We went onto the Terrace overlooking The Thames, through the “Lobby” (the bit you see in the news) and out through Westminster Hall (the only bit of the first building not destroyed by fire in the 19th century).

We finally left about 5pm. I was exhausted but absolutely exhilarated. Well and truly buzzing!

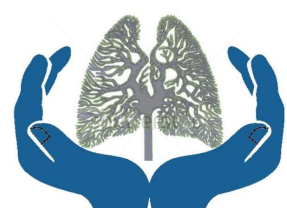
The important thing really is what have we achieved? We asked the MPs specifically to

- Post about today’s drop-in on social media and share a press release about our meeting with their local paper
- To write to their local commissioning group.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (or their devolved equivalent) to ask what action is being taken to improve care for PF patients.
- Ask a Parliamentary Question.
- Meet with their local PF Support Groups

Finally, I first developed symptoms in 2018. I was first diagnosed around 2019. That’s 5 years but I’ve no plans to go anywhere yet. There’s far too much to do

Watch this space!

Carol Fielding November 2023



CHRISTMAS 1970

**A little girl called Sile Javotte
Said 'Look at the lovely presents I've got'
While a little girl in Biafra said
'Oh what a lovely slice of bread'.**

BY SPIKE MILLIGAN

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The True Meaning Of Christmas

In todays' day and time,
it's easy to lose sight,
of the true meaning of Christmas
and one special night.

The children look for Santa
In his big, red sleigh
Never thinking of the child
Whose bed was made of hay.

When we go shopping,
We say "How much will it cost?"
Then the true meaning of Christmas,
Somehow becomes lost.

In reality,
When we look into the night sky,
We don't see a sleigh
But a star, burning bright and high.

Amidst the tinsel, glitter
And ribbons of gold,
We forget about the child,
born on a night so cold.

A faithful reminder,
Of that night so long ago,
And of the child we call Jesus,
Whose love, the world would know.

~ Written by Brian K. Walters

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Nubia_group/

Christmas Wishes

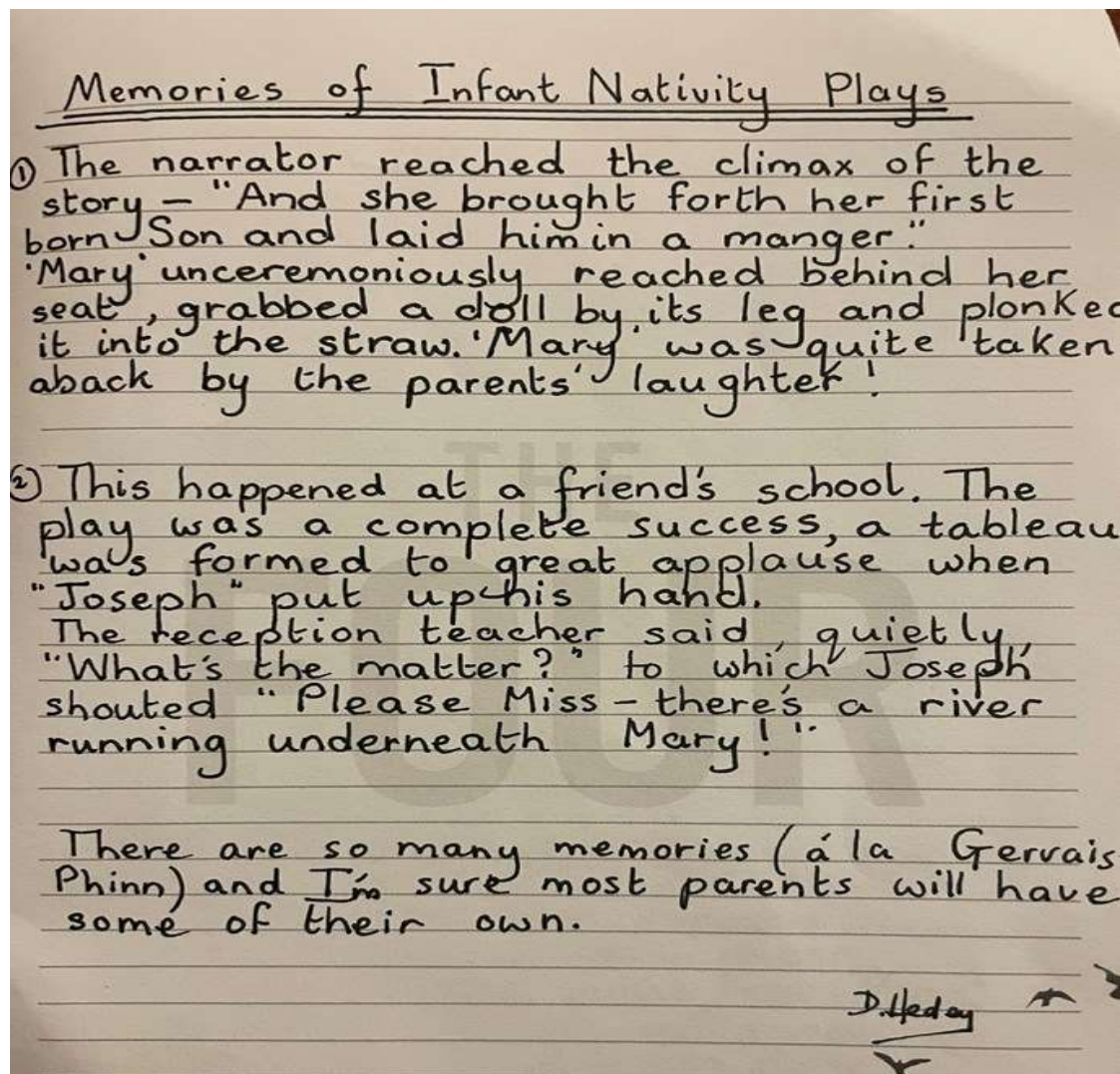
Christmas wishes tried and true
I', sending now, just for you...
A little love, a little cheer,
And wishes for a great new Year!
Hope Santa brings you gifts galore
With more surprises still in store,
May all you Christmas dreams come true
And may GOD'S BLESSINGS BE YOURS TOO!



"The Door of This House" by Bishop Thomas Ken #3022

O God,
make the door of this house wide enough
to receive all who need human love and
fellowship, and a heavenly father's care;
and narrow enough to shut out
all envy, pride and hate.

Make its threshold smooth enough
to be no stumbling block to children,
nor to straying feet,
but rugged enough to turn back
the temptor's power:
make it a gateway
to thine eternal kingdom.



Christmas

**The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.**

**The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
"The church looks nice" on Christmas Day.**

**Provincial Public Houses blaze
And Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says "Merry Christmas to you all."**

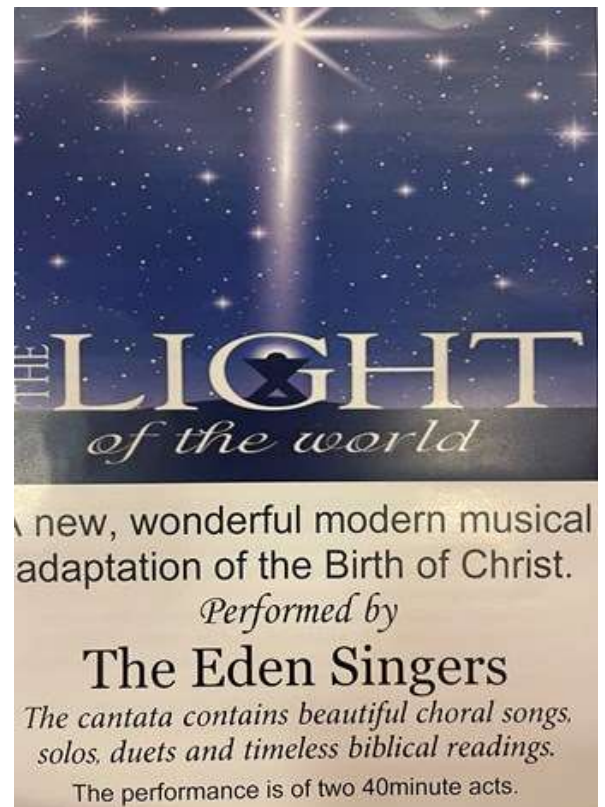
**And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.**

**And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say "Come!"
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.**

**And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?**

**And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,**

**No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare –
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine
John Betjeman**



What's on at Church

Monday Club ;2.00pm ; This is a Friendship Group— everyone is welcome. There is good chat, games, crafts , biscuits and occasionally cake!

Monday Yoga with Mike Doyle; 7-8pm

Slimming World ; Tuesdays am,5pm & 7pm Led by Ian Bunney Tel. 07743 499292

Parents and Toddlers group ;Wednesdays (Term time only)9.30– 11am
Led by Lyn 07986 244222 Great fun for the children

The Cardiac group. 7.30pm Cardiac Support Group (3rd Wed of the month)

Speakers and refreshments. Anyone with a heart related problem will be warmly welcomed. David (Chair) Tel. 07941 608604

Thursday Club This is a Coffee Morning. 10-11am Chat and friendship. Come and join us.

Thursday Sound Bath; alternate Thursday evenings

FILM CLUB; The second & fourth Wednesday of each Month at 6.30pm with refreshments during the intermission. We are grateful to all the films that have been donated so far almost 200!

See Lindsey Torrance, Nigel Anderson or Stuart Bromley for more information

Friday Fitness and Age UK;

Saturday Brunch (4th Sat of the month)11..30– 1pm Enjoy a delicious lunch, raffle, tombola, cake stall

Sunday Worship 10am Followed by tea, coffee & chat.

Communion— 1st Sunday of the month

There is a calendar on the church website, for your reference.



Dates for your diary.

November 12th Remembrance service led by Reverend Walt Johnson will **start at 10.30am.**

Saturday November 25th Christmas Saturday coffee morning and Brunch. 11.30-1pm.

Thursday November 30th. WI Wreath making session from 11.30. Cost £10 including lunch.

Friday December 1st Opera for the people' with Nicola Mill at 7.30 Tickets £15 with supper included. A great evening! Not serious at all. Tickets from Carol.

Sunday December 3rd at 3pm 'A Christmas Cantata.' with the Eden Singers entitled 'Light of the World' Tickets cost £7 for their chosen charity, with refreshments included.

Christmas Day Service at Egerton URC joint service with Walmsley Unitarian Chapel.

December 1st!





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!).

Spain

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.

Colombia

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!

Denmark

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.

Finland

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 declares there will be plenty of food.

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.

Scotland

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 swinging giant fireballs on poles, supposedly symbols of the sun, to purify the coming year.

Tea Rota 5th November -7th January 2024

| | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|
| November | 5 th | Trish Holden |
| | 12 th | Rita Dunn |
| | 19 th | Carol Fielding |
| | 26 th | Lindzi Torrance |
| December | 3 rd | Mary Bromley |
| | 10 th | Sue Swannell |
| | 17 th | Rachel Cronshaw |
| | 24 th | Cheryl Johnston |
| | 31 st | Joan Hall |
| January | 7 th | Sue Topping |



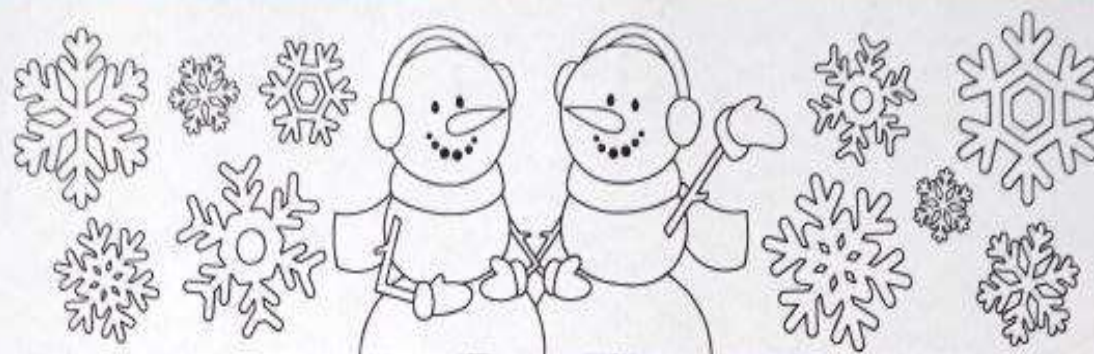
Sunday Flowers Rota

Thank you to Karen Anderson for taking over the flower rota. Please feel free to add your name to the rota or donate flowers in the memory of a loved one.



Please pray for those unable to attend church for whatever reason;

**Jean Harfield and family
John & Pat Rea
Barbara & Paul Adam
Lynne Ashton
Barbara Good**



WINTER

WORD SEARCH

M I X P B E D Z Q T D D W M R Z R L T F
 S N V O L U X K N E V N E Q T N S P E N
 N K O C M E L T K Z B O N C F Y Q B K S
 P T I J V L G A U P M K U N E C V G N W
 S C D I N B L I Z Z A R D E B M P H A I
 I X Q P N F P G U S Q A Q A R B B O L N
 T U V L W G L R I J L M X U U S O E B T
 E Q F O L Z L E D W A E V F A S M W R E
 G C N M X A U H F D U F D T R X R I S R
 M S A A S H B O B Z M H F H Y W H T E S
 F U X L S N O W I N G T O V C J G W T W
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 R N W E V E Y R L N C L I I Z P X V K A
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 T C U W A O C I C C L P G Q A Z A P E E
 A E O U M O L O F Y S T X I D N G U C R
 E T N C N A A G G A V A F Z N D W E I P
 H A L O P F N C F E W O O J W N J A G U
 J L E P M O Q G V Z F C E E T S S X X S
 Y R E P P I L S T S O R F M K C B P S M

BLANKET
 BLIZZARD
 BOOTS
 CHILLY
 COAT
 COLD
 DECEMBER
 FEBRUARY
 FIREPLACE
 FROST
 FROZEN
 GLOVES
 HEATER
 HOT COCOA
 ICE
 ICE SKATES
 ICICLE
 JANUARY
 MELT
 SCARF
 SHOVEL
 SKIING
 SLED
 SLIPPERY
 SNOWING
 SNOW BALL
 SNOWFLAKE
 SNOWMAN
 SWEATER
 WINTER

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Duties – November 2023 to January 2024

| Date * | Elder | Reading * | Reader | Preacher * |
|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| NOV 5th | Steve Swannell | Matthew 23:1-12 | Stuart Bromley | John East |
| 12 10.30am | Nigel Anderson Remembrance | Matthew 25:1-13 Sunday | Karen Anderson | Walt Johnson |
| 19 | Rachel Cronshaw | Matthew 25:14-30 | Jane Austin | Mark Bates |
| 26 | Peter Crook | Matthew 25:31-46 | Peter Crook | Father Bill |
| DEC 3rd | Steve Swannell | Mark 13:24-37 | Gary Knox | Doreen Goodship |
| 10 | Ian Topping Nativity/Christingle | Mark 1:1-8 | Rachel Cronshaw | Walt Johnson |
| 17 | Nigel Anderson Carol Service | John 1:6-8,19-28 | Nigel Anderson | Susan Holmes |
| 24 | CHRISTMAS | EVE | NO SERVICE | |
| 25 | CHRISTMAS | DAY | EGERTON URC | 10AM |
| 31 | Rachel Cronshaw | Luke 2:22-40 | Rita Dunn | Worship Team |
| JAN 7th | Steve Swannell | Mark 1:4-11 | Joan Hall | Walt Johnson |
| 14 | Ian Topping | John 1:43-51 | Doreen Healey | Father Bill |
| 21 | Peter Crook | Mark 1:14-20 | Stuart Bromley | Rachel Cronshaw |
| 28 | Sue Topping | Mark 1:21-28 | Karen Anderson | Adrian Yapp |

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

Share your thoughts and prayers through our newsletter.

Sunday Worship and Sunday School

10am with Holy Communion
month

Minister: Rev Jacky Em-
Church Secretary:
Church Treasurer:



on the first Sunday of every

bry
Mrs Roma Hooper
Mr Nigel Anderson