

# EGERTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

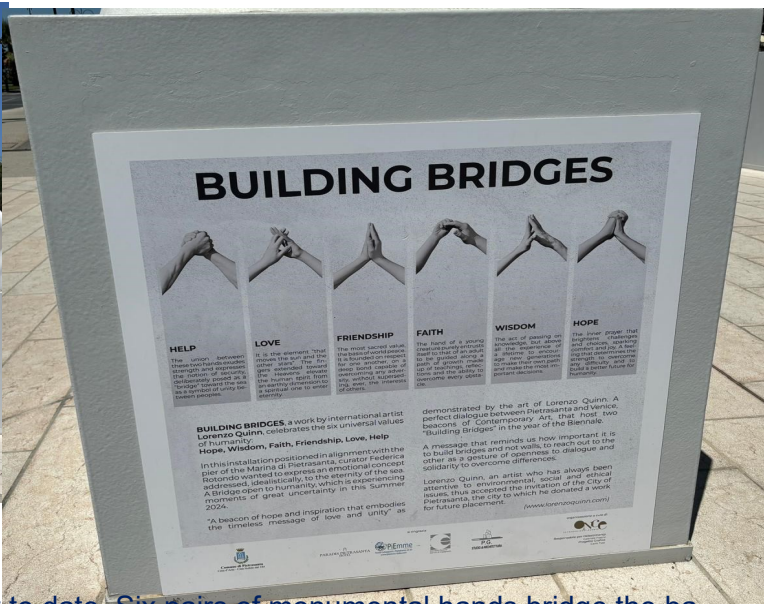
**November December January 2024**



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## Building Bridges– Venice

*Bridges* is Lorenzo Quinn's most ambitious project to date. Six pairs of monumental hands bridge the basin of the Arsenale in Venice as both a symbol of our commonality and an expression of human aspiration. The project depicts six of humanity's universal values - 'Friendship', 'Faith', 'Help', 'Love', 'Hope' and 'Wisdom' - each symbolised by human hands coming together to overcome differences and build a better world.

Famous as a city of connections through its canals and crossings, as an historic base of international trade, and as an ongoing hub of artistic exchange - Venice, a World Heritage Site with visitors from all over the globe, is an ideal place to spread a message of unity connecting societies, nations, communities and individuals through building bridges, not walls.



## Golden Bridge– Vietnam

In a passage from J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Fellowship of the Ring," Frodo describes the Pillars of the Kings as great structures that rose like towers. "Giants they seemed, vast grey figures silent but threatening. They were indeed shaped and fashioned: the craft and power of old had wrought upon them..."

In Tolkien-like fashion, the Cau Vang or "gold bridge," appears to be suspended at 4,600 ft. above sea level held up by nothing more than two giant hands that might have been chiseled from stone centuries ago.

Ho Chi Minh City TA Landscape Architecture designed the bridge which opened in June. Cau Vang is part of a \$2 billion investment that includes a themed French village, cable car and waxwork museum. Principle designer Vu Viet Anh said he "aimed to invoke the sensation of walking along a thread stretching through the hands of God." Located outside Da Nang Vietnam, the bridge gives pedestrians dizzying views of the Ba Na Hills and surrounding countryside.

# Egerton Community Primary School—Harvest Assembly

On Friday 18th October Rev Barnabas and I were invited to school's Harvest festival in Church.

By 9.15 all the seats (100) were taken and the kitchen was filling up with standing room only. That was before the stragglers arrived and the whole school (220). We all just about managed to squeeze in. But boy was it warm! The children delighted all those who attended with music, songs with actions and readings about Autumn and Harvest. And all the reception class managed to keep their veggie hats on for their song and most of the service.

After the service Rev. Barnabas thanked the children, teachers and staff for all their hard work preparing the service, then said the closing prayer.

Just as we thought it was all over, Ms Mitchell announced that they were going to have the award assembly. There were numerous children awarded for their work during the week and special awards for those who had achieved their Bronze Awards. (not quite sure what they were for but the children had obviously been working hard to achieve them since the start of term.

Rev Barnabas must have been a hit because he was given many "High 5's" as the children left to

Sebastian Grundy from Year 4 has also written a description of autumn that he will share with you now.

The bright setting sun stretched out behind the autumn trees and filled the sky with sunset colours of cherry-pink and vibrant orange. Its light rays powerfully illuminated the candy floss clouds that gently floated in the evening sky. Sunbeams with tints of medallion yellow cascaded down onto the fire-hot red leaves of the maple trees that surrounded the vast fields. Soft evening breezes rippled the luscious green grass and the smell of the earthy autumn leaves sweetly filled the air of the countryside.

The lemon-yellow sun began to slowly fade behind the rolling green and golden hills. Night-time was slowly edging ever closer.



One more for you today...Nina Topping from Year5 is going to read part of her description of a temperate forest.

Whilst the marigold sun was beaming down on the flourishing forest, the sky cloaked the earth like a cerulean, sapphire blue blanket. Silvery wisps of clouds gently drifted through the sky like tiny fish in a vast, admiral blue ocean. Birds tweeted and chirped as they soared through the sky as fast as jet planes. Rays of ginger, butterscotch and canary yellow dappled the dense canopy of fire red and honey yellow leaves.

# Prayer Page



**Lord: In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can pierce remind us of the warmth of your love. In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early remind us that in the darkness your light still shines.**

## Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.

—*St. Francis of Assisi*

## A Prayer for the New Year

Light within all light  
Soul behind all souls  
at the breaking of dawn  
at the coming of day  
we wait and watch.  
Your Light within the morning light  
Your Soul within the human soul  
Your Presence beckoning to us from the heart of life.  
In the dawning of this day  
let us know fresh shinings in our soul.  
In the growing colours of new beginning all around us  
let us know the first lights of our heart.  
Great Star of the morning  
Inner flame of the universe  
let us be a colour in this new dawning.

**May the Lord make my New Year a happy one...**

**Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes.**

**Not by making my path easy, but by making me sturdy enough to tread any path.**

**Not by taking hardship from me, but by taking all cowardice and fear from my heart as I meet hardships.**

**Not by granting me unbroken sunshine, but by keeping my face bright even in the shadows.**

**Not by making my life always pleasant, but by showing me where men and His cause need me most and by making me zealous to be there and to help ...  
God, make my year a happy one.**

## Safeguarding Sunday

This year Safeguarding Sunday is on 17 November and Thirtyone:eight, the UK's largest Christian safeguarding charity, has chosen as its theme 'Let's Talk About It' - we are encouraged to be open about safeguarding in our churches both in terms of the things we do well and the things that have gone wrong.

Thirtyone:eight has provided some excellent resources and guidance for churches.

You can register to receive further information and downloads on their dedicated Safeguarding Sunday website.

Following positive feedback from the annual safeguarding returns about the URC's resources for Safeguarding Sunday last year, Andy Braunston, Minister for Digital Worship has created resources for this year's Safeguarding Sunday and a Daily Devotions series in the week leading up to the 17 November with a safeguarding theme. These resources can be accessed on the URC safeguarding website



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | R | E | H | P | E | H | S |
| W | A | N | I | M | A | L | S |
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| M | I | G | A | R | Y | L | Y |
| E | S | N | H | E | V | O | L |
| N | T | A | R | D | O | G | J |

## Christmas Word Search

Find these words;

**Angels,**  
**Animals,**  
**Baby,**  
**Christ,**  
**God, Gold,**  
**Jesus, Joy,**  
**Love, Mary,**  
**Myrrh,**  
**Shepherd,**  
**Wise men**



**Financial Report October 2024 ---- from the Treasurer.**

An up to date report was given at the last Elders Meeting, as we are now up to date with the expenses and income for this year to the end of September.

The electricity and gas accounts are now up to date and the roof repairs have been finalised and paid for.

I have prepared a forecast for the year and also a projected forecast for next year 2025.

We have had a deficit in our annual accounts for the past 2 years and again in our forecast is for another this year of approx £4000.

In addition we are looking at an estimate of £10,000 for urgent work on the trees in accordance with a report from Bolton Council regarding Ash Die Back and other work necessary on 12 trees for the next year.

The Brunches this year will amount to £5000 approx and if we continue with the regular income from collection, hire of hall, donations including a substantial income from "gift aid", the forecast for next year including the trees will be a deficit of £14,000.

At present we have just over £30,000 in our investment account, but we cannot keep going relying on our investment account to make up the deficit.

This is a matter that we all, Elders, Members and congregation have to keep in mind and hopefully with careful prayer and consideration. I trust we can maintain our position in helping our community in Egerton.

Ian Topping

Treasurer

**Bromley Cross Women's Institute**

**Christmas Wreath Making  
with Lunch**

**Thursday 28th November 2024**

Greenery and baubles provided  
**BUT bring a Medium sized potato and a Christmas  
Pick or Silk, Plastic, Christmas Flower(s)**  
If you have them secateurs, gloves maybe handy and  
a piece of foil  
**Cost £ 15**

**Event will take place at**

**Egerton United Reformed Church,  
Blackburn Road, Egerton BL7 9TB  
(at the Speed Camera)**

**Time— 11.30am—3.30pm (ish)**

**For details contact**

**suetoppinguk@yahoo.co.uk**

**01204 308496 075350522964**

**Or kennedymarj@yahoo.co.uk**

**07896 904987**

**by Monday 25th November**

## **Daily Readings**

While looking for something entirely different I found these pieces in one of many little books I have filled with messages from my daily readings. I felt I wanted to share them with you. These were from UCB's 'Word for Today' in May 2023 & they spoke to me when I wrote them down. The first one quotes a piece by an anonymous writer.

*2/5/23 'If I had my life to live over I would take more chances (and) more trips. I would climb more mountains, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets. I would eat more ice cream & less beans. I would have more actual troubles & less imaginary ones...I have been one of those people who never goes anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, a gargle, a raincoat & a parachute. If I had it to do over again, I would go places & travel lighter than I have.'*

*Don't wait enjoy your life now. Ecclesiastes 3:22.....*

It is surprising how often the words of something I read speak to me. Just after that the writer in 'Word for today' 6/5/23 wrote 'God sends an angel when you are grieving the death of someone you love & fearing the future'.

John & I had always shared walking our dog Benji & I was struggling with daily walking & about that time my knee started to play up. Not long afterwards I went on a website & found a dog walker who has felt like an angel sent to me.

'Word for today' 6/5/23 continues 'God sent an angel to Elijah when he lay down under a bush wanting to die as Jezebel was trying to kill him (1 Kings 19:4-5) & today God still sends angels in disguise to help us.....

*'When the load you have been called to carry feels too heavy (Luke 22: 42 – 43) God will strengthen you through his Word & prayer. Sometimes He will send people you know to help you do it' (2 Corinthians 7: 5-6).*

Also in May 2023 based on Psalm 23:3 we are reminded to 'Practise Soul Care'.

*'When God "Makes you lie down in green pastures" enjoy them. When he "leads you beside still waters" it's to refresh & restore you. So practise soul care. Don't wait until you have a spiritual, moral, emotional breakdown before you stop & pay attention. When your souls thirst is not quenched & it's needs are not met, it will seek relief some other way, often a way that will hurt you. You must know when to say 'when'. Most of us don't take breaks that enable us to "restore our souls". We're ensnared by guilt, as if stopping would somehow be irresponsible'.*

'Word for Today' also reminded us to 'Depend more on God' & gave the secret of being able to do what we need to do.

"My Grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness" 2 Corinthians 12:9'. .....Rachel

# New Ways November 2024



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community



5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel



6 Try out a new way of being physically active



7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire



1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month

2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way



3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you



8 Plan a new activity or idea you want to try out this week

9 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"

10 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea

11 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way

12 Find out something new about someone you care about

13 Do something playful outdoors - walk, run, explore, relax

14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about

15 Build on new ideas by thinking "Yes, and what if..."

16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective

17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself

18 Connect with someone from a different generation

19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site

20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before

21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them

22 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them

23 Set aside a regular time to pursue an activity you love

24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently

25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way

26 Try out a different radio station or new TV show

27 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it

28 Discover your artistic side. Design a friendly greeting card

29 Enjoy new music today. Play, sing, dance or listen

30 Look for new reasons to be hopeful, even in tough times



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together





# Sunday Tea Rota

6<sup>th</sup> October to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025

|          |                  |                  |
|----------|------------------|------------------|
| October  | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Trish Holden     |
|          | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Rita Dunn        |
|          | 20 <sup>th</sup> | Lindsay Torrance |
|          | 27 <sup>th</sup> | Mary Bromley     |
| November | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Sue Swannell     |
|          | 10 <sup>th</sup> | Rachel Cronshaw  |
|          | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Cheryl Johnston  |
|          | 24 <sup>th</sup> | Joan Hall        |
| December | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Trish Holden     |
|          | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Rita Dunn        |
|          | 15 <sup>th</sup> | Lindsay Torrance |
|          | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Mary Bromley     |
|          | 29 <sup>th</sup> | Sue Swannell     |
| January  | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Rachel Cronshaw  |
|          | 12 <sup>th</sup> | Cheryl Johnston  |
|          | 19 <sup>th</sup> | Joan Hall        |
|          | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Trish Holden     |



## 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.

**From Egerton with love;**

To those who are unable to attend Church this Christmas,

Lynn Callen and Family  
Barbara Good and Family  
Jean Harfield's Family  
Paul and Barbara Adam  
Pat Rea and Family  
Pat Morrison and Family

## DUTIES – November 2024 to January 2025

| Date *                      | Elder                                       | Reading *                      | Reader          | Preacher *         |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Nov 3rd</b>              | Steve Swannell                              | Mark 12: 28-34                 | Doreen Healey   | <b>Mark Bates</b>  |
| <b>10</b><br><b>10.30am</b> | Ian Topping<br><i>Remembrance</i>           | Mark 12:38-44<br><i>Sunday</i> | Stuart Bromley  | Adrian Yapp        |
| <b>17</b>                   | Rita Dunn                                   | Mark 13:1-8                    | Karen Anderson  | Rev Walt Johnson   |
| <b>24</b>                   | Sue Swannell                                | John 18:33-37                  | Peter Crook     | Kath Knowles       |
| <b>Dec 1st</b>              | Steve Swannell                              | Luke 21: 25-36                 | Jane Austin     | <b>Adrian Yapp</b> |
| <b>8</b>                    | Rachel Cronshaw                             | Luke 3: 1-6                    | Rachel Cronshaw | Rev Mark Cowling   |
| <b>15</b>                   | Peter Crook<br><i>Nativity/Christingle?</i> | Luke 3:7-18                    | Rita Dunn       | Rev Walt Johnson   |
| <b>22</b>                   | Ian Topping<br><i>Carol Service</i>         | Luke 1:39-45<br>(46-55)        | Joan Hall       | Rev Maria Lee      |
| <b>25</b>                   | <b>Christmas Day</b>                        | <b>The Unitarians</b>          | <b>10am</b>     | Rev Barnabas Shin  |
| <b>29</b>                   | Rita Dunn                                   | Luke 2:41-52                   | Doreen Healey   | TBA                |
| <b>Jan 5th</b>              | Sue Swannell                                | John 1:(1-9),<br>10-18         | Stuart Bromley  | <b>TBA</b>         |
| <b>12</b>                   | Rachel Cronshaw                             | Luke 3:15-<br>17,21-22         | Karen Anderson  | Rev Mark Cowling   |
| <b>19</b>                   | Ian Topping                                 | John2:1-11                     | Peter Crook     | Rev Barnabas Shin  |
| <b>26</b>                   | Peter Crook                                 | Luke 4:14-21                   | Jane Austin     | Rachel Cronshaw    |

**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 on the first Sunday of every month

**Minister:** Rev Walt Johnson; Re Barnabas Shin, Rev Maria Shin, Rev Mark Cowling

**Church Secretary:**

Mrs Roma Hooper

**Church Treasurer:**

Mr. Ian Topping

