



# **CORNERSTONE MAGAZINE**

**February – March 2019**

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# From Amanda...

Dear Friends,  
We now embrace the month of February, the shortest month of the year. Apart from being cold, wet and not-yet-Spring, February does boast one thing worthy to celebrate – Valentine’s Day! Every year on February 14th, a large amount of cards, chocolates and flowers are given to those we love. But did you know

that during the Middle Ages, young girls would eat very strange foods with the hope that when they went to sleep, they would dream of their future husband? Well, Valentine's Day was created to celebrate an actual saint named Valentine.

Legend has it that Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D, a time when the early Christian church was subjected to significant persecution. Valentine's role was to help Christians to escape persecution, and to provide them the sacraments, such as marriage, which was outlawed by the Roman Empire at that time. While records are scarce, it seems that Valentine was interrogated by the Roman Emperor, Claudius II, who in finding Valentine an erudite, intelligent man, attempted to convert him to Roman paganism. Valentine refused and because of this, he was executed. Legend has it that while he was jailed, he performed a miracle by curing the blindness of Julia, the daughter of his jailer. Julia and all her father's household came to believe in Jesus Christ and were baptised by Valentine. Further folklore claims that on the eve before Valentine was to be executed, he wrote a card to Julia, with whom he had fallen in love, signing as "Your Valentine".

There is no doubt some truth in amongst the myth, but what we can be sure about is that there was a priest who loved his Lord so much, he was willing to die for his faith. A sobering thought as we continue our journey through a new year, having just shared in our Covenant service together. How much do we love our Lord? To what lengths would we go to stand firm in our faith? May we be reminded this month that we serve a God who gave everything out of love for us, He is our true Valentine.

*'This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him'. (1 Jn 4:9)*



*Christ's blessings*  
*Rev Amanda*

## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

<b>Marion Turpin</b>	<b>5th February 1994</b>
<b>Jack Crock</b>	<b>20th March 1998</b>
<b>Lillian Crock</b>	<b>24th March 1999</b>
<b>Dorothy Richards</b>	<b>28th March 2002</b>
<b>May Evans</b>	<b>29th March 2001</b>

**We remember them with gratitude and give thanks to God for them – and for all those who worked and worshipped here.**

### **Flower arranging**

It has been decided that every week the person arranging the flowers for the following Sunday will be given £10 towards the cost. We ask that this is accepted on the basis that if anyone wishes to put it back into the Sunday collection that is entirely up to them – nobody will ever know whether that was the case or not. There will be occasions when the flowers cost appreciably more than that, for a special occasion or festival for instance, which can be claimed back in the same way as at present.

We would also be very pleased if more people volunteered to either get and arrange the flowers or agree with someone else to procure and arrange the flowers on their behalf, as at present it is a relatively small band of people who do so. It is quite possible to request a particular day in the year so that they can done in memory of a loved one, for instance.

If you are in a position to consider this request please do have a word with Doreen Nuttall, who would be delighted to discuss it with you.

## Fairtrade Feast 2019

This year's Fairtrade Feast will be held during Fairtrade Fortnight on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at the Belmont Centre. It is a delicious two course meal with a choice of dishes, followed by tea/coffee and mints. Tickets at a cost of £8.00, the same as last year, are available from Jeremy.

## Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 25<sup>th</sup> February – 10<sup>th</sup> March

The theme for this year is entitled **#SheDeserves**, and will focus on that glorious food so much loved – cocoa. Farmers of this iconic Fairtrade product have seen prices crash to crisis levels in the last few years. This is particularly so in West Africa, where most cocoa is grown.

The situation highlights in stark terms the scandal of unfair trade. Many farmers are underpaid and exploited. That means they can't earn enough for the basics, including food, education and housing. They don't earn a living income.

It's even worse for the women who work in the fields and in the home. Despite the hard work they put in, they're often overlooked and under-represented. Women usually see much less of the money for their crop than men. So Fairtrade will be featuring the voices of women cocoa farmers.

By recognising those special women during Fairtrade Fortnight, we can create a platform for the amazing and inspiring women farmers across the Fairtrade network.

They are leading the way in changing attitudes, behaviours and, ultimately, their communities. We hope to get more people choosing Fairtrade chocolate.

We hope people will sign the Fairtrade Fortnight petition to support them. Our local groups will deliver this serious message in an accessible way – from baking delicious Fairtrade chocolate treats, to celebrating special women in our lives and communities.

## Diary Dates for February and March 2019

### February

- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-12pm **Fairtrade coffee morning** at The Source
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am **Morning Worship: Rev. John Glover**
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **Morning Worship (HC): Rev. Amanda Roper**
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **Morning Worship: Rev. David Hague**
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 4.00pm: **Morning Worship: Rev. Amanda Roper**

### March

- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am **Morning Worship: Mr. David Sweet**
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 10-12pm **Fairtrade coffee morning** at The Source
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **Morning Worship (HC): Rev. Amanda Roper**  
12 noon **Fairtrade Feast** at the Belmont Centre
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **Morning Worship: Mr. Robert Hinchliffe**
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **Morning Worship: Rev. Amanda Roper**
- Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> 10.30am **Morning Worship: Rev. Michael Davies**

## What are you doing in February and March?

**Communion:**    **10<sup>th</sup> February -**    **Trustee:** Jeremy Hallett

**10<sup>th</sup> March -**    **Trustee:** Norman Wood

**Ushers:** Doug Scott  
Anita Smith

### Trustee

### Welcomers

#### **'Door'**

#### **'Inside'**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY**

10<sup>th</sup> Doug Scott  
Clare Warren  
17<sup>th</sup> Norman Wood  
24<sup>th</sup> Jeremy Hallett

Christine House  
Hazel Cook  
Teresa Lane  
Carole Marchant

Lynne Coates  
Bernard Cook  
John Lane  
Coretha McCreery

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH**

10<sup>th</sup> John Harriyott  
17<sup>th</sup> Christine House  
24<sup>th</sup> John Lane  
31<sup>st</sup> Carole Marchant  
Doug Scott

Doug Scott  
Clare Warren  
Bernard Cook  
Lynne Coates  
John Lane

Sylvia Scott  
Wendy Twigg  
Hazel Cook  
Christine House  
Teresa Lane

### Readers

### Coffee

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY**

10<sup>th</sup> Doug Scott  
17<sup>th</sup> Derek Thorogood  
24<sup>th</sup> Sheila Warner  
Coretha McCreery

Anita Smith  
James Walton  
Kathy Weller  
Clare Warren

Sylvia Scott  
Bernard/Hazel Cook  
Kathy Weller  
Clare Warren

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH**

10<sup>th</sup> Norman Wood  
17<sup>th</sup> Sonia Harriyott  
24<sup>th</sup> Christine House  
31<sup>st</sup> John Lane  
Doug Scott

Lynne Coates  
Chris Evans  
Anita Smith  
Teresa Lane  
Coretha McCreery

Linda Hallett  
John/Sonia Harriyott  
Christine House  
Teresa Lane  
Coretha McCreery

## BRIGHTEST AND BEST

Reginald Heber's hymn for Epiphany has had its critics, but, said K L Parry, "it fully merits its universal popularity today".

Heber was born in 1783, in Cheshire. In 1807, after Oxford University, he was appointed Rector of Hodnet, Shropshire. Hodnet is a small village in the north-east of the County. St Luke's church, originally Norman, is a substantial three-aisled building, -much larger, I think, than the village needs today.

At Hodnet, Heber wrote hymns, his best known being the Trinity Sunday hymn "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty". In 1823 he was appointed Bishop of Calcutta. His diocese included the whole of British India, so it was huge. I suppose he no longer had time for the making of hymns. The strain of the work was too much, and he died after only three years.

In the first line of his hymn *Brightest and best of the Sons of the Morning*, Heber may be referring to Job 38, 4&7 - "Where were you when...the morning stars sang together...?" But it is obvious from the later verses that he is writing about the visit of the Magi. When we see a bright morning star we recognise Venus, which is, of course, a planet named after a pagan Goddess. Some editors have shunned the hymn because Heber seems to be praying to a star - *Lend us thine aid*. I think today we can allow a poet to get away with that. And some Church Treasurers might be a little unhappy with the line *Vainly we offer each ample oblation*. But again, happily, we know where the good Rector is coming from - he is warning us against ostentatious giving.

Heber chose to write this hymn in Dactyls. This is a technical word which comes from the Greek for "finger". Just as a human finger has three bones, one longer than the other two, so a metrical dactyl has three syllables, the first stressed and the other two unstressed. 150 years after Heber, F Pratt Green used the same metre for his hymn *God in his love for us lent us this planet* (R&S 85, StF 727). (Another Methodist, Valerie Ruddle, gave us its tune, STEWARDSHIP.)

So what about the music for *Brightest and Best*? Our denominations have followed separate routes. Methodist books have stuck faithfully with the tune SPEAN, by Sir Frederick Bridge. Bridge, (1844-1924) was a cathedral organist, teacher at the Royal College of Music, and conductor of the Royal Choral Society. He held the "top job" - organist at Westminster Abbey. So the papers called him "Westminster Bridge".

He was in charge of the music for Edward VII's coronation - hence his knighthood. The Methodist Church must have been happy to secure his services for the musical editing of their 1904 hymn book. In it, he used his own composition, SPEAN, to carry *Brightest and Best*. Glen Spean is an important east-west route through the Highlands, opening into the Great Glen at Spean Bridge.

Congregational, and then United Reformed, hymn books have chosen Joseph Thrupp's tune EPIPHANY HYMN. Joseph Thrupp (1827-1867) was another Anglican - the vicar of Barrington, Cambridge. His interest in church music seems to have been as an amateur, in contrast to Bridge's professionalism.

Both our traditions have offered alternative tunes. Two which are worth mentioning are Thalben Ball's JESMIAN, and an old German chorale, harmonised by Bach, LIEBSTER EMMANUEL

With the exception of LIEBSTER EMMANUEL all the settings I have found are in two-in-a-bar time. I expected to find some triple-time tunes among them, to fit the three-in-a-foot metre. But no, all these composers, many of them very distinguished, used the device of doubling the length of the first note in each bar, i.e. 2+1+1. What seems to happen with this arrangement is that the third chord of each bar is often the same, or nearly the same, as the second chord. Rev Thrupp is particularly prone to this. Perhaps it doesn't matter, and I am not qualified to judge, but it strikes me as a touch unimaginative.

LIEBSTER EMMANUEL is a different animal altogether. It comes from a chorale book with the title *Himmels-Lust und Welt-Unlust, (Gladness in Heaven, and Misery in the World)* published in Jena, Thuringia, in 1679. Bach used some of the original German text in a Cantata for Epiphany. The writing is adoring and devoted -

*Dearest Immanuel, ....you ...have taken my heart from me so entirely that it burns with love... for you.*

Wise men, stars and gifts were absent from these ancient verses, but maybe there is the germ here of the Methodist Covenant.

Vaughan Williams' groundbreaking *ENGLISH HYMNAL* united the old German music with Heber's verses. The 1916 and 1951 Congregational hymnbooks both followed suit, offering it as an alternative to Thrupp. It is in triple time, but there is not the slightest suggestion of a waltz. With Bach's harmonies, it is a very strong tune, in B minor, which somehow puts me in mind of a stately procession of kings across the desert. It is in R&S, with different words, at 419. Worth having a go!

# **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

## **(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)**



### **Press Release**



### **Come – Everything is Ready!**

Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone - men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer.\* Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Slovenia.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

\* For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area see the WDP website: [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

## From Commitment for Life

***Zoey Arrowsmith from St John's United Reformed Church in Orpington shared her reflection on visiting Christian Aid partner ZIMPRO, helping communities' farms to thrive in Zimbabwe.***

From the moment we landed in Bulawayo we knew this was going to be a special visit. Our hosts from **Christian Aid**, Kevin and VB met us at the airport and made us feel right at home.

For the first four days of our journey we were staying in Bulawayo, a city in south west Zimbabwe.

Our first day was spent with **Christian Aid's** partner, ZIMPRO who teaches farming methods known as conservation agriculture, which make best use of the land and water available. They also run projects aimed at economically empowering the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised, people to have access to knowledge, skills, finances and markets thereby promoting sustainable livelihoods. The programmes we visited were situated in the Insiza district (south west of Bulawayo).

Each programme was very insightful and we had lots of opportunities to talk to the communities about their journeys, how they have benefited from **Christian Aid's** work and what their hopes are for the future of their projects.

There was a clear sense of community and development across all programmes which was truly inspiring. It was fantastic to see this and to understand that the partnership between Commitment for Life, **Christian Aid** and their local partners **isn't just about the simple definition of aid (to help and support) but it went much deeper and taught communities to look at the long-term benefits of their projects**—it's about the growth and development to turn £1 into £2 and to give communities the chance to learn exactly how to do this. ZIMPRO encouraged people to develop skills by giving the opportunity to undertake courses such as business management whereby they can develop their knowledge of conservation agriculture in order to teach others and to undertake courses such as business management whereby they can develop their knowledge of conservation agriculture in order to teach others and to grow and expand their own work.

**The Hall and/or the Meeting Room are used by the following regular groups:**

Alex Karate:	Fridays – 6.00-7.00pm
Baby and Toddler group:	Wednesdays – 10.00-11.30am (Wendy Mayhew: 07969 638280)
Circuit training group:	Tuesdays – 8.00-9.00pm
Deb's Dancers:	Mondays – 4.30-7.15pm Tuesdays – 4.00-5.00pm
Karate Youth:	Wednesdays - 5.30-6.30pm
Mini-Motion:	Thursdays – 9.00-10.30am
Mums' Yoga:	Mondays – 6.30-9.15pm
Social Services:	Wednesdays - 7.00-9.00pm Sundays - 5.00-9.30pm
Uckfield Photographic Society:	First <b>and</b> third Thursdays – 7.30-10.00pm
Youth Theatre:	Wednesdays – 5.30-6.30pm