

# BE-NEWS



Bournemouth New Church, Tuckton Road, BH6 3HT

Issue 28

Find us at: [www.bournemouthnewchurch.org.uk](http://www.bournemouthnewchurch.org.uk)

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Our mission  
is to express,  
share and experience  
with others in life,  
an inclusive,  
non-judgmental vision  
of God's kingdom.

If you would like to support the work of the church financially please do so using our church  
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## WORSHIP LEADERS

### NOVEMBER

5<sup>th</sup> Service led by Revd Gillian Gordon  
12<sup>th</sup> National Service led by Revd Jack Dunion  
19<sup>th</sup> Service led by Revd Clifford Curry  
26<sup>th</sup> National Service led by Alan Misson

Bournemouth Church at 10:30am  
Zoom at 3:30pm  
Bournemouth Church at 10:30am  
Zoom at 3:30pm

### DECEMBER

3<sup>rd</sup> Service led by Mr Stephen Thomas  
17<sup>th</sup> Service led by Revd Clifford Curry

Bournemouth Church at 10:30am  
Bournemouth Church at 10:30am

### JANUARY

7<sup>th</sup> Sacramental Service led by Revd Clifford Curry

Bournemouth Church at 10:30am

## STEWARDS

### NOVEMBER

5<sup>th</sup> Church Duty - Barry Gordon  
Tea/Coffee - Steph Drake  
19<sup>th</sup> Church Duty - Julie Wight  
Tea/Coffee - Anita Turner

### DECEMBER

3<sup>rd</sup> Church Duty - Jane Pike  
Tea/Coffee - Deb Sutton  
17<sup>th</sup> Church Duty - Caroline Buick  
Tea/Coffee - Julie Wight

### JANUARY

7<sup>th</sup> Church Duty - Jane Pike  
Tea/Coffee - Deb Sutton

### Minister's Message

Christmas time will soon be here again with preparations to make and presents to buy, pressured moments and precious ones side by side. That precious moment 2000 years ago was the sacred event of the Lord's coming. It was similarly caught up in the pressures of the Roman census - its purpose being to raise taxes and locate those who were liable for compulsory military service.

The Census, with its aim of taking stock of things, can perhaps remind us of the need to re-examine what Christmas really means at a personal level. The call for the whole Roman world to be counted and taxed, points to the way that Christmas should touch the whole of our personal world. That means not just outwardly through cards and gifts but inwardly too, with a spirit of peace and goodwill to all. The account of Our Lord's birth in the makeshift surroundings of a stable reminds us that there were no exceptions to the Roman Census. There should be none in our spiritual one either.

One New Church minister whilst working in Africa, would sometimes have people bring their quarrels to him to settle. Perhaps his approach still has something to teach us today. *"I would listen to the evidence on both sides."* he writes. *"Endless wranglings! - he said this, the other man said that, and so on and so on".* When I had listened for a long while I would say *"I have heard enough! It is quite impossible to prove who is in the right and who is in the wrong! Do you want to be friends?"* *"Yes Chief!"* they would protest. *"Then you can be. All you need do is accept the fact the other fellow was mean, but still love him! Think that he was to blame in some things, and you were to blame in others. You have got yourselves into a mess. Accept each other for what you are, rotten human beings, but potential sons of God, and build up a new friendship on that basis!"* The appeal did not always work - but sometimes it did!

We may give many gifts at Christmas, but what gift shall we offer the Lord? Perhaps we might take our own personal census and consider what His own words suggest:

*"If you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your brother has aught against you, leave there your gift before the altar and go your way: **first** be reconciled to your brother and **then** come and offer your gift."* Matt 5v24.



Let us put peace and goodwill - the original Christmas spirit - in first place this Christmas.

Blessings to you all

Clifford

*"A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare a way for the Lord.*

*Level the mountains and fill in the valleys.*

*Make the uneven ground level and so make a straight road in the desert for our God to approach and come amongst us.*

*From the top of a high mountain we proclaim that God is approaching:*

*he is coming amongst us.*

*This is his promise, and he is faithful to what he says."*

Isaiah 40v3-5

## Thinking of Trees as it's Autumn . . . . .

In God's Word to us, there are a great number of trees mentioned. (Wonder if you can name some not mentioned here!) They are all used in different ways; for building as in Solomon's Temple; for worshipping God, when the tree made a sort of shrine; for producing fruit to eat. Three trees get special mention - the olive, the vine and the fig, for they help us to understand the different levels of our life, all of which are important.

The olive produces oil, the vine brings forth grapes for wine, and the fig tree makes figs. Smooth rich olive oil was used for anointing kings, and it pictures the quality of love. Wine from grapes is very different. It is sweet tasting, and it makes our heart glad. It pictures our understanding of truth which sparkles when it affects our mind, bringing it to life. The fig is a strange fruit, full of seeds, which reminds us of the countless number of ways in which we can show love and kindness in our life, in being good to one another. These three trees together describe the life of every person as it should be lived - in being loving, being wise, and being and doing good in our lives.



Read the story about trees which Jotham tells in Judges chapter 9, and think about these three trees - and then what the bramble, or thorn bush shows us.

(Adapted from an old Junior Lifeline)

Marion Curry

## A SUCCESSFUL HARVEST SERVICE

Clifford led an enjoyable Harvest festival service and the church glowed with seasonal colours, bright oranges, and greens, reds and golds from the colours of the Autumnal leaves. Julie had arranged the displays on the windowsills to look lush and plentiful. Nita had decorated the lectern artistically, as she always does, including the little mouse made by Bessie Stevenson many years ago. Fresh produce and tins and packets of food filled the chancel steps and the table generously donated by the congregation for the Women's Refuge in Bournemouth.



Thank you to everyone who contributed in decorating the church and donating gifts for the Refuge.

Gill Gordon

## SOME THANK YOUS

Nita wishes to thank all those kind people who sent her cards and flowers following the passing into the spiritual world of her younger brother Reverend Ian Russell. They were all appreciated

Celia Waters wishes to be remembered to the Bournemouth New Church congregation and thank them for making her so welcome when she was able to attend. She has difficulty walking and misses coming to church and seeing everybody but thinks of us often.

## TRANSITION

Our sympathy and best wishes go to Nita on the passing in September of her youngest brother, Revd Ian Russell. Ian was ordained into the New Church 40 years ago during a Service at Bournemouth Church when Clifford was also ordained. He had a quiet, reflective approach to ministry, and wasn't afraid of introducing new or challenging ideas. In 2001 he took on the role of Senior Minister with responsibility for the pastoral and spiritual care of Ministers and Laity, and likened this to tending his garden in Yorkshire. Marion remembers him from their days together in the Young Peoples Society at Anerley church in London. Along with others, they had fun playing table tennis, performing in pantomimes, or doing a few ballroom dances at the regular Socials. Let us think of Ian now in the Lord's green pastures, and beside the still waters that will restore his soul.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to Gill and Barry Gordon who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding on November 17th.

## CHURCH LOFT SALE SUCCESS

A total of £300 has been raised from the sale of theatre costumes in the Church loft and a cupboard in the hall. A huge bag of children's costumes have been donated to a school wanting fancy dress for the children. Countless bags of other costumes and materials were donated to a charity which helps Ukrainian refugees. The Dorset Children's Foundation were delighted to receive several bags of children's nativity costumes and props for sale in their shops at Christmas. It was jolly hard and dusty work clearing the loft but a great result for charities at a time when giving is central to the Christmas message. All the £300 has been sent to various charities mainly benefitting children.

With many thanks to Gill and Barry Gordon who have spent many dusty hours in the church loft organising the clearing of costumes and other items.



*What did Adam say when he was asked his favourite holiday?*

*"It's Christmas, Eve."*



## New Church Websites

If you are looking for a deeper meaning about our daily lives or more information about spiritual development based on the Bible, you may want to browse the internet on these websites. These sites are trying to offer help in understanding this world and the next. You may even find something useful for your life or relationships with others.

**[www.newchristianbiblestudy.org](http://www.newchristianbiblestudy.org)**

This site was started in 2017 under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Society of the New Church, and now carried forward by the New Christian Bible Study Corporation, an online clearing house for people who are interested in the Bible, not just in its powerful literal sense, but also in its inner, spiritual sense. The theological underpinnings of this site are based on Emanuel Swedenborg's religious works.

**[www.purleychasecentre.org.uk](http://www.purleychasecentre.org.uk)**

Look through this website and you will discover a range of events, workshops and retreats held in Warwickshire England