

# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter



### Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

This year with lock down and especially with schools suspending regular classroom settings for online classes/teaching for the last part of the school year, a summer break is especially important. The summer months brings a break in our children's educational year and offer a chance for families to go on holidays and do activities together. Summer is a wonderful season in this regard.

As summer has just begun, you can you feel it. The birds have been chirping, the sunset is stunning, and we are ready. Ready for the sunshine and looking forward to spending time with our family and friends. What are you looking forward to this summer? As a circuit we are looking forward to welcoming the new coming minister and his family into our circuit next month.

We may have been planning trips, weddings or vacations that are no longer happening. Beyond summer, we might be looking at fall, wondering how everything will get back to normal, like schools, churches/worship places, businesses, and above all life. Nothing is certain. Everything is still unclear and unsure. Many of us are paranoid of going back to churches and are not mentally prepared for the many things involve in the resumption of Sunday services, e.g. social distancing, hygiene and being prohibited of singing.

So we stumble, we need an anchor to keep us steady. When worries and stressful thoughts crowd our mind, we need to take a deep breath and think of Jesus, the Prince of Peace and our Hope in difficult times.

I think summer is a season of HOPE. Our lectionary readings are discussing how to proclaim the kingdom of God and share his love with everyone, because of this we put our trust in Jesus, our source of hope. Following Jesus, we discover and

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# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter

experience hope in Him, hope of physical healing, lifting of burdens, experiencing peace of mind and heart. These experiences are for sharing with family, friends and community. That our God is a God of promise. He kept His promise of salvation and sent a saviour for the world. A saviour who still saves everyone from eternal death and the slavery of sin. This is His promise as well as a gift of His grace for us. God saved us by his grace when we believed.

We proclaim His good news through our lives among people. As we are sent by him, the demand of his mission or great commission is we carry nothing but hope.

“Jesus said, Go and tell people God’s kingdom is near. Speak peace, heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy and cast out demons. Take nothing with you, no bag, no shoes.” Matthew 10:7-10.

Friends remember when God speaks through his people, change happens. We are people of hope with a message of hope for everyone in this fearful and uncertain time.

God bless you,  
*Rohama Asif*



I would like to offer my thanks to all those who have supported the church in the past few months – those who have been raising money through the sales or plants and marmalade, those who have so generously continued making offertories each month (raising a magnificent amount of over £1,000 each month) and, not forgetting, those who have been helping the vulnerable with shopping, medicines, distributing newsletters and other support.

*David*

We give huge thanks to Valerie and Ruth for growing and organising the sale of plants and produce to raise money for the church as we were unable to hold our usual Spring Fayre and Plant Sale. Valerie, Ruth, Isabel & Terry have been very busy planting and Ruth and Janet have been making marmalade. Valerie has been receiving things from other contacts too, sent out lists and organised deliveries /collections. Quite a business enterprise raising £942.70 so far! Amazing! Thank you to all of you.

*Mary*



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# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter

### Burnt Ash Church Family: Virtual Coffee Morning

At the moment, as it is not possible to meet in person, there is a short meditation taken from 'The Rhythm of Life' by David Adam



### Community

Blessed be the Lord God of heaven and earth, for he has visited and redeemed his people. He has raised up a mighty salvation for us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Father is with us. **Amen**

The Creator is with you. **And also with you.**

Jesus is with us. **Amen**

The Saviour is with you. **And also with you.**

The Spirit is with us. **Amen.**

The Strengtheners is with you. **And also with you.**

God is with us. **Amen**

PSALM 84

**Happy are the people who trust in you**

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord:

My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Happy are the people who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! Whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way

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# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs;  
For the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; harken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,  
And to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory;

No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity.

O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!

**Happy are they who put their trust in you.**

### **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might..

**Everlasting peace:** Isaiah 3:3-4

**That he may teach us his ways.**

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob:

That he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He will judge between nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks;

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more,

**That he may teach us his ways.**

Lord, be with us to guide us, within us to strengthen us, without us to protect us,  
above us to raise us up, beneath us to uphold us, before us to lead us, behind us to guard us, ever about us, this day and evermore.

**Amen**

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# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter

### Genesis 9 v16 -17 (GNB)



**When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between me and all living beings on earth. That is the sign of the promise which I am making to all living beings.”**

“This is my promise to you – the rainbow up above”.

(Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo, Flanders and Horovitz)

Rainbows have long been a symbol of hope – both within the Christian faith, and in secular life. In times of trouble a symbol can be very helpful as a reminder that things change. There will be sunshine after rain, and when the two meet we are reminded of God’s promise.

But how does the world view rainbows?

*Rainbows – where science and art form a beautiful friendship*

Throughout history, nature’s ultimate optical illusion has captured scientists, artists and activists alike. It represents togetherness and its capacity to spread hope and joy, make it a beautiful symbol for our times. While most modern schoolchildren can explain the basic science behind a rainbow, it took the cumulative work of some of the world’s greatest minds (think Aristotle, Homer, Descartes, Newton *et al*) centuries to discover its secrets. Put simply, a rainbow occurs when sunlight passes through raindrops, the light bends or refracts as it enters the droplet and then reflects off the inside of the raindrop. As it exits the droplet the light separates into wavelengths, each appearing as a different colour: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet



**Rainbows represent hope and an expression of diversity through unity, most famously as a symbol of the struggle for equality for the LGBTQ community. Kitty Joseph, a designer known for her rainbow-hued creations explains:**

*Royal Greenwich Pride crossing (credit SE9 magazine)*

"The rainbow is such a strong metaphor for how beautiful and powerful we can be when we combine forces in all our diversity and variation."

In recent weeks rainbows have been connected with the NHS in giving thanks for the work so many are doing, at so many levels, to keep us as safe as possible, and also to be there to help when the worst has happened and people have contracted the corona virus. The Corona virus is a terrible illness, and has done so much damage, to people’s lives, to how communities interact, to businesses and to our relationships with others.

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# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter

But there have also been some absolutely amazing wave effects from this new way of life. The kindness of strangers has come to the fore, with those working frontline in our communities giving selflessly, working to keep everything going – from health workers, shop assistants, emergency service personnel through to artists, musicians and every day people. Thousands have volunteered to drop off food boxes, pop to the chemist to pick up prescriptions, rung for a chat, created beautiful art and been willing to share the art and the means of doing in freely. Neighbours who barely knew each other to say hello have become good friends, and regardless or maybe because of our diversity, we have rediscovered the art of being a community.

But the final word goes to wise Dolly Parton, who knows that rainbows are a symbol of hope worth waiting for; "If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."

It isn't plain sailing. There have been, and still will be, tensions and thoughtlessness. But if we work alongside others to remember and share our gifts, to learn about our differences, and to strengthen our common interests than we will be showing each other the love that God showed us through his rainbow.



### DIY rainbows

**Using a mirror in a glass:** Fill a glass with water then put a small pocket mirror into the water at an angle. Position so that sunlight shines directly at the mirror and look for a reflection (it's easier to spot if the room is quite dark)

**Using a torch:** Fill a glass with water. Cut a narrow rectangle in the middle of a piece of paper, then stick it to the outside of the glass with the slit at the centre. Place another piece of paper on the floor on the other side of the glass. In a pitch dark room, point the torch at the slit (you'll need a torch with a strong, focused white beam). Starting from the glass, slowly move the torch further away and adjust its distance and angle until you see a rainbow on the paper.

Prefer the art to the science? Make your own rainbow collage (The Simple Things used buttons) or try the crocheted rainbow pattern below.

Based on an article in *The Simple Things* magazine June 2020

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# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter



### CROCHET A RAINBOW OF HOPE

**Round 1: With A\***, make a magic ring with 6 dc. Do not join, continue to work in spiral. Use a stitch marker to mark the first stitch of every round. (6 sts)

**Round 2:** Make 2 dc in every st. (12 sts)

**Round 3:** Make 1 dc in first st. \*2 dc in next stitch. 1 Dc in next st. Rep from \* to last st. 2 dc in last st. (18 sts)

**Round 4: With B** Make 1 dc in first 2 sts. \*2 dc in next st. 1 Dc in next 2 sts. Rep from \* to last st. 2 dc in last st. (24 sts)

**Round 5:** Make 1 dc in first 3 sts. \*2 dc in next st. 1 Dc in next 3 sts. Rep from \* to last st. 2 dc in last st. (30 sts)

**Round 6:** Make 1 dc in first 4 sts. \*2 dc in next st. 1 Dc in next 4 sts. Rep from \* to last st. 2 dc in last st. (36 sts)

**Round 7: With C** Make 1 dc in first 5 sts. \*2 dc in next st. 1 Dc in next 5 sts. Rep from \* to last st. 2 dc in last st. (42 sts)

Carry on adding a dc into each side every time you start a new round.

(Round 8: 1 dc in first 6 st, 2 dc in next stitch around all 6 sides)

(Round 9: 1 dc in first 7st, 2 dc in next stitch) etc.

Change yarn colour every three rounds.

When completed fasten off final colour securely. Fold hexagon in half between two corners and trace round onto card. Whip stitch together round card. Add cord to hang, and decorate as wished.

\* To make a rainbow you would normally have seven colours of yarn – but this is about using what you have to hand, and colours that appeal to you. You can change every round, or however often suits.

Just try and make sure your yarn weights are all the same.

**Beccie North**

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# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter



### What about that R number?

Wouldn't it be great if we had a high R number!

Are you mad - I hear you say?

Has the lockdown addled your brain?

What a ridiculous and reckless thing to say!

Indeed - a high R number for disease is frightening in its capability for rapid spread of this terrible Coronavirus.

But what about our faith in God; our Creator; Saviour and Sustainer - Father; Son and Holy Spirit?

Wouldn't it be great if our faith in a God of love could spread like wildfire - well above that critical R number of one!

If we could infect people with love, justice, and respect for one another, we would be delighted to keep that Christian R number high to change the world!

We ask God to renew our resolve to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; the good news he brings offering forgiveness and peace.

Let us demonstrate our faith to others in the fruits of the Spirit he gives us - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; all infectious qualities we want people to catch and pass on to turn our world around.

*Mary*



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# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter

### Recipe Page

#### **Blueberry Muffins**, recommended by the Mitchell family

Preparation time 20 mins    Cooking time 20 minutes    Makes 12

100g unsalted butter, softened (plus 1 tbsp, melted, for greasing)	2 tbsp milk
140g golden caster sugar	250g plain flour
2 large eggs	1 tsp bicarb. of soda
140g natural yoghurt	125g pack blueberries (or use frozen)
1 tsp vanilla extract	

1. Heat oven 200C/180C fan/gas 6 and line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper cases. Beat butter and caster sugar together until pale and fluffy. Add eggs and beat in for 1 min, then mix in yogurt, vanilla extract and milk. Combine the flour, baking powder and bicarb in a bowl with ¼tsp fine salt, then tip this into the wet ingredients and stir in. Finally, fold in the blueberries and divide the mixture between the muffin cases.
2. Bake for 5 mins, then reduce oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and bake for further 15-18 mins until risen and golden, and a cocktail stick inserted into centre comes out clean.
3. Cool in the tin for 10 mins, then carefully lift out onto a wire rack to finish cooling. Will keep for 3-4 days in an airtight container – after a day or two, pop them in the microwave for 10-15 secs on high to freshen up.

*Recipe from bbcgoodfood.com, March 2018*



#### **Peanut butter cookies**: recommended by the Mitchell family

Preparation time 15 mins    Cooking time 12 mins    Makes 16

200g peanut butter (crunchy or smooth)	¼ tsp fine table salt
175g golden caster sugar	1 large egg

1. Heat oven 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and line 2 large baking trays with baking parchment.
2. Measure the peanut butter and sugar into a bowl. Add ¼tsp fine table salt and mix well with a wooden spoon. Add egg and mix again until mixture forms a dough.
3. Break off cherry tomato sized chunks of dough and place, well spaced apart, on the trays. Press the cookies down with the back of a fork to squash them a little. The cookies can now be frozen for 2 months, cook from frozen adding an extra min or 2 to the cooking time.
4. Bake for 12 mins, until golden around the edges and paler in the centre. Cool on the trays for 10 mins, then transfer to a wire rack and cool completely. Store in a cookie jar for up to 3 days.

*Recipe from bbcgoodfood.com, August 2015*

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# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter

### Something to make you smile

Humour is essential, even (or especially) in the toughest of times. Shared laughter gives us strength in adversity and can help us feel a bit more in control when the future looks uncertain. Most important, funny jokes - even funny coronavirus jokes - bring us together and help us to feel connected, one lockdown bubble to another. And laughter literally makes us stronger: recent studies have found that a good laugh can boost our dopamine levels and even shore up our immune systems.

Someone's had enough of home learning!



It was good to see on the BBC news this morning that the man who fell into the upholstery machine yesterday is fully recovered

An overturned on the A2 between the M25 and Bluewater lorry has. It was carrying tubs of Vicks ointment. Police say there will be no congestion for at least a week

The grocery stores in France look like tornadoes hit them. All that's left is de brie.

I'll tell you a coronavirus joke now, but you'll have to wait two weeks to see if you got it.

**Why did the bicycle collapse?**

**It was two tired.**

**IS IT TOO SOON TO PUT UP THE XMAS TREE YET?**



**I'VE RUN OUT OF THINGS TO DO.**

**Did you hear about the kidnapping at school?**

**It was fine—he woke up.**

**Husband and I went grocery shopping with masks, got home, took off masks, brought home wrong husband! Stay alert people!**

**SO TODAY AT CHURCH A GUY IN A SUIT TRIED TO DROWN ME**



**AND I KID YOU NOT, MY FAMILY JUST STOOD THERE TAKING PICTURES**

**A ham sandwich walks into a bar and orders a beer,**

**bartender says "sorry, we don't serve food here."**

And finally: A hilarious look at worship in a socially distanced/ post lockdown world!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIfItkvCVfA&feature=youtu.be>

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# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter



### **Coronavirus Children's Appeal**

*Help us support our most vulnerable families to pay for the essentials.*

#### **Coronavirus has thrown all our lives, our communities and the UK into an unprecedented crisis**

Families who were already struggling to feed their children before the coronavirus hit, now find themselves unable to afford food and basic essentials. So many vulnerable families have lost their incomes and have reached breaking point. They are really frightened and need urgent help. Action for Children has thousands of key workers across the UK working on the frontline helping the most vulnerable children and families. We support them in many ways, for example, with online food ordering, providing supermarket vouchers and paying top-ups on fuel cards.

#### **Donate now and help families in urgent need during this difficult time.**

The Coronavirus Children's Appeal will help us provide essentials to the most vulnerable families across the UK. In the unlikely event that we raise more money than can be reasonably and efficiently spent, any surplus funds will be used to help us prepare and respond to other crises our vulnerable families may face.

Gift Aid claimed by Action for Children in relation to your donation towards this Emergency Appeal will be directed to those who are in the greatest need of funding.

#### *Why choose Action for Children?*

We protect and support children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives.

**Donate:** A short call could make all the difference to a child's life.

**Call: 0300 123 2112**

Check out our [donation FAQs](#) for other ways to donate:

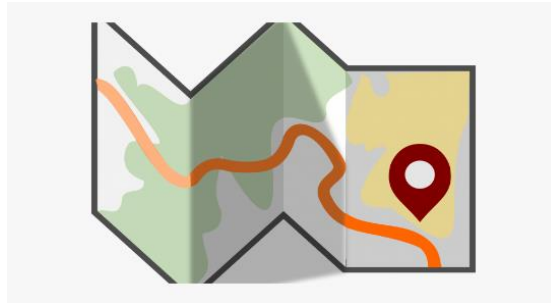
<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-to-help/make-a-donation/coronavirus/>

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# Burnt Ash Methodist Church

## Newsletter

### Puzzle Answers



### Kent and South East London Place Names

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1) Dark Chapel full of Syn                                 | <b>Dymchurch</b>       |
| 2) Large pebble carried by a young girl                    | <b>Maidstone</b>       |
| 3) Verdant sorceress                                       | <b>Greenwich</b>       |
| 4) Oil carrying ship weighs a lot                          | <b>Tankerton</b>       |
| 5) 180! In a Capri   | <b>Dartford</b>        |
| 6) Faster than rotting Horse eats hedgerow fruits          | <b>Canterbury</b>      |
| 7) If the dwarves all planted acorns                       | <b>Sevenoaks</b>       |
| 8) Heavy river crossing                                    | <b>Tonbridge</b>       |
| 9) Large wine barrel, on a river crossing, with deep water | <b>Tunbridge Wells</b> |
| 10) Home of a humorous horse                               | <b>Whitstable</b>      |
| 11) The bottom of a hole in the churchyard                 | <b>Gravesend</b>       |
| 12) Not tight  | <b>Loose</b>           |
| 13) Gander's seasick wife                                  | <b>Goose Green</b>     |
| 14) Used to walk dogs                                      | <b>Leeds</b>           |
| 15) Eyre's hero  | <b>Rochester</b>       |
| 16) Used on top of a saucepan                              | <b>Lydd</b>            |
| 17) Small piece of land with lots of cereal crops          | <b>Isle of Grain</b>   |
| 18) Engraving a small mountain                             | <b>Etchingill</b>      |
| 19) Natural yarn produces magic                            | <b>Woolwich</b>        |
| 20) Chilly port  | <b>Coldharbour</b>     |



If you have an article, recipe, prayer, or any other item of interest that you think would be appropriate for the August 2020 edition of the Burnt Ash newsletter, please email it to me at [rynld@aol.com](mailto:rynld@aol.com) no later than 24<sup>th</sup> July. Thank you. *Linda*

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