

Burnt Ash Methodist Church

Newsletter

Good news!

Following completion of a risk assessment, and ratification by the Church Council and Circuit Leadership team, Burnt Ash Methodist Church is planning to re-open for services from Sunday 6th September. Although services will be very different (no singing), and face masks will need to be worn at all times, many of you will, I am sure, be looking forward to returning.

We are very aware, however, that there are many reasons why people may feel uncomfortable or uncertain about returning. We hope that no one will feel compelled to attend or guilty about not returning. Please be confident that stewards will be on hand to ensure our return is as safe and welcoming as possible, but you should feel under no obligation to return until you are ready to do so.



Minister's Letter

Dear all,

It is with great sadness that I am sharing the news that I am curtailing from my appointment very early (July 2021), and entering stationing next year. This decision has been made with careful and prayerful consideration with my family over personal matters. I appreciate this circuit, the congregations, the fellowship I have shared with you, and the love and support I have received from you all, over this past year.

I also want to make you all aware that when you get this letter, I will be out of the country, visiting my mother. Recently, she has become very poorly and it has become crucial that I go to see her in Pakistan.

Let your good spirit lead me

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Due to recent events, can you think of a time when someone entrusted you with an important job or a valuable item? What was that experience like?

What are some things in our life that we are proud of? May be it's our skills, our intelligence, our cash flow, our musical talent? Sometimes we start to think of these things as our possessions, because we earn all these things with our hard work. It is not bad if we think like this, because this is our human way of thinking. However, the Bible indicates that everything in our hands, from our families, to our reputations, to our wealth, has been put there by God and is still God's. We are simply managers, stewards-temporarily taking care of these things. Everything belongs to God and he gives gifts and resources to us to work in this world for his purposes, not our own. This means that we should look at every resource we have been given and ask ourselves how can we be good stewards and workers or managers of them to build up God's kingdom, as in these days we are thinking about the reopening of our Church in September.

God expects and requires that we do all we can, with what he has given us: intellect, time, talents, gifts, energy, life experiences, innovation and money. When we carry and complete all given tasks and have been faithful, he will give us more responsibilities. Luke 12:48 says, "When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required."

Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose."

I thank God for all these gifts and talents he has given to us and I am very optimistic along with you all that, God willing, that September Church will be in action again, with new normals and doing worship differently. My earnest prayer is that God may shelter and shield us in this challenging and difficult time.

Stay safe and healthy,

God bless.

Rohama Asif

NB. Rev. Richard Grocott will take overall pastoral responsibility/emergency cover during Rohama's absence, assisted by Rev. Paul Hulme. Richard's contact email is richard.grocott@methodist.org.uk

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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



Holy Spirit

Send out your Holy Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Come, Holy Spirit

Come among us, **Come, Holy Spirit**

Come as the wind to move us, **Come, Holy Spirit**

Come as the fire to prove us, **Come, Holy Spirit**

Come, power of all powers, renew us. **Come, Holy Spirit**

Come strength of all strengths, Refresh us. **Come, Holy Spirit**

Come, might of all mighty ones, revive us. **Come, Holy Spirit**

PSALM 143:1-11

Let your good spirit lead me

Lord hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications:
Answer me in your righteousness.

Enter not into judgement with your servant
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

For my enemy has sought out my life and has crushed me to the ground,
Making me live in dark places like those who are long dead.

My spirit faints within me: my heart within me is desolate.

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I remember the time past: I muse upon all your deeds,
I consider the works of your hands.

I spread out my hands to you: my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land:

O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me;
Do not hide your face from me or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,
For I put my trust in you: show me the road I must walk, for I lift my soul to you.

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord, for I flee to you for refuge.

Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God;
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake;
For your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

Let your good Spirit lead me.

Acts 2: 1-4

You are in the Spirit: Romans 8: 9-11

His Spirit dwells in us.

You are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin,
the spirit is life because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised
Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that
dwells in you.

His Spirit dwells in us.

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth;
Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
Without which whoever lives is counted dead to you,
Grant this for your Son Jesus Christ's sake who is alive and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever,

Amen

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Where have you found peace during lockdown?

For Isabel, Terry and Stephen, their allotment during lockdown has become much more than a flower and vegetable plot; it has enabled them to use it as a safe and peaceful environment during the present pandemic.



If you have a 'special place', you may like to share a photo and why the place is special to you in next month's newsletter?

Loving God,
Please grant me peace of mind and calm my troubled heart. Give me the strength and clarity of mind to find my purpose and walk the path you have laid out for me. I trust you, and know that you will heal my stress, just as the sun rises each day against the dark of night.
Amen

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Stained glass windows



The stained glass window in our church was installed in 1962 and was given in memory of founder members, Mr and Mrs E. M. Cottell, and features Jesus with hands outstretched to a Boys' Brigade boy and a Girl Guide.

The church stained glass window dedicated to two of the founder members of the church Mr. and Mrs Ernest Cottell in 1883. Mr. Cottell became a local preacher and was influential in the shaping of the church.

I remember him in the 1950's as a smiley white haired man asking me to open the garden fete held in Mr. and Mrs Causer's garden when I was about 7yrs old. The Brownies did a display dancing round the Maypole! Their daughter, Frances and her husband John Bruin who were both active members at Burnt Ash, commissioned the window. John was a local preacher, Youth Club leader and one of the Boys Brigade officers. They chose a boy in the brigade and a Girl Guide to be either side of the figure of Jesus who is offering his hands out to the community.

The girl is based on a photo I remember being taken of Pat Pointer, who was my patrol leader at the time. The patrol flash tapes blew up onto her shoulder in the wind and you can see it like that in the window! The window was unveiled in a special service and ceremony in the church in 1962. John and Frances' children,

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Merle and Roy, grew up in the church and we enjoyed such fun times in church family activities including the youth club. Merle married Tom Collins from the church who shared playing the organ. They have a wide extended family now and live in Yorkshire. Roy married Wendy and his son Nick is in television programme production. His name can be seen in the credits of some of the children's TV shows. It's amazing how a window can trigger memories of life at Burnt Ash!

Mary Sparkes

The term **stained glass** refers to coloured glass as a material and to works created from it. Stained glass, as an art and a craft, requires the artistic skill to conceive an appropriate and workable design, and the engineering skills to assemble the piece. A window must fit snugly into the space for which it is made, must resist wind and rain, and also, especially in the larger windows, must support its own weight.

Glass is coloured by adding metallic oxide powders or finely divided metals while it is in a molten state. Copper oxides produce green or bluish green, cobalt makes deep blue, and gold produces wine red and violet glass. Much modern red glass is produced using copper, which is less expensive than gold and gives a brighter, more vermilion shade of red. Glass coloured while in the clay pot in the furnace is known as pot metal glass, as opposed to flashed glass.

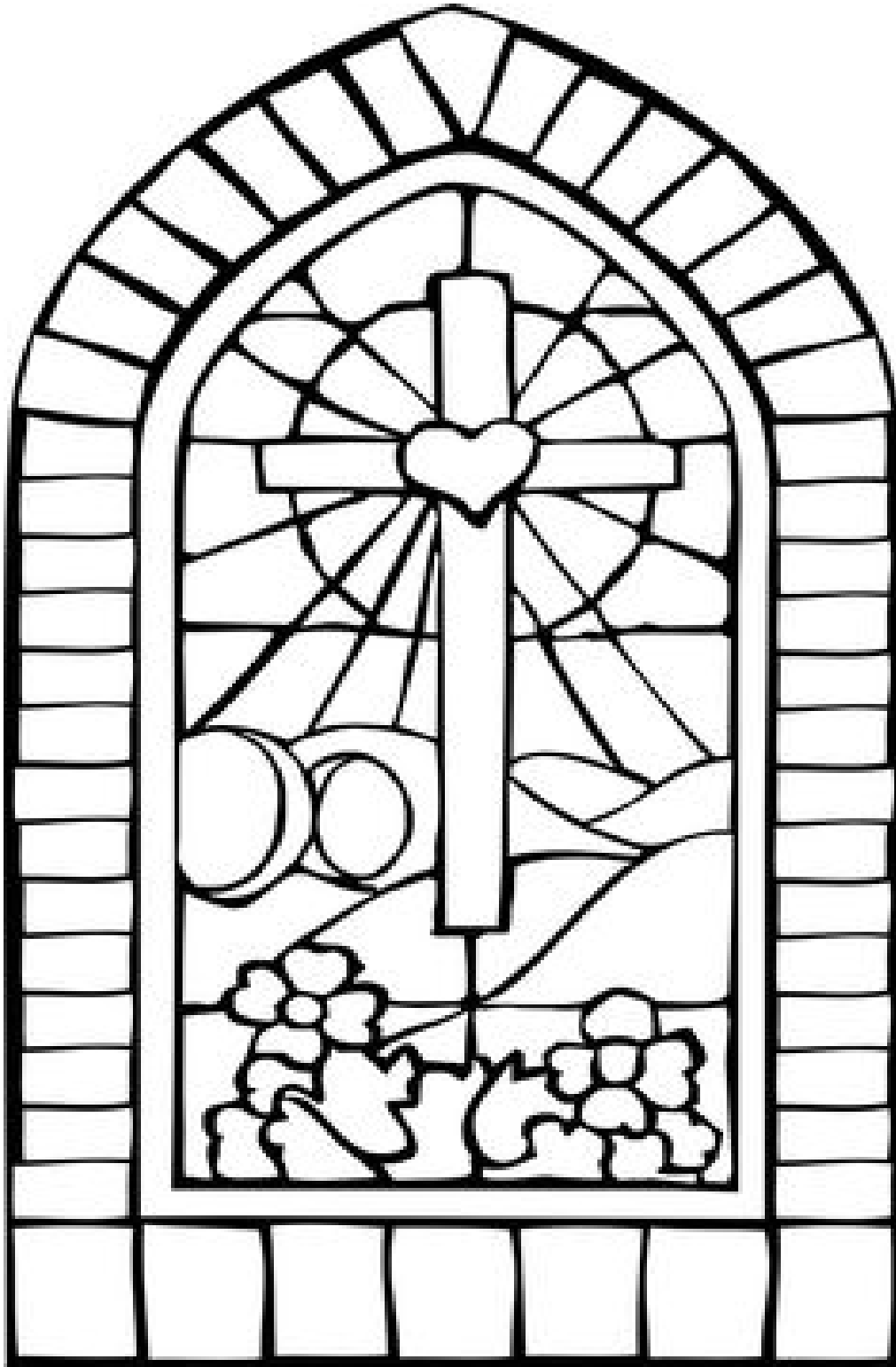
Evidence of stained-glass windows in churches and monasteries in Britain can be found as early as the 7th century. Stained glass, as an art form, reached its height in the Middle Ages when it became a major pictorial form used to illustrate the narratives of the Bible to a largely illiterate populace.

At the Reformation in England, large numbers of medieval and Renaissance windows were smashed and replaced with plain glass. The Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII and the injunctions of Thomas Cromwell against 'abused images' (the object of veneration) resulted in the loss of thousands of windows. With the latter wave of destruction the traditional methods of working with stained glass died, and were not rediscovered in England until the early 19th century.

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Why not take a while to reflect on, and colour in, this window?



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Recipe Page

Claire Swain's **NUTTY BANANA BREAD**

Comes highly recommended by Isabel

3 ozs butter	5 ozs plain flour
6 ozs caster sugar	3 level tsp baking powder
2 standard eggs	1/2 level tsp salt
10 ozs bananas (skins removed)	2 ozs walnuts (roughly chopped)

Cream butter until soft then work in sugar. Add eggs one at a time and beat to a smooth mixture. Mash bananas well, add to egg mixture and beat until blended. Sieve together flour, salt, baking powder and stir one tablespoonful into nuts. Add remaining flour to egg mixture, stir until mixed, then add nuts and stir again. Turn mixture into a well greased 2 lb. loaf tin and bake at approx. 350 F, Mark 4, or 180 C for 1- 1¼ hours.



Carrot Scones: (makes 12)

Recipe from English-heritage.org.uk/visit/inspire-me/ve-day/

12 tbsp self-rising flour and 1 teaspoon baking powder, sifted together
2 tbsp butter (or margarine) 4 tbsp sugar raspberry preserve
8 tbsp grated carrot A few drops of vanilla essence

1. Pre-heat oven to gas 6/200c and grease a baking tray
2. Leave the butter out so that it becomes soft, and easier to mix in the sugar
3. Add in the grated carrot, a bit at a time, and then add in the vanilla essence
4. Slowly add the sifted flour. The more you beat, the more moisture the carrots will release to bind the mixture together. You will be left with a ball of sticky carrot-flecked dough.
5. Pinch and roll the desired amount between your fingers.
6. Place on baking tray and sprinkle with a little sugar (optional). Cook in the centre of the oven for about 20 mins.
7. Once firm on top and at the sides, remove from the oven and cool before serving with raspberry preserve.

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Classic Summer Pudding:

Recipe from Good Food magazine, June 2012

300g raspberry
225g blackberry
100g redcurrant

400g strawberry, quartered
140g golden caster sugar
400g brioche loaf

1. Wash fruit and place it all (except strawberries) in a large pan with the caster sugar and 3 tbsp water. Gently heat for 3 mins until the juice from the fruit starts to seep out. Add the strawberries and cook for 2 mins more. Drain the juice from the fruit through a sieve set over a large bowl. Taste the juice and add a little more sugar if necessary.
2. Line a 1.2-litre pudding basin with a double layer of cling film, leaving an overlap around the top. Remove the crusts from the brioche and slice the loaf into 1cm-thick slices along the length of the loaf. Cut 1 slice in half widthways and trim the corners to fit into the base of the bowl – you may need to use both squares, trimmed to fit.
3. Trim the slices to the correct length to line the sides of the bowl. To assemble the pudding, dip the slices of brioche into the fruit juice, then use them to line the basin. Start with the bottom pieces, then lay soaked rectangles of brioche along the sides of the bowl. If you have any gaps left at the end, patch these up with any remaining brioche, but make sure you save some for the base.
4. Tip the fruit into the lined basin. Finish the pudding with a layer of brioche to make a base, then pour over any remaining liquid. Wrap overhanging cling film over the top.
5. Place a small plate, which will fit snugly on top of the basin, over the cling film and weigh down with 2 x 400g cans of tomatoes or beans. Leave the pudding weighed down in the fridge for at least a couple of hours, or overnight if possible.
6. To serve, unwrap the cling film and place a serving plate over the pudding. Flip it over, remove the basin and carefully peel away the cling film. Serve in slices.



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Bible quiz

1. What is the last word in the Old Testament?
2. By which previous name was Paul of Tarsus known as?
3. Whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back?
4. In the bible, who is said to have lived on a diet of locusts and wild honey?
5. How many years did Noah live for after the flood?
6. There are only three angels named in the bible, Michael and Lucifer are two, name the other?
7. The book of Esther is unique because it does not mention which word?
8. The Bible was written in three languages - Hebrew, Koine Greek and which other language?
9. Who made the first translation of the Bible into English in 1382?
10. Name the longest book of the Bible with 150 chapters?
11. In what city was Jesus born?
12. Who took the place of Judas in the twelve disciples?
13. Who was the older brother of Moses?
14. What kind of wood was Noah's ark built from?
15. Who, following Moses' death, became the leader of the children of Israel?

Answers in next month's issue

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Test and trace: Keep Lewisham Safe

We need to work together to keep Lewisham safe. That includes knowing how to access the NHS Test and Trace service if you need to. If you've recently had any of the symptoms it's important you order a test immediately.

<https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>

The symptoms you need to look out for are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Make sure you protect your loved ones and our wider communities by following the NHS Test and Trace guidelines.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>



Safe medical appointments, tests and treatment

Some patients are understandably anxious about going into hospitals and health centres in the community. In order to reassure patients, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust has produced a short film, *Caring for you safely*, in which their chief nurse explains the measures being taken to keep everyone safe. These include: requiring patients to wear face coverings and staff to wear masks, and restricting the use of some hospital entrances. [Watch the film produced by Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust.](#)

youtube.com/watch?edufilter=NULL&feature=youtu.be&v=EiAYS_A3jvM&utm_source=London%20Borough%20of%20Lewisham&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11687917_COVID-19%20170720



If you have an article, recipe, prayer, or any other item of interest that you think would be appropriate for the September 2020 edition of the Burnt Ash newsletter, please email it to me at rynld@aol.com no later than 24th August. Thank you. *Linda*

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