

A “HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!” TO ALL OUR READERS

If extra events requiring publicity arise during the month they can be circulated by the editor via one-off e-mails or given to the steward on duty to announce on a Sunday.

Philip Sandiford Editor

UPCOMING SERVICES:

Sun 31st Dec, 10.30am
Sun 7th JAN, 10.30am

Rev. Gill Long – United at The Drive with the URC
Rev. Gill Long – COVENANT SERVICE – inc. Holy Communion

Also, to include the BAPTISM of Sebastian.

Sun 14th Jan, 10.30am
Sun 21st Jan, 10.30am
Sun 28th Jan, 10.30am

Mr. “Witty” Rajaratnam
Mrs. Val Imms
Rev. Gill Long – PARADE SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE CHRISTINGLE SERVICE:

The popular Christingle Service took place as usual on the afternoon of Christmas Eve and we were delighted that the church was again full, with many families attending.

All 85 Christingles that had been lovingly prepared the previous day were used!

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, £203 was donated to Home-Start East Surrey, a local charity whose aims include the provision of early support to families who are experiencing a wide range of difficulties.

DIARY NOTES:

“BABES IN THE WOOD” - PILGRIM PANTOMIME – 24-27th JAN – IN THE INSTITUTE

Tickets available at:

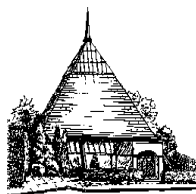
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/pilgrim pantomime company>

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY – 16th Jan:

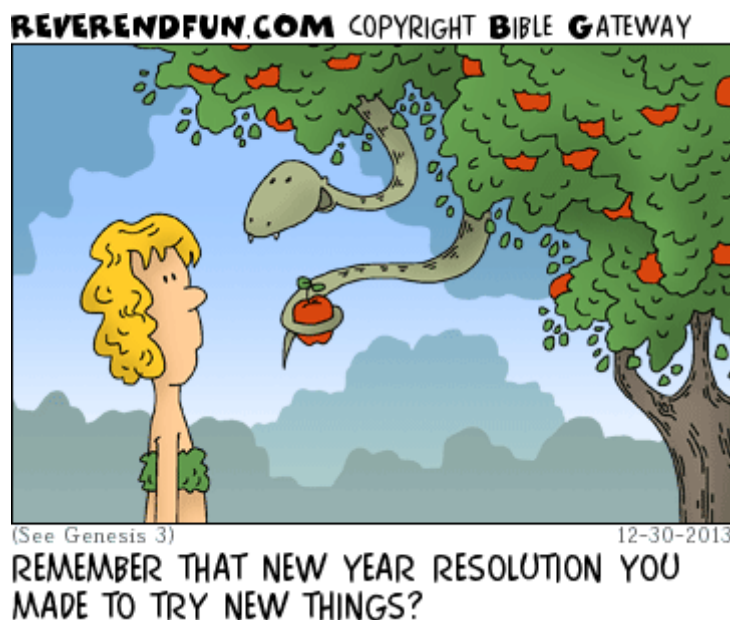
The monthly bible study meeting will take place on Tuesday 16th January at 10.00am in the church.

CIRCUIT SERVICES PLAN:

Copies of the service plan for December to February are on the table at the back of the church.



MINISTER'S LETTER – FOR JANUARY 2024:



A wit once said that a New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

Some of us have celebrated far more 'New Years' than others, but I guess we always hope for the same things. I gave up making resolutions long ago, my stock answer being "My New Year's resolution is not to make a resolution"! I never kept them, and always felt disappointed when I failed yet again.

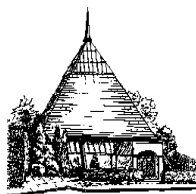
I'm writing this just before I preach my sermon on 'intentions rather than resolutions', asking if we, instead of making one-time resolutions, made ongoing intentions to grow closer to God and to each other.

J.I. Packer, a Christian author, once said, "Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord." Isn't that wonderful? Could it be that the best resolution, our most significant intention, is simply to know God more?

Resolutions are based on behaviour and targets, or goals, to aim for, whereas intentions are more a 'way of being' rather than 'doing'. Intentions are more about being open to twists and turns along life's journey – seizing unexpected opportunities rather than ignoring them because they take us away from the route we resolved to follow.

When we resolve to do something, we're deciding what we want to do. When we set an intention, we're deciding who we want to be. Powerful stuff.

Someone wrote, "This New Year's, I've resolved to lead a better life. Now all I have to do is find someone who will trade lives with me" which made me smile.



We don't need to try to be someone else, for God created us as unique individuals, but we should strive to be the best version of ourselves that we can be and we do that by keeping in close touch with God, through his Son and in the Power of the Spirit. Sermon over!

So, who will we be as individuals and as a worshipping community in 2024? Just carrying on the same, or will we look for God in unexpected places and encounters? Will we all choose to draw closer to him?

For it says in Lamentations 3:22-24 – (The Message)

God's loyal love couldn't have run out,
his merciful love couldn't have dried up.
They're created new every morning.
How great your faithfulness!
I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over).
He's all I've got left.

And do you want to know why I decided to not give up my bad habits in the New Year?

Because no one likes a quitter!

Wishing you, and all whom you love, every possible blessing for the New Year.

Gill

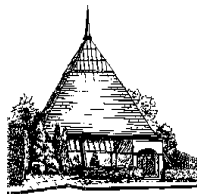
LENDWITHCARE NEWS FROM THE BEAVERS - DECEMBER

Liz Batten has received a recent update relating to the Beavers' involvement with LendWithCare:

Great news – you have received 2 repayments to your lendwithcare.org account. This means your chosen recipients are doing well enough to pay back more instalments of the loan they received from you. You'll find your repayment details and your account balance below.

Entrepreneur	Type	Amount
Editha	Loan	£31.38
DEIBID PAUL	Loan	£0.93
	Total	£32.31

Your lendwithcare.org account total is now **£42.36**



EPSOM FOODBANK UPDATE AS AT 20 DEC – PLEASE LEAVE ITEMS IN BOX AT BACK OF CHURCH:

- JARS OF COOKING SAUCE
- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED SPAGHETTI
- CUSTARD
- KETCHUP
- HONEY
- LONGLIFE SPONGE PUDDINGS
- POWDERED MILK
- SUGAR (500G BAGS)
- LOO ROLLS
- NAPPIES 6+

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- PLEASE NOTE WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE REFRIGERATED OR FROZEN ITEMS

PLEASE, NO MORE OF THESE ITEMS AS WE ARE AT CAPACITY

- WEETABIX
 - CAT FOOD
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