* + 1. **RAYLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH**

**THE NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2019**

**Hi all,** Time for the long awaited and anticipated words of wisdom from the manse, pulpit or wherever you believe the inspiring words of wisdom spring from. There has been so much going on since the start of the New Year that a time to reflect becomes somewhat impossible. Valerie and I were lucky to have a seven night break aboard the Ociana as she visited a number of ports situated within the confines of the channel. It seemed a rather strange place to be, a bit like being on a ferry but getting nowhere. At one point the Captain let slip that we would be spending some time in the Channel. One got the feeling that in planning terms, those responsible for getting the best out of ships, crew, resorts and giving value to customers did not quite reach the target. We were the bit left over, daywise when all resorts had been catered for.

It reminded me of the time when we lived in three manses during a five year period because the manse was not big enough. We had to move into temporary accommodation out of a big stone built detached dwelling with an an over large sloping garden ( a complete waste of space in a manse ). The idea was to eventually have a new house with a manageable garden. At the end of the day we had a three storey town house at the end of run and guess what! the builders told us we had a good size garden as there was not quite enough room to tag another house on the end.

Well it had a slope so they terraced it, and then made a large amount of rockery to break up the garden. The final bill for the gardener ran into four figures. looked really nice, which cut no ice with the moles, the previous tenants who brought in their own interior designer, assisted by a team of learned moles who had not read the script or seen the original designs!

So much for planning. But it was nice to reflect for a while and Valerie to be looked after and not to have to worry about what to have to eat.

I hope we can all have time to reflect on our lives and whilst we may not make resolutions as such, at least be resolute in trying to be more neighbourly towards each other.

Love and Best wishes, Stephen and Valerie Watts

**LOVE DESPITE BREXIT**

‘Should I stay or should I go?’ (The Clash).  Since the Referendum in June 2016, we have seen families, our nation and Parliament divided by different opinions over Europe. But ‘at the heart of the Christian message is Jesus’ command to love our neighbour. This includes those with whom we agree and disagree: at home, in Europe and further afield.’ (CofE Bishops, December 2018).

As we celebrate St Valentine’s Day this month, how can we conduct this debate in a loving way? The Apostle Peter reminds us: ‘Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.’ (1 Peter 2:17).Respect everyone: However much we may disagree with another people’s perspective, we should respect them as people. This applies even if they don’t respect our views!

Love the church: Among the family of believers there should be an even greater respect for each other! The way we treat each other not only reveals the depth of our love; it will also cause people to glorify God and want to be part of the family.

Fear God: We must demonstrate our allegiance to God by putting Him first and following His leading. Of course, this doesn’t stop Christians from having different opinions to each other.

Honour those in authority:  We are called to honour those who are in authority over us ‘for the Lord’s sake’ (13). Even when we disagree with their decisions and actions, we should keep our respect and not speak ill of them.

Peter is calling us to live with the freedom to make up our own mind on Europe, while listening to what others say (16). ‘A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.’ (Martin Luther).

Parish Pump

**1**

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Margaret and Lorraine would like to thank every one who helped or supported the bazaar in December. Margaret Babbage and her team for their hard work in the kitchen. Ivan and Margaret on the raffle, Pat and Renee for decorating Santa's grotto and of course Santa and his ELF as well. ( (Not to be out done this year Santa learnt all the names of his reindeer's.!!)

There are many more people to say thank you to, such as the stall holders many of which were from our own church, John Mayfield and his team who worked in the car park in some awful weather and Richard who worked on the sound all day.  The choirs were great and the atmosphere was brilliant so thank you everyone for making the bazaar such a success and also I would like to say a personal thank you to Margaret Flintham and Lorraine Mann who kept me going.

1. **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE**
2. at
3. Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church, London Hill, Rayleigh, SS6 7HP
4. on
5. **FRIDAY 1ST MARCH AT 1.30PM**
6. There is parking at the rear of the church
7. This service is for everyone, -  ladies and gentlemen, and takes the form of a service of thanksgiving, hymns, prayers and narration from the Women of Slovenia. It usually lasts for about 1 hour. After the service we meet together with tea/coffee and cake. Please come.
8. Please feel free to join us. If you would like more information please contact Penny Gendall on 01268 750324 or phg7782@gmail.com

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**The Prayer Tree:**

Further to previous articles in the Newsletter, we are pleased to announce that the Prayer Tree is now in place in the Nash Room. It is available for use by **anyone**using our Church premises.

The prayers will be collected on Sunday mornings, & brought into the Church to be presented during "Prayers for others".

Our hope is that this opportunity to ask for prayer will be a blessing to young & older people, those that attend Church or not.

Please make your friends aware of the availability of the Prayer Tree.

Thank you, **The Prayer Group.**

Isaiah 65 verse 24: "Before they call I will answer, while they are still speaking I will hear."  1 Peter 5 verse 7: "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

Many thanks, happy New Year to you both, God bless,

***Janet Warner***

|  |
| --- |
| **Concerts at Wesley proudly presents**Michael Glaysher - Award winning and international Elvis tribute performing all the well known classics and GospelSat 9th February at 7.30pmTickets £10 (inc refreshments)Call 07970 081324 or 01702 551948 or email wesleyconcerts@outlook.comTickets also available on the doorin aid of the church's work in the community |

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 **VALENTINES DAY QUIZ**

1. 1. Who was the first woman in space?
2. 2. Which multi-Oscar winning movie has been described as 'Dangerously close to being a Shirley Valentine for middle aged men'?
3. 3. Who abolished St Valentine's Day, Hogmanay and Halloween as being altogether too frivolous and irreligious?
4. 4. Who, in the title of a shakespeare play are valentine and proteus?
5. 5. Who was the Greek goddess of love?
6. 6. Plus or minus 100 years, what date was the first recorded Valentine sent?
7. 7. Where do you "wear your heart" if you are quick to show your feelings?
8. 8. Name the leader of the Chicago gangsters responsible for the St Valentines Day Massacre in 1929?
9. 9. Worldwide, plus or minus 5%, what percentage a year of Valentine's Day cards are romantic compared to humorous?
10. 10. Which famous building in New York lights up a red heart each St Valentine's Day?
11. **The inventor of the QWERTY keyboard** – now almost universally adopted in English-speaking countries – was born 200 years ago, on 14th February 1819, in Pennsylvania. Christopher Latham Scholes was an Episcopalian who could trace his ancestry back to two of the original Mayflower pilgrims, John and Priscilla Alden.
12. Although he did not invent the typewriter from scratch, Scholes was instrumental in developing a successful working model. Vital to this was his changing the keyboard, which was originally in alphabetical order but had a tendency to jam. Scholes rearranged the levers so that frequently used keys would not interfere with each other.
13. Scholes started out as a printer and then, after moving to Wisconsin, became a newspaper publisher. He served two terms as a Senator for Wisconsin, one as a Democrat and one as a Republican.
14. His typewriter was not a commercial success until he joined forces with the Remington company, selling them half his rights for $12,000. In 1878 he added a shift key so that the writer could switch easily between capitals and lower-case letters. He died in 1890, probably of tuberculosis.

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1. **SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| '3 February | 1045 | Worship | Mrs Maureen Gutteridge |
| '10 February | 1045 | Holy Communion | Rev Stephen Watts |
| '17 February | 1045 | Worship | Rev Hannah Bucke |
| '24 February | 1045 | Worship  | Rev Nana Thomford |
| '24 February | 1600 | Messy Church | Rev Stephen Watts |

**Coffee Morning**

**for**

**NIGERIAN HEALTH CARE**

**(The GUILD)**

**on**

**Saturday 16 February 2019**

**10.00 to 12.00 noon**

***It will include the following stalls, cakes cards, books, bric-a-brac, and much more***

**5**

**The Story Behind “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

Charles Wesley wrote something like six thousand hymns during his lifetime.  He spent much of his life on horseback traveling from church to church, so you might wonder how he accomplished this.  A part of the answer is found in the fact that he was naturally gifted — poetry welled up in him, allowing him to express his deep faith through hymns.  Another part of the answer is that he organized himself for his task.  He developed a kind of shorthand so that he could quickly jot down ideas as they came to him.  He carried note cards in his pocket so that he could record his thoughts even while riding a horse.  When he reached his destination, he would transform his rough notes into finished verse.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” is one of Wesley’s greatest hymns.  The hymn is really a prayer — a prayer to Jesus, who is “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.”  It invites Jesus to make his dwelling in us — to visit us with his salvation — to enter our hearts.  It invites him to take away our love of sinning — to set our hearts at liberty.  It concludes by asking Jesus to finish his new creation (we are his new creation) so that we might be pure and spotless — perfectly restored — ready for heaven.

As you sing this hymn, keep in mind that it is a prayer — that you are asking God to dwell in you — to visit you with his salvation — to enter your heart.

Love divine, all loves excelling,

Joy of heaven to earth come down;

Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;

All Thy faithful mercies crown!

Jesus, Thou art all compassion,

Pure unbounded love Thou art;

Visit us with Thy salvation;

Enter every trembling heart.

etc

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**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

We regret to announce the death over Christmas of our dear friend Doreen Osman, and send loving sympathy to her family. It was unexpected, as Doreen was always bright, never complaining about her many health problems.

The funeral has taken place, as has also the funeral of  Rose
Southgate, whose death just before  Christmas at the age of  98 wasannounced in a recent Sunday Bulletin.

Congratulations to Jeremy Hand, aged 16, nephew of Dilys Hand, who has been chosen to represent New Zealand in the under-18 boys' LacrosseTeam.  His first tournament will be at Easter in Perth, Australia. Well done.

It seems that John and Sue Ward are building a football team - congratulations and best wishes on the arrival of grandson Jacob, a brother for Roman, born to Sarah Ward and Andrew Grout on 7 January.
Val Tyler

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY IS AS FOLLOWS**

4th February     Speaker Margaret Knight
 "FOOD"
11th February    Speaker  Nigel Payne
 "My Life in Television"
18th February       Speaker Linda Newman
    "Women's World Day of Prayer"
25th February Speaker  Julia Tetley
 "Two Tree Island"
Elaine Blades

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**POINTS TO REMEMBER ON LOVE**

“Love is fragile like a china vase. It needs pampering and care. The slightest crack has a painful tendency to grow. Taking love for granted and then weeping on its tomb is the surest way to diminish life.”

Professor J L Martin Descalzo

“Why is it that the most unoriginal thing we can say to one another is still the thing we long to hear? “I love you” is always a quotation.”

Jeanette Winterson

“Age does not protect you from love, but to some extent love protects you from age.”

Jeanne Moreau

“Love is a many sided sacrifice; it means thoughtfulness for others; it means putting good before self gratification. Love is impulse no doubt, but true love is impulse wisely directed.”

H R Haweis

The best portion of a good man's life,

His little nameless acts

Of kindness and of love.

William Wordsworth

Take the hand os Him who is the Life, the Truth, the Way. He will feed you, live and lead you, be your strentgth and stay. Le nothing doubt your courage as the unknown road you tread Safely you'll be guided through the years that lie ahead..

# Martin Luther

# ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1 Valentine Tereshkova

2. American Beauty

3. Oliver Cromwell

4. Two gentlemen of Verona

5. Aphrodite

6. 1415

7. Sleeve

8. Al Capone

9. 75% - yes, three quarters of Valentines cards are the sickly romantic ones

1. The Empire state building

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**ST VALENTINES DAY**

1. St Valentine’s Day falls on 14th February and since the 18th Century has been associated with the declaration of love, albeit anonymously. Originally this might be through the offering of sweets or flowers, and now more commonly by the sending of an unsigned card.
2. One suggestion is that St Valentinus was a Roman Christian who performed weddings for soldiers in the Roman army, even though they were not permitted to marry. According to this story, Valentinus was sentenced to death for his offence, but during his imprisonment prayed for the blind daughter of his judge, who miraculously recovered. Before his execution he left her a note, which he signed ‘Your Valentine.’
3. All of us long to know that we are loved by someone, but declaring our love to another is always a risky business since we may be rejected. They may consider us not attractive enough, or unsuitable in any number of other ways. The pain of unrequited love is indeed great, and so many of us hold back because of the fear of rejection.
4. One thing we can be sure of, however, is that we are loved by God. He loves us because He made us, and likes us as we are. He loves us because He gave His Son to die for us, and thought we were worthy of such a sacrifice. Here is One who knows everything about us and loves us just the same. His love is unchanging and unending and we need never fear His rejection.

Here is the best declaration of love ever made. God says to you, “I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3).”

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**LADIES CLUB**

 6 February Rev Stephen Watts

13 February Brenda - Craft Afternoon

20 February Half Term

27 February Room 101

##### Elizabeth Ellis

##### Some miscellaneous observations on modern life…

A cabbie is a fare-minded person.

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

A job at the nursery can lead to a budding career.

A man said his credit card was stolen but he decided not to report it because the thief was spending less than his wife did.

A will is a dead giveaway.

According to my calculations, the problem doesn’t exist.

Age doesn’t always bring wisdom. Sometimes age comes alone.

**Manner of speaking**

‘Are your father and your mother in?’ asked the vicar when the small boy opened the door.

‘They was in,’ said the youngster.  ‘But they is out.’

‘They was in. They is out. Where’s your grammar, young man?’

‘She’s gone upstairs, for a nap.’

**Be my Valentine**

Young man:  Do you love me?

Young lady:  Yes.

Young man:  But can you live on my income?

Young lady:  Certainly. Though – what will you live on?

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**Wesley Guild**

 7 February Janice Phillips

14 February Rachael Knowlson

 “Teaching RE”

21 February Dr Athan Cker

7:30 pm Start International Trade

28 February Rev Clifford Newman

**Margaret Flintham**

It was:

200 years ago, on 14th Feb 1819 that Christopher Sholes, American inventor was born.  He developed one of the first typewriters and invented the QWERTY keyboard.

100 years ago, on 26th Feb 1919 that the Grand Canyon National Park was established in Arizona.

80 years ago, on 14th Feb 1939 that the German battleship Bismarck was launched.  It was sunk by the British in May 1941 during a WW2 battle in the North Atlantic.

60 years ago, on 3rd Feb 1959 was ‘the day music died’.  American rock-and-roll performers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa.

20 years ago, on 9th Feb 1999 that Bryan Mosley, British actor, died.  Best known for his role as Alf Roberts in the TV soap Coronation Street.

10 years ago, on 10th Feb 2009 that two satellites collided in orbit for the first time.  A defunct Russian Cosmos-2251 military communications satellite and an operational US Iridium 33 communications satellite were both destroyed, creating thousands of fragments of space debris.

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1. **PRAYER GROUP MEETING DATES**
2. **2019**

 *February: 13th & 27th.*

1. *March: 13th & 27th. April: 10th & 24th.*
2. *May: 8th & 22nd. June: 5th & 19th.*
3. *July 3rd & 17th. NO MEETING IN AUGUST.*
4. *September: 11th & 25th. October: 9th & 23rd.*
5. *November: 6th & 20th. December: 4th.*
6. ALL MEETINGS ARE IN THE WELCOME AREA, COMMENCING AT 9.30AM, FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES.

1. ***FROM THE EDITORS WE NEED YOUR ARTICLES for the MARCH 2019 EDITION***
2. *The deadline for the submission of articles for this edition of the Newsletter is Sunday* ***10 FEBRUARY 2019*** *( in Welcome Area) or Wednesday* ***13 FEBRUARY*** *by post or email. John and Sue*
3. ***johnward816@gmail.com***

**Bible Study** at Clifford and Linda's house at 10am on 22 February 2019, theme, “Women Who Prayed”.

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 **SERVICES**

**Sunday Services**  10:45 am and (6:30 pm 2nd and 4th Sunday)

**Junior Church**  10:45 am

**Mid-Week Communion**

With the exception of August it is held on the third Tuesday of each month in the WESLEY ROOM at 10:30 am.

**REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS**

**Monday**

1:15pm Sunbeams Parent and Toddler Group

2:30 pm Women's Fellowship

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

1:45pm – 3:15pm Ladies Club

4:15 pm-5:30 pm Rainbows

5:45 pm -7:15 pm Brownie Guides

7:00 pm-8.45pm Guides

**Thursday**

10:00 am Care and Share

5.15 pm- 6.15pm Beavers

6:30 pm - 7:45 pm Cubs

8:00 pm – 9:30pm Scouts

8:00 pm Wesley Guild (Sept to May only)

**Friday**

4:30 pm-5:45 pm Rainbows

5:30 pm-7:00 pm Brownie Guides

7:15 pm -9:00 pm Guides

7:15 pm -9:00 pm Guides Senior Section (fortnightly)

**Preschool**

Mon 9:15 am to 11:45 am

Tues Weds Thurs Friday 9:15-11:45 am and 12:30-3:00 pm

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