

London Road Congregational Church

The Envoy



Church Directory



Ministry Team, Bible Book Club, Film Club & Pub Theology

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If you have any articles or photographs you think may be suitable for our magazine, we would love to receive them. Please email them to the editor.

***The deadline for submissions to the Spring 2022 edition of the magazine is
1st February 2022***

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Website: newarkcongregational.com

Facebook: London Road Congregational Church Newark

What is a Congregational Church?

A Congregational Church is one that believes in the Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Congregationalists share and respect each other's gifts, and worship, serve and decide things together as guided by the Holy Spirit at church meetings.

There are three principles:

- A church where Christ is the head, with no external hierarchy
- A church based on a covenant relationship with God and with one another, where seeking the mind of Christ is the basis of all that is done
- A church where all members are considered equal before God, and all skills and giftings are valued and recognised

London Road Congregational Church Services

Services are now taking place in the church building for those who wish to attend in person, and are live on Zoom at the same time for those who are unable to attend in person.

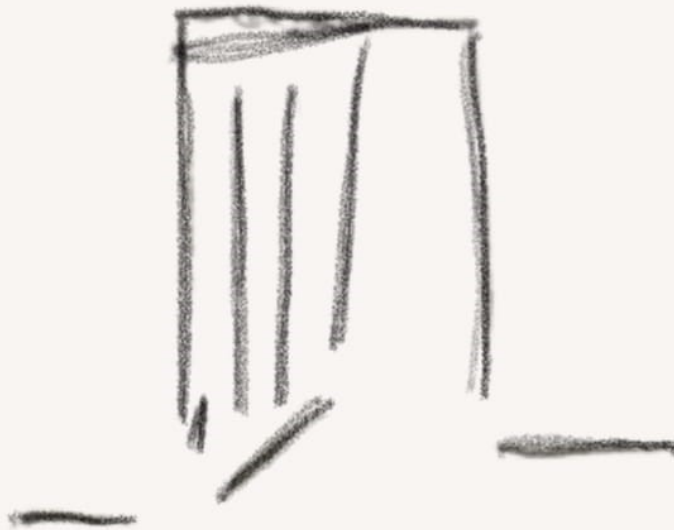
To receive links to join the services, please contact
newarkcongregational@virginmedia.com

Please keep an eye on our social media or website for information about services in the church building. Alternatively, please contact the above email address to be added to our mailing list. Your email address will not be shared.

The Upper Room

London Road Congregational Church

Fridays at 7 starting 12th November



'Youth Event For 15 - 18s'

Preaching Team



We hope you have enjoyed our autumn series of services based on how Jesus interacted with people on the fringes of society. Jesus did so much of this and, as a church, we need to reflect on what this is telling us about where our priorities need to be as we interact with our community and the wider world.

One way in which we do interact with those on the fringes is in our support of the Newark Foodbank. Val works as a regular volunteer for the food distribution sessions, but the whole of the church is able to contribute by bringing food and other items for distribution. It was great to see the large quantities of help that we gave at our Harvest Festival.

It was also wonderful at Harvest to see larger numbers in the building as we all invited friends to join us for worship – undoubtedly the offer of a free meal helped to attract people too! Of course we can invite people to join us at any time which gives us the opportunity to share our church's approach to the Good News about Jesus.

On 19th December we are planning a similar invitational event for Christmas when we will also be asking those from all the many groups that are involved with church to join us. Julie has written about the details of this elsewhere in the 'Envoy'.

We will of course be concentrating on Advent and Christmas in December but we do have a new theme for January and February which is going to be looking at the 'I AM' sayings of Jesus in John's Gospel.

A reminder that on 16th January 2022 we will be welcoming the current President of the Congregational Federation, Suzanne Nockels, to preach for us. This will be yet another invitational event and once again a meal will be on offer.

Finally Martin and I would like to give our thanks to those who step up and lead worship when we aren't available. If anyone else would like to volunteer, either to run a whole service or to contribute to it, whether as an individual or as a team, just let us know and we'll make sure we give you the opportunity.

Mark and Martin

Family Friendly Carol Service

London Road Congregational Church welcomes everyone to celebrate Christmas at a Family Friendly Carol Service on 19th December 2021 at 2pm. It doesn't matter how young or not so young you are, EVERYONE is welcome, the more the merrier.

Wear your Christmas Jumpers and Santa Hats and take time out from the hectic preparations that herald every Christmas holiday.

Hear the Christmas Story, sing your favourite carols. Enjoy coffee and mince pies.

See you then!

Rich



I'm so pleased to be able to report that Pub Theology has restarted after 18 months when it wasn't possible to hold our sessions.

We have now held 2 sessions in The Prince Rupert with a healthy attendance of people from various churches in the town and people who attend none.

Pub Theology is all about meeting up somewhere comfortable, having a drink if you'd like (mine's a pint) and talking about some of the Big Questions that (if we are human) we ought to be interested in and have a point of view on. It's for people of all faiths and none - the more different points of view are represented the better it will work.

Here are a few of the questions we have looked at over the last 2 sessions:

- Should Covid vaccinations be compulsory for some people and if so for whom?
- Is it OK to hold a beer festival in a church/graveyard? Why, or why not?
- In Texas abortion is now illegal after 6 weeks. There is no exception for rape or incest. In the UK a foetus with Down's Syndrome may be aborted up until birth. What is an appropriate law on abortion?
- Why is child abuse such a problem in Christian churches?
- What's to be done about starvation in Afghanistan?

If you're interested in thinking about questions like these and would like to come along, our next meeting (after the Christmas break) will be on Thursday 27th January 2022 from 7.30pm at The Prince Rupert.

You can find out more on our website at:

<https://newarkcongregational.com/regular-events/pub-theology/>

Mark

Just Sing! Community Choir

The choir is getting close to normal operations and our sessions are now being held in the church hall for the first time in well over a year. Whilst numbers are somewhat lower than before the pandemic (a lot of choir members are among the 'more mature' in years and are wary of returning to mixing together too soon) we are finally able to sing together like we used to and it's great.

Another welcome return is our annual concert in Newark Town Hall which will be on Saturday 11th December 2021. This will include some Christmas music and ticket sales will be donated to charity.

There has been a steady trickle of new people joining the choir but there is always room for more.

Just to remind you – the choir is open to everyone. There are no auditions and you don't even have to pay to attend (though there is a recommended donation). As with other things email me at newarkcongregational@virginmedia.com if you're interested, or look on the church website for details of our upcoming meetings.

Mark



Mark and Martin's Meanderings

Greetings from Mark and I, I don't know about you but we have gone back to 'normal' in our daily lives, but it doesn't quite seem the same. People spoke about the opportunity to re-set their lives and re-assess their priorities. I wonder how many of us have grasped that opportunity and fought against the battle to just fall back into the same old routines. It feels that the once you get back onto the treadmill it takes all your effort to just keep upright and running.

I would hope that you still have the chance to assess your priorities. We have moved back into the building for worship but run a hybrid format with both people in the building and people still on zoom. We have continued to look at our manifesto, our statements of intent, and the priorities that we felt during lockdown. Like many we realised that people are the important thing in our lives and relationships matter more than things. Part of that is our relationship with God. Turning up on Sunday, putting money in the offertory, doing 'stuff' is ok but if it's not as a response to our relationship why are we doing any of it. It is also about being willing to admit when we feel our relationship needs to improve, Jesus never condemned people doubts, this past 18 months have been really difficult, but surely a loving God is willing for us to come to Him with our struggles and questions and to sometimes accept we don't have an answer, we need to trust in God.

We have been focusing on the way that Jesus reacted and interacted with the people society had pushed to the outskirts, women, young people, those who break the law or who choose to challenge unjust laws. We, as a fellowship, have made the commitment to reach out to those on the edges of society and to welcome them. Some of the things we are starting reflect this. You will see in other parts of this envoy that we have started things and continue other activities. As I

write, COP 26 is going on. We have achieved the bronze EcoChurch award and are looking to go further and look towards the silver award. I suppose in many ways it is all about taking the log out of our own eyes before we comment on the speck in others'.

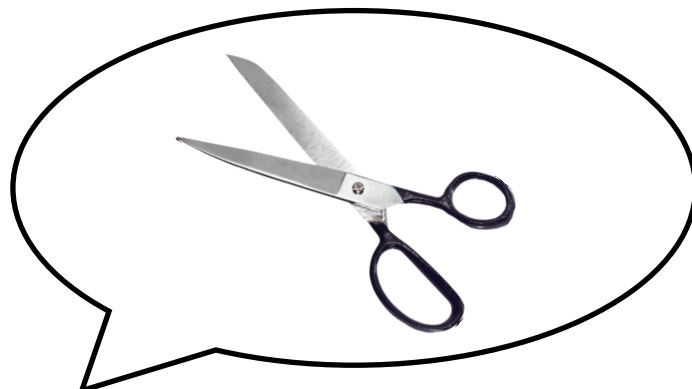
So before I end this, I want to take this opportunity to say, if you have come out of the lockdown and felt that there must be more to life than you had, but still have questions, let me invite you to join our meetings and activities and see whether your search can happen alongside ours. If your experience of church has not been a positive one because you have felt pushed out, let me invite you to join us as we seek to welcome in those who society or church has pushed away but know Jesus calls us to welcome in. If you feel that church has never been your thing because you have struggled to be accepted, let me invite you to join us. We are not perfect, so please don't judge us with the expectation that we think we are. We are trying to build our relationships with God and YOU are very welcome to join us in that journey.

God Bless

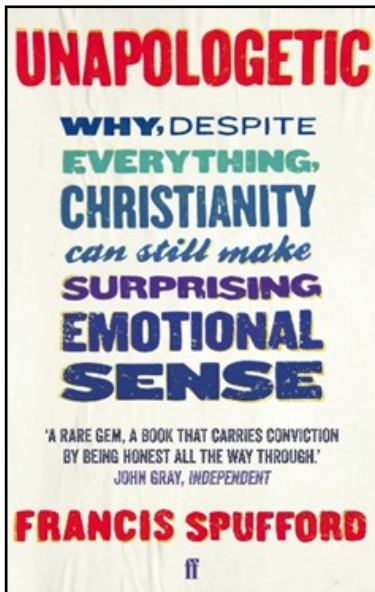
Martin and Mark

Craft and Conversation

Craft and Conversation will be starting in January on the first Thursday of the month, running from 10am until 11.30am. Everyone welcome.



Bible Book Club



Our most recent session on 'Unapologetic' by Frances Spufford looked at chapters 5 and 6.

Several of us thought that Chapter 5, which is effectively a re-telling of the story of the life of Jesus, was wonderful. Indeed I'd go as far as saying that if you wanted an introduction to the figure of Jesus it would be better to lead someone to read this chapter rather than one of the gospels. It's exciting, it's spellbinding, it's challenging and it convinces you that Jesus had an amazing new way of looking at the world to

teach us about. Here are a couple of short quotes:

"the implication of (Jesus's) perfectionism is that everybody is guilty; and if everybody is guilty, nobody gets to congratulate themselves, and murders and adulterers can't be shunned."

"he seems weirdly unbothered about in sex...he hardly has a thing to say about it. He expresses absolutely no opinions whatever about homosexuality, abortion, promiscuity, contraception, clerical celibacy, virginity at marriage, modest dress, non-procreative sex, masturbation, gay marriage or how far you should go on a first date."

Strange then that these topics are the subject of so much concern to many branches of the church. It might be better if we concentrated on loving one another and seeking justice – things which Jesus did have a little to say about!

As we are now online there is always room for new people to join our group. If you are interested contact me at: newarkcongregational@virginmedia.com and I'll add you to the emailing list.

You can borrow 'Unapologetic' and many other interesting volumes from the Church Library – free of charge.

Mark

Film Club



Two very different films to report on since the last edition:

Miss Potter (starring Renée Zellweger) was the story of the acclaimed writer of classic children's books Beatrix Potter. What could have been quite a twee film, complete with Miss Potter talking to the animals that she had drawn (her 'friends'), also covered some real issues such as:

- how a Victorian women could assert her own personality and move from financial reliance on her parents;
- the importance of environmental protection. Beatrix Potter bought 4,000 acres in the Lake District and left it to the National Trust to protect the land scape and rural way of life for generations to follow.

'The Good Liar' starring Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen was a fascinating story with a twist about a conman. It prompted thoughts about:

- Which lies are acceptable and which aren't?
- 'Fake news' on the internet and elsewhere;
- Burning books and censorship of ideas

A highly recommended film.

The DVDs have been added to the growing film library in church for anyone to borrow. Please get in touch if you'd like to join in.

newarkcongregational@virginmedia.com

Mark

Recipes

Perky Turkey Soup

Ingredients

1tbsp olive oil
1 large onion, halved and sliced into thin strips
1 red pepper, seeded and sliced into thin strips
2tsp ground coriander
¼ -½tsp chilli flakes
3 tbsp basmati or long-grain rice
1.5 litres/2 pints turkey or chicken stock
250g/9oz cooked turkey meat, cut into thin strips
410g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
Handful of coriander or flat leaf parsley, roughly chopped

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan, add the onion and fry for 5 minutes or until it starts to soften.
2. Add the red pepper, ground coriander, chilli flakes and rice and stir for about 1 minute.
3. Pour in the hot stock, stir in the turkey and chickpeas and season well. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 8-10 minutes, until the vegetables and rice are tender.
4. Stir in the fresh coriander/parsley and serve.

Christmas Mincemeat Muffins

Makes 12 medium sized muffins

Ingredients

1¾ cups of self raising flour
¾ cup caster sugar
½tsp salt
2 eggs
½ cup sour cream
½ cup milk
½tsp rum, whisky or brandy essence
½ cup fruit mincemeat

Method

1. Preheat oven to 200°C
2. Measure the first three ingredients into a large bowl.
3. In another bowl mix together, with a whisk, until smooth, the eggs, sour cream, milk and essence of your choice.
4. Without overmixing add the liquids to the dry ingredients.
5. Coat muffin pans with non-stick spray and half fill the 12 pans with the mixture.
6. Using a dampened teaspoon, make a small indentation on the top of each, and into it put 1-2 teaspoons of the fruit mincemeat.
7. Cover each with a spoonful of the remaining mixture trying to cover the 'enclosed' mincemeat.
8. Bake in the oven for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown. The centres should spring back when pressed.

Flower Rota

2nd January — Christmas Decorations

9th January — Parents and Toddlers

16th January — Jean Dobbs

23rd January — Maureen and Janet

30th January — Cath Clawson

6th February — Pat Corah

13th February — Deborah Taylor

20th February — Friday Focus

27th February — Ann Harris

6th March — In memory of Delores 'Sugar' May

13th March — In memory of Yvonne Robertson

20th March — Julie Hill

27th March — Mrs Bradshaw

Newark Foodbank Update

Thanks to the amazing generosity of our donors our warehouse is currently well stocked but there are a few items we would like:

Food

- Long Life Milk
- Instant Mashed Potato
- Ketchup
- Brown Sauce (e.g. HP Sauce)

Other Items

- **Toilet Roll (very short supply)**
- Washing Up Liquid

Please note: this list is correct at the time of printing. For up to date information, please check the board in the church hall or visit newarkfoodbank.org.uk

Changing the world
with **women and girls**
act:onaid

ActionAid UK
Child Sponsorship Office
Chard Business Park
Jarman Way
Chard TA20 1FB

01460 238000
supportercontact@actionaid.org
www.actionaid.org.uk



Mr M Taylor
22 Ringrose Close
Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG24 2JL

Child details: Matildah – ZM00301870
Supporter reference: 2288626

Your support is changing lives every day in
Nakonde, Zambia

Dear Mr Taylor,

Welcome to this latest update from Nakonde, the community in Zambia where Matildah lives!

As we are experiencing ourselves, the ongoing impact of coronavirus continues to affect lives in different ways. In Zambia, lockdown measures have recently been eased, following a brief reintroduction of restrictions during the summer.

But earlier this year when restrictions were eased, coupled with following strict protocols to protect the health and wellbeing of the children, my colleagues in Zambia were able to collect a message from Matildah, which I am very pleased to be enclosing today! I hope this provides some reassurance and joy.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patience and generous commitment during these particularly challenging times. I am also pleased to be sharing this story of change from Nakonde – these successes are only possible thanks to the partnership between you and the communities in Nakonde.

No longer going to school hungry

Due to restrictions that were imposed across the country to reduce the spread of Covid-19, many parents struggled to earn enough money to feed their children properly. This meant, when children returned to school in September, after schools having been closed since March, they were unable to concentrate on their lessons because they were hungry.

We would love to continue to tell you about ActionAid's work and how you can help us. If you no longer wish to hear from ActionAid UK, you can opt out by sending an email to dataprotection@actionaid.org or calling us on **0800 012 2038**

ActionAid is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales (company number 01295174).
England and Wales charity number 274467, Scottish charity number SC045476. Registered Office 33-39 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1R 0BJ.

But thanks to our wonderful child sponsors like you, we were able to provide food parcels to over 1,000 vulnerable families, ensuring children like Ireen, Luck and Mercy had a nutritious breakfast before going to school.

The children were all delighted to receive the food parcels.

"I am happy to receive this parcel from ActionAid. Thank you so much," said Luck (9).

"This gift will help all of us at home with my brothers and sisters," said Ireen (15).

And Mercy (12) added, **"I was not expecting this gift from our friends, thank you so much. *Nalibatemwa sana* [I love my friends so much]."**

Thank you

Ensuring children like Ireen, Luck and Mercy have enough food to concentrate on their lessons is truly life-changing. Thank you for being such an important part of this change by sponsoring Matildah.

Yours sincerely,



James Murrell
Child Sponsorship Team
ActionAid UK

P.S. If you would like to write a message to Matildah, I've enclosed a postcard for you to use. Thank you!



Children like Luck are not going to school hungry, thanks to your support.



Food parcels from ActionAid mean Ireen's brothers and sisters also have enough to eat.



Mercy is one of 1,000 children who received food parcels.

Photo: ActionAid

Dear Taylor

Matildah is doing fine. she is passing greetings to you and your family.

she says iam at school doing grade nine at [REDACTED]. she says iam a person who don't want to come and fail the exams which is in this very year 2020. i want to have a very good certificate as my elder brother called Blessings.

we are studying with my friends and my neighbours.

she says Action Aid has provided books at our school.

And in covid 19 they has provided foods for us. So we are thanking the program to continue and God be with them.

wishing you well in future.

yours sincerely

Message collected by: MIRIAM

ZAMBIA

MATILDAH

Zm00301870



act:onaid