

# JANUARY 2020

## BRICKNELL TIMES

### LETTER FROM THE MINISTER>

#### REV DAVID SPEIRS

*Dear Friends, May I begin this letter by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! For some of you who are receiving this letter in January, Christmas might already start to feel a little distant. Every year the festive season seems to start earlier; this year I even saw Christmas decorations and mince pies, with best before dates in November, being sold in shops during October! In the lead up to Christmas Day we can have months of preparation, talking about it, shopping for it, planning it. Then in January we realize that our pay cheque comes in later and that it's still cold dark and (probably) rainy. Every year media outlets report on how January is, for many people is the most difficult month of the year for these reasons. As a Christian I appreciate the Advent season that leads up to Christmas. It's a time of reflection, preparation and hopeful expectation, as we recognize that things are not OK and hope that the world can be different, the hope of lives transformed by the infant king's peace and joy. Yet first of all we have to acknowledge the difficulty and challenge that comes with the season. As the theologian Mike Frost observes:*

*"At the birth of Jesus, the heavenly host of angels promised peace on earth and goodwill to all. But in Herod's slaughter of the infant boys of Bethlehem, we see not peace but evil being unleashed"*

*The transformative power of Christmas is to welcome in the rule of Jesus Christ, who came to herald God's Kingdom of love and justice that would free all victims and establish an end to war. Yet we also have to acknowledge that while Jesus does gain the final victory over sin and death we still live in difficult and challenging times. For us, as followers of Christ we are called to embody and promote the Kingdom that Jesus heralds in, through discipleship. As Frost states Christians are "not to side with empire, but to sit with the terrified, to comfort those who mourn, to join the meek and merciful and pure in heart. To hunger and thirst for the righteousness on Jesus can bring". This is our calling, not just at Christmas time, but all year round. In the words of the prophet Micah "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God". (Micah 6:8).*

*I therefore encourage you to extend your Christmas' into January to continue to spread love and joy of the coming of Christ in practical ways and look to a world transformed.*

*Every Blessing, David*

### SUNDAY SERVICE

10.30AM

5 JANUARY 2020

REV GWEN NEWTON

12 JANUARY 2020

10.30AM

### COMMUNION

REV DAVID SPEIRS

19 JANUARY 2020

### UNITED SERVICE

AT TRINITY

11AM

REV DAVID SPEIRS

26 JANUARY 2020

MRS GEORGE

10.30AM

2 FEBRUARY 2020

### LOCAL

ARRANGEMENT

10.30AM

**REGULAR EVENTS FOR THIS MONTH JANUARY 2020**

**MONDAY:**

10am *Bricknell Belles - Keep Fit for the ladies*  
 12 - 3pm *Table Tennis*  
 3.30 - 9.30 *Fleur Elizabeth Academy of Dance and Drama*

**TUESDAY**

8.30am *Toddler Sense*  
 2pm - 4pm *Sequence Dance*  
 6pm - 9pm *Table Tennis*  
 7.45pm *Bricknell Friendship Group fortnightly*  
 7.45pm *Choir practice*

**WEDNESDAY**

9.45am- 11.30 *Busy Bees Baby & Toddler Group - 842047, term time only*  
 3pm *Slimming World*  
 3.30pm *Messy Café - all families welcome after school term time only*  
 3.30pm - 6pm *Messy Church - all families welcome*  
*first Wednesday of month 5 February next session term time only*

**THURSDAY**

9am - 12.30 *Table Tennis*  
 9.30am - 11.30 *Office open*  
 1pm - 3pm *Social afternoon - games etc., tea and natter all welcome*  
*fortnightly light lunch served.*  
 7.30pm *Savoyards*

**FRIDAY**

10am *Weightwatchers*  
 4.30pm *Flex Dance*  
 6.30pm *Sequence Dancing*

**SATURDAY**

9am to 11am *Coffee morning second Saturday of the month*

**SUNDAY**

10.30am *Church Service*  
 7pm *Sunday Dance Group*

**FLOWER ROTA**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Arrangers</b>	<b>Distributors</b>
<b>15 Dec</b>	<i>Plants up until 5 January</i>		
<b>12 Jan</b>	<i>Jennifer Toyne</i>	<i>Ann Drewery</i>	<i>Margaret Farmery</i>
<b>26 Jan</b>	<i>Mike &amp; Barbara Sykes</i>	<i>Sue Barker</i>	<i>Geoff &amp; Ann Drewery</i>

*Stella Matthews collecting used stamps please.*

*Donation to food banks around this area are needed there is a box at the church entrance.*

*Room Hire: contact Christine Hook 846557*

*News from the Circuit Meeting held on 4 December 2019 by Margaret Farmery.*

*The meeting was opened with devotions by Margaret Asiedu. Best wishes were sent to Sue Trotter who is unwell at this time. The Superintendent Minister Rev Ann Rigby-Jones held a time of prayer during the meeting.*

*Circuit Stewards report: a presentation had been made to the Rev Leslie Newton, the District Chair for the support he gave the circuit while we were without a permanent Superintendent Minister. We will find out in January if our request for the stationing of a probation minister in the circuit has been successful. Thanks were given to all the Circuit Stewards for all their hard work.*

*Good news: Willerby will be putting on a Christmas dinner on Christmas Day for anyone who is likely to be on their own. Tower Hill has five new members.*

*Local Preachers: Mrs. Rachael Getgood is on note and Mr. James Kerridge is on trial*

*Open Doors: From 12 November Open Doors remains under the umbrella of Princes Avenue Methodist church.*

*Hygiene: Sue Weatherall pointed out that the Food Hygiene Certificates expire after three years and need to be re-instated again.*

*Vacant Circuit Appointments: Circuit Treasurer, Circuit Meeting Secretary, Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Local Preachers Secretary any enquires should be direct to Rev Ann Rigby-Jones*