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**NUNEATON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

***Christian witness in the local community for over 300 years***

**Outlook**

**February 2021**

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**REFLECTION**

Sunday 31st January is marked as the fourth Sunday after the Epiphany and the nearest to February 2nd, the commemoration of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple and the ritual purification of Mary after childbirth. This concludes the Church’s Christmas season, 40 days after the birth of the Christ child.

February 2nd is also known as Candlemas Day from the tradition of the annual blessing of church candles on that day.

Allan is proposing that we include blessing candles as part of our worship on Sunday 31st.

During this service you will need a candle (such as a tea-light) which we will bless and can be used as a focus for prayer in the year ahead

Candlemas is the halfway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Traditionally, it was also the time when the soil could first begin to be turned, and the days began to be longer.

Just as the darkness begins to fade, it’s time to let the new light in

The poem on the next page seems particularly appropriate for today

A number of versions of are to be found in on line and on YouTube,

For example

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kedn9AYjICo>



**The Four Candles**

*Aino Makoto 2004*

The Four Candles burned slowly.

Their Ambiance was so soft you could hear them speak...

The First Candle said,

"I Am Peace, but these days, nobody wants to keep me lit."

Then Peace's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

The Second Candle said,

"I Am Faith, but these days, I am no longer indispensable."

Then Faith’s flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

Sadly, The Third Candle Speaks,  
"I Am Love and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer. People put me aside and don't understand my importance.

They even forget to love those who are nearest to them."

Waiting no longer Love goes out completely.

Suddenly...A child enters the room and sees the three candles no longer burning.

The child begins to cry, "Why are you not burning?

You are supposed to stay lit until the end!

Then the Fourth Candle speaks gently to the little child,

"Don't be afraid, for I Am Hope, and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles."

With Shining Eyes, the child took the Candle of Hope and lit the other three candles.

The greatest of these is love...... but the flame of hope should never go out of your life!  
With hope each of us can live with peace, faith, and love.

**REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS** **FEBRUARY 2021**

**February 7 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

[Isaiah 40:21-31](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Epiphany/BEpi5_RCL.html#OLDTEST); [Psalm 147:1-12, 21c](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Epiphany/BEpi5_RCL.html#PSALM); [1 Corinthians 9:16-23](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Epiphany/BEpi5_RCL.html#EPISTLE);

[Mark 1:29-39](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Epiphany/BEpi5_RCL.html#GOSPEL)

**February 14 Last Sunday after the Epiphany Transfiguration**

[2 Kings 2:1-12](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Epiphany/BEpiLast_RCL.html#OLDTEST); [Psalm 50:1-6](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Epiphany/BEpiLast_RCL.html#PSALM); [2 Corinthians 4:3-6](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Epiphany/BEpiLast_RCL.html#EPISTLE); [Mark 9:2-9](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Epiphany/BEpiLast_RCL.html#GOSPEL)

**February 17 Ash Wednesday**

[Joel 2:1-2, 12-17](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearABC/Lent/AshWed.html#OLDTEST); or [Isaiah 58:1-12](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearABC/Lent/AshWed.html#OldTest2); [2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearABC/Lent/AshWed.html#EPISTLE);

[Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearABC/Lent/AshWed.html#GOSPEL); [Psalm 103 or 103:8-14](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearABC/Lent/AshWed.html#PSALM)

**February 21 First Sunday in Lent**

[Genesis 9:8-17](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent1_RCL.html#OLDTEST); [Psalm 25:1-9](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent1_RCL.html#PSALM) [1; Peter 3:18-22](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent1_RCL.html#EPISTLE); [Mark 1:9-15](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent1_RCL.html#GOSPEL)

**February 28 Second Sunday in Lent**

[Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent2_RCL.html#OLDTEST); [Psalm 22:22-30](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent2_RCL.html#PSALM) ; [Romans 4:13-25](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent2_RCL.html#EPISTLE) ;

[Mark 8:31-38](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent2_RCL.html#GOSPEL) or Mark 9: 2-9

**March 7 Third Sunday in Lent**

[Exodus 20:1-17](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent3_RCL.html#OLDTEST); [Psalm 19](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent3_RCL.html#PSALM); [1 Corinthians 1:18-25](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent3_RCL.html#EPISTLE); [John 2:13-22](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent3_RCL.html#GOSPEL)



**SUNDAY WORSHIP by ZOOM**

The service sheet for Sundays from mid-January to mid-February has been sent out by email and post for those not on email.

January 31st and February 7th led by Rev Dr Allan Smith

February 14th led by Rev Craig Muir

February 21st led by Rev Nick Stanyon

**CONNECTIONS**

To join in our ‘phone-in’ worship, from 9.15 am for a 9.30 am start

**To join by phone,** dial any one of these numbers:

0203 481 5240 0131 460 1196 0203 481 5237

When asked to enter your Meeting ID key in 226 258 804 #

(don’t forget the ‘#’).

Please contact webmaster for passcode

If you are asked for a ‘Participant Key’ key in #

To join using a **computer** https://us02web.zoom.us/j/226258804

or

from https://zoom.us/download#client\_4meeting

and use the Meeting ID: 226 258 804

Please contact webmaster for Passcode

**CATCH UP worship** You can hear a recording of our Sunday worship by phoning **01827211137**

The recordings will normally be available from 11 am on the day.

The call will be charged at your normal network rate (and may be included in any ‘free’ minutes).

**OUTLOOK**

Apologies for an abbreviated issue this month printed from home as a result of being literally “shorthanded”.

I hope to be back to full capacity as soon as possible

**FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY**

**Church meetings**

Our Zoom meeting on December 9th was “attended” by 13 members. and our meeting on January 20th alsoby 13 members

Our next Church meeting will be our **AGM** scheduled for Wednesday March 17th 2021 at 7.30 pm via zoom

Congratulations and thanks were expressed to Allan for a very successful Pastorate Carol Service and professional production, viewed and enjoyed by many.

Consideration may be given to producing similar worship for Easter

**Services in church**

While we are in the third phase of lockdown the advice from the URC Church and local Synod is NOT to hold services in the church buildings. Planning for further services will await further advice from the Synod following the next government review.

**Stepwise**

There is a preliminary plan to establish a Stepwise group within the Pastorate with a view to studying via zoom the opening Stepwise stream, ***Faith-filled Life,*** which takes about three months to complete.

Anyone interested to be asked to contact Diana



**2021**

**Area Lent Course**

Churches in the Coventry and Warwickshire Area URC are proposing to run Lent Course to be held on Tuesday evenings from February 23rd until March 23rd via Zoom. (time 7.00 pm to be confirmed)

Please let Diana know if you would like to join in

**Lent meditations**

Consideration is being given to organising a series of weekly short meditations for our Pastorate during Lent via Zoom.

Details to be confirmed,



**Finance**

**Thank you**

To all who continue to be faithful and generous with their offertory

An annual statement of accounts for the year will be presented at the Church AGM in March.

**Although**

Weekly Sunday Worship in the Church Building is suspended

We are meeting regularly with our fellow churches in the

North Warwickshire Pastorate by zoom

**To join in our regular ‘phone-in’ worship,**

**from 9.15 am for a 9.30 am start See page 5**

Baptisms and Marriages by arrangement – contact Church Secretary

**CONTACTS**

**WEBSITE** **www.nuneatonurc.btck.co.uk**

**CHURCH**

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**MINISTER** Rev Dr Allan Smith

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**CHURCH SECRETARY**

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**CHURCH FINANCES**

Contact Church Secretary

**FACILITIES MANAGER**

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**ROOM HIRE**

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