



*Baldwyns Park Baptist Church (Dartford Rd. DA5
2AY) Quarterly Newsletter*

Dear Friends – Welcome to our first Newsletter Our idea of Church is a place where spiritual, social, emotional and physical needs can help to be met for all ages. We want to serve the community, let you know what is happening, offer prayers or a helping hand etc., as far we are able.

Our Christmas Celebrations:

Carols by Candlelight,

Sunday 18th Dec. 5-6 pm

Followed by drinks & mince pies

Christmas Eve Service

11.30pm – 12.15am

Quiet, reflective time

Christmas Day Service

10.00am – 10.45am

Bring along one of your presents to show others

New Year's Day Service

10.00am – 11.00am

Forget the resolutions – hear the gospel



The Church's History - The Church was built in 1950, before even Cold Blow Crescent, The Firs, Mornington Court or Frazer Close existed. The expectation then was that a Council Estate would be built on the farmland behind. This didn't happen but we are still here serving the Community as God leads

us. A big step of faith was taken by the Rev. Kenneth Weller and congregation in 1970 to build 2 halls, cloakrooms etc. for £15000, a frightening amount in those days. Through the years they have supported Sunday schools, Brigades, Nursery Schools, dance classes, art classes, A.A. and older people's groups etc. There followed the leadership of Sam and Margaret Sayer/family, Alan May and now the 10 year Ministry of Rev. Tony Green. Times have been good and expanding, times have been hard and contracting, but all through our history serving Jesus has been our focus - Eileen.

A welcoming Church?

I'd been searching for a Church for a while. Upon walking into this Church for the 1st time, on my own, I was greeted very enthusiastically by a kindly old man at the door, as well as by the congregation generally. You can be sure of the same too, so why not join us for our Carols by Candlelight or other Christmas Services (as above)), and a friendly chat afterwards - Gloria

An active, musical, caring, prayerful and developing Church?

When we joined this Church 3 years ago we saw the opportunity to develop work within the local community, as we had many years of experience in Health and Social Care. The Church were fully supportive of such and in our time they have hosted:

- A Social and Health Care training event for West Kent Churches
- A concert by The Dartford Light Orchestra
- Meals (the latest being a Curry evening) **P.T.O.**
- A number of musical events including the Debbie and Steven duo (2 young professional musicians who have sung before royalty, written music for TV etc.), and a couple of talented tenors
- A talk and film presentation by Mike - a record breaking channel swimmer who featured recently in The Sunday Times Magazine
- The Church also supports Christian care/mission projects in Africa and India, has fund-raised for the Ellenor Lions Hospice and shares some events with both the local cluster of Baptist Churches (Dartford, Stone, Temple Hill and Crayford), Bexley Churches Working Together, St Barnabas CofE Church and Baldwyns Freeholders Association / Club

In the future, with the Church, it is hoped to develop

- Increased opportunities for prayer, healing and wholeness
- Professionally run Falls Prevention and Seated Exercise Classes Ian and Tricia

Groups using the Church regularly:

- **Baldwyns Park Village Nursery** (excellent OFSTED Report), 9.15-12.15 Mon-Fri, tel. Vicky on 07899918584

--**Bexley Art Group**, 7.30pm on Mondays (except Bank Holidays and the first Monday

of each month). Tel. Marilyn Noad on 01322 430681
--**Slimming World**, Thursdays 7.30pm, tel. Sally on 0208 303 4364

Our Services:

--**Sunday mornings**, 10-11.15

--**Prayer and Bible Study** last Wednesday each month at 7.30 pm in the Church hall fellowship room. The other Wednesdays, 8.15pm, prayer, singing and chat, usually in Wilmington home

--**Homegroup** – Friday at 2.00 pm in Church hall fellowship room. This is an informal meeting with a short talk on a specific subject. It will include prayer and refreshments at close.

Youth

Boys and Girls Brigade, ages 6-11, 6.30-8.00pm term time every Tuesday evening.

Thought for the Quarter from Revd. Jony Green:

Someone once said, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, 'If you find the perfect Church don't join it or you'll spoil it.' Well, we would like you to consider joining us to celebrate Christmas this year because quite simply we're not a perfect Church and therefore you wouldn't be spoiling anything. The truth is that when the early Church formed, some 2000 years ago, it couldn't help but be made up of less-than-perfect people, because Jesus attracted and called those who were less than perfect, which means that you and I fall into that category. He attracted such people because he spoke words of hope, of love and of life and he invited people to see life from his perspective, which was broader and richer and challenging. Yet Jesus was not only offering words of hope, love and life – he embodied all that this meant. The story of Jesus, which began with his lowly birth at Christmas ends, not with his death some 33 years later, but beyond Calvary's deathly cross with his Easter resurrection glory.

So, instead of a Sunday scrum at Bluewater where you do battle with all the other stressed-out consumers searching for that Christmas bargain, why not take time out? Please try and join us over Christmas and listen to the life-giving words of Jesus, who is the *Christ* (Saviour) in *Christmas*.

We hope that we have wet your appetite and look forward to telling you more as this Newsletter develops. The Rev. Jony Green can be contacted on 01322 52432