

**EBA Prayer Focus: Hornchurch Baptist Church**

Hornchurch Baptist Church is surely unique among the EBA in its setting above a super-market in a busy town centre on the East London/Essex border. The church leases the top floor above Iceland, where they enjoy a flexible suite of rooms that provide space for worship, meetings and church groups. The past 18 months have provided the inevitable challenges of Covid, but also significant change after the church's youth worker in August 2020. The congregation are led by Revd Vivienne Alexander and a team of deacons.

- Pray for the months that lie ahead and how we adjust to changes in attendance and how we balance worship needs against practical restrictions in the winter months.
- Please pray for strength for ongoing deacons and also for any new ones that come onto the diaconate, and that we reflect God's heart to our church fellowship.
- For our Christmas carol service and its outreach possibilities - that many new families may attend and see Christ exalted through our worship.

**Walton Parish Nursing**

- Please continue to pray for Lorna, John and the volunteers, trustees and management team.

**MRBC**

- Pray for those in the fellowship who are unwell or who need our prayers at present.
- Pray that the Lord will provide the finance we need to cover the cost of the recent repairs.
- Pray for our remaining Christmas Services, that they may be a time of rejoicing and expectancy for what Jesus, the Light of the world brings to us.

**Nation & World**

- Pray for our national leaders that they may take wise action as they try to assess and respond to the Omicron Variant.
- Pray that the public will respond well to the new constraints that are being placed on them to counter the spread of Omicron.
- Please pray for the nation of Afghanistan as they face the crisis of famine in the cold of winter. Pray that agencies will be able to get food and warm clothing to the people that need it.

**December Birthdays**

20<sup>th</sup> Carol G

**Church Contacts**

|                             |                   |              |                                 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Pastor</b>               | Mark Reid         | 01394 822173 | pastor@mrbcfelixstowe.org.uk    |
| <b>Church Secretary</b>     | Corinne Stockdale |              | secretary@mrbcfelixstowe.org.uk |
| <b>Weekly Prayer Update</b> | Steve Lineham     |              | prayer@mrbcfelixstowe.org.uk    |
| <b>Weekly Sheet</b>         | Lisa Ransom       |              | notices@mrbcfelixstowe.org.uk   |

Welcome to Maidstone Road Baptist Church

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
**Carols by Candlelight Service**

Leader: *Delyth Mayhew* and Speaker: *Mark Read*  
 A live service in church @ MRBC

| This week                           |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> December    | 4.00pm Carols By Candlelight<br>Speaker: Marl Reid<br>Live in church   |
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> December    |  |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December   |  |
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December | No Chair-Based Exercise - Restart 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 (TBC)   |
| Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December  |  |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> December    | No Coffee and Chat - Restart on Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> January at 10:30<br>For login details please contact Gordon Cooper. |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> December  | Christmas Day<br>10.30 am Christmas Celebration Service  |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December    | Boxing Day - No Service<br>No Weekly Sheet – see note inside   |



Today we have the return of Carols by Candlelight. As we sing some well-known carols and hear some less well-known ones, and recall again the story of Jesus' birth, may we be uplifted and encouraged.

**Church Website: [mrbcfelixstowe.org.uk](http://mrbcfelixstowe.org.uk)**

**Got a notice for the Sheet?**  
 Fellowship prayer requests go to Steve by Friday morning  
 Notices for the weekly sheet to Lisa R by Friday evening

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Regular Activities

Because of the constraints placed on us by the Coronavirus pandemic, the only Church activities running at present are those listed in the Weekly Sheet

### SERVICES IN DECEMBER

#### Christmas Services

**19th December - Carols by Candlelight @ 4.00pm**

*Please note there will be no Morning Service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>.*  
**25<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Day Service @ 10.30am**

**Please note that there will be no service on 26th December.**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022**  
**10.30 am - New Year Communion Service**

*We hope to broadcast this on Zoom. Please consult the **church website** for details in the week preceding.*

### Church Funds

Many thanks to all who have given towards the church ceiling repairs. The work (including the window repairs) cost us nearly £12,500, but some recent generous gifts mean we have now covered over half the costs. But we need at least another £6,000 in order to replenish our bank account. It may be that, with Christmas spending out of the way, some of us may be able to make further gifts. Please prayerfully consider this.

## REGULAR STUFF

**Leadership Team** – usually monthly first Tuesday.  
 Next Meeting – **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** at 7.30pm

**Church Meeting** – usually bi-monthly third Tuesday.  
 Next meeting - **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January** at 7.30pm. (At Church).

**Prayer Meeting** – bi-monthly on first Saturday  
 Next Meeting – **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January** at 10.30am

### Special church meeting

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

We will hold a special church meeting at the conclusion of the service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to formalise our holding church meetings by Zoom or other electronic means. There will be one resolution: we adopt the updated constitution, dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022, that formalises our being able to hold church meetings by electronic means. Visitors and guests are welcome to remain with us for what should be a brief meeting.

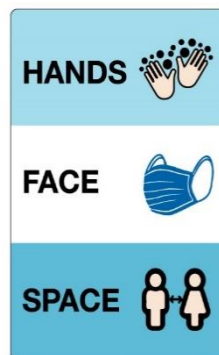
| Small Groups   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Felixstowe Afternoon Group (Margaret Lines/Ingrid Fenn)</b> | Fridays Fortnightly  |
| <b>Trimley Evening Group (Andrew Marfleet)</b>                 | Mondays Fortnightly  |
| <b>Old Felixstowe Daytime Group (Steve Lineham)</b>            | Meeting every 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> <b>Wednesday</b> of the month.<br>Contact Steve Lineham for more info. |
| <b>Felixstowe Morning Group (Brian and Dot Salway)</b>         | Please contact Brian Salway for more information.  |

### PLEASE READ – Essential COVID Information

As of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December, it became mandatory for everyone to wear a face covering in all indoor public spaces, including places of worship unless you are exempt because of a medical condition. You must wear a face covering at all times whether standing, sitting, or moving around.

The only exceptions are as follows:

- If we are eating or drinking, but we have to put masks back on once we have finished. Churches are not covered by restaurant/bar/club exemptions.
- We are also still legally permitted, if we wish, to remove our face coverings to sing if we would like to. We would ask that all who wish to do so, to sit in the area to the right as you enter the church from the schoolroom. However, the Government has asked that due to the known high transmissibility of Omicron and the as yet unknown effects of the variant on those infected, that each of us consider keeping our face covering on whilst singing.



### Forward Notice.

#### Weekly Sheets, Service Transcripts and Notes for Reflection & Discussion.

There will be **no** Weekly Sheet next week (26<sup>th</sup> December). Weekly sheets, transcripts and discussion material will be made available for services from the **New Year Communion Service** on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January



### Walton Parish Nursing Contacts

|               |             |                                   |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Lorna Bellamy | 07969901001 | Tues/Weds/Thurs 9.00 am - 4.00 pm |
| John Gillett  | 07909888703 | Tues/Thurs 8.30 am - 4.30 pm      |

# Other Notices

**Christians Against Poverty in Felixstowe are looking to recruit a Debt Centre Coach to work alongside Rick, the Debt Centre Manager.**

Are you passionate about sharing your Christian faith and caring for people, who for a variety of reasons are in debt and need CAP's help? This is an opportunity to connect with people some of whom would never go near a church.

You should be comfortable working with numbers, and able to effectively work with and understand a household budget. You should have the desire and be able to explain the Gospel in a clear, relevant and natural way. And can commit 8 hours a week to the role.

For further information please contact Steve Lineham [steve.lineham@btinternet.com](mailto:steve.lineham@btinternet.com).  
Closing date for applications – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022



## Churches Together in Felixstowe

There are no Community Prayers this month. **The next CTF Community Prayers will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 11am.** The theme is Christian Persecution in the Middle East and will be led by John Gillett (Open Doors).

**Unity Week**  
**18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January**

Including

**CTF Pilgrimage – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

**United Service - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 3.30pm at River of Life Church**

**More information to follow.**

## Chair-based Exercise

The last class for 2021 will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December and there will be a two week break. We hope to return on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at the usual times.



## **DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE TABLETS?**

Then, like me, no doubt you end up with lots of those plastic pop-out sheets. We have discovered that the Methodist churches in Felixstowe have a scheme to collect them and take them for recycling!

**SO** - there is a **box by the back door** to collect all you can bring, and we will then make sure they are taken to the nearest collection point -Superdrug In Bury St Edmunds.

**AND** - In future, if anyone happens to be going over there, maybe you would volunteer to deliver a package.

Let's see what we can do in a small way to help the environment. Any questions, see me.

*Delyth*



**Churches Together in Felixstowe**

**Community Prayers**  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 11.00am**  
Via Zoom