

## Jan/Feb 2024 – No 105

# Calendar

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Service with Rev Brian Davison
	Including communion
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Service with Rev Dorothy Kendrick
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Service with Rev Brian Davison
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Service with Rev John Piper
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Service with Rev Brian Davison
	Including communion
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Service with Rev Graham Tarn
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Service with Rev Brian Davison
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Service to be confirmed

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Our services will be live via zoom. The ID you need for any of Beulah's services is 483-214-0593 and the password is 92315



#### Dear Friends,

As a young man I often used to go on New Year's Day on what was known as the New Year Ramble.... Well, I didn't go for a walk this New Year, but I can offer you a New Year Ramble....

Why do we celebrate New Year? Why do we make New Year's resolutions? After all, if the year began on the 1st of June, or other months as the Jewish and Chinese New Years do, would it make a difference? It might - a little. After everything seems to focus on Christmas, and many things stop for the week afterwards, New Year comes as the time when we are about to get back to Normal, but also has the feel of a fresh start, time for changes etc.

Of course, resolutions for the sake of it choosing something, anything to be a resolution, never seem to last, and that's not surprising. The things we decide we want to change during the year, the things we really do want to commit to, those are the things that last.

But New Year does mark a point to look back in thankfulness, and look forward in Hope. As Scripture tells us Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, today and forever," and yet his blessing are "New Every Morning." God is the same, the world is not, and his interactions with the world are not. There is a prayer called Examen (from the Latin) for the end of each day. But we can adapt it for the end of the year and the start of the new.

Looking back on last year what brought you joy, gave you energy, for what are you thankful as you recall? Spend a few moments thanking God for those, and thinking how you might see them in the New Year.

Then think about what was hard, painful, draining, fearful - don't spend long on them, but choose to leave them there, in 2023, and step away from them, hand in hand with God into 2024. Now what are you hopes and fears for 2024? Remember the words of the carol "The hopes and fear of all the years are met in Thee tonight". Place each in Jesus' hands - the hopes, will the come to be, or not, have peace. It is in his hands. The fears, if they do come to fruition, he is still with you, the name Immanuel is for life, not just for Christmas.

So whatever month of the year we mark the passing of the old, and the start of the new it is a good time to look back and look forward, but in the light of Christmas, the hope of centuries fulfilled, the moment in time when God came onto the earth as a vulnerable child, promising to be with us and be our saviour, that is an ideal time to reflect on the past, on promises fulfilled, or hopes left unfulfilled, and the future, forward in the hands of the one who left all the glory of heaven for you and for me. "Put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." God bless us one and all in the coming year.

#### A Prayer to Welcome the New Year

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we come before you with hearts full of anticipation and gratitude. We thank you for the gift of life and for the journey that has brought us to this moment. Lord, we acknowledge the highs and lows of the past year—the joys and sorrows, the victories, and challenges. Through it all, your presence has been our constant source of strength and hope. As we welcome this new year, we place it in your capable hands. We trust in your plan and purpose for our lives, knowing that your ways are higher than our ways, and your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

We pray for your guidance in the coming year. Lead us in the paths of righteousness and wisdom. Help us to discern your will in all that we do and to walk in obedience to your Word.

Fill our hearts with hope, joy, and peace. May your love and grace shine brightly in our lives and be a source of light in a world that often needs it.

Lord, grant us the courage to face the unknown with faith and trust. In times of uncertainty, remind us that you are our anchor, our refuge, and our strength.

We thank you for the lessons and blessings of the past and look forward to the opportunities and adventures that the future holds. May we use our time, talents, and resources to bring glory to your name and to be a blessing to others.

In the name of Jesus, we welcome the new year with open hearts, renewed faith, and the confidence that you will be with us every step of the way. Amen

### Prayers Among our fellowship:

We send our deepest sympathy to Alison, Rosie and Chrissy and their families after the sudden death of Elaine Joynes on the 6<sup>th</sup> December. Her funeral will take place in Leyburn on Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> January. We will remember with gratitude all the work she did to support David in his 52 years of ministry at Beulah- leading the Lifeboys, being President of the Women's League and playing the organ so faithfully. However, she never wanted to be the stereotypical Minister's wife and was so committed to her own public service- through her work as a Social Worker, as a Governor at Kaskenmoor and Woodhouses and as a Councillor for Hollinwood. She was always committed to helping the vulnerable, and was so pleased when the vision of having the Special School alongside Kaskenmoor on the same site came to fruition. Her belief in God never faltered and we give thanks that she is now at peace with him in glory.

We also remember Brian and his family as they adjust after the death of his

Mum in November and now deal with all the necessary admin.

We pray for all who have been ill over recent weeks remembering especially



Bob and Sylvia and Lucy.

We remember all those who are housebound or feeling lonely and isolated, knowing that the Christmas season can be a difficult time for many.

We give thanks for the fellowship of Hadi, Farida, Poija and Arshida and pray that we can support them as they settle in Hollinwood. Farida explained that it had been dangerous for them as Christians in Iran. Please also pray for Farida's mother who is sick in Iran.

#### News from the Leaders

Please continue to pray as we try to discern the next steps in reaching out to the community. We have had a request from the two people who were regular attendees last year to run a warm space in the coming months, so if you could help on a rota basis on a Weds from 12-2 please let us know.





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## Church Contacts

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