

Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory
of the LORD is risen upon you.

Is 60:1



Dear Jesus, as You led the Three Kings to You by the light of
a star, please draw us ever closer to You
by the light of Faith.

Help us to desire You as ardently as they did.
Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep
us far from You.

May we, like them, have something to give You when we
appear before You.

Amen

Beliefnet.com

Supported by:

HM Government

In partnership with
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND



Wishing all at Bring Me Sunshine a happy, hopeful New Year.

Whilst singing, as so many do, the song that nobody knows but everyone tries to sing - Auld Lang Syne - getting it wrong and changing the whole meaning (as my good friend Meryl pointed out I did) we could give a thought to the sentiment behind it. It was written by Robert Burns in 1788, and was later played as the last song at each dance by big band leader Guy Lombardo in 1929, and appeared in the background of that famous film with James Stewart *It's a Wonderful Life*. "Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind, should auld acquaintance be forgot auld, auld lang syne". It's a tribute to old times and days gone by and good friends, full of nostalgia, reminiscing on the past and looking forward to the future over a few drinks - something I certainly did on New Year's Eve. The year of 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic, social tensions and economic and planetary crisis I think is a time to look cautiously forward and share a cup of kindness as we enter a new year. I like the quote by author Vern McLellan "What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year".

I have listened to some of the new year messages from our faith leaders such as the Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope Francis, who talk about 2020 for many of us being a year of sadness, watching people suffering, losing friends and family without being able to say goodbye, seeing loneliness and decline in mental health, people losing their jobs. Of course hope continues to shine through in every act of kindness and every gesture of care and closeness, every phone call to someone on their own, every Bring Me Sunshine bag delivered, every song on a doorstep, every neighbourly gesture of care, every positive WhatsApp message received and zoom meeting attended, and in every neighbourly gesture of care. God in human flesh here on earth living maybe through these people, and the health care workers and scientists creating and delivering the COVID-19 vaccine to the world.

We have spent many hours in prayer during 2020 for a way though this pandemic, for a better future, for an end to the virus that has gripped so many.

A likely part of the way through is here, in the vaccine. I understand some people have concerns, but many of our older people have now received their first vaccine without any side effects and many more are being called for theirs this week.

The increased spread of the virus and its new strains mean we have to be even more careful so please consider what you do - can someone else assist with shopping? There are lots of neighbourhood schemes with young fit people willing to help. Please avoid getting together - households cannot mix inside or out apart from one person in a public space such as a park. Of course the message of handwashing, keeping at a distance and wearing face coverings is still in force. Please call if you require assistance, I will link you to help if able. 07729785843, or if you would like a song on your doorstep from Give a Song.

We remember William Benzynie who died last week, husband of Diamond Club Member Enid and long-standing parishioner of Holy Cross, as well as Mrs Vira Gentle, a regular attendee of the Calabash Centre.

Bring Me sunshine will continue to bring cheer where we can and are looking forward to delivering Bring Me Sunshine under Lewisham churches care this year giving you more opportunities to connect through technology and as soon as able in person.

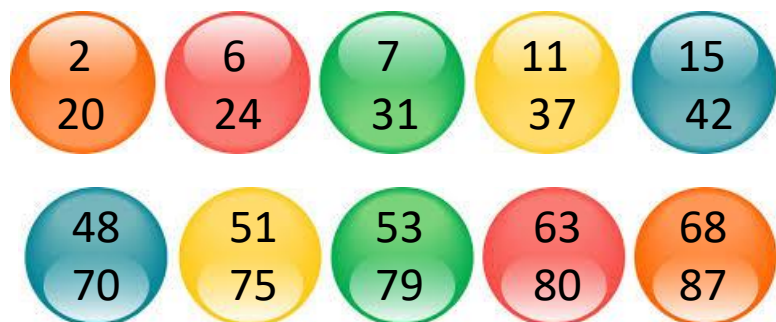
Please join the weekly Zoom session on Tuesdays 11-1pm with exercise, bingo, relaxation and more. ID no is 82352062156 Passcode 327600

In the words of Queen Elizabeth: 'We should take comfort that while we may have still more to endure, better days will return, we will be with our friends again, we will be with our families again, we will meet again'.

Here's to the future for all our Bring Me Sunshine community, and our dedicated team of wonderful volunteers.

Lesley

Your Bingo Numbers this week are:



Hi all, I am Daniel, the producer of the Christmas Bonus magazine. I hope you all enjoyed this years' copy of the Christmas Bonus magazine, and had a great time reading through all the activities enclosed within! I have been lucky enough to feature in a page in this magazine, so that I can spread some more words of joy and love to you all.

Love, Peace and Prosperity

2020 has been a very tough time for us all, full of hardship, struggle, and pain. We have all undergone different types of new experiences and change that we probably were not prepared for! We have faced a lot of darkness these last 12 months, but we must try and find the light wherever there is darkness.

Love. Peace. Prosperity. Those are the three words upon which I want to join me as I approach 2021; as I believe that these words can guide me through paths of darkness and uncertainty into paths of clarity and light.

'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' Mark 12:31

Love; a feeling that everyone deserves to have. We should try our absolute best to show our love to our families and friends, as we do not know how long we have with them. We must also show love to the community, as we do not know what others may be going through and a display of love could make someone's day in ways that you could never know.

'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.' John 14:27

Peace; freedom from disturbance, something which is very hard to find in today's society. However, if we can love our neighbours the same way we love ourselves, then peace would surround us and perhaps cause us to live in a much happier world.

'Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way, prosperity will come to you.' Job 22:21

Prosperity; being able to give love towards one another, would result in peace reigning within the midst of the world, which would ultimately lead to finding peace with God. This can then allow us to have a prosperous life through Christ the Lord.

Despite undergoing a tough 2020, I believe that these values can be beneficial to me in order for me to experience a brighter 2021, even if we are presented with darkness. This is the light which I would like to lift me up when I am down. So, I ask that you all do the same. Find some light within you, that would help to empower you throughout the new year; regardless of whatever is thrown at you.

Let go of negative energy and embrace the positive.

Thank you, and may you all have a Happy New Year, and God bless.

May the Lord, the Almighty God, pour on me a balm of peace, love and protection, passing its light through my whole body, like a source of living water. May he heal all my discovered and hidden diseases. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Thanks to a reader for this prayer:

Guardian Angel Prayer from Walsingham

O holy angel at my side, go to Church for me,
Kneel in my place at holy Mass, where I desire to be.

At offertory, in my stead, take all I am and own,
And place it as a sacrifice upon the altar throne.

At holy consecration's bell adore seraph's love,
Jesus hidden in the Host come down from Heaven above.

Then pray for those I dearly love and those who cause me grief,
That Jesus's blood may cleanse all hearts, and suffering souls relieve.

And when the priest communion takes, oh bring my Lord to me,
That his sweet heart may rest on mine, and I his temple be.

Pray that this sacrifice divine, may mankind's sins efface,
Then bring me Jesu's blessing home, the pledge of every grace.

Holiday at Home Project lead organiser: Lesley
email lesleyaallen@btopenworld.com Tel. 07729 785843

To make Bring Me Sunshine original contributions
(your words, **not** your money!): Amy
email 1000AQ@googlemail.com Tel. 07847 799791

Your contributions make all the difference... please, please share - a quiz, poem, short piece about what you are doing at home, something about your life now or a memory from the past... unless you write your name in the item it will be anonymous, so please join in! If you have email or whatsapp you can send a picture, too

The 'oldest swinger in town', sent us a lovely thank you letter before Christmas - much appreciated Ray, thanks!

'I would like to say a great big thank you to everyone for the kindness and the goodies over the last 9 months and all the info and news that has come with them - a big help. I am 91 years old and live on my own so they have been most welcome. I have received a reduction in my water rates with the form you circulated some months back'.



Do you have a garden?
If you do, you make like to join
RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, 29-31 January
For information and to sign up: rspb.org.uk



Examples of some of the lovely cards made by people in our Bring Me Sunshine Group.

Please send your words and pictures too

Time may be a great healer,
but it's a lousy beautician

Dorothy Parker





1. When is the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere?
2. Which Shakespeare play has the word 'winter' in the title?
3. What does the expression to put something on ice mean?
4. Who wrote the fairy tale *The Snow Queen*?
5. Which 2013 children's film has a character called Olaf, a snowman who longs to see summer?
6. What precious stone is called 'ice'?
7. In which country in the world is there a tradition of building snow rabbits?
8. What cold name is used by rapper, actor and film O'Shea Jackson?
9. In which city is Russia's Winter Palace?
10. What is the usual freezing point of water?
11. Which of the following is NOT a winter flowering plant – a) mahonia b) pansy, c) lilac, d) cyclamen
12. Which vegetable is traditionally used as a snowman's nose?
13. 'Winter' comes from old Germanic and means a) time of water b) time of darkness or c) time of fire?
14. What winter sport was the subject of the film *Cool Runnings*?
15. Complete the following by playwright Anton Chekov: 'People don't notice if it's winter or summer when they're'

1. December 21st or 22nd, 2. A Winter's Tale; 3. To delay or pause it; 4. Hans Christian Andersen; 5. Frozen; 6. Diamond; 7. Japan; 8. Ice Cube; 9. St. Petersburg; 10. 0°C/32°F; 11. C) lilac; 12. Carrot; 13. a) time of water; 14. Bobsleigh (Jamaican team in 1988 Winter Olympics) 15. Happy

Winter

S	N	K	C	O	A	T	S	T	T	N	C	L	A
S	T	E	K	N	A	L	B	I	L	V	L	N	S
L	E	D	E	F	F	S	I	W	C	S	I	L	C
A	S	A	D	D	W	O	N	O	N	E	N	A	W
Y	O	N	N	A	I	M	S	O	O	A	K	E	F
T	O	I	D	P	N	I	N	L	W	L	L	A	I
S	F	D	L	D	D	T	N	L	O	I	P	D	R
O	N	L	O	O	Y	T	I	Y	T	T	N	T	E
G	C	O	O	T	T	E	O	H	E	T	T	G	P
K	L	C	W	T	E	N	D	A	N	R	R	L	L
L	E	O	S	M	O	S	K	T	Y	G	A	G	A
L	S	O	V	L	A	I	R	K	L	R	N	O	C
T	R	N	K	E	S	N	A	A	L	O	E	D	E
F	S	P	I	H	S	T	D	T	L	N	I	N	R

WOOLLY HAT
SNOWING
SNOWMAN
FIREPLACE
ICE
WINDY
COLD
DARK
FROST
COATS
MITTENS
BLANKETS
GLOVES

P	O	C
A	O	C
Y	H	N

How many words of three or more letters, each including the letter in the middle, can you make from this diagram? There are around 23, including one nine letter word

I have lived at Woodlands Street for 19 years. My next-door neighbour Fred has lived there probably more than 50 years, and he even lived in my house before he moved next door.

We formed an instant bond, and on a couple of occasions Fred and his wife joined us for Christmas day.

We are now both widowed, and during the lockdown our bonds strengthened with daily chats and music sessions in the back garden with my two sons.

As we were both identified as vulnerable adults we received the weekly goodie bags from Bring Me Sunshine. Fred was much better than me at the quizzes but I soon began to pull my socks up. Fred was overwhelmed at the kindness and generosity especially the fish and chips!

A week before Christmas a singer and a saxophonist played 2 songs, which was a joyous uplifting experience.

Our mutual neighbour Hannah offered to cook Christmas dinner for Fred this year as he was not going to be with his sister. On Christmas morning Fred and Hannah were having a socially distanced coffee so we joined them. I have shared a picture to bring you all some sunshine.

Fred recently had the COVID-19 vaccine and has never felt better. Thank you Lesley and all the volunteers for your commitment, creativity and generosity. May you all be blessed in 2021. Mary.



*What's the best ever Christmas present?
A broken drum. you can't beat it*



MOVING FORWARD FROM A PLACE OF SADNESS



Wave of sorrow,
Do not drown me
now:
I see the island
Still ahead somehow.
I see the island
And its sands are fair:
Wave of sorrow,
Take me there.

Langston Hughes

Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices

St. Teresa of Avila



When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Wendell Berry

Truly, it is in darkness that one finds the light, so when we are in sorrow, then this light is nearest of all to us *Meister Eckhart*

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away

Revelation 21:4, KJV

Love after Love

Derek Walcott

The time will come
when, with elation
you will greet yourself arriving
at your own door, in your own mirror
and each will smile at the other's welcome,
and say, sit here. Eat.

You will love again the stranger who was yourself.

Give wine. Give bread. Give back your heart
to itself, to the stranger who has loved you

all your life, whom you ignored
for another, who knows you by heart.

Take down the love letters from the bookshelf,

the photographs, the desperate notes,
peel your own image from the mirror.

Sit. Feast on your life.

Benediction *Blair Monie*

As you leave this place may the Living Lord go with you;
May he go behind you, to encourage you; beside you, to
befriend you; above you, to watch over you; beneath you, to lift
you from your sorrows; within you, to give you the gifts of faith,
hope, and love; and always before you, to show you the way.