

## Chronicle of God's goodness to Newington Free Church, 2021

### *Over the last twelve months . . .*

- Attendances at our Sunday services remained steady, and we began to see some new faces towards the end of the year.
- We've been enriched by studying John's Gospel, equipped by the Prayer Course, and inspired by thinking about Christian heroes of the past.
- God's gift of Zoom has meant we can share our evening services with people from other churches.
- Zoom has also enabled us to learn more about our BMS missionaries, Dan and Annie, and all that is happening at Tek Ura.
- The Tuesday morning prayer meeting has often attracted more than half the Sunday morning congregation (not many churches in Britain could say that).
- God has wonderfully answered our prayers (e.g., for Will and Cath in Croydon; for Daniel's kick-start job and reunion with former teachers).
- Members continued to give generously and church finances remained healthy. We received over £6,000 from the government (via our insurance company) for loss of income during lockdown.
- John and Daniel Verrall worked to create a fabulous prayer garden. Over forty people attended the opening ceremony in August, at which Daniel gave a memorable presentation about the project.
- We had some very special times of prayer and worship in the garden during the summer.
- We were finally able to sing hymns and songs out loud in praise to God.
- After 18 months, in September our coffee mornings resumed, and despite a change of day they have been well supported with new people attending.
- We held six online quiz evenings, enjoyed by believers and non-believers alike.
- A further quiz evening at the church in November raised £127 for Tear Fund.
- There have been several growing friendships with friends and neighbours near the church.
- Audrey was asked by a fellow-resident for a bible, who then bought her own.
- We joyfully celebrated with John and Doreen their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
- Francis' health improved markedly so that he was able to rejoin us each week.
- In December we were able to hold a carol service and celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- Although we could not host *Christmas Unwrapped*, the resources were put together and taken to Newington Primary School, who sent a lovely email thanking us.
- None of us succumbed to Covid.
- We loved, supported, encouraged, laughed with, wept with and prayed for each other.