

**Muddiford**



**United Reformed Church**



*(The Chapel in the Valley)*



**Stepping  
Stones**

**January** **2023**



# MUDDIFORD MONTHLY

## JANUARY 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service Leader</u>	<u>Reader</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Helen Potter	Laurie
8 <sup>th</sup>	Rev John Robinson	Sheila
15 <sup>th</sup>	John Symons	Martin
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev Rob Weston	Pauline
29 <sup>th</sup>	Duncan Withall	Chris

<u>Date</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Tea &amp; Coffee</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Pam	Rosie & Chris
8 <sup>th</sup>	Gary	Pam & Jean
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sheila	Penny & Gary
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Muriel	Pauline & Raymond
29 <sup>th</sup>	Pauline	Helen & Laurie

*All Services are at 10a.m.unless otherwise stated.*

**May You Enjoy The Presence  
Of Christ In Your Life  
This New Year**

**Josh 1:9 (KJV)**

**“...Be strong and of a good courage;  
be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:  
for the LORD thy God [is] with thee ...”**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF TIME IN HUMAN LIFE



As we look into January 2023 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak—every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?

*every*  
END IS A  
NEW  
*beginning*

A decorative graphic featuring a green vine with red and yellow flowers, positioned to the right of the text.

*Every new beginning  
comes from some other  
beginning's end.*

*This is a day of New Beginnings*



This is the day of new beginnings,  
Time to remember and move on,  
Time to believe what love is bringing,  
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
Love's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
Can make for us a world of difference  
As faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
Step from the past and leave behind  
Our disappointment, guilt and grieving,  
Seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us  
To show and share what love can do.  
This is the day of new beginnings-  
Our God is making all things new.

*A Prayer for the New Year*

Lord,  
Whether I leave behind  
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,  
I pause to *give thanks*.  
Thank you for being with me  
every day of every year.  
Thank you for making all things **new**  
and for giving me the grace of  
fresh starts  
and *new beginnings*.  
Remind me of your presence in the days to  
come,  
even when I feel pushed and rushed by  
busyness.  
Be glorified in my life this year.

*Amor*