



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

May 2018

God makes clouds rise from the  
ends of the earth: He sends lightning with the rain and  
brings out the wind from His storehouses. Psalm 135:7

By day the  
LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to  
guide them on their way. Exodus 13:21

God covers  
the sky with clouds. He supplies  
the earth with rain and makes the  
grass grow. Psalm 147:8

"Can you count the  
clouds or pour out their  
rain?" Job 38:37

A bright  
cloud covered them and a voice  
from the cloud said, "This is My Son and  
I love him. Listen to him!" Mark 9:7

And while they  
were watching, Jesus was taken up into  
a cloud, and was hidden from view. Acts 1:9

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## Who to contact

### Serving Elders

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### Youth activities

Boys Brigade	bb@bhpurc.org.uk
Girls Brigade	gb@bhpurc.org.uk

### Other activities

Baby & Toddlers	toddlers@bhpurc.org.uk
Book Club	bookclub@bhpurc.org.uk
House Group	housegroup@bhpurc.org.uk
Weekly news sheet	link@bhpurc.org.uk
Hall & Room bookings	office@bhpurc.org.uk



*The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly on the last Sunday of the month. Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy.*

## Next Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will be published on Sunday 27th May. All material for inclusion should be emailed to **newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk** by **Sunday 13th May**.

The month of May this year has another important (could be said to be the most important) holiday (holy day) in the Christian year.

Whitsun, the birth of the Christian church.



Whitsun (also Whitsunday, Whit Sunday or Whit) is the name used in Britain and Ireland, and among Anglicans and Methodists throughout the world, for the Christian festival of Pentecost, the eighth Sunday after Easter, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples (Acts chapter 2).

As our state becomes more and more secular, the significance of Whitsun has become lost. It is a flexible date, like Easter, but does not suffer from the commercialism that Easter does - hence it is lost to the general population.

For Christians, Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that

could be meaningfully called "the church." Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church was started. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it. Thus Pentecost is the church's birthday.

Researching for this article I came across a blog which I am going to quote here which tells it better than I can:-

"The English word "Pentecost" is a transliteration of the Greek word pentekostos, which means "fifty." It comes from the ancient Christian expression pentekoste hemera, which means "fiftieth day."

But Christians did not invent the phrase "fiftieth day." Rather, they borrowed it from Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to a Jewish holiday. This holiday was known as the Festival of

Weeks, or, more simply, Weeks (Shavuot in Hebrew). This name comes from an expression in Leviticus 23:16, which instructs people to count seven weeks or “fifty days” from the end of Passover to the beginning of the next holiday (pentekonta hemeras in the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew Scripture).

Shavuot was the second great feast in Israel’s yearly cycle of holy days. It was originally a harvest festival (Exod 23:16), but, in time, turned into a day to commemorate the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. This day became especially significant for Christians because, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, during the Jewish celebration of Shavuot/Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon his first followers, thus empowering them for their mission and gathering them together as a church.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on individual followers of Jesus as they were gathered

together in Jerusalem. This gathering became the first Christian church. New believers in Jesus were baptized as they joined this church. They, along with the first followers of Jesus, shared life together, focusing on teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. They shared their belongings so that no one was hungry or needy. As these first Christians lived out their new faith together, “the Lord added to their number those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). Thus we speak of Pentecost as the birthday of the church.”

Whitsun is in June next year!

Lynda Cook

Quote from:- <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/series/what-is-pentecost-why-does-it-matter/#HE3c6KUYI8SEzufy.99>

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image: <http://wp.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/files/2011/06/restout-pentecost-7.jpg>  
Pentecost” by Jean Restout II, 1732. Public domain.



## Smile Lines

### You asked for it

The student, when asked by the teacher to write an essay on 'The Effects of Laziness', turned in a blank sheet of paper.

### Some miscellaneous one-liners ...

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.

The Church: under the same management for over 2000 years.

Soul food served here.

Don't give up on yourself. Even Moses was once a basket case.

Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.

What he lacked in depth as a preacher he made up for in length.

Mark Twain

Was Noah's wife called Joan of Ark?

Lead me not into temptation. I can find it myself.

The things that come to those that wait may be the things left by those who got there first.

Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

If you lend someone £20, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

Birds of a feather flock together and mess on your car.

# Here is the News

## Good news!

We are delighted to announce that Rev Mark Meatcher has accepted a call to become the next minister of Bush Hill Park, Christ Church and Lancaster Road URCS. His wife, Rev Melanie Smith has accepted a call to Palmers Green, Ponders End and Winchmore Hill URCS.

Mark and Melanie will be coming to Enfield in the summer and we ask for your prayers as they prepare to come to us and for the six churches as we plan for their arrival. Further details will be made available in due course. Exciting times ahead!

## Holiday at Home

Christ Church URC's Holiday at Home event will take place on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th May from 10:30am to 4:00pm each day in the Church Hall (Chase Side, Enfield, EN2 6NJ). Come to both days or just one.

Activities to include:

- A variety of craft and other activities for all abilities - learn some new skills.
- Keep fit for the mature person.
- Cooked lunch on Friday and Saturday.
- Mid morning and afternoon refreshments.

Cost:

- Donation towards cost at your discretion.
- Suggested amount - £6 per activity day.

Places must be booked beforehand. Please contact one of the following:

Rosemary Milns on 020 8363 6571 or 07751 560 686

Sylvia Coombs on 020 8363 3543

Pamela Fisher on 07775 505 999

These numbers may be on an answer phone, but if you leave your name and telephone number, we will ring you back.

We hope you can join us for a time of fun and fellowship.

## What you could do during Ramadan

Ramadan this year runs from 15th May to 14th June. You may wish to join in with more than one million Christians worldwide who spend this month praying for Muslims.

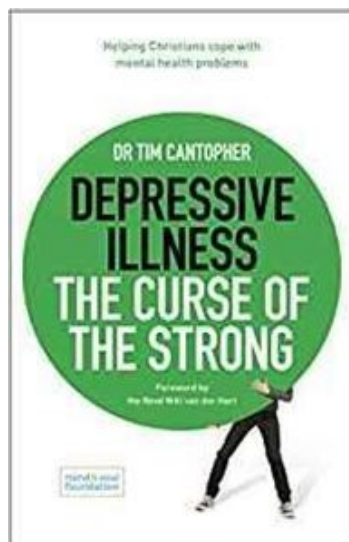
You can download a prayer guide that provides churches, small groups and individuals with helpful information on Muslims: what they believe, where they live in the world, and suggested ways in which you might pray for them. For more information, and for the guide, please go to [www.pray30days.org/](http://www.pray30days.org/)

## A book for Mental Health Week (14th – 20th May)

The last 10 years have seen an upturn in the number of people reporting difficulties with emotional and mental health issues, particularly anxiety and depression. And, it is often the strongest who struggle under the weight of all they have nobly tried to shoulder.

Turn to the Bible, and this truth is played out in the lives of some of its greatest characters. King David led a nation – yet wrote some of the Bible's bleakest laments. Elijah worked outlandish public miracles – and later pleaded God to take his life. Dedicated, hardworking mother and woman of God Naomi acknowledged that she had become characterised by bitterness. And lifelong God follower Job found himself longing for a death that would not come.

Tim Cantopher, in his best-selling book, *Depressive Illness – The Curse of the Strong* (SPCK/IVP), affirms that depressive illness can strike anyone – not least the capable, busy people with the 'can-do' attitude of the title. His aim is to destigmatise depression and to suggest ways in which people can find ways of acknowledging it - and doing something about it.





## **Church Mission Society shines spotlight on ‘vital, but hard to fund’ mission in the UK**

In parts of the UK, there is a kind of poverty more profound than in Uganda. This is the view of Rev Jenny Green, a missionary working with Church Mission Society on the Faxfleet estate in Bradford.

Prior to being community chaplain in Bradford, Jenny Green spent 20 years with CMS in Kisoro, south west Uganda, where she set up Potter’s Village, a children’s crisis and medical centre. And while it is true that one third of the population of Uganda subsists on less than \$2 a day, Jenny points out that at least: “In Kisoro, almost everyone has someone... there is help from extended family networks and the local community. But in Faxfleet, as in many other parts of the UK, community and even primary family structures are so broken that many find themselves completely destitute.”

Jenny tells of one woman in Bradford who spent three months living in a tent in the woods, with no income or benefits, surviving on food from her local food bank. For many in the area, ‘vandalism, arson and fly-tipping are rife, and people are frightened and lonely. A few frail elderly people find themselves unable to sell the homes they bought years ago, as their value has been so eroded. They’ve been joined by people from a mix of nationalities, unfamiliar with each other’s cultures and languages, and struggling in isolation with their own issues.’

As a community chaplain with Church Mission Society (CMS), Jenny helps bridge the gap between church and community, supporting those whose lives have been torn apart by poverty, unemployment and family breakdown.

Naomi Steinberg, CMS head of communications, said, ‘People don’t realise how much work CMS does in the UK. Unfortunately, this vital UK mission can be harder to raise support for. But the reality is that so many others in our nation feel utterly abandoned and without hope or help. Yet they matter so dearly to God.’

To read more about Church Mission Society’s work in the UK go to [www.churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope](http://www.churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope).



# Diary

## May

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

The diary is also online at [www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar](http://www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar)

Sun 6th	10:00am 10:30am	Prayers in the church Communion with Martin Hamblin
Wed 9th	6:45pm	Girls' Brigade Awards evening
Sun 13th	10:30am	Parade led by the Brigades
Sun 20th	10:30am 6:00pm	<b>Pentecost</b> Worship with Rev Martin Legg Sunday Evening Reflection
Sun 27th	10:30am	Worship with Ray Pettipher

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Next newsletter deadline  
Sunday 13th May

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# Prayer Diary

MAY 2018

For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you because I am fearfully  
and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.  
Psalm 139:13-14

## **Tuesday 1st**

Girls Brigade

## **Wednesday 2nd**

Poynter Road

## **Thursday 3rd**

Surgeons

## **Friday 4th**

Those suffering from addiction,  
their families and the charities  
that help them break free

## **Saturday 5th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the  
service tomorrow

## **Sunday 6th**

Thanks for our service men &  
women

## **Monday 7th**

Sylvia

## **Tuesday 8th**

Baby & Toddlers

## **Wednesday 9th**

Roman Way

## **Thursday 10th**

General Practice Doctors

## **Friday 11th**

Elijah, our sponsored child in  
Zambia

## **Saturday 12th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and  
the service tomorrow

## **Sunday 13th**

Thanks for the preachers who  
come to our church each Sunday

**Monday 14th**

Sue P

**Tuesday 15th**

That parents will encourage their children to attend the Brigades

**Wednesday 16th**

St Marks Road

**Thursday 17th**

Nurses

**Friday 18th**

Those suffering from HIV & AIDS and the charities who seek to find a cure

**Saturday 19th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

**Sunday 20th**

Thanks for those who teach us whether at school, university or as we get older in self-help groups

**Monday 21st**

Anthony, Rachel and family

**Tuesday 22nd**

Boys Brigade

**Wednesday 23rd**

Second Avenue

**Thursday 24th**

Specialist Doctors

**Friday 25th**

Children and staff at Al-Shurooq

School in Bethlehem who we support as a church

**Saturday 26th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

**Sunday 27th**

Thanks for the Peacemakers

**Monday 28th**

Evelyn, Fred and Family

**Tuesday 29th**

Kings Club

**Wednesday 30th**

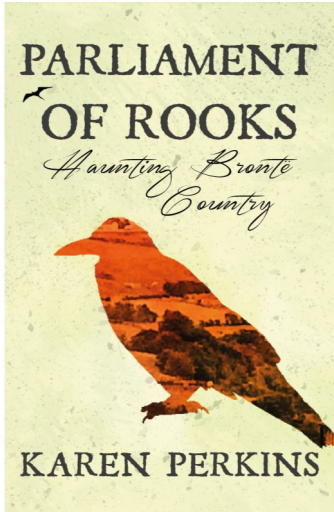
Southbury Road

**Thursday 31st**

Junior Doctors



## Book Club



'Parliament of Rooks' by Karen Perkins

It starts in 1838 in Haworth; a time of Mill workers from as young as the age of 7, with cholera and smallpox rife and children with hardly any future. The sexton and stonemason were kept busy. This is the setting to the works of the Bronte sisters living in the Manse with their father and brother.

The author then takes us to modern times with Verity from Leeds purchasing a property of old terraced cottages in the village with major renovations planned to turn it into a Guest House to cater for those Bronte loving tourists.

However, the plans are thwarted by the resident 'Ghosts' from times past.

It is all a bit fanciful. It flits backwards and forwards. The history of the Industrial past is interesting and reminds us that life was so hard for our forebears. Queen Victoria did much to elevate the lifestyles of her subjects but it all took time. The snippets of life up on the moors seeking out the wildlife, as Emily Bronte did, is well written.

The characters are somewhat annoying; the delivery is somewhat slow. Not a bad read if you take it 'tongue in cheek' and the Parliament of Rooks are there!!

We meet next time on Tuesday, 15th May at 20:00 having read 'The Abbess of Crewe' by Muriel Spark as we intend to go back to some well-known authors but picking out books we have not read before.

Sylvia Page

# Why do people suffer when they do not deserve it?

To be frank, there is no convincing answer to the question, 'Why am I suffering?' It is something that is experienced by every individual. Jesus was no exception, it is an unavoidable part of the world we have inherited.

There are a few things that Christians are able to say with confidence. Firstly, you are not suffering because God hates you. Secondly, your suffering will come to an end, and there will be an eternity in which peace and justice will compensate you. And thirdly, knowing the presence of God alongside you will make you stronger as you face painful circumstances.

The Christian faith teaches that God hates suffering. It was not part of His intention for humankind. However, He has created a world that has two features. Both these features are wonderfully beneficial to humans, but also result in a planet where suffering is inevitable.

First, the humans who are the part of creation that God loves are created capable of making choices. To a greater or lesser degree everyone chooses to do some bad things as well as some good things. Much of the suffering of the world is caused by humans in large numbers choosing together to do things that are evil. Wars, poverty and hatred are not caused by God. They are caused by people who are rejecting the ways of God.

Second, the world is held in a delicate balance in which every part of creation is dependent on every other part. This is true from heaving oceans to microscopic seeds. Science calls this ecology. A planet that sustains human life as part of this glorious interdependent system needs certain features in its design. They include the movements of the planet's surface that set life in motion, but also cause terrible destruction through earthquakes and volcanoes. They include the viruses that bring death to humans but life to other parts of our ecology.

How do we know God cares? Christians recognise that God's loving commitment to a suffering world was so great that He visited it in person. Jesus was God. He experienced the very best and very worst of being human. All we know of Jesus leads Christians to believe that wherever there is suffering, there is a sense in which God is alongside each human, hurting with them. Although Christians find pain terrible and hard to understand, this belief allows them to cling to the possibility that suffering is not meaningless and death will not be the end.

You can find answers to questions about Christianity at [www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk).

# Rotas

	Door welcome	Reader	Tea & Coffee	Flowers	Sound room
6th	Evelyn	Sue	Yvonne	Hughes	Tony
13th	Kath	Judith	Ivy & Jane		Robin H
20th	Alison	Anne	Valerie	Alison	Robin H
27th	Judith	Sue	Sylvia	Sylvia	

If you can fill in the gaps above please put your name in the sheet on the wall in the lounge.

If you would like to do any of the above but feel you'd need a little guidance first please talk to Lisa, she'll make sure you find the right person.



There was no more dozing off after the vicar started serving the extra-strength coffee *before* the service

## Definitely not a Spook

This month the Church celebrates Pentecost (we used to call it 'Whitsun'). It marks the occasion 50 days after Easter when the Holy Spirit was 'poured out' on the group of followers of Jesus who had obeyed his command to 'wait in Jerusalem' until they were 'clothed with power'. The gift of the Holy Spirit was that 'power'. It turned them from an anxious group of 120 men and women hiding in an upper room into a revolutionary movement. In their opponents' words, and despite fierce persecution, they 'turned the world upside down'. Within four centuries the Christian faith had captured the Roman Empire.

They took no credit for this. They saw it as the work of this 'Holy Spirit'. The fact that today there are billions of people in the world who believe the same message suggests that it still is. I think the problem for many people is that they associate the word 'spirit' with 'Ghost', which was how for centuries he was named in English. I once deplored this at a meeting in Holland, only to be told by someone that we were lucky. In Dutch he used to be called the Holy Spook.

He is neither a ghost nor a spook, but the third 'Person' of the Holy Trinity. I refer to Him as 'he', but the word for Spirit in Greek is neuter. One scholar called the Spirit 'the executive officer of the Godhead' – the One who gets things done. God the Father created us, God the Son, Jesus, rescued us, and now God the Holy Spirit continues their purpose in the world until the kingdom comes.

Canon David Winter





# Prayer

## The value of mystery and wonder

Dear God,  
when my world is characterised by:

measuring,  
quantifying,  
analysing,  
unpacking,  
dissecting,  
justifying,  
formalising,  
standardising,  
neutralising,

lead me by the hand  
to stand under the clear night sky,  
that I may rediscover just how much  
I cannot know,  
and how little I control.  
Then lead me to understand  
that mystery and wonder, too,  
are your precious, balancing gifts to humankind.

*By Ian Fosten*

From the URC prayer handbook 2016 for 22nd May (Trinity Sunday) looking at Psalm 8

Ed: If you have a prayer you would like put in the newsletter instead (or indeed as well as...) do email it to [newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk). If you want it in a particular month make sure you meet the deadline for that month, usually the second Sunday of the month. Thanks.

## Girls' Brigade News

The last few months have been a bit quiet at GB so on Saturday 24th March we took the girls to 'Going Pottery' on Lancaster Road for a spot of pottery painting. We had nearly all the girls there as well as some of the newer parents who also showed us their artistic skills and three staff. It was an enjoyable afternoon and the girls (and staff) were very creative with the colours they used to paint their choice of pottery. This included a very pink owl tea light to a multi-coloured elephant!



In the coming term we will be finishing off our last lot of badge work for this year. The girls will be presented with their badges at our awards evening on Wednesday 9th May at 6.30pm. We will also be awarding the girls for their attendance and uniform.

After that we will be starting our summer session where the Explorers will be hatching their own butterflies after watching the caterpillars eat and eat and make a cocoon. We will also be doing more games, craft and cookery until we finish on 18th July.

When we return in September the Juniors will be getting ready to attend their first camp at Tolmers Activity Centre with other companies in the District.

Charlotte McBride

# Wordsearch

## After the Ascension

The disciples had spent 40 days with Jesus and now they were called to share that experience with others. Jesus told them to wait for the gift of the Spirit to empower them as witnesses. 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.' The Spirit also equips us to display Jesus' character (fruit) and enables us to witness (gifts). How does our life demonstrate the difference Jesus makes? The early Christians were called to witness for Jesus in ever-increasing circles of influence. For us, this will mean family and friends, workplace and community, and the wider world. Where is God calling us to serve Him?

ascension	disciples	forty	jesus	share
experience	wait	gift	spirit	empower
equip	witnesses	jerusalem	father	early
christians	difference	family	friends	demonstrate
workplace	community	world	calling	demonstrate
serve				

E	R	E	O	T	M	E	S	M	A	N	D	Y	L	R
I	Y	C	R	E	P	Y	S	A	C	H	T	A	D	E
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O	S	R	A	Y	S	W	O	R	L	D	S	T	I	P

## Other local church activities

### May

Date	Time	Activity	Location
6th	3pm	Tea and worship in the hall	Methodist
9th	2pm	Wednesday Fellowship <i>Joe Studman - Market Fairs Enfield</i>	Methodist
21st	2:15pm	Friendship Club <i>The Antarctic - Anne Fereday</i>	Christ Church
23rd	2pm	Wednesday Fellowship <i>Woldens</i>	Methodist
31st	10.30am	Community coffee morning	Methodist

### Weekly

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Sun	6.30pm	Service (1st of the month is Café style, 4th of the month is Contemporary with the band)	Lancaster Road
Mon	10am	Ladies Bible Study	Living Room
	7.30pm	English Conversation Club	Living Room
	7.45pm	Prayer at Betty's (Fortnightly)	Methodist
Tues	10am	Tots and Toys	Gospel Hall
	1.30pm	Open House (Coffee and Chat)	Living Room
Wed	9.45am	Bible Study (Fortnightly)	Lancaster Road
Thurs	1pm	Back to Life (Support Group / Board Games) starts with lunch	Living Room
Fri	10am	Shoppers Coffee Morning	Lancaster Road
	4pm	EPIC (Club for kids in years 3-6)	Gospel Hall
Sat	9am	Breakfast Club (2nd and 4th of the month)	Christ Church

# Weekly Activities

<b>Monday</b>	6.15pm	Boys' Brigade Junior Section
	7.30pm	Boys' Brigade (Company Section)
	8.00pm	Book Club (Once a month, see inside for date)
<b>Tuesday</b>	8.00pm	House group (2nd & 4th Tuesday)
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	6.15pm	Girls' Brigade
	8.00pm	New Songs (1st Wednesday)
<b>Thursday</b>	7.30pm	Boys' Brigade Company Section circuit training (when advised)
<b>Friday</b>	9.15am	Prayers in the Hall, open from 9 for a chat first
	9.30am	Baby & Toddler Group
	6.00pm	Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys
<b>Sunday</b>	10.00am	Prayers (1st Sunday)
	10.30am	Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday)
	6.00pm	Sunday Evening Reflection (2nd Sunday)

