



The
United
Reformed
Church

**December 2019
January 2020**



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church
25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ
www.bhpurc.org.uk

Who to contact

Minister

Mark Meatcher	020 8374 0509	minister@bhpurc.org.uk
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Serving Elders

Andrew Caddies	07775 697 255	andrew.caddies@bhpurc.org.uk
Lynda Cook	07949 033 869	lynda.cook@bhpurc.org.uk
Martin Hamblin (Treasurer)		martin.hamblin@bhpurc.org.uk
Diann Nicolaides	020 8292 1094	diann.nicolaides@bhpurc.org.uk
Robin Ward (Secretary)	07962 207 256	secretary@bhpurc.org.uk

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
Newsletter	newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk
Hall & Room bookings	bookings@bhpurc.org.uk



We are part of a group of United Reformed Churches in the London Borough of Enfield. If you would like to know what we are all doing please subscribe to our NewsShare mailing list at: <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>. Emails are only sent once or twice a month so you can keep up to date without getting too many emails, you can unsubscribe at any time.

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.

Vision 2020

In 2010 the United Reformed Church launched Vision 2020, a programme to help us all look at our mission purpose. When it was first launched, it seemed that 2020 was a long way away; why we were thinking about that when we had more pressing concerns as a denomination?

But, guess what, 2020 is here! – well almost!



So how have we done on our Vision 2020 programme? What effect has it had on our churches?

Vision 2020 set out ten statements that we needed to look at in order to consider our mission as churches:

Spirituality and Prayer

We will grow in our practice of prayer and spirituality, nurturing strength for our witness to Jesus Christ, and developing our discernment of where God is and what God is calling us to do by reading and studying the Bible and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Identity

The URC will be a Church where every local congregation will be able to say who they are, what they do and why they do it.

Christian Ecumenical Partnerships

We will be more confident in our identity, valuing the treasures of

our tradition, discerning when to seek ecumenical partnership, and when and how to seek the further unity of the Church.

Community partnerships

We will be a Church that is more active in the life of local neighbourhoods.

Hospitality and diversity

We will be a Church committed to becoming even more welcoming and hospitable, and embracing all people equally.

Evangelism

We will be more confident to engage in evangelism, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God with friends, families and strangers, through story and action.

Church growth

We will be a growing Church with an increasing membership.

Global partnerships

We will be a Church that is an active partner in God's global mission with other Churches around the world.

Justice and peace

We will be a Church committed to peacemaking and reconciliation that keeps faith with the poor and challenges injustice.

The integrity of creation

We will be a Church that has taken significant steps to safeguard the integrity of creation, to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

It wasn't expected that every church would develop in all these areas, but it was hoped that churches would take one or two of these statements and look at how it could apply them in the context in which it was working.

As we now enter 2020, we wonder how you feel the church that you're a part of is doing when considering these statements?

Rather than beating ourselves up because perhaps we haven't fulfilled some of these mission statements, we wonder if we could look at them a different way and ask one another which of these mission statements actually excites us, makes us want to respond?

As we find out what excites us, what enthuses us, we may find out that this is one of the ways that God speaks to us, and how God might actually be leading the church we're a part of to respond.

Could you share with somebody else in the church how you feel, and why you are interested in one (or more) of these mission statements? Could you pray with that person and ask God to show you how you could perhaps help the church to respond better to this statement today? Could you let us know what enthuses you, what excites you about the mission of the church?

This might not quite be what you were expecting to read in a Christmas magazine (December/January edition) but, in the words of a well-used phrase "Jesus is for life, not just for Christmas" and the birth of the Christ-child set the world on course to be changed forever.

The church, now the hands and feet of Jesus in the world today, must work out how to be Christ's presence in the world and proclaim the story of Christmas, the story of Christ, to a world still waiting to hear the story told.

Our mission statements send us in the direction of doing just that.

May God be with you, your families and your friends this Christmas and evermore,

Your ministers,
Mark and Melanie

Smile Lines

Wise?

When I told my children the story of how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus, my six-year-old daughter was not impressed. "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

Toe

If athletes get athlete's foot, what do astronauts get? Missile toe.

Bakery

Did you hear about the bakery that was burgled at Christmas? Everything was stolen!

Are politicians the oldest profession?

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But," the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos first!"

Here is the News

Christmas Collections

This year our Christmas Collections will go towards Lancaster Road URC for the Homeless Overnight Respite and Nightingale Hospice .

Advent Challenge

Starting on the Advent Sunday, 1st December, why not challenge yourself to read one chapter of Luke's Gospel each day. On Christmas Eve, you will finish the story, so you can wake up on Christmas morning knowing why Jesus is a gift to the whole world.

URC Prayer Handbook 2020

If anyone would like a copy of the Prayer Handbook for next year then please do let Mark know. They are £4.99 each and are available NOW!

An Invitation

Christ Church URC, Enfield, would love to invite you to join them at their Christmas meal on Sunday 22nd December. Lunch is due to be served at 1pm.

The cost is expected to be about £15 per head, although please do let Mark know if you're interested in attending and can't quite afford it. To book your place please do Contact Pamela Fisher at Christ Church (020 8482 4610 – leave a message).

Helping the homeless

It can be difficult to know how to respond when you see an apparently homeless person begging for money on the street. We don't want our money to go to alcohol or drugs, and so giving to homeless charities, especially our local churches winter respite (night shelter) hosted at Palmers Green URC and Lancaster Road URC this year, can be a very sensible alternative. However, if we see a person begging and think it may be someone who is part of a gang, then please call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700 or visit modernslaveryhelpline.org for advice.



Join the Wild Christian Community

We are keen to help individuals and families to live more joyfully, sustainably and radically with the rest of God's Creation. Join the Wild Christian community (<https://arocha.org.uk/wildchristian>) and every month they'll send you practical actions that you can take to help you

enjoy, nurture and protect nature. Please get in touch on Wild.Christian@arocha.org if you are willing to share ideas. Specifically, they would love to hear from those who can write knowledgeably about different species of plants and animals in Britain and from anyone with a passion for writing or researching nature-inspired or eco-themed biblical reflections.



"It's easy to tell when it's Nativity Play time – I can never find a tea-towel!"

The Beatitudes: 'Blessed are the persecuted'

'Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' (Matthew 5:10).

Somebody once described a Christian as one who is '*completely fearless, continually cheerful and constantly in trouble.*' Living the life that Jesus presents in the Beatitudes will not necessarily make us universally popular. We must be prepared for opposition, insults and ridicule or even worse. Of course, persecution is the daily experience for Christians in many parts of our world today.

Jesus didn't tell us to seek persecution, but He did say that when it comes, we should regard it as a blessing:

Firstly, because we are identifying with Jesus: If we identify as fully as we can with Jesus, then we will experience suffering like Him. It is '*because of me*' (v11) we are opposed or criticised.

Secondly, it shows our faith is genuine: To suffer for our faith is typical of God people, '*for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*' (v12).

Thirdly, because of our reward in heaven: we will not lose out in the future, as Jesus reminds us that '*great is your reward in heaven*' (v12).

To what extent do we suffer for being a Christian at work, with our friends or family? Although we don't seek it, Jesus describes suffering as authentic Christian experience.

We might like to ask these questions as we reflect on this:

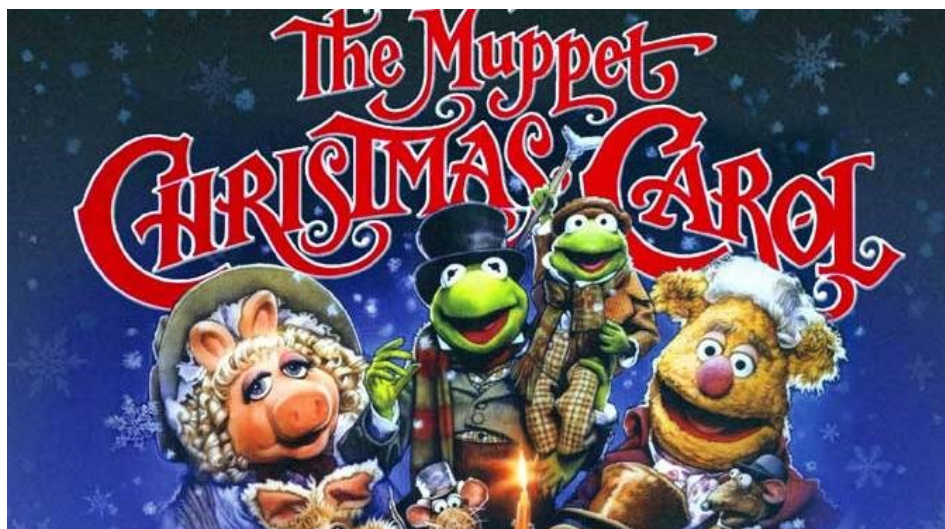
- How many people with whom we have contact know that we are a Christian?
- How far are we helping to give them a true picture of what Christianity is about?
- How far do we demonstrate the presence of Jesus in our daily lives?

If we were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict us?

Rev Paul Hardingham

Free* Family Film Feast

3.00pm 21st December



*donations to
toilet
twinning.org

The Muppet characters tell their version of the classic tale of an old and bitter miser's redemption on Christmas Eve.



Enfield
United
Reformed
Churches

Bush Hill Park Christ Church Lancaster Road Palmers Green
Ponders End Trinity Methodist/URC Winchmore Hill

U 1992 1h 25 Minutes

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City of Joy

Since we've come back from India, we've heard the words, 'We have people living under flyovers in our country!' on several occasions. And that is perfectly true. The prompt for that comment is my talking about the Hastings Community in Kolkata, supported by Cathedral Relief Services (CRS). It is a community of about 2,500 people, from tiny babes in arms, to elderly women and men. These are mainly illiterate Muslim families that have moved in from poor rural areas looking for work in the City of Joy, only to find themselves on a scrap of army land, with no water, sanitation or electricity. Drug addiction is a serious problem among men and children. The children are particularly vulnerable, and some are orphans. A lack of government schools in the area means that many older children are out of formal education. Some work as rag-pickers while others help to look after horses at the nearby racecourse.

Our friend, Rig David, who is the Director of CRS was out walking with his son one day and came across this very poor community living under the concrete flyovers. He met one of the community leaders and they agreed that CRS could provide some assistance. Work started in 2013 with a small school. Now CRS is running an education programme for 60 children aged 3 and 13 years who live in the streets and in the slums near and under the flyovers. By attending the school, the children can catch up with any education they have lost so that, in time, they may successfully join a government school and not be left behind.

The school itself, uses one wall of the concrete legs of the flyover, and the other three sides are boards. Although no roof is required, the area is prone to flooding in the monsoon season. During our brief visit, we were squeezed into the ramshackle small structure of the school, about 10ft x 18ft. We were presented with friendship bracelets as the children danced for us and sang to us in a mixture of English and Bengali. Despite the best efforts of CRS, several of the

children showed signs of poverty related disease including ringworm and malnutrition.

For the mothers of children attending the school, the women's empowerment programme offers training in tailoring. The community is also supported through a health programme; once a month, a mobile school health clinic visits. The service



includes doctor's check-up and distribution of medicines. There is referral to government hospitals when required. Many of the school children receive iron supplements for anaemia.

There is no doubt that it is a hard place. It left several of our group in tears. Yet those tears were about our own sense of helplessness in the situation; the community itself, although frustrated, did not lack dignity. We acknowledge that, 'We have people living under flyovers in our country!' and they deserve our help through the local churches winter respite (night shelter), the Big Issue, Crisis and Shelter. But even though we have seen Hastings with our own eyes, we must admit that the issues are far larger and more acute than we can imagine. We need to work out creative ways of supporting organisations, such as CRS, who are working with these most disadvantaged of people, that they may have life, life in all its fullness.

Cathedral Relief Services' Mission Statement is: to provide education, healthcare and empowerment to women and children of all faiths and none and so motivate them to realise their full potential through individual and collective action and change. We bring together people with different challenges to be strong and work as one to secure their rights.

Find out more at: cathedralreliefservice.net

Mark and Melanie

Raise free funds for

Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church

every time you shop online
this Christmas

Find us on easyfundraising

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/bhpurc



Shop with **over 3,400** online retailers including:
















EST. 1884









 £24 million raised

 1.2 million users

 100,000 causes

Advent Candle Liturgy – Olive Tree Project

The olive tree is a universal symbol of peace and a powerful symbol of Palestinian rootedness in their land.

But in the political turmoil of the Middle East today, trees that have survived hundreds of years have become casualties in the struggle for the control of the land.

Olive trees are also a major source of income for Palestinians for centuries, with trees covering over 50% of agricultural land.

The olive and olive oil industry supports the livelihoods of around 100,000 Palestinian families.

Since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank began in 1967, Palestinian farmers have lost hundreds of thousands of olive trees.

Trees planted and cared for by generations of the same family have been destroyed or uprooted as Israeli settlers seek to claim Palestinian land as their own.

Through an initiative called 'Keep Hope Alive', Embrace the Middle East partner with the Joint Advocacy Initiative to plant saplings in Palestinian-owned areas that are at risk of confiscation.

Throughout Advent we will be thinking about these olive trees. If you would like to buy one yourself (they cost £15) and be registered, go to <https://www.embraceme.org/olive-tree-project>



Diary

December and January

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

December	10:00am	Prayers in the church
Sun 1st	10:30am	Communion with Revd Barrie Thompson
Wed 4th	6:30pm	All Age Carol Service with North London Brass and Revd Mark Meatcher at Lancaster Road URC
Sat 7th	2:00pm	Memory Christmas Tree at Ponders End URC, see page 22
Sun 8th	10:30am	Advent parade with Revd Mark Meatcher
Sat 14th	3:00pm	Forest church, see page 26
Sun 15th	10:30am	Advent worship with Revd Mark Meatcher followed by Church Meeting & Election of Elders
Sat 21st	3:00pm	Family Film Feast, see page 9
Sun 22nd	10:30am 4:00pm	Worship with Terry Silvey Family carol service
Tues 24th	11:30pm	Communion at Christmas with Revd Martin Legg
Wed 25th	10:30am	Christmas day celebration with Lisa Hamblin
Sun 29th	11:00am	United Christmas worship at Christ Church URC, EN2 6NJ
January	10:00am	Communion with Revd Mark Meatcher
Sun 5th		(note the new start time)
Sun 12th	10:00am	Parade with Revd Mark Meatcher
Sun 19th	9:30am 10:00am	Prayers in the church Worship with Martin Wells
Sun 26th	10:00am	Worship with Revd Barrie Thompson

Prayer Diary

DECEMBER 2019

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God

John 1:1

Sunday 1st

Give thanks for those who lead
and help with Boys and Girls brigade

Monday 2nd

Kath

Tuesday 3rd

Leadership & Congregation of
Bush Hill Park United Reformed
Church

Wednesday 4th

Fotheringham Road

Thursday 5th

For those on duty or training in
the Navy

Friday 6th

Children and staff at Al-Shurooq
School in Bethlehem who we
support as a church

Saturday 7th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 8th

Give thanks for the hard won
freedoms we enjoy in the UK

Monday 9th

Lisa

Tuesday 10th

Leadership & Congregation of
Enfield Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday 11th

Haileybury Avenue

Thursday 12th

For those on duty or training in
the Royal Marines

Friday 13th

The homeless on the streets of
London as the weather gets
colder

Saturday 14th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 15th

Give thanks for all the benefits we enjoy living in England

Monday 16th

Lynda

Tuesday 17th

Leadership & Congregation of St Andrews Parish Church

Wednesday 18th

Harman Road

Thursday 19th

For those on recovering from injury (physical or mental) on the battlefield

Friday 20th

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

Saturday 21st

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 22nd

Give thanks for Jesus

Monday 23rd

Mabel

Tuesday 24th

Leadership & Congregation of Enfield Baptist Church

Wednesday 25th

Harrow Avenue

Thursday 26th

For those on duty or training in the RAF

Friday 27th

Parents needing help and support to care for their children

Saturday 28th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 29th

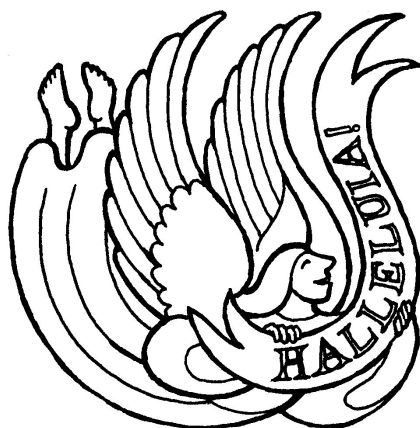
Give thanks for family and friends

Monday 30th

Margaret (both)

Tuesday 31st

Leadership & Congregation of St Marks Parish Church



Prayer Diary

JANUARY 2020

Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:14

Wednesday 1st

Hadrians Ride

Thursday 2nd

Enfield charity – Foodbank, feeding the hungry

Friday 3rd

The elderly and the charities seeking to provide information and help on health, money matters, friendships and more

Saturday 4th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 5th

Thanks for the preachers who come to our church each Sunday

Monday 6th

Mark

Tuesday 7th

Pray that God would save multitudes worldwide

Wednesday 8th

Halstead Road

Thursday 9th

Enfield charity – The Chicken Shed Theatre Trust, for people of all abilities to develop through the arts

Friday 10th

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

Saturday 11th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 12th

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

Monday 13th

Martin

Tuesday 14th

That the gospel would go forth in power to every nation and people

Wednesday 15th

Hazelwood Road

Thursday 16th

Enfield charity – Enfield Mencap, working with adults with a learning disability

Friday 17th

Those suffering from Multiple Sclerosis and the charities who seek to find a cure

Saturday 18th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 19th

Thanks for doctors and nurses who go to areas where the people have no access to health care

Monday 20th

Melanie

Tuesday 21st

That God would save our leaders, give them wisdom and cause them to promote righteousness and life

Wednesday 22nd

James Street

Thursday 23rd

Enfield charity – Mind in Enfield, mental health organisation

Friday 24th

Children and staff at Al-Shurooq School in Bethlehem who we support as a church

Saturday 25th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 26th

Thanks for clean water, gas and electricity and sanitation for our homes

Monday 27th

Robin (both)

Tuesday 28th

That the gospel would spread and that we might worship God in peace and freedom

Wednesday 29th

John Street

Thursday 30th

All People All Places, working with the homeless in Enfield and beyond

Friday 31st

Children in care, that they would be fostered/adopted by a loving family

How to help someone who is lonely this Christmas

'It's gonna be a lonely Christmas'. The pressure to have fun with friends and family is real over the Christmas period. In fact, over nine million people in the UK say they're always or often lonely. (Red Cross).

When Mary became pregnant with Jesus, she probably felt very alone. Her situation would be seen as scandalous, as few believed that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit! Yet, God was with her: *'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call His name Immanuel' (which means, 'God with us').* (Matthew 1:23).

The true meaning of Christmas is that Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be with us. The separation we may feel from others is nothing compared to the distance that God has already gone for us.

Here are 5 tips for helping those who are lonely:

Take time to talk - Take time to talk to an older person this Christmas, at the supermarket, pub or on a walk. Just saying hello can make a big difference to someone who's lonely.

Give someone a call - Take the time to speak to friends and family that you won't be with this Christmas. A short phone call can have a big impact.

Give a neighbour a card - Ring the doorbell and give your neighbour a Christmas card. Start a conversation and make a connection.

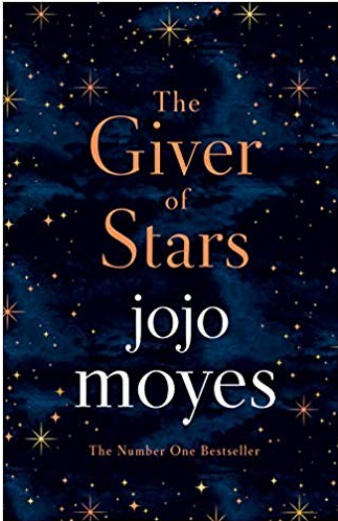
Having a party? - Hosting a Christmas party or meal? If you know somebody who might be alone, invite them to join you!

Pray for Others - If you hear of someone who's on their own, pray for them. Pray that God would show you how to respond!

'The most important thing I can tell you is that we are never alone when we know Christ.' Billy Graham).

The Rev Paul Hardingham

Book Club



‘The Giver of Stars’ by Jojo Moyes.

What a book! This really is a cannot put it down. The story of early 1900s in Kentucky. A group of women set themselves up to take library books into the countryside around so these remote farmsteads and their children can be educated. A trip up the mountain and back could take all day on a trustee mule or horse. They started early in the morning and returned late at night in all weather conditions but ...

There were those in the community averse to this ‘learning’ and did everything they could to stop them.

The library women/girls became a family and against all odds continued with what they thought right. Each had their own personal demons to lead them into the job. They were paid, a pittance really.

Within its pages you meet chauvinism; racism; hypocrisy; and lots more.

Thoroughly recommended by us all.

Our next meeting before Christmas will be on the 9th December at Ivy’s house, when we will have read ‘Once Upon a River’ by Diane Setterfield.

Sylvia Page





Stepwise is a new part of the Walking the Way: Living the Life of Jesus Today initiative which is designed to help us reflect on and develop our Christian faith.

In the Enfield area we are intending to start the course in the New Year and are keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in signing up to join those who have already committed themselves to start the course.

So what exactly is Stepwise?

It's a discipleship development programme from the United Reformed Church for everyone: all ages, shapes and sizes. It is shaped around your strengths and needs, in the context of your own community and church and emphasises the importance of learning from your daily life and your own relationship with God.

It is delivered through online material and through the regular meeting together in a group setting to review what has been discovered through the online material.

If you think this might be something for you to join in with then please do get in touch with either Mark or Melanie.

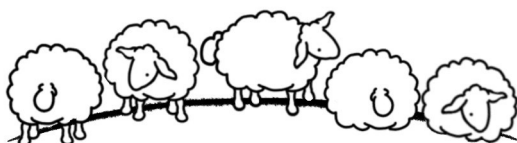
If you want to know a little more please do look at the information about Stepwise on the URC website urc.org.uk/stepwise or simply ask one of us, or Laura Marlow (who has been involved in a taster group following the course) about it!

Rotas

	Door welcome	Reader	Tea and Coffee	Flowers	Sound room
1st	Alison		Yvonne	Diann	Robin H
8th	Evelyn	Brigades	Jane & Ivy	Yvonne	Tony
15th	Kath	Judith	Valerie	Alison	Tony
22nd	Alison	Anne	Sylvia	Sylvia	Robin H
29th	Joint service at Christ Church URC, EN2 6NJ				

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. The sound room is easier than you think - go on, volunteer!



Safeguarding Statement

Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church believes that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable (children, young people and adults at risk).

We expect all of our leaders, volunteers and those who use our premises to share this commitment and value the support of those who worship here in achieving this. Park United Reformed Church believes that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable (children, young people and adults at risk).

Please visit <http://www.bhpurc.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding> for further information.

Saturday 21st

15:00 - Family Film

Sunday 22nd

10:30 - Advent Worship

16:00 - Family Carol Service

Christmas Eve

23:30 - Communion at
Christmas

Christmas Day

10:30 - Christmas
Celebration



O Come All Ye *Faithful*



Memory Christmas Tree

Come and make a message for a loved one

Join us on **Saturday 7th December** from **2.00pm** and write a personal message of remembrance on one of our Christmas Tree decorations.

At **3.00pm**, we decorate the tree together.

All are welcome at this free event.

Refreshments available.



The
United
Reformed
Church

LOVELL
HOMES

2.00pm Saturday 7th December
Ponders End United Reformed Church
College Court, EN3 4EY

Christmas Tree kindly donated
by Lovell Homes

Next newsletter deadline: Sunday 12th January

All material for inclusion should be emailed to
newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk

A life for a life

When do you think capital punishment was abolished in Britain? It was actually 50 years ago this month, in December 1969. It ended the macabre ritual of a judge donning a black cap, solemnly declaring that the accused was found guilty and would 'be taken hence to a place of public execution...and there to be hanged by the neck until you be dead.' On the day of execution, a crowd would gather outside the prison waiting to hear the eight o'clock bell confirming the execution was complete.

A movement against capital punishment had grown steadily during the 1950's, fuelled by 'public' shock at the execution of a woman for a crime of passion. Her name was Ruth Ellis and she was found guilty of shooting her lover, David Blake.

Though Ruth's story was tragic the incident that remains on my mind is that of Timothy Evans. Found guilty of murdering his wife and infant daughter he was hanged in March 1950. Subsequently it emerged beyond any doubt that the murder, and several others, was the work of John Reginald Christie. Christie lived with his wife in the ground floor flat of his property 10 Rillington Place, Camden.

Evans, who was mentally immature, had been persuaded to confess to a murder in which he was not, in any way, involved. It was a grave miscarriage of justice. Years later a friend gave me a book which told the whole appalling story. He had been one of the lawyers in the team that had tried to defend Evans. Today, Evans would have been released, pardoned and paid compensation. But we cannot bring someone back from the dead.

Detection and judicial judgement are not infallible, and people today would not want the abolition of capital punishment reversed. Though the question remains – what is a suitable punishment for murder?

Canon David Winter

Forest CHURCH

Celebrating:

COMMUNITY

Creativity

Creation

AND THE

Creator



3.00pm

Saturday 14th December

The Scout Field
The Paulin Ground
Ford's Grove
Winchmore Hill
N21 3ER

For further info :

Contact: Revd. Melanie Smith
revd.melanie@gmail.com



Ethical Christmas presents

How much damage to the earth will we manage to do this Christmas? Those hundreds of millions of presents we are going to buy come from somewhere – usually raw resources. Are the presents worth the strain on our already struggling planet?

Here are some alternative presents, that are eco-friendly, useful, and fairly traded.

Christian Aid (christianaid.org.uk/christmaspresents) invites supporters to send them a donation, and in return, they will send a 'lively' personalised card to your friend or relations, describing the gift you have chosen to give on their behalf.

Send a Cow (sendacow.org/gifts) also invites supporters to send a donation for a range of practical gifts, for use in helping people from Ethiopia to Zambia.

Traidcraft (traidcraftshop.co.uk) offers everything from bamboo tights to clocks to food and cosmetics.

WaterAid (shop.wateraid.org) provides sanitation equipment (such as taps to promote hand washing) to villages in Africa, Asia or Central America. The person you nominate will receive a card to let them know this has been done in their name.

World Vision (musthavegifts.org) offers you the choice of sending various specific items from mosquito nets to garden tools, all of which they say are specifically asked for and needed.

With WWF (wwf.org.uk) you can adopt a wild animal, from a dolphin to an orangutan. WWF will send your nominated person an adoption certificate and even cuddly toy.

Prayer

God is with us

Eternal God, our joy is in you.

Draw near –

flood our senses with signs of you –
your touch, your taste, your sight, your sound;
let every breath draw us deeper into your presence,
Emmanuel, God with us.

Eternal God, our strength is in you

Draw near –

when we feel weak or inadequate,
when fear causes us to tremble,
speak into our hearts and empower us with your presence,
Emmanuel, God with us.

Eternal God, our hope is in you.

Draw near –

when the world seems desolate,
when the stories we hear and tell are full of bad news,
write a new script into our hearts
and reassure us with your constant presence,
Emmanuel, God with us.

Forever God, our faith is in you.

God of our hearts –

our joy, our strength, our hope in all times,
sustain us with your presence and keep us faithful to you,
Emmanuel, God with us.

Karen Campbell

From the URC prayer handbook 2016 for 18th December looking at
Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25

Boys' Brigade News

Over the half term break the boys came along to help out some of the staff with some DIY around the church. They brushed up on their painting skills and got to work painting the some of the corridors in the church.

We also took four boys on a go karting trip as a reward for their attendance. We took them to Rye House and the competition on the track was fierce! Tom was the fastest of all with Miles and Dilan coming closely behind with Josiah coming 4th. The boys wheely enjoyed themselves and by the end of their time on the track it's fair to say they were a little tired. There is an ice skating trip in planning, more on that later.

For the Seniors badge class this half term they've been split into two groups and charged with an Apprentice themed task of setting up a cafe in one of three locations, Enfield Town, Shoreditch or Canary Wharf. They'll be learning about budgeting as well as money management before pitching their presentation to the panel of Karen Brady (Daniel Parsons), Alan Suagr (Andrew Caddies), and Claude Littner (Currently unknown special guest).

The younger age groups began this half term with cooking and so far I can say they're doing a very good job. From Frankenstein themed gingerbread to gooey chocolate cakes all the food that's come out the kitchen has been eaten up in no time! They year 7s are beginning this term with a brass lesson, learning an instrument for the first time. While the brass band gets ready for Christmas.

As with every year we go out collecting on Mondays and Tuesdays in the build up to the Christmas break the band will come in to full force to help us raise funds. Plus there's hot dogs and hot chocolate at the end of the night!

Joe Nicolaides

Wordsearch

Christmas is nearly here! More than two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on His people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

messiah	broken	heart	freedom	darkness
favour	prisoners	comfort	mourn	bestow
crown	beauty	ashes	son	god
jesus	seen	father	whoever	longing
thousand				

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

Other local church activities

December

Date	Time	Activity	Location
1st	3pm	Tea and worship in the hall	BHP Methodist
16th	2:15pm	Friendship Club <i>A Cracking Christmas (A Christmas programme including a bring and share tea)</i>	Christ Church
26th	10.30am	Community coffee morning	BHP Methodist

January

5th	3pm	Tea and worship in the hall	BHP Methodist
30th	10.30am	Community coffee morning	BHP 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)	BHP Methodist
Tues	10am	Tots and Toys	Gospel Hall
	10.30am	United Prayer (1st and 3rd of the month)	Winchmore Hill Baptist
	1.30pm	Open House (Coffee and Chat)	Living Room
Wed	9.45am	Bible Study (Fortnightly)	Lancaster Road
	9.45am	Prayer (Fortnightly, alternates with above)	Lancaster Road
	2pm	Wednesday Fellowship (Talks from a variety of speakers, see Margaret Barbour for detail)	BHP Methodist
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 (1st and 3rd of the month)	Christ Church

Weekly Activities

- Monday** 6.15pm Boys' Brigade Junior Section
 7.30pm Boys' Brigade (Company Section)
 8.00pm Book Club (Once a month, see inside for date)
- Tuesday** 8.00pm House group (2nd & 4th Tuesday)
- Wednesday** 9.30am Baby & Toddler Group
 6.15pm Girls' Brigade
- Thursday** 7.30pm Boys' Brigade Company Section circuit training (when advised)
- Friday** 10.00am Baby & Toddler Group
 6.00pm Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys
- Sunday** 10.00am Prayers (1st Sunday)
 10.30am Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday)

