



The
United
Reformed
Church

May 2020



FEAR
NOT
for
I AM
with you

Isaiah 41:10

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

Who to contact

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Boys Brigade	bb@bhpurc.org.uk
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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
Prayer requests	prayer@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. To receive email notifications please email newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk
Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy.*

Is it all God's doing?

The world has changed. The world is different. Nobody seemed to have been suggesting at all that what we are now experiencing was going to happen. It is not at all like the build up to the world wars where perhaps someone might have suggested that the worst was going to happen. This virus has caught everybody by surprise.



“Should we have been better prepared?” has been a question on many lips, and the one posed by many reporters during the crisis.

And some have voiced the question posed above – is it all God's doing? Might it be?

The prophet Jeremiah, writes of a time when everything appeared to be going wrong for the nation:

“In the fourth year that Jehoiakim was king of Judah, Baruch wrote down everything I had told him. Then later, the LORD God of Israel told me to say to Baruch:

You are moaning and blaming me, the LORD, for your troubles and sorrow, and for being so tired that you can't even rest. But all over the earth I am tearing down what I built and pulling up what I planted. I am bringing disaster everywhere, so don't even think about making any big plans for yourself. However, I promise that wherever you go, I will at least protect you from death. I, the LORD, have spoken.”
(Jeremiah 45, Contemporary English Version)

Many things are being torn down, destroyed, damaged in the current circumstances, and disaster seems to be everywhere... for individuals, for

businesses, for countries, for economies... everywhere there is change happening on a scale that we have not seen before... “unprecedented” is the word of the hour.

Is this God at work, waking us up as a global community to revisit our priorities, to re-shape the world in a better way, to encourage us to be truly committed to greater equality for all people, the rich and the poor living together more fulfilled lives?

Unlike Jeremiah the prophet we haven’t heard God making a declaration of responsibility for all that is going on, and we think that the God we have come to have a relationship with is the One who, rather than cause damage and destruction, is the One who sits with, alongside and inside those who are suffering and in pain.

Immanuel, God is with us, is the message that we would prefer to be heard by the world at this time.

But that doesn’t mean to say that God isn’t speaking to us through all that is happening.

We have seen too much injustice in the world to allow this moment to not be a time for transformation of the world.

There will be many challenges ahead for us all over the coming days, weeks and months... but our priority must be to hear what God might be saying, and asking of us.

We have the chance to make a change for the better for all people everywhere.

Will we take it?

Your ministers,
Melanie and Mark



Smile Lines

Parental excuses

These are actual 'excuse notes' from parents excusing their children from missing school (includes original spelling):

- My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.
- Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
- Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.
- John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
- Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.
- Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.
- Irving was absent yesterday because he missed his bust.
- Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.
- I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wear.
- Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.
- Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.
- Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.

Here is the News

With most of us stuck at home away from our friends, family and loved ones, there is no doubt that being in lockdown is difficult. I want to reassure you that everyone at Bush Hill Park URC is with you in spirit and you are far from alone.

It's been inspiring to see the different ways people have been adjusting to the situation and it's truly heartening to see communities pull together to support our front line workers and protect those most in need. Despite all of this, the situation we find ourselves in can bring low moments which can be hard to deal with. It's vital we keep our spirits up and take moments for ourselves to get away from it all, so we wanted to share with you some things that we have been enjoying to try and help.

Watch a musical

Andrew Lloyd Webber puts one of his musicals on YouTube for free every Friday at 7pm. They suggest making a donation to NHS charities together campaign or Acting for others.

<https://www.andrewlloydwebber.com/the-shows-must-go-on/>

Green up your home on lockdown

Ideas from Greenpeace staff and supporters to inspire you to reduce, reuse and recycle. <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/30-ways-to-green-your-home-on-lockdown/>

Visit a museum

Experience the best museums from London to Seoul in the comfort of your own home.

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>

These are just some of the things we have been enjoying and we hope you can find some enjoyment in them too!

Be safe and be well.

Reform magazine

For as long as people are shut up indoors, the URC is making Reform magazine free online.

Digital editions can be read on tablets, computers and smartphones, including monthly issues going back to the start of 2014. Enjoy classics like the interview with Terry Waite in July 2018's edition. Terry, who spent 1,763 days in isolation, said: "Solitude forces you to face yourself as you are." Start reading at <https://www.reform-magazine.co.uk/2020/03/read-reform-for-free/>

Prayer

As our nation faces the unprecedented challenge of the coronavirus pandemic, Churches Together in England (CTE) is encouraging Christians across our nations to continue uniting in prayer, praying #PrayersOfHope in their homes at 7pm each Sunday evening. Read more at [https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/571088/Home/News/Latest news/Prayers of Hope.aspx](https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/571088/Home/News/Latest%20news/Prayers%20of%20Hope.aspx)

If you have anything you want us to pray for you or your family and friends you can email prayer@bhpurc.org.uk. This will go to our minister initially.



Save water. Don't wash the dishes.

Let them pile up to the point where you're actually wondering if it's ok to eat soup from a dog's bowl. Then, and only then, casually load the dirty pots into a dishwasher. Press the start button. Now sit down and catch your breath.

A fully loaded dishwasher can be more water efficient than washing by hand. Even if you're using a washing-up bowl.

Update from Beyond Ourselves

the charity we sponsor Elijah through

We wanted to take a moment to update you on the Coronavirus situation in Zambia and the impact it is having on Beyond Ourselves' work.

The first cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Zambia just over a month ago. Schools shut later that week and since then church services and sporting clubs/events have been suspended and eat-in restaurants have closed. Handwashing stations have popped up all over the cities and some social-distancing has been encouraged.

Unfortunately, self-isolation isn't possible for many people in Zambia. The average Zambian has to try and work each day to earn a small amount of money so they can buy some food that evening and feed their family. Stockpiling is an impossibility for most people. Also, many Zambians live with 10+ people in their homes and live in very crowded communities. The conditions for the virus to spread are worrying.

That said, in the last month, the confirmed virus numbers have only grown to 61. But with few tests available in Zambia, it's difficult to know how accurate these numbers are. Many things are unknown during this time.

The schools we partner with have closed and, in accordance with the government regulations, the feeding programmes have stopped as well. Even though the schools are shut we are continuing to contribute to all staff salaries at our partner schools at this time as we are aware how desperate many of their home situations would be without this much needed income.

The Beyond Ourselves Zambia offices are closed and all of our team are working from home. They are creatively using WhatsApp groups and video to continue with a level of training and input for the teachers we are training in Jolly Phonics.

We are continually monitoring the situation and how best we can respond. We have a small fund available and ready to utilise if emergency needs arise for the families we know. But for now we are, in line with the recommendations, staying home and staying safe. If you are someone who prays, then please do join us in praying protection over all of our team and those at our partner schools.

Some good news, during this difficult season, is that our friends at Nsoke Community School, who received a grant from us earlier this year from our Community Schools Impact Fund, have been making great progress in the building of their Teacher Accommodation. This accommodation will enable them to employ more teachers in their rural location and continue to offer quality education to their community.

Even though the majority of our regular fundraising is on hold right now, we are excited to let you know that we will be taking part in the 2.6 Challenge this coming week. Karen will email you over the next couple of days to share further details but it would be great if as many of us as possible could take up a 2.6 Challenge to fundraise for Beyond Ourselves at this time or to simply donate.

I recognise that we are all in varying situations right now but for those who do find themselves able to give in this season, we would be really grateful as we want to be able to continue to support the staff at our partner schools, those families who might have an emergency need, as well as being able to cover all of our own regular Beyond Ourselves costs.

Many thanks,
Jodie and all the Beyond Ourselves team

20th April 2020

Ed: If you would like to make a donation, you can do this online at <https://www.give.net/20225405>

India Appeal

Out of India? (Part One)

We ended up having to make a very quick escape from India on our recent visit as the country was completely locked down because of coronavirus... but before we did so we had several days of further amazing experiences.

We arrived in Kolkata on Monday 9th March late afternoon and were taken to the Bishop's House, which was to be the base for the first week of our stay.

The accommodation was far better than most of the places we had stayed in India before, and the staff team seemed to think that we needed fattening up, as the food was plentiful – and delicious! We were surprised that we hadn't both put on weight when we returned to the UK, but that may have been because of the anxiety of having to return early and making hasty arrangements!

We visited Brace Bridge again on the Tuesday (the settlement around the railway line) and, with a train at the platform when we arrived this turned into quite a long visit. It also happened to be a holiday period (holi) so we ended up being covered in various coloured materials of all description when we were there.



We visited two Church schools, and linked church schools (the latter where the education is provided free of charge to support poor children) and



then Melanie had the privilege of speaking to the Nari Dana women on women's empowerment on Wednesday morning. 95 women turned out to hear her speak – which was incredible, bearing in mind they came from all over the city of Kolkata.

Melanie's speaking engagements were not over then though as she was then asked to speak to the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (WFCS) – a group of women from churches all over the diocese. In typical fashion Melanie challenged them to ask the question why there were not more women priests in the diocese (there are only two!) when women do virtually all the work in the churches!

Mark wasn't completely silent in this week as he did manage to get a word in on occasion, and we were both delighted on the Friday when we spent four hours in the company of Rev Dr Sunil Michael Caleb, the Principal of Bishop's College in Kolkata, where those training for ministry not just in the Church of North India but in many other churches throughout India spend their time studying. Rev Dr Caleb explained the development plans for the college, and we are hoping that we may be able to help make some links for them with our own training college over the next year or so.

It was apparent that the organisations we visited are making real change and difference in India, yet looking at the news, poor communities in India have been crippled by the lockdown, unable to leave overcrowded and unsanitary conditions with little or no food. Hospitals are short of supplies.

Cathedral Relief Services in Kolkata and KSN Hospital in rural West Bengal, are needing support to continue their work now, more than ever.

This year, we had aimed to raise £3,000 through fundraising events around our six churches - but we want to challenge ourselves to up that target to £4,000 which we will need to raise mostly through direct giving, as we cannot host events in these most difficult of times. By adding to the money we'd already raised before the lockdown, we are over halfway there already!



Please do consider what you might be able to give and visit www.give.net/IndiaAppeal You can add Gift Aid.

Mark and Melanie

[Pictures – a child by the railway line at Brace Bridge, a profoundly deaf young woman, stitching for the Nari Dana project and the gathering of the Nari Dana project workers at St Paul's Cathedral]

DOMESTIC ABUSE

WHERE TO GET HELP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Are you feeling threatened or unsafe in your home? COVID-19 may have a serious impact on those experiencing domestic abuse due to enforced social isolation. Restrictions may leave you feeling like there is nowhere to turn for help. However, the police, local and national organisations are working hard to support you.

Call 999 if you or someone else is in danger. If it is not an emergency, please call 101 or visit www.met.police.uk

Refuge – Freephone 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247
(available 24/7) www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Respect Phone Line: 0808 802 4040 an anonymous and confidential helpline for men and women who are harming their partners and families www.respectphoneline.org.uk

Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327 a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic violence and those supporting them www.mensadviceline.org.uk

Karma Nirvana: 0800 5999 247 Mon to Fri 9am–5pm supporting victims of honour based abuse and forced marriage www.karmanirvana.org.uk

Hour Glass: 0808 808 8141 challenging the abuse of older people in all its forms www.wearehourglass.org

Galop LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0800 999 5428 www.galop.org.uk

Childline: 0800 1111 If you're a child or young person and domestic abuse is happening in your home or relationship.

Advice and support is available for everyone regardless of background, financial situation, nationality or immigration status.



Green Issue

Reduce what you can and Offset the rest

Unless you are 'off-grid' and living in the green dream, we all use 'carbon' in our lives to some extent. There is a cost to this; the signs of climate chaos are around us all the time with more severe flooding and droughts, wildfires and icebergs and flows melting. Nature has a way of dealing with some of this – and a few radical commentators have suggested that the coronavirus could be seen as a way of putting humanity back in its place in the natural world order. Whilst I do not subscribe to this, it is interesting to note that the 'we couldn't possibly stop flying/using our cars so much/stop buying stuff' is possible, and the cut in pollution levels are measurable.

So now we know that we can change and have seen the environmental benefits, even if temporarily, what can we do about it? My suggestion is that when the containment phase is lifted, that we try to find a new normal. That we try to use what we learnt during this period to make a change.

One change that could be possible is to consider whether some of us could afford to pay the real cost of our lifestyles, including the carbon we use? Obviously, the greener life-style you adopt, the less of the cost there is to off-set, but for those things that our carbon-fast over this past period has not weened us from, there are ways of working out the damage of our lifestyles and compensating. A simple way is to visit 'Climate Stewards' and use that calculator. Mark and I use it for our flights to India. However, I am wondering if we could, as URCs in Enfield, be a little more radical?

My suggestion is that we use a tool such as Climate Stewards (which is recommended by Eco Church), to calculate the cost of our carbon use and then pay it into a new fund to be held for our six churches. We would then look at projects around the churches that could green up our activities. That could be changing lightbulbs, to double glazing a drafty window, planting native plants, to even adding solar panels should the fund grow; the possibilities are endless! And, of course, this is a donation and so Gift Aid can be collected.

If you are interested in exploring the possibilities, just let me know!

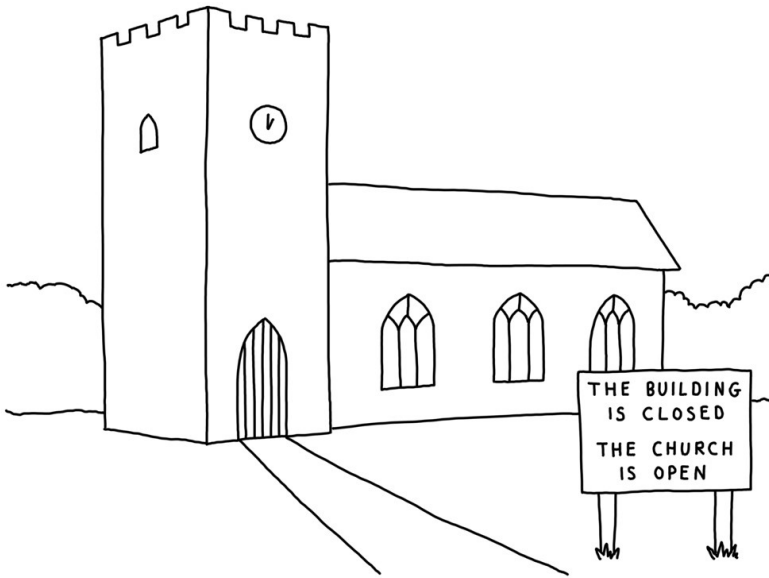
Melanie

May

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

The diary is also online at www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

While COVID-19 is causing problems we have stopped our Sunday services and activities. Visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/bhpurc for updates



CartoonChurch.com

**Next newsletter deadline:
Sunday 10th May**

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

Prayer Diary

MAY 2020

So in everything, do to others
what you would have them do to you,
for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:12

Friday 1st

Children who care for a family
member

Saturday 2nd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the
service tomorrow

Sunday 3rd

Give thanks for our Elders

Monday 4th

Bill

Tuesday 5th

Worship God for his mercy

Wednesday 6th

St Marks Road

Thursday 7th

For a more eco attitude to buy
Fairtrade

Friday 8th

Elijah, our sponsored child in
Zambia

Saturday 9th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 10th

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

Monday 11th

Caroline

Tuesday 12th

Worship God for his compassion

Wednesday 13th

Second Avenue

Thursday 14th

For a more eco attitude to reduce, re-use and recycle

Friday 15th

Safety for men, women & children facing violence in the home from a spouse or parent

Saturday 16th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 17th

Thanks for Sunshine and rain

Monday 18th

Charlotte

Tuesday 19th

Worship God for his justice

Wednesday 20th

Southbury Road

Thursday 21st

For a more eco attitude to my carbon footprint

Friday 22nd

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

Saturday 23rd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 24th

Thanks for the small things people do to help us

Monday 25th

Christine (Both)

Tuesday 26th

Worship God for his righteousness

Wednesday 27th

Third Avenue

Thursday 28th

For a more eco attitude to the cleaning products I use

Friday 29th

Those without clean drinking water and the charities that seek to bring clean water and sanitation to everyone

Saturday 30th

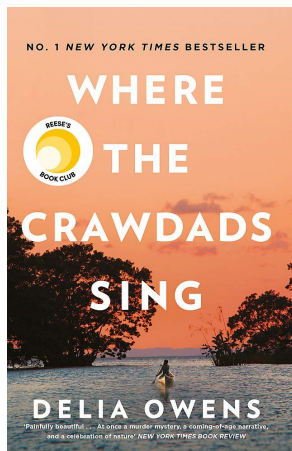
Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 31st

Give thanks for the Holy Spirit



Book Club



Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

The story is set in North Carolina in the fifties, sixties and seventies, follows the life of Kya Clarke - locally named the marsh girl because that's where she lives. an outcast and misfit. For different reasons, Kya's family left home when she was very young, leaving her to fend for herself. Her only friends were the gulls and wildlife. However, she had learnt much from her mother and managed to look after herself, using many creative and ingenious ways!

Being alone so much of the time she finds personal relationships difficult to say the least, but young Tate teaches her the basics of how to read and write and she thrives. The years go by the boy goes to college and Kya remains on her own still perceived as an oddity by the nearby villagers. Artistic too; she captures the nature she sees around her.

All was going ok until the local "hero" was found dead and Kya was accused of his murder, but the marshes had erased all traces of evidence.

This is a story about resilience and of being different. It is also about how one girl grew up discovering and loving the land and environment she lived in. It is sensitively written with vivid descriptions of the marshes and the wildlife that inhabited it; you can sense the remoteness and her loneliness. It is well worth reading to the end!

With all the uncertainty around, we will read what we will in the next four weeks and then email around our opinions about those books.

Compiled from thoughts from Yvonne, Jean and Sylvia



With every gift, we help Rose stop this climate crisis

In Kenya, the rains haven't come. Again. For villagers who farm the land, that means life is getting even harder. Rivers are bone dry,

and crops wither in the fields. The drought is starving people of food, water and the chance to earn a living.

At 67 years of age, Rose walks for six hours to fetch water for her grandchildren. She tries hard to give them the kind of life she remembers from when she was a girl: when the rivers flowed with water and the crops bore fruit.

Grandmother Rose shouldn't have to go hungry. A simple earth dam, built with the help of Christian Aid's partners and your donations, could completely change her life. This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray to stop the climate crisis driving people like Rose to hunger.

From house-to-house collections to Big Brekkies, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community against global poverty and injustice.

This Christian Aid Week (10-16 May), please:

- Give generously to help Rose and her community build a water dam, providing fresh water to help families survive the drought.
- Act to call for a New Deal for Climate Justice to help restore creation and build a world where everyone can thrive.
- Pray for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that, as a global community, we will care for people living in poverty.

Together we stop this climate crisis.

Join us at <https://www.caweek.org>

Christian Aid Week

10-16 May 2020

Charities carry on during COVID-19

Mothers' Union

We know that our work and experience in re-building communities and supporting family life is going to be more important than ever once the threat of COVID-19 subsides. Our members will be ready and be some of the first in line to support those around them.” Until then, it welcomes people to stay connected with MU on social media.

More details at: <https://www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/our-response-covid-19>

Toybox – still helping the street children

Street children are particularly susceptible to contracting the virus. The two things that best prevent the spread are the two things that street children will find most difficult: practising good hygiene and social distancing. And both require a home.

Our partners are working with their governments to ensure that street children have access to shelters and healthcare, although social distancing in shelter environments will be extremely difficult. Also, partners are trying to protect street children from being prosecuted, simply for being homeless.

For more details, go to: www.toybox.org.uk

MAF – still flying to bring help to the isolated

With 75 years of pioneering mission to the remotest places on earth, we know so well how isolation can threaten human development, physical health and spiritual freedom. It is strange to think that many of us in the UK will be experiencing the isolation MAF has been flying to overcome across the developing world for decades.

As an organisation, our vision to help the most isolated is driving us through this storm. We are maintaining flight operations to reach

isolated people in need.

Internationally, MAF is experiencing changes to flying across many of our operations. Each programme is compiling input from MAF's Immediate Response Teams, who are very experienced at tackling crisis situations. Tailored actions are being crafted for each country where we work to make sure our staff are protected and the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

More at: <https://www.maf-uk.org>

Church Mission Society

Church Mission Society has opened a space on its website for anyone to use. It explains: "Our world, and our lives, have changed radically. Are you sad? Angry? Scared?

Well, then you're not alone. Lamentspace is a place where we share our grief with God and each other. About the big things as well as those that may seem trivial."

Go to: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/lamentspace/>

Tearfund – still working around the world

As you would expect, Tearfund's work will continue through our amazing network of courageous Christian partners and churches around the world." So says Nigel Harris, CEO of Tearfund.

We are doing all we can to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, bringing practical help and powerful hope to the most vulnerable people, just as we have been doing for over 50 years.

We are asking for God's protection and His wisdom to deal with this unprecedented global situation. We would greatly value your prayers in the months ahead.

More at: <https://www.tearfund.org>

Interview

How long have you lived in this area?

Since I married Fred in July 1968. Prior to this I had been a member of Willoughby Road Methodist Church in Hornse.

What made you choose our church to come to?

Two reasons:

1. My cousin Stan Richardson and his wife Joyce were members and through them I knew Mr and Mrs Ilines and Mr and Mrs Blowfield. I had also met Sylvia and Rosemary Page at Stan and Joyce's wedding in 1967. I didn't know anyone at the Methodist.

2. My daughter, Christine, from my first marriage had been a GB member for four years and wanted to stay with GB, Wellington Road Methodist had Scouts and Guides.

What makes you go to church at all?

To recharge my batteries for the week ahead.

Do you have a favourite hymn? What is it, and why?

"What a friend we have in Jesus"

I find the words very comforting and are a constant reminder to pray.

Do you have a favourite Bible passage? What is it, and why?

The story of Peter and the centurion Cornelius in Acts 10.

Cornelius and his family and friends were the first non-Jewish people to receive the Holy Spirit. This reminds me that God's love is for everyone regardless of human rules.

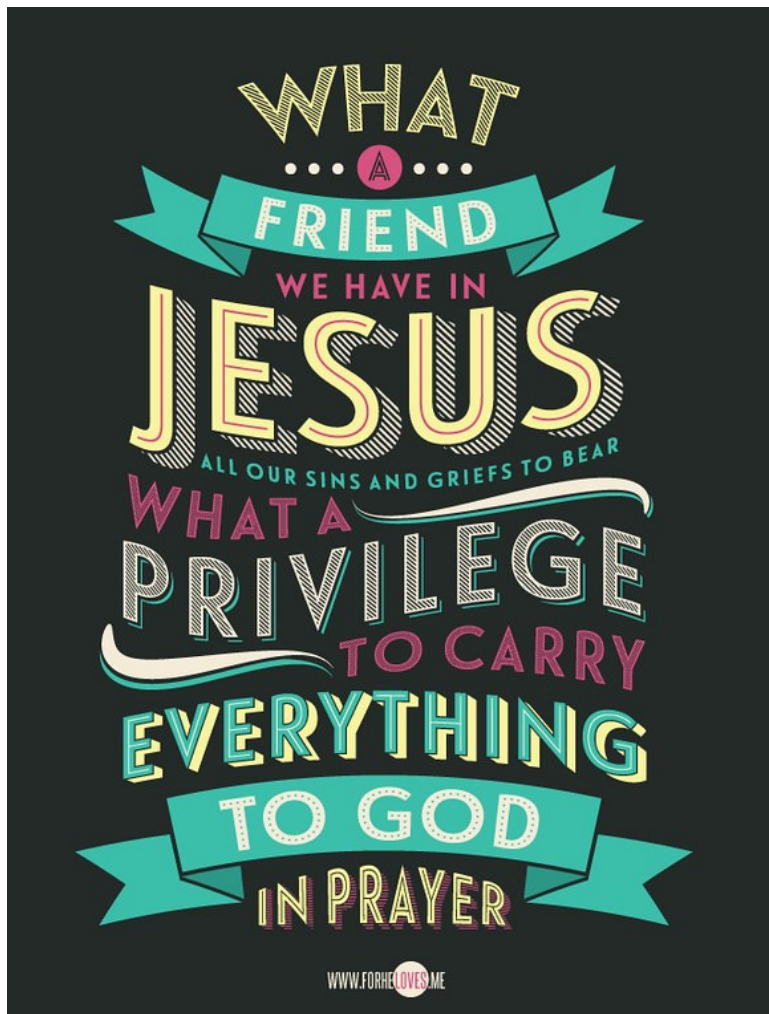
Has your faith in God helped you at different times in your life?

Yes, particularly when things are not going right for me.

What would you say to someone who is not a Christian, but would like to know more?

Come to our church, meet us, talk to us.

Evelyn



How can you support Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church financially while our building is closed?

Firstly, thank you for the support you give our Church already. Because a large number of you already give your offertory monthly directly to our bank account we are able to continue paying the ongoing bills that we receive. If you would like to give this way please drop an email to treasurer@bhpurc.org.uk and I will send you our bank details so a standing order can be created. You remain in control and can change your payment frequency and amount.



There are other ways you can give at this time.

Online via credit/debit card – Visit <https://www.give.net/bhpurc>

By **SMS** – Text OFFERTORY 3 to 70085 to donate £3 (alternatively you can opt to give any whole amount up to £20).

Through **Facebook** – Visit <https://facebook.com/bhpurc> and click on Donate.

By **cheque** – send a cheque, payable to Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church, to Martin Hamblin, Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church, 25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ (or drop through the letterbox).

Or just put the amount you would like to give each week aside (or in your regular weekly giving envelopes) and make sure you bring it when we reopen.

Thank you again for all your support.

Martin

Easter egg donations break records

This Spring a record breaking 3,000 Real Easter Eggs were bought and donated to food banks through a usually 'quiet' online scheme. The 'Donate an egg to a food bank scheme' is run by the Meaningful Chocolate Company which, for the past ten years, has been making The Real Easter Egg.

David Marshall CEO said: "What is moving is that people were donating their purchase to someone they will never meet or hear from, but they trust that the Easter story, which come with each egg, will make a difference and the chocolate egg give a treat. One customer told us she had a legacy from her father and wanted to use some of it to send a pallet of eggs to those in need.

"Ten years ago, churches and schools helped us create The Real Easter Egg, with its copy of the Easter story in the box, and its support of Fairtrade chocolate and charitable causes. There can be no more fitting a tribute than for us to continue to support, share and give to those in need."



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

Try a little kindness

When TV presenter and celebrity Carolyn Flack took her life in February 2020 the world was shocked and saddened. How could someone so young, beautiful and successful do such a thing? It seems that the pressure of an impending court case, the vitriol she received online, and her own inner pain had become too much for her.

Shortly before she died, she posted, 'In a world where you can be anything, be kind.'

These simple words are a call to our society to become more caring and careful in the way we treat each other. There is too much unkindness about, especially on social media where unkind words are so common and can be so destructive.

Kindness can be defined as the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate. It is shown through our words and by our actions, an everyday sort of quality that is not spectacular but which when we encounter it can lift our spirits.

It is above all a Christian virtue that ought to be demonstrated in great measure within Christian communities. It is a fruit of the Spirit, an attitude that is formed within us when the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives (Galatians 5:22). It is an aspect of love for love is patient, love is kind (1Corinthians 13:4). Yet sadly, the Church is often no different from the world. Congregations can sometimes be anything but friendly, generous and considerate.

Why not try a little kindness this week? Do something spontaneously to help another person. Reach out in friendship to someone who seems lonely, if only by phone! Speak some kind words to those around you. You will feel better yourself, and you will be making the world a better place.

Revd Tony Horsfall of Charis Training
Visit: <http://www.charistraining.co.uk/>

Prayer

Prophecy!

Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!
Are you listening, dry bones?
I am the Lord's prophet in this here and this now
and I am speaking to you,
because your dryness is about decline and death
and I worship a God of life.

God can turn your brittleness into suppleness.
God can attach tendons so you can move.
God can cover you with skin.
God can make breath come into you, even you.
Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!

And you too, wind – hear the word of the Lord!
God summons you to breathe hope into this dryness.
God needs you to teach these bones
what being alive feels like.

I will do my bit –
I will prophesy for all I am worth.

Live is possible.
Hope is powerful.
Even here.
Even now.

Roberta Rominger

From the URC prayer handbook 2012 for 27th May looking at Ezekiel 37:1-14

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.

If you would like prayer for yourself or family and friends please email
prayer@bhpurc.org.uk

Hearing God (3)

How do we know what God is saying to us? How do we work out what God's plan for our lives is? (Continued)

3. **Through solitude and silence** – Sometimes we just need to shut up to hear God speak to us. How cluttered and noisy our lives have become (please note this was written before the coronavirus outbreak!). Even if you go out for a walk in the countryside these days it seems that you pass people with things plugged into their ears, being away on another planet somewhere!

We are all so busy a lot of the time, busy doing what I wonder?

I know that I need to stop to hear God much more often than I do at the moment and it always seems strange to me that when we actually do stop God often does speak to us and very clearly on such occasions and yet I have to ask why does it seem to take an accident or an illness or something unexpected to make us stop to hear God when we all know the benefits of listening and hearing God speak to us.

“We all need a desert place – somewhere which is as far removed as possible from our noise-polluted world; somewhere where we can encounter God afresh and regularly” (Joyce Huggett)

Do you have a place to go to for refreshment, for renewal, to hear God speaking to you?

4. **Through nature** – God often speaks to us by the world we see around us. We can but marvel at the wonder of God's creation. There is so much beauty there, even sometimes when the weather is dull and dreary and the skies look dark and depressing, looking around at what God has created can fill us with a sense of awe and wonder and

lead us to the foot of the cross again to worship Jesus and to say thank you for all that God has done.

It is in those times of our opening up to God in worship and at the wonder of creation that we can quite often hear God speaking back to us revealing God's amazing love and goodness to our hearts.

5. **Through people** – How often do we find ourselves hearing God speak to us through other people? Sometimes it may be something that they say, sometimes it might be something that they do. Sometimes it can simply be because they are there. Our needs quite often at a time of sadness or depression, perhaps in times of bereavement, can simply be to have somebody with us, sitting there or simply being there, and at such times God can come to us through those people.

It is not necessarily the dramatic sermon, or a vivid presentation that may lead us to Jesus – it can be seeing somebody struggling to do something good and achieving it.

6. **Through the imagination** – Sometimes we need simply to think about our Lord and meditate on God, or perhaps on something about God and this opens up for us the ability to listen to God. I don't know if you've ever done it, but have you tried reading one of the bible stories and imagining yourself in the story and what you would have thought and/or felt about it. It can open up your imagination to stimulate new thoughts about a whole variety of things.

Mark



Wordsearch

This month the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus, the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fact that our God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the Resurrection, Jesus was seen on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He encouraged his disciples, and said that He was sending them to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses. 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven; his work on earth was done. The disciples returned to Jerusalem, and on the fateful morning of Pentecost, there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell all those who believed in Jesus: the Church was born. And so we have a triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ascension	blessed
taken	jerusalem
wait	prayer
power	one
room	disciples
tongues	flame
joy	praise
confusion	languages
earth	peter
holy	spirit
trinity	father
son	triune

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

Other local church activities

Activities are not taking place this month but this gives you an idea what goes on each week in the area.

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
	10am	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** 9.30am Prayers (3rd Sunday)
 10.00am Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday)

Activities are not taking place this month but this gives you an idea what goes on each week.

