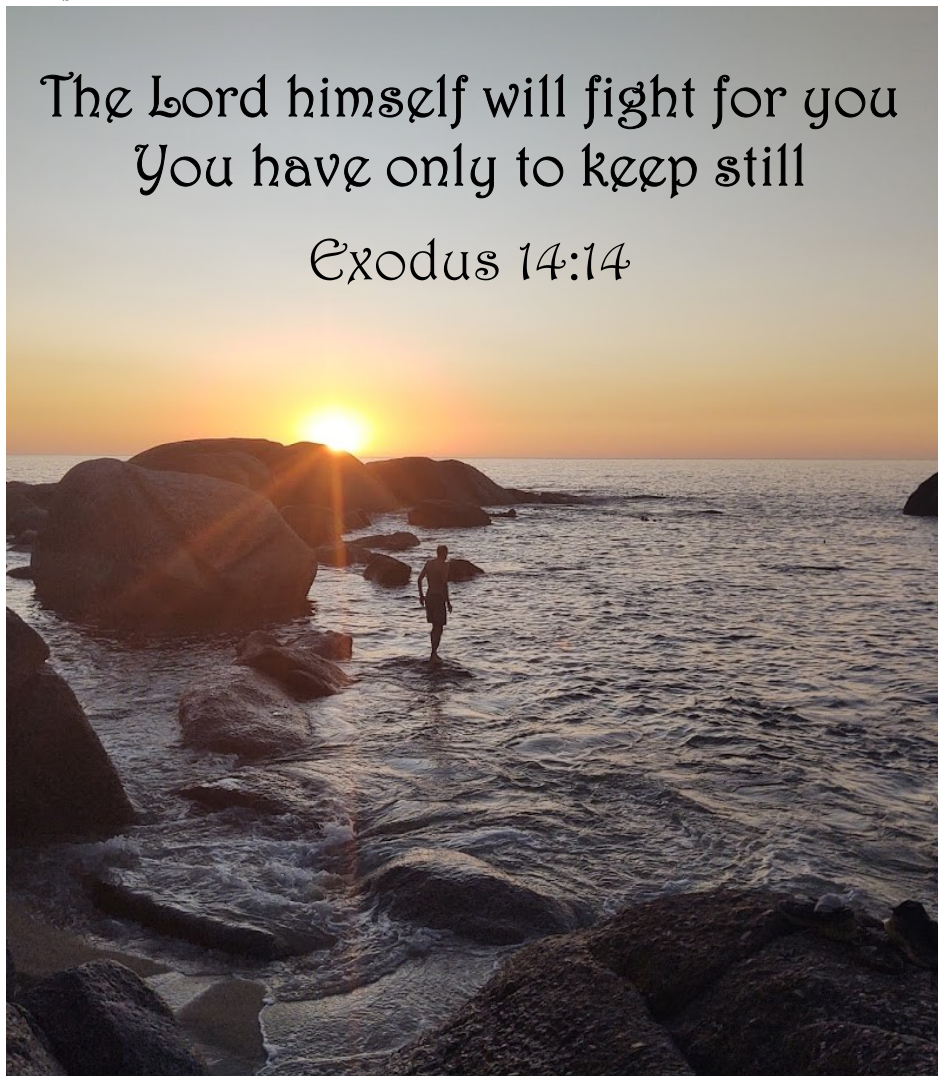


June 2020

The Lord himself will fight for you  
You have only to keep still

Exodus 14:14



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church  
25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ  
[www.bhpurc.org.uk](http://www.bhpurc.org.uk)

## Who to contact

### Minister

Mark Meatcher	020 8374 0509	minister@bhpurc.org.uk
---------------	---------------	------------------------

### 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
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](mailto: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.*

## ***It's a mystery – how do we respond?***

Pentecost was when the church began.

There was a sound from heaven like the rush of a violent wind which filled the whole house, and tongues, as of fire, appeared among them and rested on them.

Luke records that *“all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”* (Acts 2:4)

Something happened that day.

We can't escape the fact.

The disciples lives were changed... and many people in churches all over the world have wondered and asked questions about what happened that day down through the centuries. Some have pleaded that God would send the Holy Spirit again in the same way. Others have wanted to shy away from whatever it was that happened for fear of one kind or another.

But I don't think anyone can deny that something happened that day, something that changed the disciples in a powerful way, something that gave them the courage to preach the message of the good news about Jesus Christ in a new, powerful and vibrant way.

A few years later the apostle Paul arrived at Ephesus and found a group of believers.

The story, re-told by Luke in Acts 19, is one that continues to challenge the 21st century church.

Paul notices that these believers seem to be missing something, so he asks them a simple question:-

*“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?”*

We're not quite sure what it was that caused Paul to ask this question, or what exactly seemed to be absent from these disciples, but it is something we were reminded of recently when reading “Unleashed” by Gavin and Anne Calver, who write:

*“What we do not see here in Acts is a church operating out of duty, but out of joy. They are powerfully moved by the love of God in their hearts to share with their brothers and sisters. There is an overflow of generosity, of*

*kindness, and selflessness that spills forth in the early church.” (p57)*

Might it be the joy that those disciples at Ephesus were missing – and is that something that in our own worship as a church is missing oftentimes today?

After Paul baptises these believers he lays his hands on them and *“the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied”*.

Is it the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we are missing in our churches today, gifts that according to 1 Corinthians 12 vary, but which *“God.. activates.. in everyone.. for the common good”* (1 Corinthians 12:4 – 7)

Do we realise and recognise that it is God’s intention that we all have something to offer to build up the church of God, the body of Christ – each of us has a part to play, and the current situation we are facing as a community dealing with coronavirus means that we need to think more about our response. Can we help by calling another member of

the church and having a chat with them? Can we help by praying for another person in need? Is God speaking to us about a different way we could respond? Do we need to ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit, or give us the joy that is promised to us?

Graham Tomlin, in his book “The Provocative Church” writes about our calling as Christians: *“Christians are not meant just to try to do good, be nice and help the world work a little bit better. They are instead to act as signposts to another order, another way of life, another kingdom, which can be glimpsed in this world, but has not yet arrived completely.”* (p22)

We are called together to be the light of Christ to the world around us.

Can we pray that we might see how God might want to do that through us, as individuals, and as a church, at this strange time – and might we also pray that the Holy Spirit would lead and guide each and every one of us from day to day.

Mark and Melanie

## Smile Lines

### What it says on the sign

At a towing company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want your tows instead."

On a maternity room door: "Push. Push. Push."

At an optometrist's office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

In a podiatrist's office: "Time wounds all heels."

On a house's fence: "Salespeople welcome! Dog food is expensive."

At a car dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

Outside a muffler shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in five minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the electric company: "We would be de-lighted if you pay your bill. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry. Come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a funeral home: "Drive carefully. We're happy to wait."

# Here is the News

## **Christian Aid Week**

£80 was collected via the Church e-Envelope. Thanks to all who donated.

Christian Aid say:

*Thanks to your generous donation to our Christian Aid Week Appeal, we've been able to respond to this pandemic and begin working on preventing outbreaks.*

*We're currently responding with our local partners in 20 countries, raising awareness of key health messages and helping to prevent the spread of coronavirus.*

For more information please visit <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal>

If you haven't already done so, please consider donating to Christian Aid week via <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/eyJlbnZlbG9wZSI6NDczMCwgImNoYW5uZWwiOiJmYWNIYm9vayJ9?fbclid=IwAR3mDIIXVpi2whl-YZqJngm514CRyjnNAAXiqFp1uXp3gHaUKydxRaMg5Os>

## **Nigeria – slaughter continues during time of lockdown**

Fulani militants have continued to carry out attacks against Christians in Plateau State Nigeria, despite the coronavirus lockdown. In the latest attack, at a village near the capital of Jos, extremists murdered two five-year-old children and a three-year-old infant.

Release International, which supports persecuted Christians around the world, has again been calling on the Nigerian government to take urgent steps to protect its vulnerable Christian communities from attack – even as they face the new threat of the coronavirus.



According to a leading green energy supplier, all of us relying on food delivery services at the moment are helping the environment!

Home delivery is like the public transport of groceries. Instead of having 20 odd cars make their way to the supermarket – one van drives around delivering to everyone in the area. Additionally, it means you're less likely to impulse buy which can help to reduce any waste food.

Remember, if you can, to ask for no plastic bags. It is safe to buy unpackaged fruit and veg if you wash it thoroughly. A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine revealed plastic is the surface the coronavirus remains viable on for the longest - up to 72 hours; for cardboard/paper it was 24.

So perhaps, if you had not been in the habit of doing so, stick with deliveries after the lockdown and help slow down climate chaos.

### **'30 Days Wild' invitation**

One of our firm beliefs at A Rocha UK (the charity we are

registered with for Eco Church) is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God's creation if we first spend time enjoying it. A Rocha UK's Wild Christian (<https://arocha.org.uk/wildchristian>) Programme Coordinator, Jennifer Jobbins will be taking part in The Wildlife Trusts' '30 Days Wild' challenge (<https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/57739/petition/1>) in June. The challenge is a great chance to engage with nature as an individual, as a household or with your church community. There is some information from Jennifer including how you can also get involved in the challenge at <https://arocha.org.uk/30-days-wild-invitation>



## Offertory

As our closure begins to hit our finances, I would like to remind you of the importance of maintaining your weekly/monthly offertory.

In March / April our offertory is reduced by £367 compared to last year. In the same period, our monthly M&M contribution has increased by £1254.

As I'm sure you are aware our rental income has also stopped although we expect Grafton to restart in June. This will further increase our need to support the Church through our personal giving.

Many of you already give via Standing Order. Thank you for this, because of you we are able to carry on paying our bills.

If you usually make your offering via envelopes, please continue to fill these each week so they can be brought with you the next time you are able to attend. If cheque is your preferred option, please post these to me as soon as possible as we are still able to make cheque deposits.

For those who prefer cash or credit card, then please consider these options:

- 1) Donate via credit/debit card at <https://give.net/bhpurc>
- 2) Donate via SMS by Texting OFFERTORY 10 to 70085 to donate £10 (Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message). You can text any whole number up to 30.
- 3) Contact me via [treasurer@bhpurc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bhpurc.org.uk) to request a standing order form. This can then be used to setup a regular standing order with your bank.

Thank you all for your support at this time.

Martin



## Domestic violence

Incidents are increasing – national headlines indicate at least five homicides since the start of lockdown.

If you are in any immediate danger please contact the police – 999. If it is unsafe to speak when calling 999, using the Silent Solution by dialling **55** when it is unsafe to speak

Freephone 24hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline **0808 2000 247**, run by Refuge

Pan-London Advice line run by Solace and funded by London Councils **0808 802 5565**

If anyone is concerned about a neighbour or someone they know, they should call police **101**, or **999** in an emergency, if you are concerned about an immediate risk of harm.

LGBT+: Galop helpline 0800 999 5428 or email [help@galop.org.uk](mailto:help@galop.org.uk)

Men: Respect Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327

Deaf: SignHealth, the Deaf Health Charity: Text or WhatsApp 07970 350366

For professionals working on domestic abuse who wish to connect and share advice, SafeLives provides a platform to do so.

## Other Useful contacts

### Rights of Women:

[rightsofwomen.org.uk](http://rightsofwomen.org.uk); email [info@rightsofwomen.org.uk](mailto:info@rightsofwomen.org.uk);

Family Law Advice for London women 020-7608 1137:

Family Law Advice Women living in London 0207 608 1137;

National Fam Law 0207 251 6577;

Criminal Law 0207 251 8887

New local number for residents to make contact with our **Housing Advisory Service** without going through the Council's main switchboard. This will help where there is a need to provide safe accommodation. The number is **020 3821 1769**.

## Out of India? (Part Two)

On Friday evening, after having spent most of the day with the Principal of Bishops College we met up with our good friends, Prakash Thankachan and Margaret Ali. Margaret is one of the few ordained female ministers in the Diocese of Calcutta and Prakash is a deacon who works with the Mennonites. We spent time with them and their families, especially enjoying some time playing with their daughter, Irene.

On the Saturday we were guests at a workshop on human trafficking. It was incredibly moving to hear stories from women who had been trafficked and others who were having to work as sex-workers in order to ensure that their children did not end up in the same profession. Our hearts were touched deeply, both by these incredibly amazing people and by the vision of the church to try and act to make a difference.

Sunday morning we split up! Melanie went off with Rig David from Cathedral Relief Services to preach at CNI Wesleyan Church and Mark headed to St Paul's Cathedral in Kolkata where Bishop Paritosh Canning led the eucharist and Mark spoke as the cathedral celebrated Mothering Sunday ( a week early!).



Mark then attended the blessing of the Cathedral Gift Shop, and a refurbished play area for young people (although he did manage to

get in a quick game of badminton on the newly built court!) before a quick snack with the Friends of the Cathedral.

In the afternoon we joined a contingent from the diocese and headed out for the re-dedication of a church. The Bishop was greeted in traditional Indian way and the afternoon was a great celebration with much joy present. It looked like being a great new start for a church in the middle of an area that struggles to make ends meet.



On the Monday we were able to say a few goodbyes as we headed off with Pradip, the Administrator at Khristiya Seva Niketan Hospital, to go to Sarenga – the second part of our trip was just about to begin.

Mark and Melanie



## Returning Good for Evil: Love Holds Out Hope

At the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis, as the tension was building toward what could have been the outbreak of World War III, Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev sent an urgent communiqué to President John F. Kennedy. In part, the message said, You and I should not now pull on the ends of the rope in which you have tied a knot of war, because the harder you and I pull, the tighter the knot will become. And a time may come when this knot is tied so tight that the person who tied it is no longer capable of untying it, and then the knot will have to be cut. What that would mean I need not explain to you, because you yourself understand perfectly what dread forces our two countries possess.

In effect, when you make the decision to return good for evil, you're choosing to stop yanking on the rope of conflict and making the knot in your relationship so tight that it can never be untied. By simply dropping your end of the cord, you're loosening the tension and preserving the possibility that the still-loose knot might somehow be untangled by the two of you. This maintains the hope — however faint — that reconciliation might someday occur. As you think of the adversary whose face you've brought into your mind, you might be tempted to rule out any likelihood of ever having a civil relationship with him or her. But don't write off anything too quickly.

"There were probably some Christians who hated Saul when he was filled with malice and breathing threats and murder against the church," said David Dockery and David Garland in Seeking the Kingdom. "Who would have guessed that he would become the apostle Paul, . . . preaching . . . love and forgiveness? The one who treats us as our enemy today may become our brother or sister tomorrow. Jesus says to treat them today as our brother and sister."

Hatred writes people off; love holds out hope.

from the Lee Strobel devotional via [BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com)

## Prayer in your home

YouVersion Prayer is helping people all over the world make prayer a part of their everyday lives (with more than two million Prayers so far). Now, whatever you're praying for, try it on your Amazon and Google voice devices.

On Amazon Alexa  
"Alexa, ask YouVersion  
Bible for my Prayer List"



On Google Assistant  
Just say, "Ok Google, talk  
to YouVersion Bible"  
Once YouVersion Bible  
opens, say,  
"My Prayer List"



YouVersion Prayer reads the first Prayer on your Prayer List, then plays soft, soothing background music as you pray. After a minute, YouVersion Prayer reads your next Prayer, followed again by quiet music. One Prayer at a time, YouVersion Prayer helps you pray through each item on your list.

For more information go to:

<https://blog.youversion.com/2020/03/youversion-bible-app-now-in-the-bible-app-prayer-feature-full-announcement/>

## Trinity Sunday, 7th June

... celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are of the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4: 'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'

Isaiah 45:22: 'Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other.'

Genesis 1:1-2: 'In the beginning God created.... and the Spirit of God was hovering...'

Judges 14:6: 'The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...'

John 1:1-3: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.'

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.'

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.

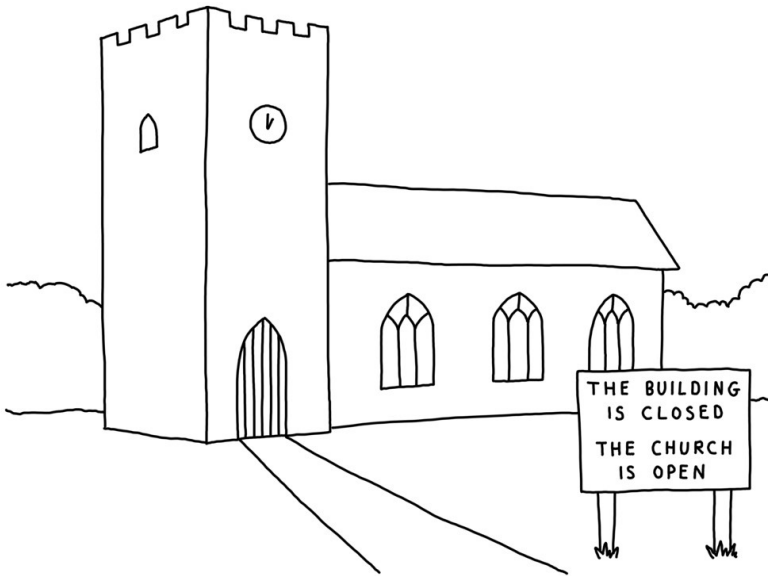
# Diary

## June

**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)

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



CartoonChurch.com

---

**Next newsletter deadline:  
Sunday 14th June**

All material for inclusion should be emailed to  
[newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk)

---

# Prayer Diary

JUNE 2020

Be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12

## **Monday 1st**

Derek

## **Tuesday 2nd**

For the future of our church and fellowship

## **Wednesday 3rd**

Trinity Avenue

## **Thursday 4th**

General Practice Doctors

## **Friday 5th**

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

## **Saturday 6th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

## **Sunday 7th**

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

## **Monday 8th**

Diann

## **Tuesday 9th**

That we as a fellowship will be open to the guiding of the Holy Spirit

## **Wednesday 10th**

Tweedy Close

## **Thursday 11th**

Nurses

## **Friday 12th**

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

## **Saturday 13th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

## **Sunday 14th**

Give thanks for God's love



**Monday 15th**

Evelyn

**Tuesday 16th**

That people will earnestly pray about their role in the church and if they are being led to take a more active part in the life of the church and its mission

**Wednesday 17th**

Wellington Road

**Thursday 18th**

Specialist Doctors

**Friday 19th**

For those who are fearful in their own home

**Saturday 20th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

**Sunday 21st**

Thanks for those who love us and share our lives

**Monday 22nd**

Fred

**Tuesday 23rd**

The leadership of the church and its organisations

**Wednesday 24th**

Alberta Road

**Thursday 25th**

Junior Doctors

**Friday 26th**

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

**Saturday 27th**

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

**Sunday 28th**

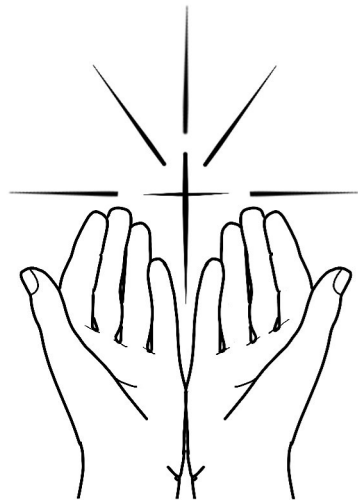
Give thanks for long summer days

**Monday 29th**

Gertrude

**Tuesday 30th**

That God will send people to us to help in his mission for Bush Hill Park





*Where was the social distancing?*

## **Transgender. Christian. Human.**

Alex Clare-Young recently appeared on Songs of Praise and spoke about their life-journey to the point at which they have become the first out transgender minister in the United Reformed Church.

Their book, the title of which is above, has recently been published by wild goose publications (2019).

I have a copy if anyone is interested in borrowing it (always happy to lend books!).

Alex's book is a good, easy-to-read account of Alex's journey to date which, I think, will prove a good introductory book for people who are struggling to understand the experiences that many like Alex have been through, and still go through.

There is a good section on "Defining Terms" which helps the reader understand some of the words that are used when referencing transgender people and some useful worship resources (prayers and songs) that could be adapted and used in many different situations.

If you personally have no experience of transgender people then I would commend the book to you – it doesn't take too long to read and is written in a way that means you can take it as slowly or as quickly as you would wish to. There is space provided through the book for you to reflect on what has been written.

Mark



## **Christians and the bubonic plague of London**

The Reverend Richard Peirson was one of the exceptions. Most of the other clergy in the City of London had fled the Great Plague in 1665, but Peirson stayed behind to look after the parishioners of St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, where he was Rector. The parish was densely populated and the pandemic was catastrophic. The church's register records 636 burials that year in the month of September alone, with 43 interred in one day.

Houses of infected people were marked with a red cross on the door, with occupants kept inside for 40 days. Handcarts were pulled along the city streets to cart away the bodies; the drivers' cries of "Bring out your dead", became etched in the memories of subsequent generations. Relatives were banned from attending funerals.

The official count numbered 68,596 deaths in London alone, but other estimates suggested two or three times that number. Bubonic plague – for that is what it was – was incurable. Poor people were fatalistic about it but complained that even their 'spiritual physicians' had abandoned them. Clergy of the Church of England were often supplanted by non-conformist preachers.

It wasn't just the St Bride's Rector who put his life in jeopardy by staying at his post. While most wealthy people, along with King Charles II and his court, escaped the plague-ridden city, Churchwarden Henry Clarke also chose to remain at the church. When he succumbed to the illness, his brother William took over. William survived for a fortnight.

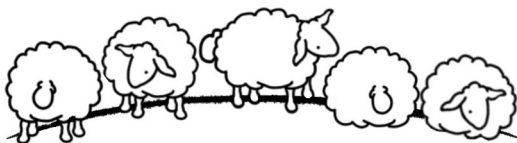
Plague cases continued to occur sporadically at a modest rate until mid-1666. That year the Great Fire of London destroyed St Bride's Church and much of the City of London. It was rebuilt to a design by Christopher Wren, but almost obliterated once more in 1940 during World War II before being restored yet again.

Today's Rector, Canon Alison Joyce, says that compared with her predecessor Richard Peirson, she has it easy. Like everyone else, she is confined by the lockdown rules to her Rectory next to the church. But her pastoral work continues, and she collates sermons and archive music to create a Sunday webcast service. Alison writes, "these days it is a ministry of telephone calls, emails and Facetime. I offer such practical help and support to the vulnerable as I can . . . I keep a candle burning before our main altar and continue a ministry of prayer."

Alison says she is surprised when people regard the faith as a kind of celestial insurance policy against bad things happening to them. The first followers of Jesus knew that in dedicating their lives to following the crucified and risen Christ, their discipleship would take them into the very heart of darkness, not away from it.

She adds, "Hope is no hope at all unless it can engage with utter despair and meaninglessness."

The Ven John Barton



### ***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.*

# Interview

**How long have you lived in this area?**

21 years

**What made you choose our church to come to?**

It was over the road from our house!

**What makes you go to church at all?**

Mutual encouragement.

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

“Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord”. A glorious hymn of praise.

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

Can I say the entire Book of Psalms? There's always a psalm that's appropriate, whether you're joyful, contemplative, or discouraged.

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

Yes. Looking back I can see that when I tried to forget God, He did not forget me, but brought me back to faith and church life.

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

Come and get to know Jesus.

Bill



## ‘How long, O Lord?’ – the lament of Psalm 13

As we struggle with the effects of the global coronavirus pandemic, we might echo the words of Psalm 13: *‘How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?’* It is one of a number of lament psalms, where the psalmist cries out in pain, because he feels abandoned by God. In our current circumstances, these psalms enable us talk to God about our fears and frustrations, while renewing our confidence in Him. What does Psalm 13 say?

**Bring your complaint to God:** The psalmist brings his pain and questions to God: *‘How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?’* (2). He is open with God about his complaints, despite the anger he feels.

**Ask boldly for His help:** He goes on to ask for God’s help: *‘Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, ‘I have overcome him...’* (3–4). While avoiding despair (‘there’s no hope’) or denial (‘everything’s fine’), the psalmist is confident in God’s power to deliver.

**Choose to trust Him:** *‘But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord’s praise, for He has been good to me.’* (5–6). The lament is a journey to the point of renewing our trust in God in the brokenness of our life.

The psalms of lament (eg. Psalms 10, 22 and 77) give us a prayer language for dark times. They enable us to be honest with God about what is happening to us and remind us that God has not abandoned us. He is a God who is both sovereign and good.

*‘Laments turn toward God when sorrow tempts you to run from Him.’*

The Rev Paul Hardingham

## Hearing God (4)

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

7. **Through our emotions** – how often do we feel like we are on an emotional roller-coaster? How often do we wish we could control how we feel and how we respond in certain situations?

*“We must learn to listen to these emotional reactions. Through them God speaks. They reveal to us more clearly than any other language whether our life revolves around self or around God.”* (Joyce Huggett)

Our emotions can tell us a lot about ourselves and by thinking about them and asking God to show us how our emotions have affected our behaviour we can learn more about ourselves. Why do we respond in the way we do? Is the reason that we are happy because we are in church praising God or is it because our football team won yesterday or what?

I particularly like the verse in one of the Letters to the Corinthians which says:- *“We take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ”* (2 Corinthians 10 v 5)

We so often read that as meaning that we should take hold of sinful thoughts but good thoughts, good emotions can be a problem to us as well and they need to be brought under Christ's control. We can be so excited that we miss people who need our love and care. We can be so full of ourselves that we fail to hear the cry of the poor.

8. **Through “holy hunches”** – God can speak to us through “holy hunches”. Joyce Huggett suggests that as we learn to listen to God through many different ways we will begin to learn how God actually speaks to us as individuals and for each of us we may well find that God speaks to us in a different way to how God speaks to others around us. We may find some similarities. For example the way God speaks to us through our church services on a Sunday may be similar but for some of us it could be that God speaks clearly through the written word whilst for others it may be through our relationships



with other people. God is a God of great variety, much as we are a people of great variety and God loves to speak to us in different ways and at different times. We need to be prepared to hear God at all times. Joyce says:-

*“As we listen to him, it will not surprise us, then, if through ‘holy hunches’ we are prompted to telephone a certain person, visit someone, or send a cheque to a certain charity. As we act on these hunches, we quickly discover when they have been placed there by God because the help we give is so timely. God-sent.”* (Joyce Huggett)

Sometimes something different, something out of the ordinary, is needed to enable us to actually hear what God is saying to us. Can I encourage you to begin to look for God afresh in other ways, to not perhaps limit God’s ability to speak to us to one method only, to be open to receive from God in different ways, in new ways.

Some of those different ways may be ways that you have not encountered before. Let’s look at one more:-

**9. Through gifts of the Holy Spirit** – God may well look to begin to speak to us as a church through some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that God gives. Some of these are listed in 1 Corinthians 12, gifts of words of knowledge or wisdom, gifts of prophecy, gifts of speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues.

Some of these things you may be familiar with, some of them may seem distinctly odd to you. Be aware of them, get to know about them, discern how God might use them.

A book I particularly found helpful in learning about the gifts of the Spirit is one that is now quite old. Originally published in the early 1960’s, I think, “Nine o’clock in the morning” by Dennis Bennett tells the story of how he discovered the gifts of the Spirit and the effect that it had on his church.

I won’t tell you any more but if you would like a copy to read please do let me know and I will get one to you.

## Prayer

For the health workers tending the seriously ill  
for the scientists working on a vaccination  
for the researchers analysing data and identifying trends  
for the media outlets working to communicate reality  
for the supermarket workers, hygiene and sanitation providers  
for the good news stories of recoveries and effective planning  
for the singing from balconies by locked-down communities  
for the recognition that isolation doesn't need to mean loneliness  
for the notes through letterboxes offering help and support  
for the internet and telephones and technology that connects  
for the awakened appreciation of what is truly important  
Thanks be to God.

For those who are unwell and concerned for loved ones  
for those who were already very anxious  
for those immune suppressed or compromised  
for those vulnerable because of underlying conditions  
for those in the 'most at risk to coronavirus' categories  
for those watching their entire income stream dry up  
for those who have no choice but to go out to work  
for those who are afraid to be at home  
for those who are more lonely than they've ever been  
for those who are bereaved and grieving.  
God be their healer, comfort and protection,  
be their strength, shield and provision  
be their security, safety and close companion

And raise up your Church  
to be your well-washed hands and faithful feet  
to be present to the pain  
to respond with love in action  
if even from a safe distance.

God, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

## Boys' Brigade News

Like everyone, since the middle of March BB has not been unable to meet face to face, which came as a big disappointment to the boys and staff, who love regularly meeting and doing a range of activities. At first we thought this was just to the end of May and then we would return to normal...

Early on into the lockdown, I contacted all the parents by letter and got them to update me with correct email address, as it seemed that contact over the internet was going to be the way we worked for a few weeks (who new then it would be until September!). BB HQ was quick to come up with weekly 'do at home' packs call BB@Home, which we have been sending out to parents every couple of weeks. These packs have had some great activities in them, with different activities for the different aged sections. The lads have been encouraged to try out these activities when ever they want at home.

As BB announced that we could not return until at least the end of June, we decided that our annual awards night and presentation would need to be different this year. So we decided to make a pre recorded 45 minute film, showing what the company has been up to over the last year. We also asked members and staff to contribute as well. They were asked to say hello to everyone, say what they were missing about BB, a bit about what they have been up to during lockdown and then do something entertaining. I had a great response and I was sent so many videos. It's been really nice for everyone to

see most of the lads (from Anchors to Seniors) and staff getting involved.

The review video has been a hit and if you would like to see it, then please email me (andrewcaddies@hotmail.co.uk) and I will send you the link (the video can only be watched if you have the link, as its not public).

Then BB HQ updated us all and we were informed that BB sessions could not return until September. This has been a huge disappointment to all the boys and staff and especially to the company section boys and staff as we have had to cancel camp. This is the first year since 1945 that we won't be running a summer camp! This has been very disappointing but it is the right decision and we all support the new guidance, but it is still upsetting. Don't worry, we will make up for it when we can (2 week camp?? maybe??). I am sure we can plan a mini trip away in the autumn (hopefully).

So, with that bad news fresh in our heads we decided we need to make the best of a very bad situation. After some zoom meetings with staff, we have decided to launch 'Second Enfield Live', which is a weekly 40 minute session within each session. We will use a secure version of zoom to interact with the Anchors, Juniors, Company and Seniors (and their families) at the same time they would each normally have been at BB.

Its been a challenge to come up with sessions that can be done live via Zoom, but some great ideas have been planned. Any craft equipment needed will be delivered in the week

prior to the session, so that young people have everything ready. We have had our first meeting with Seniors and it was a great success. I even had messages afterwards by the parents to say how it had lifted the spirits and moods of their sons. That's why keeping BB active as much as possible is so important right now.

So we are trying to be positive, and keep the spirit of the Second Enfield alive. I know the lads will love the regular contact. We also hope to distribute the badges achieved during the past year and hold an online badge awarding ceremony (by delivering the badges to the parents first).

As I mentioned, camp has been cancelled. This is going to be a tough week! but we hope to do a few extra session that week and also tea time quiz. Online water fights, Hmmm, I have a few ideas!

Well I hope to see all the congregation again soon face to face and while there will be not visible BB activities happening, rest assured BB is continuing.

Andrew Caddies



SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK

**Support Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church by shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk).**

When you shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk), Amazon will donate to Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church. Support us every time you shop.

# Wordsearch

Coronavirus has turned our world upside down. But God is still there, and we can call on Him, as Psalm 91 (verses 1-6) reminds us...

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."

<sup>3</sup> Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.

<sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,

<sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

Dwells	shelter
most	high
shadow	almighty
refuge	fortress
trust	save
snare	deadly
pestilence	cover
feathers	wings
faithfulness	
shield	rampart
fear	terror
night	arrow
plague	destroys

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

## 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)

