



The
United
Reformed
Church

July 2020



THE LORD bless you
and KEEP you; THE
LORD make His face
shine upon you,
And be GRACIOUS to
you; THE LORD lift
up His COUNTENANCE
upon you, And GIVE
you peace.

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
---------------	---------------	------------------------

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

Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy.

Protestant?

“God has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

When our roots come from protesting why is it that sometimes we seem to struggle with protests today?

The #BlackLivesMatter protests that have spread across the world in recent weeks have been a cause of concern for many, resulted in rioting and looting in some places and criminal damage to buildings and property in others.

Other protests, perhaps like those related to climate change, maybe even some of the marches about Brexit (remember that?), and other actions that have been taken, sometimes make us wonder about what is the best way to protest, what is the best way to make your voice heard.

Martin Luther-King seems to have advocated non-violent protests, as did Mahatma Gandhi, but what about Malcolm X?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (have you ever read any of his writings?), a Lutheran pastor, was involved in a plot to kill Hitler – was that wrong?

We were recently asked by Reform magazine to review a new book: “12 Rules for Christian Activists”, which gave us the opportunity to think further about social action, and what steps may be appropriate for us to take in getting involved in trying to change the normal in our world.

The book contained many different examples, not so much of protest marches, but of opportunities that people, faced with many different situations of injustice such as poor housing, had found themselves challenged by, and, in most cases, were unsure about how to respond, how to act.

Taking a step forward and being prepared to ask questions about

an issue of injustice appeared to be one of the key factors in making change happen. The stories in the book of organisations that have grown up as a response were an encouragement to learn about.

In one of the church elders meetings recently we talked about the situation with regard to the homeless in Enfield; how, during the pandemic “we” have been able to find a (temporary) solution to homelessness/street dwellers, and whether we, in the church, should be putting pressure on the local authority and the government to ensure this continued post pandemic.

Is this one of those things that we should be asking a question about?

If we ask questions do we begin to be seen to be protesting?
Is that a problem for us?

Many of Jesus’ words were words that challenged the normal way of things:
“let he who is without sin cast the first stone” (John 8:7)

“Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. ‘Not

one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” (Mark 13:2)

If we are following a God who asks such questions, who challenges the normal, then should we expect to be doing anything different. Were the disciples not warned:
“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: “A servant is not greater than his master.” If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. (John 15: 18 – 21)”

Is this an epoch in history when we are called once more to be known by our name, the protestants? Are there questions we need to be asking, ourselves, our communities, our country?

Mark and Melanie

Smile Lines

Here are some excruciating one-liners...

What time of day was Adam created?

Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?

Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why are atoms Catholic?

Because they all have mass.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

Because Noah was always standing on the deck

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?

He only had two worms.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?

No — just an apple.

Does God love everyone?

Yes, but He prefers 'fruits of the spirit' to 'religious nuts'.

Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?

He just knew there was something fishy about it.

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

Absolutely ruthless.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose.

Mosquitoes come close, though.

What's so funny about forbidden fruits?

They create many jams.

Here is the News

Goodbye to Bill

It was very strange for us recently to be saying goodbye to Bill without being able to physically meet him to say goodbye... Leaving us to move to Reading during lockdown must count as a significant achievement!

During his time with us, as well as being a vital member of the church, Bill gave us his time and skills as a Kings Club teacher and pulpit supply, making sure we had a preacher each week - not the easiest of tasks while we did not have an assigned minister!

To say a big “Thank you” for all that Bill has done for the church over the time he has been with us we clubbed together and have been able to toilet twin a toilet in his new home and, hopefully by the time you read this, give him the chance to enjoy a meal out somehow!

We wish him well, and assure him that he will be welcomed at Bush Hill Park URC whenever he is passing.

Building fund donation

Thank you to Toddlers for a £500 donation towards the building fund. Thanks also to Sylvia and Alison who help keep Toddlers running. See page 7 if you would like to donate to the building fund too.

Wildflowers

Even in lockdown we are still striving to make our church a better place for the planet. Tony and Diann have planted a small wildflower patch which is growing nicely. If this works well we will expand it in future years.





For our churches working towards our Eco Church Awards, one of the key elements is engaging with our local communities. This is particularly tricky at the moment, yet Enfield Climate Action Group (www.encaf.org) is setting up a Faith Community and Climate Change working group. Please contact Melanie if you'd like to find out how you can be involved with this.

Can you help us raise funds to refurbish our hall?

Donate online via:
<https://give.net/bhp2>

Or text: **"BHPURC 5"** to
70085 to donate £5

Texts cost £5 plus a std rate msg. Alternatively you can opt to give any whole amount up to £20.



Every donation matters



Out of India? (Part Three)

Arriving at Sarenga we found ourselves installed in one of the accommodation units we had not stayed in before (we're gradually working our way round the estate!). This gave us some peace and tranquility as we were able to watch the birds and the butterflies undisturbed.

Our time at the hospital on this occasion was disturbed by the concerns about what was happening in the UK with the coronavirus outbreak which meant that our days were rather unsettled.

The news that India was getting was worrying and people from the UK were perceived as potential carriers of the virus. We therefore ended up reported as being "white and suspicious" and were beginning to cause concern in the local community. After receiving advice from the Bishop of Kolkata, the staff team at Sarenga and trying to get advice from the British Consulate and our insurers (without a great deal of success!) we made the decision that we needed to return to England sooner than we had wanted to...and booked a flight out of India minutes before Prime Minister Modi announced the country was going to shut down on the Sunday (our flight was booked for Saturday morning!).

All was not doom and gloom while we were at Sarenga though.

We managed to visit a village to see some of the work that the health visitor had been engaged with,



working with the local community.



We led Morning prayers every day that we were there and were able to do some teaching with some of the nurse trainees. They seem to really enjoy the drama that we got them to put together, which meant that a bible story hopefully came to life for them.

We were able to check some of the work that Chris Marlow had helped the hospital to sort out when we were last at Sarenga (a fire alarm has been installed!) and view and discuss with the hospital their project plans.

We hope that in the time we were there we were able to be a little encouragement to the staff team in one way or another.

Mark and Melanie



My Christian Testimony – by Doreen Wren

Doreen Wren was a teacher that Mark had when he was in Primary School (a long time ago now). She recently died and one of her sons sent through a copy of Doreen's "Christian Testimony". It is a fascinating read, as I am sure you will discover.

I had always thought of myself as a Christian. I followed the usual pattern – baptism, confirmation, followed by teacher training at a Church of England training college.

We had four boys who were also baptised. I felt that confirmation was a decision for them, so only the two youngest opted for it – probably because they were members of the church choir. St Paul's I believe was a typical one of its day – formal.

The vicar was a bachelor and didn't expect children to make any noise during the service, so church was boring for the boys but they preferred it to Sunday school.

One day while I was sitting in church I can remember thinking: "There must be something more than this."

So this is the story of how I discovered that there was.

First of all was the sadness when my younger sister took an overdose at the age of thirty-nine leaving three children. I had to deal with the remorse without help.

Then came a mother's worst nightmare. On Christmas Eve 1978 our youngest son Peter, aged fourteen, was cycling to the midnight service at St. Paul's Church, Sarisbury Green, where he was a choirboy and due to read the lesson that night. He was knocked off his bicycle by a car driven by a young man reputedly on drink and drugs. Peter was just getting up when he was hit by an oncoming car and killed. The first young man drove off and was never found by the police.

Paul came home and told us that Peter was not in church. John, my husband, immediately drove off to look for him while I sent Paul to a

neighbour's house to ring the hospitals. Our phone was out of action but we had the key to our neighbour's house while they were away.

My husband came home with a policewoman and said "Peter is dead". (Those words have echoed in my head all through the years).

I remember shrieking out "NO" and the doctor, brought by the police, wanted to give me an injection to make me sleep. When I declined he said "Then there was no point in calling me out was there". I meekly gave in.

The next day we went to the hospital to see Peter and were told that there was no one there to authorise it!! Then there was a post mortem so we did not see him.

During the ensuing days I felt a strong sensation of the compassion of God. I felt He was sad too.

It was only by the grace of God that I never felt any anger in spite of what counsellors expect. The grief was too great for any other emotion. It was my first experience of the closeness of God.

Our eldest son Christopher was serving a cadetship in the Merchant Navy. The ship was lying off Hamburg and we were constantly reassured by the company that he would be home for the funeral and we were further saddened when they refused to release him in time.

Looking back on that terrible night I realised that God had been there with me. I had been so tired at the end of term that I had decided for the first time not to go to the midnight service. I had gone to bed before the boys were due to leave. Not being able to sleep I came downstairs and apologised to the boys for my irritability. I said "I'm so sorry I've been so grotty all day." Peter said "No you haven't". I said "Yes I have, I am so tired". Peter put his arms around me and said, "It's alright, we understand". Those were our last words. I believe that God prompted me to come downstairs and apologise. He understood how I would feel otherwise.

It was about a year later that a new vicar, Roger Moseley, was appointed. He brought a completely new ethos to St Paul's. We learned not only about the work of the Holy Spirit but also of a personal relationship with Jesus. House groups were started and we were able to share things at a deeper level than was possible before Roger came. I began to know more about being a Christian.

Our next shock was when we received a phone call from the Foreign Office to say that our eldest son, Chris, was in jail in Portugal. He had become a yacht skipper and had accepted employment to take a group of holidaymakers that were from Wolverhampton to the Mediterranean. It wasn't long before he found out that they were drug-smuggling. After horrendous experiences which involved being drugged with sleeping tablets, almost to the point of death, being threatened at gunpoint and having to sail through the Med. with no wet weather kit and very little food – in October.

I will not tell the complicated story here but suffice it to say that the outcome was jail and he was not allowed to speak to Customs.

For the next few months we were in turmoil. My husband wrote to everyone he could think of who might give us some support. I found out that the President of Portugal had two sons so I wrote to him.

One day I was sitting by the fire and crying in desperation. I called out to God and said "I don't know who to contact now, so it is over to you God". Almost immediately the phone rang and a voice said "I am the Research Assistant of the Euro M.P. I am not ringing in my official capacity you understand. I am ringing you as a mum to tell you what I would do next".

I was amazed and said "I have just been praying about this". She replied "I was working on something else and the Lord told me to pick up the phone to you". So I had reached another Christian. What she told me became irrelevant because the message I received from the Lord was not to worry as He had got it in hand. I was ecstatic and wouldn't stop singing. After that my prayers were for patience.

Chris was not a Christian and we had been praying for him for some time. I remember John, my husband, saying "If he becomes a Christian it will be a miracle."

We used to visit the jail once a month and the people at church collected £400 to help with expenses. Among the things which we took in was a copy of Selwyn Hughes' 'Every Day with Jesus'. I felt he might read it if there was nothing else. He told us later that he was feeling very bitter about being locked up when he had done nothing to deserve it. He was sure he would be released eventually but would always feel this bitterness.

While he was reading 'Every Day with Jesus' he felt something come right through him, draining all the bitterness out and leaving him feeling 'invincible'. I said that it was the work of the Holy Spirit. After this experience he was known as the most cheerful prisoner in the jail.

After five months imprisonment he was out on bail for four months. Since then he has still worked as a skipper but as a volunteer on Christian boats.

My more recent experience of God's love was brought about by the persistent prayers of several of my church friends. I had suffered from depression for many years and had been prescribed different anti-depressants. One day when I was out walking I felt a cloud lift off my head. The world seemed brighter and the colours more intense. My depression was gone.

For weeks I felt as if I was walking in 'green pastures' and sang all day long. In spite of one or two people saying "it will come back" and "it always happens when people give up anti-depressants", I am still singing hymns and have taken no pills for fifteen months (at the time of writing).

I praise the Lord every day and never cease to feel overwhelmed by His kindness and love.

Forest CHURCH

Gather in our local
'outdoor cathedral'

Celebrating:

COMMUNITY

Creativity

Creation

and the

Creator

3.30pm Sunday 12th July

The Scout Field

The Paulin Ground

Ford's Grove

Winchmore Hill N21 3ER

Please note: there is no shelter, other than the water-proof skin you come in, no seats, other than what you bring ... and no toilets...

Further info : revd.melanie@gmail.com



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

Diary

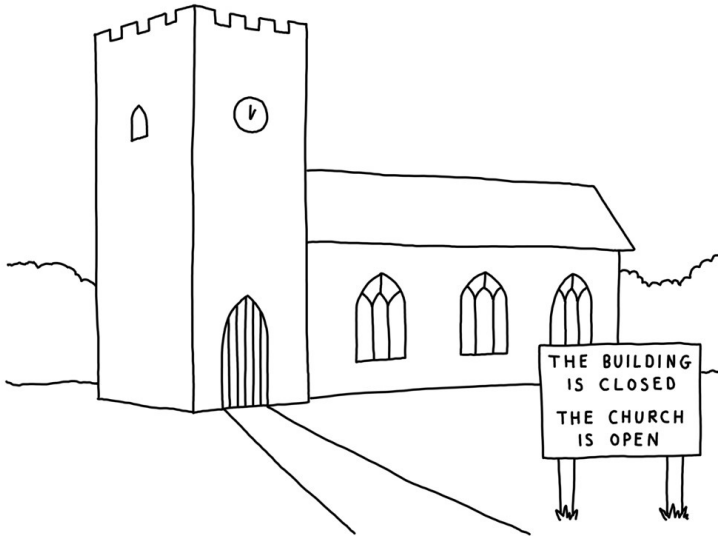
July

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 in person (although we are now restarting Forest Church, see page 14). Subscribe to our NewsShare for our online services <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH>

Visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/bhpurc for updates.



CartoonChurch.com

**Next newsletter deadline:
Sunday 12th July**

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

Prayer Diary

JULY 2020

Ah, Sovereign Lord,
you have made the heavens and the earth
by your great power and outstretched arm.
Nothing is too hard for you

Jeremiah 32:17

Wednesday 1st

Amberley Road

Thursday 2nd

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

Friday 3rd

The work of The Leprosy Mission
(we support them)

Saturday 4th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the
service tomorrow

Sunday 5th

Thanks for the preachers who
lead worship each Sunday

Monday 6th

Ivy

Tuesday 7th

Pray that God would save multi-
tudes worldwide

Wednesday 8th

Amberley Gardens

Thursday 9th

Enfield charity – The Enfield Soci-
ety, conservation and enhance-
ment of the civic and natural en-
vironments of the London Bor-
ough of Enfield

Friday 10th

Elijah, our sponsored child in
Zambia

Saturday 11th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 12th

Thank God for the freedoms we enjoy to pray and worship and to participate in public life

Monday 13th

Jane

Tuesday 14th

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

Wednesday 15th

Bertram Road

Thursday 16th

Enfield charity – Foodbank, feeding the hungry

Friday 17th

Crime reduction initiatives

Saturday 18th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 19th

Give thanks for family and friends

Monday 20th

Jill

Tuesday 21st

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

Wednesday 22nd

Blakesware Gardens

Thursday 23rd

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

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

Be joyful in hope and faithful in prayer giving thanks to God for his blessings

Monday 27th

John

Tuesday 28th

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

Wednesday 29th

Broadfields Avenue

Thursday 30th

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

Friday 31st

For the vulnerable

Covid-19 and Cyclone Amphan: Report on the Appeal from Cathedral Relief Services

Thanks to your generosity, the URCs in Enfield have been able to contribute a remarkable £1,000* to this appeal. Of the revised £4,000 target for 2020, we have now raised nearly £3,500 in total, which is split between Cathedral Relief Service (CRS) in Kolkata, and the Marshal Duar Hostel and KSN Hospital in the Bankura region of West Bengal. This is an amazing achievement. Thank you.

Rig David, Director of Cathedral Relief Service writes:

We thank you immensely for your ongoing support and donations given to the COVID appeal. With the funds you have sent, we have been able to provide 3000 and more families with food and medical supplies, many of which are communities in the CRS slums and villages, and in parishes under the Diocese of Calcutta.

There are now other agencies supplying food, and the Government is distributing cooked food in the streets, so there is no further need for CRS and the Diocese to continue with the food aid programme. Their intention is now to turn to the next urgent need, which is the relief of communities hard hit by the cyclone.

They have identified nine places where help is most needed. These are impoverished communities where the dwellings are poorly constructed, very often with roofs of mud covered with straw. As a result of the cyclone, 1,150 families have been made partially or completely homeless. There is more detail of the devastation caused by the cyclone on the website at:

www.cathedralreliefservice.net/news/stories/

The planned programme is to support the families by supplying materials with which to repair their homes, and also to provide basic cooking utensils. The budgeted cost of this programme is

approximately £9,500. The cost of the programme to supply food and medicines was £11,500, and so the overall total is £21,000.

Through your generosity, we have so far raised £14,500. CRS therefore needs a further £6,500 to complete the planned relief programme.

The final stage will be rehabilitation. Rig describes a general sense of hopelessness, particularly among women and children. Men, who have worked as migrant labourers, are returning home with no work and no means to support their families. CRS will therefore concentrate on extending the women's empowerment programme, so that women can acquire skills with which to earn money. Two new training centres have already been set up with the aid of the Diocese, with CRS providing the training for the women. Another priority will be to get children back into schools as soon as they can be reopened. These are of course all core activities of CRS which will be met from their regular funding. Thank you all once again for your generous support for this Appeal.

Mark and Melanie

*£750 included in these figures, £250 'in transit at time of writing'



Be Kind to Your Mind

Tips to cope with stress during COVID-19

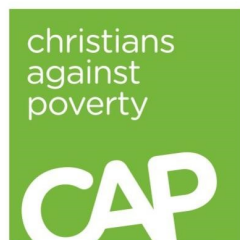
- 1 PAUSE.** Breathe. Notice how you feel
- 2 TAKE BREAKS** from COVID-19 content
- 3 MAKE TIME** to sleep and exercise
- 4 REACH OUT** and stay connected
- 5 SEEK HELP** if overwhelmed or unsafe

Enfield Churches Debt Centre

Christians Against Poverty exist because nobody should be held hostage by debt and poverty. But the truth is that they are rife in the UK. In a society where people live behind closed doors, thousands are desperately poor. Unable to feed their children, incapable of paying to heat their homes in winter, the grip of poverty is relentless. It breaks families apart and drives many to think that suicide is the only solution.

UK poverty is real, with millions locked in its miserable grip. That's why CAP is aiming for 1,000 CAP centres covering the UK, each bringing life changing freedom and good news to people in desperate need. Always through the church.

As churches in Enfield, we hope to make a difference by establishing the Enfield Churches Debt Centre. CAP will provide us with all the training and support to enable us to deliver a professional debt counselling tool that's proven to help some of the most vulnerable in society.



Lifting people out of debt and poverty

Working through a local Centre Manager and a network of volunteer Christian befrienders, CAP does all the debt counselling centrally, allowing the Centre Manager to focus on supporting the clients spiritually and practically. This means we won't have to worry about all the financial and legal knowledge, as highly trained caseworkers at head office will take care of all that for us.

Opening a CAP Debt Centre requires *your* commitment:

- ☐ Pray: that this work will prosper
- ☐ Befrienders: finding volunteers to accompany the Centre Manager in home visits, sharing our faith in an appropriate way
- ☐ Financial Support: we need at least £25,000 per annum to employ a CAP Centre Manager and contribute towards CAP's central costs so we are looking for regular giving commitments from churches and individuals

If you're interested in finding out more and to discuss how you and your church will help, please contact:

Rev. Mark Meatcher, Chair Enfield Churches Debt Centre

revd.meatcher@gmail.com 020 8374 0509



The Coronavirus, Church & You Survey

You are invited to take part in this national, denomination wide survey

The Covid-19 pandemic has obviously had a profound effect on churches. The lockdown has severely restricted ministry in areas such as pastoral care, fellowship groups, and serving the community. On the other hand, for those with online access, worship has taken on new and creative forms over the last few weeks. Many clergy and ministry teams have risen to the challenge of operating in the virtual environment.

As we pass the most severe period of lockdown, it seems a good time to assess how churchgoers have responded to the experience, and what they think the future might hold. How well have people coped with the pandemic? Has it strengthened or weakened their faith? How has it been for clergy and ministry teams trying to work in this new environment? How have those receiving ministry found this novel experience? Will virtual ministry become part of the post-pandemic landscape, and will this be a good move for your church?

We have developed a survey over the last few weeks in discussion with bishops, clergy and lay people which we hope will enable you to record your experience of the pandemic, the ministry you have given or received, and what you think will happen to churches in a post-pandemic world.

In an article to launch the survey in the Church Times, the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker, wrote: "This survey is an attempt to go beyond anecdote... It will capture evidence of both excitement and fears for the future, of where stress levels have changed, and whether personal faith has weakened or grown."

This is an online survey, which we estimate will take you about 20-30 minutes to complete. Most of the questions simply require you to tick boxes, though there are options to specify your particular

circumstances, and an opportunity at the end for you to tell us your views in your own words. Alongside questions about the pandemic and ministry there are sections which ask about you: these are important because they will allow us to see how the lockdown is affecting different sorts of people in different contexts.

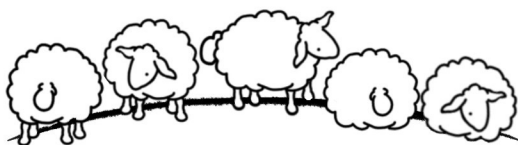
The survey can be completed on mobile phones, though it is more quickly completed on devices with larger screens such as tablets or computers. You can access using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/yqs9fy2>

Please forward this link to any churches or churchgoers you feel might want to take part in the survey and support this research.

The Revd Professor Andrew Village,
York St John University a.village@yorks.j.ac.uk

The Revd Canon Professor Leslie J. Francis,
Visiting Professor York St John University



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?

I have lived in the area all my life. I was born at Chase Farm Hospital and grew up in Bush Hill Park. When I got married I moved to Edmonton and 10 years ago we moved to Enfield Town.

What made you choose our church to come to?

I was introduced to Girls Brigade by Judith and came for a few years. Then a friend asked me to go with her to the youth group and her church and I ended up going there, but situations change in life, as they do, I was not happy at that church, and so came back to Bush Hill Park. You were so welcoming and accepting, it felt like I had never been away. That was roughly 23 years ago and BHP feels like home.

What makes you go to church at all?

To hear God's word and learn from it. Also the fellowship and to feel ready to face the coming week.

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

You laid aside your Majesty is my favourite hymn. I like it because the words are so true and if I am feeling a bit low it always picks me up.

You laid aside Your majesty, gave up everything for me.

Suffered at the hands of those You had created.

You took away my guilt and shame,

When You died and rose again.

Now today You reign,

And heaven and earth exalt You.

I really want to worship You my Lord,

You have won my heart and I am Yours.

Forever and ever, I will love You.

You are the only one who died for me,

Gave Your life to set me free.

So I lift my voice to You in adoration.

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

I have a favourite verse which is Philippians 4 v4-7.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I always find this a great comfort, especially v6. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

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

Yes it has. Knowing that God is with me and through the answer of prayer, my Faith has helped me get through some tough times.

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

I would say that if you have God in your life, you are never alone. He will always be there for you.

I would invite them to come to our church to find out more and reassure them that they would be welcomed by all.

Diann

Miscellaneous thoughts on our Christian pilgrimage

There is no greater discovery than seeing God as the author of your destiny. – Ravi Zacharias

God can do wonders with a broken heart if you give Him all the pieces.
– Victor Alfsen

Loneliness is the first thing which God's eye nam'd not good. – John Milton

Hearing God (5)

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

10. **Through dreams and visions** – this is one way that God uses in the bible to speak to the people of God and it is not a way that God has ceased to use.

If we will open ourselves up and allow God to speak to us through dreams and visions then pretty soon God will start doing so.

I used to pray when I went to bed at night that God would speak to me through the dreams I dreamt. I haven't done that for a while and generally God speaking to me through dreams has decreased as a result.

Perhaps I need to preach to myself here and open myself up again to God.

11. **Through art, creative work of all kinds** – God can speak to us through music, through art, through drama, through mime.

You name it - God can use it.

Even television can be used by God to speak to us.

I am particularly finding at the moment that art and prayers written by women that reflect on life are affecting me and causing me to worship God more and to hear God speaking to me more.

How does God speak to you?
How do you hear God speaking?
What do you do when God does speak?

Often, I wonder, we may have heard about strange things happening, things we are unfamiliar with, and dismissed them as not relevant to us, and certainly not from God.

How often, I wonder, have we as a church, missed hearing the voice of Christ?

The list of ways in which God speaks to us today that we have reviewed over the past few months is not an exclusive list. I'm sure that we could all come up with other ways in which God speaks to us but the critical thing is that we listen to what God says to us and then that we go out and get on with God's work in the world today.

The last thing that I want to say about hearing God is that whatever we think we might be hearing God say we do have another resource that we can call on to check out whether God is saying that to us or not – and that is our Christian companions.

We have one another and when we are unsure as to whether it is God speaking to us or not we can consult with one another, we can share our thoughts and ideas and understanding with one another and we can then begin together to develop a greater understanding of God and how God wants to work in and through each and every one of us.

Let us hear God today!

Mark

Frank Doel

My husband Fred and I both went to Hornsey County Grammar School in Haringay and were in the same class in our final year 1950/51 when studying for GCE 'O' level exams. The most famous ex-Hornsey County scholar has got to be the actor Ron Moody who I will always remember as Fagin in Oliver Twist but I'm not writing about him but about another ex-Hornsey County scholar, Frank Doel.

Frank joined Hornsey County as an 11-year-old in 1919 and was described as a model pupil, always quiet and thoughtful. He loved books and became an authority on antique books. He was the proprietor of a second-hand bookshop at 84 Charing Cross Road and inspired Helene Hanff to later publish the letters between them in her famous book of the same name. The book became a best-seller and was made into a play and then a film. In our Sunday Link of 31st May 2020 James Roose-Evans writes how he acquired the stage rights and took the play to the West End and Broadway.

Frank Doel was a quiet man, doing the job he loved, and died in 1969 at the comparatively young age of 61, unaware that his name and the address of his shop would live on in the world of literature. We never know if something we do or say in the course of our everyday life will have an impact on someone else, maybe years later.

Evelyn



Prayer

Sacrifice for justice

Giving God,

you ask more from us than feels comfortable:

our materials, our possessions, our wealth.

You need more from us than feels easy:

our commitment, our trust, our faith.

You demand more from us than feels safe:

our thoughts, our feelings, our hearts.

We long to cling on to them, Lord.

We want to encircle and cherish them.

We give parts of them to you.

As we build our barns and save our crops,

your people are starving, desperate for sustenance.

While we put up our defences and rejoice in our abundance,

your people are homeless, displaced and malnourished.

You require of us to seek your way

of fairness and love,

of sharing and generosity,

of justice and peace.

We are blessed with more than enough.

Open our hearts

that we and all your people

may know your justice.

Simon Peters

From the URC prayer handbook 2016 for 31st July looking at Luke 12:13-21

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

Wordsearch

St Mary Magdalene, the woman with a past

It is easy to understand the popularity of Mary Magdalene over the centuries: she is the patron saint both of repentant sinners and of the contemplative life. Jesus drove seven demons from Mary, who came from near Tiberius in Galilee. Mary has also sometimes been identified with the woman who anointed Christ's feet in the house of Simon.

She became His follower to the bitter end. She followed Him to Jerusalem and was present during the crucifixion, standing heart-broken at the foot of the cross. Such faithful, humble devotion gave her a unique privilege among all mankind: she was the first person to whom the Risen Lord appeared on Easter Sunday morning.

Jesus told Mary to go to His disciples and tell them about His return to Heaven. She was obedient and became the first emissary of the resurrection. Despite ridicule, Mary had the courage to speak about Jesus in a place of great disbelief.

Mary	patron
repentant	sinners
contemplative	life
seven	demons
Tiberius	galilee
anoint	feet
follower	end
Jerusalem	Crucifixion
foot	cross
tomb	body
morning	faithful
humble	devotion
privilege	mankind
risen	appeared
easter	gardener
obedient	resurrection

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

disciples	return
witness	courage

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)

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)

