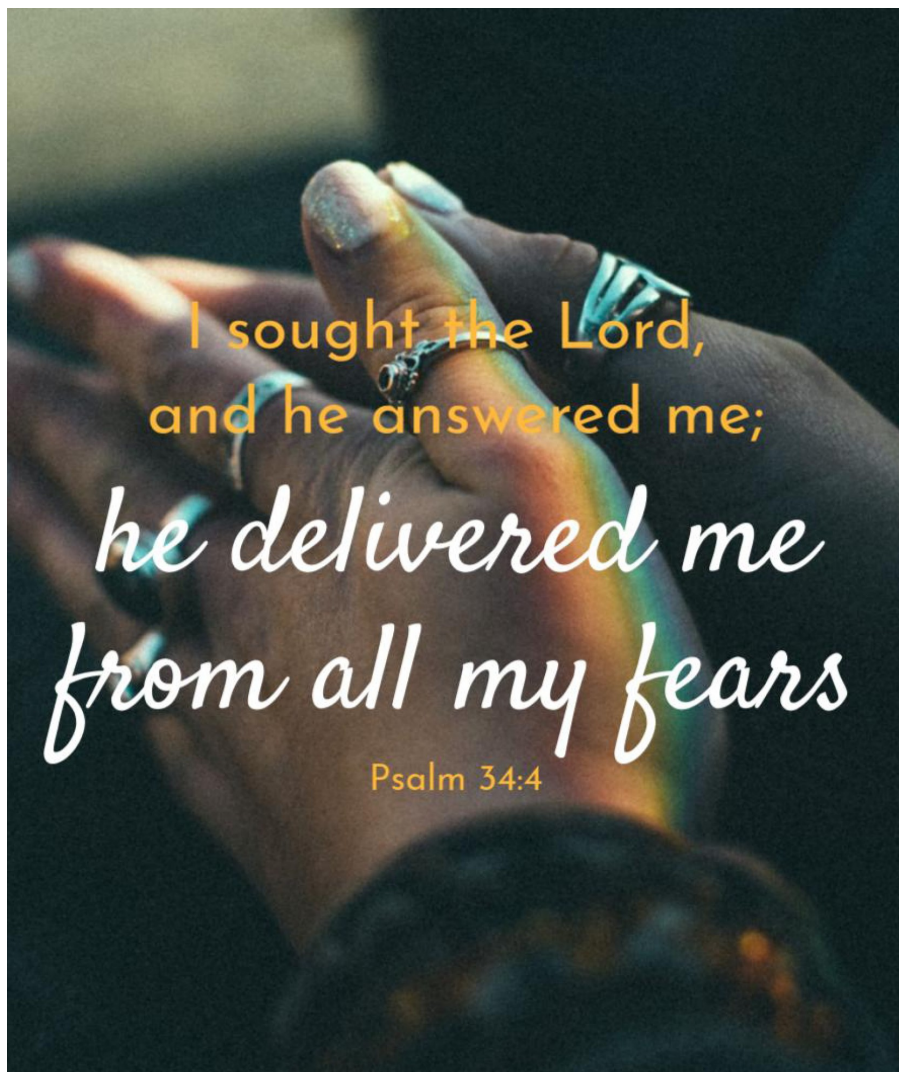


October 2020



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

Who to contact

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

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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.*

Does what you believe change your action?

“faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2:17)

Is what you believe important? How important? Does it affect how you live your life every day? Or is it simply something you bring out to show every Sunday when attending church, or at other times?

What elements of what you believe affect the decisions that you make?

It is probably quite easy for us to say that we are concerned about the plight of the poor in our society, the refugee, the homeless, and that we believe that all people are of equal importance to God and therefore of equal importance to us.

And, as evidence of those cares and concerns, we probably supply the foodbank regularly, support All People All Places in their work in this area, give financially to charities that are working with refugees and so on.

But how far does our faith take us?

A couple whom we know run an “Open House” – it is their own home, but it is always open to

anyone who needs a bed for the night. Opening up their home in this way does occasionally cause them problems (how can you trust the stranger in your home?) and we suspect this may well be a step too far for most of us, but they want to respond in a welcoming and open way to all they meet (they’re part of the Catholic Worker Movement).

The apostle James writes strongly to the early church about how they should be living, and we wonder whether his words need to be thought about more deeply in our churches today.

James speaks about showing favouritism in church. Do the people that come into our churches who dress “properly”

receive more attention from us than the “difficult” people that we know who come regularly (or maybe not)?

He speaks about what we do when we see another human being “naked” and “lacking daily food” and questions how we respond. Are we people who simply pray a blessing on others, or people who respond with actions to support the need we notice?

One of the areas that can be a good judge for us of how our faith is informing our actions lies in the way we use our money.

Most of us do not appreciate that how we use our money can have a dramatic effect on other people. As a simple starting guide if you are buying something cheap, or cheaper, then ask yourself the question “why?”

If something is cheaper, then the likelihood is that somewhere along the production line a human being has been exploited,

and this could well be a child/children.

Is one of your beliefs that you believe that Jesus thinks it is okay for human beings to be exploited? If you don’t, then perhaps looking at where and how a product has been produced before purchasing it may be a good idea.

As an example of the sort of things you may discover by looking at this is that

- 31 out of 32 global fashion giants were unable to provide proof that they were paying a living wage
- Of a £29 item of clothing, £17 goes to the retailer, and just 18p to the garment worker
- Violations of workers’ rights to form unions, bargain, and strike increased by almost 12% between 2012 and 2015 (Ethical Consumer Sept/Oct 2019 & Sept/Oct 2020)

And if we believe that climate change is an issue, that God created the world for us to look after, not to exploit, then again how we use our money can make a difference.

Where you hold your bank account could be changed to stop supporting those who are actively supporting fossil fuels, or are linked to multiple human rights abuses (Barclays, Lloyds, the Natwest group and Santander rate very poorly on the ethical scale – source Ethical Consumer Sept/Oct 2020).

Were you aware that you can invest in organisations that help provide homes for the homeless and get returns on your money greater than that in a lot of other savings schemes? Whilst there may be some risk in investing in this way, for those of us who may have significant savings might there be an opportunity for us setting aside at least part of our money to be used in this way?

The final thing to say when it comes to our beliefs and our practices is to ask what we believe about the church and how important or otherwise it is, what we think about ministry and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

A lot of the churches in the UK are facing a financial crisis as a result of the impact of Covid 19. If our personal finances are tight, is it better that we support our churches or other charitable causes?

Do your beliefs affect your responses? How important are they to you?

We pray that those who walk together with us as part of God's family in this locality will find that as they give they will be blessed in all that they do.

Jesus himself encourages us to: *"give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."* (Luke 6:38)

Mark and Melanie

Smile Lines

Sorry

Our minister, an avid golfer, was once taking part in a local tournament. As he was preparing to tee off, the organiser of the tournament approached him and pointed to the dark, threatening storm clouds which were gathering. "Sir," the organiser said, "I trust you'll see to it that the weather won't turn bad on us."

Our minister shook his head. "Sorry," he replied. "I'm in sales, not management!"

The language of church-going

BULLETIN: Your receipt for attending the service.

HOLY WATER: A liquid whose chemical formula is H₂OLY.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

INCENSE: Holy Smoke!

JUSTICE: When your children have children of their own.

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in many Anglican and Catholic churches.

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of the service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

RELICS: People who have been going to church for so long that they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

TEN COMMANDMENTS: The most important - and oldest - Top Ten list.

Here is the News

Our September services saw us become a little interactive. At the start of the month we celebrated Creation tide with a display of plants from our gardens and the tools we use to tend them.

Towards the end of the month we celebrated Harvest and brought items along for donation to the North Enfield Foodbank.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Just writing to thank you very much for your kind thoughts and your card following the death of my Mum. We (my sisters and I) were very touched by your kindness, and that of the members of BHP.

Although it is now nearly 50 years since we left Enfield we all still have many happy and fond memories of growing up at Bush Hill Park, and I know my Mum and Dad really valued the many friendships that they still retained from those days.

Sadly my Dad these days is living with advanced dementia and is in a care home in Northamptonshire - but I know that both he and my Mum thoroughly enjoyed their ministry at BHP. BHP was my Dad's first pastorate and I know that he felt that he couldn't have been Minister at a more supportive first church - there were so many individuals who were real giants in the faith, and their love, support and prayers really sustained my parents.

I know that there will be few now at BHP that will have been around during our time in Enfield - but the church has always retained a special place in our hearts.

We are pleased that our Mum is now out of pain - the last 18 months were a bit of a struggle for her as she was diagnosed with myeloma - and for the last 4 weeks of her life she was in hospital - up until the Friday preceding her death when quite amazingly the care home where my Dad is allowed her to transfer there for her end of life support. This was an incredible gesture by the home who knew that Mum had not seen Dad since the lock-down.

So they were re-united at the end, and Mum died holding my Dad's hand - with my sister Judith and I at her bedside too. As a result of the COVID restrictions in place at the home only the two of us were able to be present with her - but not long before her death we also arranged a 'facetime' with our sister Caroline - and so it could be said that all the family were with her when she died. Family was always important to my Mum - so that seemed a really fitting way for her to leave us.

So - again, thanks for your very kind thoughts and with all good wishes in your ministry to a very special church.



This month why not catch up on David Attenborough's recent BBC programme "Extinction" that was broadcast on Sunday 13th September at 8 pm.

It is an hour long, and reflects further on last year's UN report that revealed that around one million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction.

October Events

Bible Study

The ongoing bible study series looking at the parables being held on Zoom will take place on Saturday 3rd and Saturday 10th October at 10.30 am. Please contact Mark for details if you wish to join this group.

Thames North Synod

Thames North Synod is scheduled to meet virtually on Saturday 17th October. If you would like to "attend" then please do ask Mark or Melanie or your church's synod rep for details.



Elders and Church Leaders Training Day

On Saturday 31st October there will be an elders and church leaders training day led by Rev Sam White, the Principal at Westminster College, Cambridge, hopefully to be held at Hertford URC (this will be dependent on the Covid 19 situation at the time, so please look out for further details closer to the date). The day will last from 10 am to 4pm and is entitled "Discipleship and our Personal Spirituality". Please do bring your own lunch for the day.

Enfield Churches Debt Centre

We are pleased to confirm that Enfield Churches Debt Centre has now been registered by the Charity Commission with the Registered Charity Number 1191279.

We will now be proceeding to open a bank account so that we can begin to accept donations from the churches, and also from individuals who wish to support this project (watch this space for further details which will be available soon, we hope).

In November we are anticipating holding a launch evening at Enfield Baptist Church and streaming the event live (again please watch this space for further information).

The initial trustees of Enfield Churches Debt Centre are Mark and Melanie, Kate Bleasdale-Barr (from Enfield Town Community Church), Nick Chanda (from Revival Christian Church of Enfield), Peter Dufton (from Chase Family Church) and Hayley Harding (from Restore Community Church).

Please do keep praying for this initiative which we hope and pray will support those in Enfield who are likely to be in most need.

Mark and Melanie

Hot off the press...

The Launch Event will be held on Monday 16th November at 7.30 pm at Enfield Baptist Church... and you can make personal donations to the project now at <https://www.give.net/ecdc>

Forest CHURCH

*Gather in our local
'outdoor cathedral'*

Celebrating:

COMMUNITY

Creativity

Creation

AND THE

Creator

3.30pm Sunday 18th October

The Scout Field
The Paulin Ground
(Top of) Ford's Grove
Winchmore Hill N21 3ER

Free Sunday Parking:
Car Park between Ford's Grove and Farm Road
Entrance to field opposite car park entrance

what3words [///lands.mute.basis](https://www.what3words.com/lands.mute.basis)

Further info: revd.melanie@gmail.com



Bush Hill Park Child Church Lancaster Road Palmers Green
Ponders End St Mary's Methodist Church Winchmore Hill

Fairtrade matters

'If you do not buy Fairtrade, you are walking in the footsteps of slave traders'

If black lives matter, so does Fairtrade. In fact, if you say that Black Lives Matter, and yet buy tea, coffee, sugar, bananas, chocolate or even cotton or condoms which are not fairly traded, you are walking in the footsteps of slave traders and slave owners. You are continuing in the subjugation of people already disadvantaged by the legacies of slavery. You may as well be worshipping at the foot of Colston's plinth. You may as well be flying a 'White Lives Matter' banner. Harsh? I don't think so.

The products I've mentioned are all grown in countries that were integral to the triangular slave trade. After that slave trade came to an end formally, it continued informally: workers had to remain on those farms or starve. Slave owners were compensated. Colonial enterprises continued to trade. We didn't stop eating sugar when the slave trade stopped. Sugar came from the same places, with the same winners and losers. That distinction remains today. Most of the products we consume from the Caribbean Islands, Africa and India are still produced by people who are living on or around the poverty line, with few labour rights and educational opportunities. Some of these products are made using child labour: slavery by any other name.

To put it simply, if you say Black Lives Matter, and yet Wispa, then please shut up. You are exposing yourself as a hypocrite. If you don't want to take a break from Kit Kat, as Nestlé, one of the most profitable food companies in the world, reneges on its already flimsy Fairtrade commitment, then take a walk away from #BLM. You have simply jumped on a bandwagon. If you put non-Fairtrade sugar in your non-Fairtrade tea, then you're full of bile. If you find this a little harsh, then thank you. As a Christian minister, I take my lead from the line of Hebrew prophets and Jesus in setting out the stark challenge of justice. Now is the time to change the way you live, or stand accused of double standards. This is gospel; this is good news for the poor.

You may be starting to make excuses. This is an issue that hasn't occurred to you? It has now. Perhaps you haven't found a Fairtrade coffee blend you like? Try other brands. You know that you can adapt quickly when it comes to saving lives. Just look what you've achieved during the coronavirus pandemic. Worried that it will cost more? So it should – you are contributing to fair, not slave, wages. If Black Lives Matter, your shopping basket will look very different from now on. From your next shop. And then every shop.

Of course, not everyone is as privileged as me. Price is important when you yourself are on the breadline. You may have dietary requirements. Perhaps an autistic child insists on a certain cereal. Please, don't feel bad. Do what you can, make changes where you can. But this is not aimed at you. This is aimed at those of us who leave our brains at the supermarket door and forget that as well as supporting BLM with our words, we must do so with our wallets. Otherwise, you are like a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. You don't love.

If you are buying tea, coffee, chocolate, bananas, sugar and can't find fairly traded ones, yet believe that black lives matter, go without. Many other products are Fairtrade -certified too, not least gold. Do you really want to wear a band signifying love 24/7, knowing that a miner's basic human rights were exploited to make it?

I rarely, if ever, ask people to share my own thoughts. But this is different. This has the power to transform lives all over the world. As individuals, it is almost impossible for us to know how we are to make recompense for the legacies of slavery. Fairtrade is probably the most direct way any of us can start to redress the injustices of the past. If we don't bother with Fairtrade, we are part of the problem. If we insist on Fairtrade, we will start an economic revolution; and that can start today, with you. I say this knowing that I slip at times. I see something on a shelf that looks attractive and I can be seduced. I know I must do better. I recommit to Fairtrade. Will you?

Melanie Smith

Originally published in September's Reform magazine, we re-print this article as it follows our theme of how our faith informs our practices this month.

Equip:

Engaging our culture for Christ

with Oak Hill College Director

Dr Dan Strange

Quality teaching and life application
on what is culture,
how we can make sense of it and
how we can engage with it

Online event:

Thursday 15 Oct 7.30 – 9.30pm
repeated

Saturday 17 Oct 9.30 – 11.30am

For details and to book tickets
(£5 each):

www.oakhill.ac.uk

Diary

October

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

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

Sat 3rd	10:30am	Bible study on zoom, see page 9
Sun 4th	10:00am	Communion with Revd Mark Meatcher
Sat 10th	10:30am	Bible study on zoom, see page 9
Sun 11th	10:00am	Parade with Revd Mark Meatcher
Sat 17th		Thames North Synod meeting, see page 9
Sun 18th	10:00am 3:30pm	Worship with Revd Barrie Thompson Forest Church, see page 11
Sun 25th	10:00am	Worship with Ray Pettipher

During October services will continue to be provided online and through mail distribution.

**Next newsletter deadline:
Sunday 11th October**

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

Prayer Diary

OCTOBER 2020

Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,
who comforts us in all our troubles,
so that we can comfort those in any trouble
with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Thursday 1st

For effective and gracious Christian presence and influence in political debate

Friday 2nd

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

Saturday 3rd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 4th

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

Monday 5th

Martin

Tuesday 6th

Leadership & Congregation of

Christ Church United Reformed Church

Wednesday 7th

Dimsdale Drive

Thursday 8th

For integrity, truth and compassion throughout Government

Friday 9th

The work of North Enfield Foodbank (we support them)

Saturday 10th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 11th

Thanks for water, whether rain or from the turn of a tap

Monday 12th

Melanie

Tuesday 13th

Leadership & Congregation of
Bush Hill Park Methodist Church

Wednesday 14th

Downs Road

Thursday 15th

For politics of wisdom, integrity,
self-sacrifice and policymaking
for the good of all

Friday 16th

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

Saturday 17th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 18th

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

Monday 19th

Robin (both)

Tuesday 20th

Leadership & Congregation of
Lancaster Road United Reformed
Church

Wednesday 21st

East Crescent

Thursday 22nd

For the work of the House of
Commons and the House of
Lords: that good and just deci-
sions will be made and that the

tone of debate is measured and
constructive

Friday 23rd

Those suffering from Alzheimer's
and the charities who seek to
find a cure

Saturday 24th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 25th

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

Monday 26th

Stephen

Tuesday 27th

Leadership & Congregation of
Jubilee Church

Wednesday 28th

Erminside

Thursday 29th

For the positive influence of
God's people for the good of all
throughout all Government de-
partments

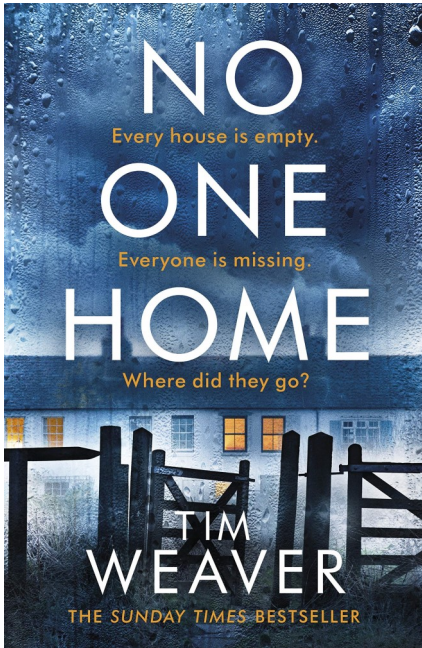
Friday 30th

Parents needing help and sup-
port to care for their children

Saturday 31th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Book Club



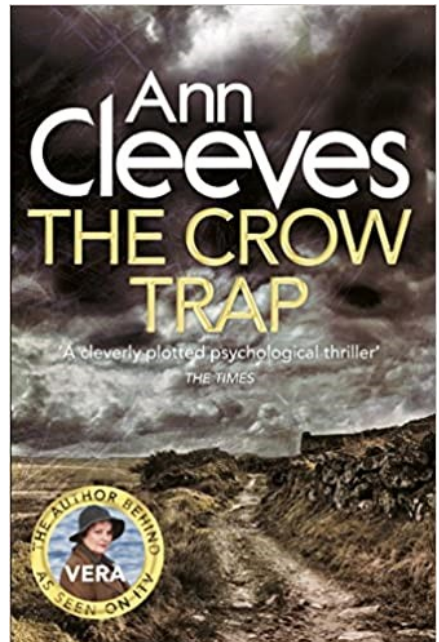
'No one home' by Tim Weaver

Well this caused discussion! It divided the group. A clever plot with characters you could imagine but... Some felt it was poorly crafted, others were quite happy and felt it a page turner. You can't please all the people all of the time they say.

Set mostly in a deserted village in Yorkshire where nine people have disappeared; along comes a missing persons expert with an ex-copper contact to try to solve the mystery. I won't tell more.

Next month (if permitted) we will meet in Jean's garden with a coat on (6 October). We like Vera on TV so will read the first one by Ann Cleeves entitled 'The Crow Trap'.

Sylvia



Helping Christians in Beirut after the explosion

The charity Barnabas Fund has thanked its supporters for their generous response to an emergency appeal that followed the disastrous explosion at the port in Lebanon on 4th August.

It meant that Barnabas Fund was able to send more than £85,000 to help Christians in Beirut with food and the repair of their homes. As a spokesman for Barnabas Fund explains: “All those being assisted were already very poor and vulnerable, even before the explosion. Some of those we are helping are Muslim-background believers from nearby countries, who cannot receive other aid because coming forward would reveal the fact that they were converts from Islam, thus endangering themselves.”

Four of the five neighbourhoods worst affected are predominantly Christian. Help is still very much needed. If you would like to give, a monthly food parcel costs £27, or to help repair a home costs £380. Visit <https://barnabasfund.org>

Why singing in church is the same as shouting at the pub

How dangerous is it to sing in church, when it comes to spreading coronavirus? About the same as it is to speak loudly in a pub.

So say researchers at the University of Bristol. They have found that speaking loudly and singing generate about the same amounts of aerosol droplet – tiny particles of liquid – which are thought to carry Covid-19

Of course, the louder you sing or speak, the more the aerosol droplets.

Reflected faith: Music and Singing

Many churches are holding Sunday, weekday and pastoral (Baptism, Wedding and Funeral) services again in their buildings.

However, for most of us no singing is allowed; and this often means no music is being played.

Whilst the churches were closed, one of the key things about worshipping together that people missed was the communal singing and the listening to the organ or other instruments.

If we look at the time taken to sing in each service (approximately a third of the whole service) and the amount musicians are usually paid, we can see the level of importance churches give to singing together.

So, although we understand the science behind the ‘no singing rule’ (breath is exhaled more forcibly so reaches further) it is still very strange to be in our normal church buildings but not to be able to sing.

Singing hymns and songs helps us to learn about our faith, to pray and to express our praise – but what is it about singing together that lifts our hearts in our time of worship?

There are plenty of said responses during most services, but they don’t have that same lift!

Is it the physical breathing aspects, the sounds we aim to make, or indeed the way our voices join and blend together?

All through the Bible there are passages telling of times of singing: of musicians leading processions towards a place or time of worship.

There are many exhortations in the Psalms to the people to come

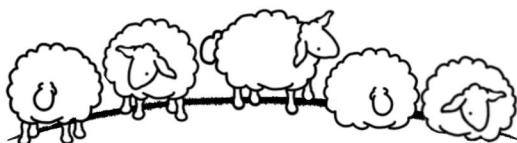
together, 'singing with joy and thanksgiving'.

The Bible also talks about a time to put down our instruments and refrain from singing. Let's hope and pray that our time for restraint will pass quickly and we will soon rejoice together with thanksgiving, joyful and loud singing!

This month: How can you best sing to the Lord? It is usually easier to sing along with a video of people singing than to a recording alone.

Have a look for suitable videos to join in with their singing, a recording if that's not possible, or even a hymn book. Perhaps video call a church friend and sing the first verse of a couple of your popular songs and hymns together.

The Revd Dr Jo White



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?

We moved to Enfield from South London in 1963.

What made you choose our church to come to?

Bob was very friendly, and still is, with Derek Cutts and joined the BB. Shortly afterwards Beverley joined the GB. When we were younger my brother and I were in the Brigades. I started to come to our Church and it was so friendly and welcoming.

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

My favourite hymn is 'Make me a channel of your peace'. I think the words are wonderful.

*Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You*

*Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy*

*Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul*

*Make me a channel of Your peace
It is pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life*

Used with permission, CCLI 7878

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

A favourite reading of mine is Matthew 7 verse 25 to 28. I try not to worry about the future but in the present climate it is hard.

²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.' ²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching

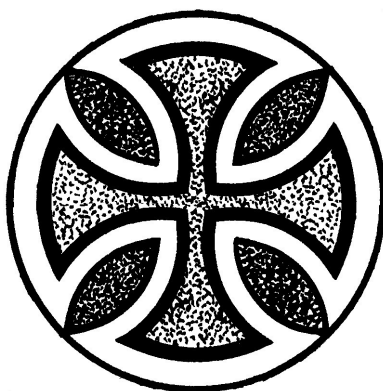
Has your faith in God helped you at different times in your life?

My faith helped when I was very ill with cancer. I knew many people were praying for me which was lovely. Also, Martin L came to see me so I still felt connected to the church.

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

Go to Church, give it a go, you have nothing to lose and much to gain.

Ivy



Friends of Cathedral Relief Services

A Report on the Position in Kolkata September 2020

First of all, a big thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the Covid 19 and Cyclone Amphan appeal. In total, including gift aid recovered, the appeal raised nearly £17,000 from the time it was launched in April to the end of July.

The money has made a huge difference to families which had been left in desperate straits.

While the initiative for the relief operation came from Bishop Paritosh and Rig David, who were both at the front with their teams delivering the aid, it would not have got off the ground without your support.

Food and medication was delivered to 11 CRS project areas, and 6 Cathedral parishes, reaching nearly 3,000 families.

In June, the Government of West Bengal began to distribute food in Kolkata and other districts in West Bengal and so distribution by CRS gradually ceased. To respond to the needs caused by the cyclone, CRS has acquired 400 tarpaulins and 400 sets of cooking utensils. Distribution has been delayed because of continuing lockdowns, but it started in August, and the intention is to deliver to a total of 11 CRS projects and Cathedral parishes.

Although hard information is difficult to come by, it is clear that cases of Covid in Kolkata continue to rise. One report describes Covid management in some areas as “close to collapse”. The Government response is confusing to people and it is of course the poorest who are being hit the hardest. CRS is keeping in regular contact with the project communities so that they know they are still supported.

Rig David comments as follows: “Despite the frequent lockdowns, the CRS Team continues to work on the frontline, ensuring that the children are catered for with health clinics and nutrition. In some of the education centres online education has commenced with a few children and their parents participating with great enthusiasm. The women’s groups are being encouraged and small numbers have started to attend the skill development courses.”

Government-aided and private schools have managed to establish online teaching, but the schools in the slums are mainly excluded from that because of lack of access to online equipment. CRS has proposed acquiring and distributing smart phones to teachers in CRS schools, and to those providing skills training to women’s groups.

The Trustees have given their support to this proposal, the details and implementation of which are being worked out. Nari Dana continues to operate with women being brought to the production centres at the Cathedral and in the Bishop’s House. They are concentrating on making masks, and have orders for these, as well as several orders for other products. It is hoped to produce another full newsletter before the end of the year. In the meantime, news continues to be posted on Facebook and the website: <http://www.cathedralreliefservice.net/news/stories>

Thank you for your support.

If you wish to donate to the Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service, the bank details are:

CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code 40-52-40 Account No: 00096998

Account Name: Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service

Another easy way of donating is through our Just Giving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/calcutta-ccrs>

Enquiries to: secretary@friendsofcrs.co.uk

Oppressed Christians struggling under Covid-19

Oppression and discrimination against Christians has increased during Covid, says Release International, which has launched an appeal to help Christians suffering during the pandemic.

Many Christians have been denied food and relief aid and excluded from support systems during lockdown. They have been abandoned by families because of their faith and refused relief by governments and NGOs.

At the same time, several countries have stepped up persecution against Christians. One of the worst offenders is China, where Christians have been arrested for simply holding prayer meetings online.

“The situation has got much worse for many Christians during lockdown,” says Release International CEO Paul Robinson.

“Covid-19 is having a devastating impact on the lives of many poor Christians. In places hostile to the faith Christians are experiencing increased hardship.

“Food is now in short supply. They are unable to work and can’t earn, and support is being withheld because of their faith. Their cries for help are being ignored by local charities who are distributing food packages only to families of other faiths. We can’t afford to delay. These Christians need our help.”

In Algeria, many Christians have had to stop work because of the lockdown, and so lost their income. They have been rejected by society and their families as a result of their faith. There is no social security in the country or government support.

Eritrean Christians fleeing persecution have been barred from refugee camps and are unable to get support from UNHCR. And they refuse to resort to crime to get the money and supplies they need.

In Pakistan the situation is especially hard for converts from a Muslim background.

The only form of social security is family support, and Muslim families often withdraw support for family members who change their religion.

In several countries, lockdown has led to an increase in persecution.

In Upper Egypt, where Christians face discrimination for their faith, some organisations are allegedly refusing food and support to Christian families. Release partners report: “The authorities are helping Muslims but not Christians. And churches that try to help are being closed by police order.”

In China, Release partners say the government is using the pandemic to step up its crackdown against Christians. They have accelerated campaigns such as the forced demolition of crosses. Pastors have been rounded up for sharing the gospel and distributing facemasks on the street. The authorities have “totally prohibited” online church services and prayer meetings, as “nothing constituting a religious service is allowed.”

In Nigeria, the lockdown deepened the insecurity facing many Christian villagers, who face attacks by Fulani militia.

Paul Robinson of Release International says: “Right now, it’s up to us in the family of faith to give them our support.” Partners of Release International are providing food parcels to impoverished Christians in Algeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. If you can help, go to: www.releaseinternational.org/covid



Understanding the Bible

As we acknowledge Bible Sunday this month, it's a good opportunity to ask the question: ***why should I read the Bible?***

The Bible is the world's best-selling book of all time. However, it isn't one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of literature including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author: God himself!

This is the basis of the unity of its message and authoritative claim to be the primary way by which God speaks to us: *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and presents itself as a ***manual for life***, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us in applying the words to our lives: *'the Spirit will guide you into all truth'* (John 16:13).

However, the Bible could also be described as a ***love letter*** from God, as He uses it to deepen our relationship with him. As Jesus said: *'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me'* (John 5:39,40). Christians follow a person not a book, and the Scriptures are intended to help us to know Jesus better.

At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible with the words ***'the most precious thing this world affords'***. Does this reflect our own attitude to the Bible?

Canon Paul Hardingham

Prayer

Need for healing

Heavenly Father,
We bring to you all those struggling with their mental health just now.

We pray:
For everyone who is smiling, when inside they're in pain.

For everyone who is saying they're fine, when inside they feel drained and empty.

For everyone struggling with fear and worry as the easing of the lockdown brings new anxieties.

Be with them in their suffering, as so much of their world has been stripped back and emptied.

When loved family and friends have been taken by illness,
Or made distant by lockdown.

Pour your healing balm into their pain and sadness.
May you walk with them besides still waters
May you speak to them in a still small voice.

May you heal them, and fill them, and bless them with your abundant love and fullness of life.

And may they know that they are loved by you for the beautiful unique person that they are, created in the image of their heavenly creator and loving Lord.

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

By the Revd Peter Crumpler

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

Wordsearch

All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots in pre-Christian times. In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Druid priests celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. They lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off the dark supernatural powers of oncoming winter. Today, Christians turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

all
festival
winter
charms
deeper
true
eve
closer
christ
thanks
loved
death
gone

hallows
samhain
christians

halloween
bonfires
supernatural

druid
magic
powers

priests
dark
prayer

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

Other local church activities

Please note that current circumstances mean that regular activities may not be taking place as they normally would. Please contact the relevant church to check on the current status of an activity.

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)

Some activities are happening in October, please check the church website to confirm if the activity you want to go to is going ahead.
www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

