

February 2021



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

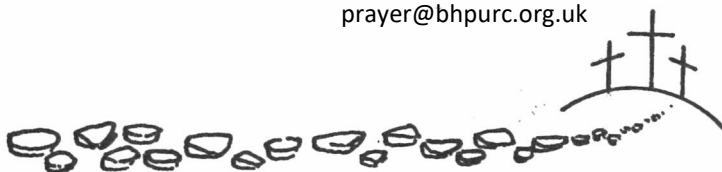
Youth activities

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

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.*

Breaking Chains

At the time of writing we have just finished recording a series of “Thoughts for the Day” for the second full week of January and have been looking at the theme of **“Loosing our chains/Breaking chains”**.

We are particularly conscious that many of us probably feel confined and/or restricted, that we are in chains in some way, because of the impact Covid 19 is having on our communities and may be feeling very fragile.

In thinking about the sort of chains we may feel are restricting us we have taken hope and strength from the words of Psalm 68:

*“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.
God sets the lonely in families,
The Lord leads out the prisoners with singing” (verses 5 & 6)*

For us loneliness, solitude, living alone, is probably one of the biggest challenges that many



have faced over this strange period for all of us and this fact that **“God sets the lonely in families”** reminds me strongly that this is something that we in our churches have a role in doing, leading in the creation of spaces, creating places that all people can be welcomed and can join the family of God. How can we do this when we are “locked-down”?

We are not sure that we have any better ideas than anyone else but we have been delighted and encouraged by the way in which so many have helped in the last few weeks with the Food Hubs and distribution of food to those in most need (reported elsewhere in this magazine).
THANK YOU.

But if you have any thoughts, any ideas about how we can reach out to the community we live in over this period then please do share those thoughts with others.

We are also encouraged by the words of Psalm 68 because we are looking forward to that time when we can again sing in our church buildings (or outside) and the sense that we will be like those prisoners God leads out with singing at that time is something that we are looking forward to – even though some

of us may not be in tune as much as some others! (seriously it will not matter!).

As each of us thinks about what we are doing and can do, then keep on praying, keep on serving and sharing with one another and keep the faith!

May God bless you richly as we progress slowly through the year ahead.

Your ministers,
Mark and Melanie



"Don't worry, I'm not getting Covid - I didn't realise the sign meant a low door..."

Smile Lines

Fox

I called the RSPCA today to report I had just found a suitcase in the woods containing a fox and four cubs. "That's terrible," she said. "Are they moving?"

"I'm not sure, to be honest," I replied, "But that would explain the suitcase."

Miscellaneous observations on modern life

As any member of a church committee will tell you, after all is said and done, there's a lot more said than done.

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink lager all day.

If I wanted to hear the pitter-patter of little feet, I'd put shoes on my cat.

Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

'Most cars on our roads have only one occupant, usually the driver.' (BBC reporter)

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

Cleaning is just putting stuff in less obvious places.

Here is the News

The British Church in 2021

The fourth edition of UK Church Statistics, No 4, 2021 Edition, has now been published. Although this is a pre-Covid-19 assessment, the findings will still be of interest.

The book looks at the 228 denominations in the UK. Although 39% of the denominations (which are responsible for 82% of the total membership) are declining, still some 50% of all the denominations were showing some, if small, growth.

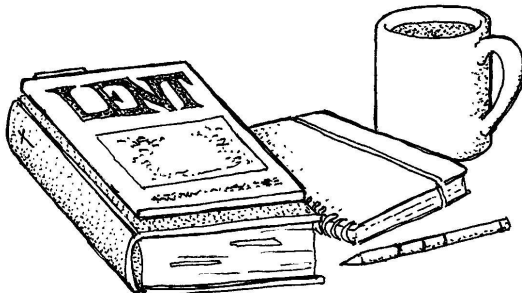
That so many groups of Christian churches are growing amidst general decline is significant. What is helping that growth? It was found to have been caused by the enormous numbers of immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, students coming into the country. Some of these come from countries with Christian traditions or backgrounds. These 'Diaspora churches' include Iranian Latvian, Romanian, Sri Lankan, Syrian and Turkish churches, made up of immigrants to the UK.

Dr Peter Brierley may be contacted on peter@brierleyres.com.

Lent Bible Study

During Lent we will be organizing a Lent Bible Study for those of you who wish to join in with an option of meeting on a Saturday morning or on a Wednesday evening during the Lenten period.

Stick the dates in your diary if you wish to join us:



Saturdays 27th February,
6th March, 13th March and
27th March

Wednesdays 24th February,
3rd March, 10th March and
24th March

Mark and Melanie



Don't be a drip!

Wasting water is another problem we need to tackle. Do you want to know how much water you use, and where you can make savings?

Thames Water has produced an online questionnaire to work out your average water usage and highlight ways in which you can save water.

Thames Water's Water saving calculator:

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/help/water-saving/water-saving-calculator>

National Nestbox Week – time to help your garden birds

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building.

National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14th February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nestboxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes. Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>

Mountains make you feel better

The natural environment can make a real impact on your mood.

Mountains can leave you feeling more optimistic, while the ocean can help boost your inspiration.

A recent study at Goldsmiths University of London found that water is most effective at increasing positive emotions, such as happiness and inspiration. Woodlands can help you forget your worries, and fields and meadows can enhance your energy levels.

Community foodhubs

On the 29th and 30th December 2020, three of the six URCs in Enfield became community foodhubs as part of the Council's provision of free school meals.

Working in partnership with Enfield Council and The Felix Project (a charity which redistributes surplus food to charities), Ponders End URC organised and hosted a hub for families to receive food parcels on the Tuesday. This was only able to happen thanks to a wonderful team of volunteers from Bush Hill Park, Christ Church, Lancaster Road and Winchmore Hill URCs and Gospel Temple Church, an independent congregation which holds services in Ponders End. A large delivery of non-perishable foods had been delivered the week before, which consisted of tins of sausages and beans, corn flakes, soup, meatballs, gift hampers, and, strangely, several large, fresh celeriac. This was supplemented by a cash and carry shop, toiletries from the charity In Kind Direct, a selection of socks/tights/gloves, fresh food and some other basics delivered by the Felix Project on the day of the foodhub.

Ponders End URC was one of six initial venues invited to host a foodhub yet, before long, the Council realised that further venues would be helpful and other Enfield URCs were able to offer up two venues, with outside charities organising. Christ Church URC was used as a venue by

Edmonton based charities BASE and TOCs Enfield. Palmers Green URC by Albanian charity Nene Tereza (see photo).



In all, eight venues across the Borough, operated over a space of four days, families in receipt of free school meals were offered a

time and venue so that they could collect their food parcels, which were made up in accordance with family size and dietary needs. At Ponders End, along with basic packages assembled, including milk, oil, tea, pasta, rice and lentils, families were encouraged to take a selection of extras



including Indian snacks, socks, toiletries and fresh fruit and veg – there were more parsnips than anyone had ever seen before, and the small quantity of Brussel sprouts. Although the sprouts were beautiful, they were not people's first choice! Luckily, a good supply of potatoes, onions and tomatoes were well received.

Left over fresh food from Ponders End was taken to Christ Church and Palmers Green the next day to supplement their hubs. From there, surplus fresh veg were given to Enfield Health and Wellbeing Centre and Cooking Champions to support their work. Left over non-perishable foods have been retained by Ponder End and will become part of the Little Free Pantry that will help distribute food in the area. We are also able to use some of this food to supplement a project for helping families with fresh fruit and veg which is being distributed from Lancaster Road URC on Wednesday mornings and Ponders End on a Tuesday morning. Both these initiatives are in collaboration with Zebras Charity. Palmers Green URC are opening their kitchen to Cooking Champions who have been working with the Council and other charitable groups to support local families on a regular basis, and also were able to distribute over 250 Christmas food hampers.

Sadly, the need to feed people does not end here, nor does the need for us, like Jesus, to challenge the causes of poverty. As we invite you to pray that these initiatives may make a difference to those we are able to help, please pray also that we are able to challenge the systems that do not fit with Kingdom value of fullness of life for all.

News from Ponders End

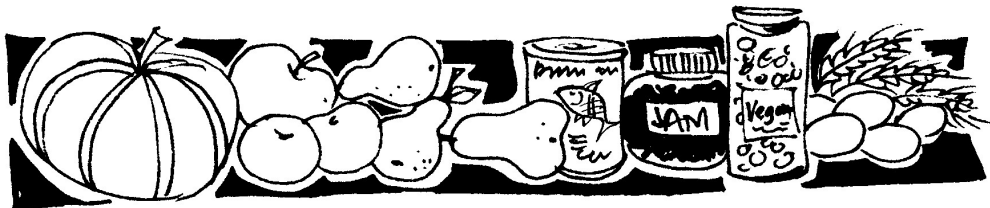
The last year has brought us challenges and obstacles to overcome but there have also been opportunities to share love the of Christ with our friends and neighbours. At Ponders end we have been searching for ways in which we can serve our community despite our limited resources. Our first project was to be a place where a little Free Pantry could be sited (this is still happening) but events have overtaken this. For one day during the week after Christmas a joint venture with the Felix Project meant that we became a Food Hub. This encouraged us, with the support of the Zebra Charity, to open our doors once a week to people who are struggling to put food on the table. To honour one of our members who died in January this project is now called “Pam’s Pantry”. However we need your help to maintain this.

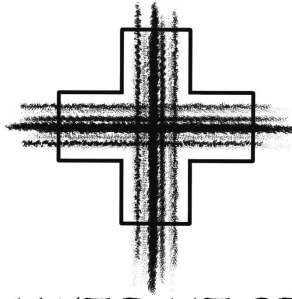
You can help us by

- Praying for the project and its development.
- Donating non perishable food items or money.
- Telling others about the project.

Thank you for your continued support and should you wish to volunteer please let Rev Melanie Smith know.

Christine Hall





ASH WEDNESDAY

A good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’ (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

How Covid-19 has made persecution worse for Christians: Open Doors World Watch List 2021

It is, of course, the story of the year 2020. A global pandemic, hospitalising and killing millions. But there is another story to be told about the Covid crisis – and that is the way the virus is being used against the persecuted church.

It's been one trial after another for Aarti – and, as with many Christians across the world, Covid-19 has brought another.

Aarti – whose name we've changed – gave her life to Jesus a few years ago, along with the rest of her family. At the time they were one of four families in the village to become Christians, much to the anger of fellow villagers. In India (10 on the World Watch List), everyone is expected to be Hindu.

"The other villagers were furious and together tried to force all the families to convert back," Aarti recalls. "Due to the constant pressure and threats, the other three families could not resist." Thankfully, Aarti and her family stood firm by strengthening and comforting each other.

But tragedy was not far around the corner. Within a short space of time, Aarti lost her husband and two sons. The grief for Aarti – and her daughter and four grandchildren – was immense. And this on top of ongoing hostility from villagers. "With continuous taunts, struggles and opposition, life was a misery."

When Covid-19 reared its head, and the family were denied government aid, things seemed to go from bad to worse. But it's here that you came alongside Aarti and her family, providing vital food aid.

"God showed His favour through you, and our needs were met," Aarti shares. "I thank the brothers for travelling this far and blessing us with groceries in our hour of need. God showed mercy to Naomi in the Old Testament and He has done the same for my family. All glory to God."

Your support to Open Doors is helping the church to shine

It's not all bad news, however. Some Christians in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America have said that the pandemic has meant there's been less pressure to engage in local rituals and festivals.

It's also given opportunity for Christ's light to shine in the darkness. In India, one family who received aid from you said, "Seeing our neighbour struggling, we plan to share some with them too." And in Sri Lanka, your generosity enabled one church leader to reach out to his local community. It's softened hearts – including the police who have previously opposed the church's work. Elsewhere in Sri Lanka, your help meant a church could give aid to those who just a few months earlier had attacked them. They were deeply touched and asked, "Why did we do so much against them?"

And of course, your remarkable generosity has fed and supported thousands of Christians, in many cases saving them from starvation. In Asia alone, 283,000 believers have been helped and reminded that their global church family is standing with them.

Your prayers and support remain as vital as ever

In an interview with BBC Radio 4, Open Doors UK and Ireland CEO Henrietta Blyth summarised how the pandemic had exacerbated persecution against Christians: "Covid, in effect, has put another weapon into the hands of persecutors, so it has made life infinitely more difficult for Christians suffering already."

With the virus continuing to wreak havoc across the world, your prayers and support for our persecuted family during this time remain as vital as ever.

For the full article go to:

<https://opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/covid-persecution-worse/>

To find out which countries are on the World Watch List go to:

<https://opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>

Love Is...

As we mark Valentines' Day this month, it's good to ask the question: *what does real love look like?*

The Apostle Paul says: *'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.'* (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8).

Love is unconditional:

At heart, love is not just feelings but action! Paul talks here about unconditional love, using the word *agape*, which demonstrated in God's love for us: *'We love, because He first loved us.'* (1 John 4:19).

Love is forgiving:

According to the film *Love Story*, 'Love means never having to say you're sorry.' This is rarely true in our experience! According to Paul, love is being ready to forgive others and *'keeping no record of wrongs'* (1 Corinthians 13: 5). We can only forgive others because we know God forgiveness in our own lives.

Love is sacrificial:

Paul says that *agape* love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of other people first. This is modelled by Jesus giving His life for us on the cross. Take the words from 1 Corinthians and instead of the word **love**, substitute **your own name**. Now substitute the word **Jesus**. This is the Jesus who is available to you to make your love for others grow and flourish.

Someone once compared love being like a group of porcupines huddling together on a cold night. The closer they get, the more they jab and hurt each other. 'To love at all is to be vulnerable.' (C S Lewis).

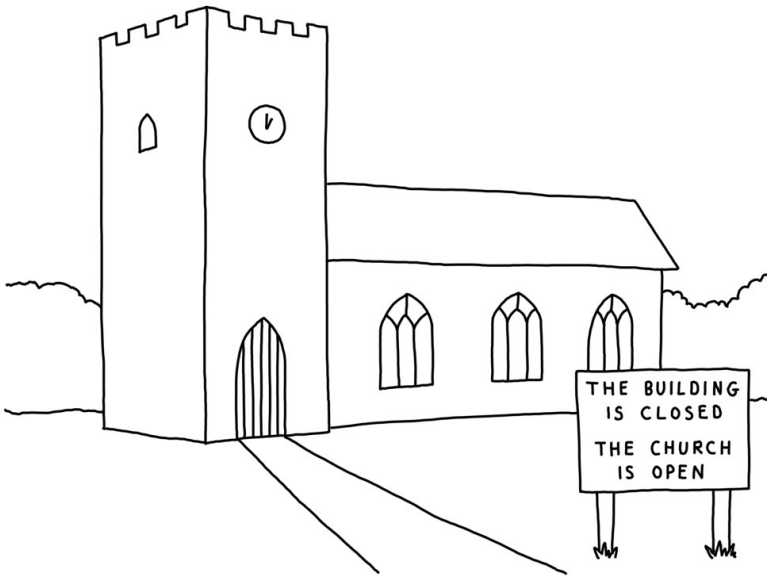
Canon Paul Hardingham

February

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

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

While London remains in lockdown, worship will take place online. If you would like details of how to join our online worship, please contact an elder - details on the inside front cover.



CartoonChurch.com

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

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

Prayer Diary

FEBRUARY 2021

There is no fear in love.
But perfect love drives out fear,
because fear has to do with punishment.
The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:18-19

Monday 1st

Caroline

Tuesday 2nd

Persecuted church in North
Korea

Wednesday 3rd

Ladbroke Road

Thursday 4th

Staff and pupils at Raglan Primary
School

Friday 5th

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

Saturday 6th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the
service tomorrow

Sunday 7th

Give thanks for the different
preachers who lead us each Sun-
day

Monday 8th

Charlotte

Tuesday 9th

Persecuted church in Afghani-
stan

Wednesday 10th

Landseer Road

Thursday 11th

Staff and pupils at George Spicer
Primary School

Friday 12th

Elijah, our sponsored child in
Zambia

Saturday 13th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 14th

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

Monday 15th

Christine (both)

Tuesday 16th

Persecuted church in Somalia

Wednesday 17th

Lathkill Close

Thursday 18th

Staff and pupils at Grafton Nursery School

Friday 19th

Those suffering from addiction, their families and the charities that help them break free

Saturday 20th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 21st

Give thanks for those who love us and share our lives

Monday 22nd

Derek

Tuesday 23rd

Persecuted church in Libya

Wednesday 24th

Lincoln Crescent

Thursday 25th

Staff and pupils at Bush Hill Park Primary School

Friday 26th

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

Saturday 27th

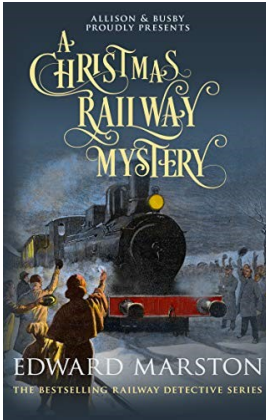
Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 28th

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



Book Club



A Christmas Railway Mystery by Edward Marston

It's just before Christmas 1860 and two Scotland Yard detectives are sent to Swindon to the railway village where there has been a murder; one of their employees. The local GWR Railway Detective is not happy! Those from Scotland Yard want the investigation over, and to be with their families on the special day of the year.

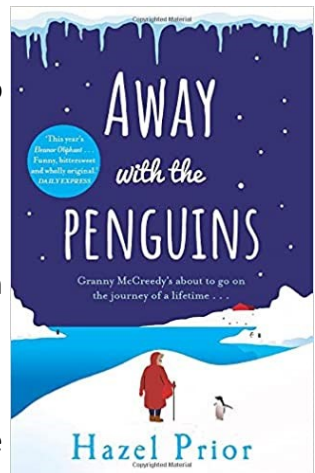
No sooner had Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming boarded the train from Paddington their Superintendent went on leave to visit an old friend in Kent for their Military Reunion. A rival of Colbeck was appointed as temporary Superintendent. Colbeck is not happy! This man has a reputation, and it is not for being a good detective.

This is a good read. The characters become real. The setting of the village is well explained as too the rivalries between the local men and the imported Welsh families so needed for this new enterprise.

There is, of course, a twist; a second investigation to be dealt with in Kent. I'll say no more hoping you may like to read it yourself. This is just one of Railway Mystery books written by this prolific author.

We next have a Zoom on the 9th February with two books to get through – probably not hard in lockdown. 'The Catch' by T M Logan and 'Away with the Penguins' by Hazel Prior.

Sylvia Page



Do me a favour?

I just had an email from a clergyman, saying, “Hi” and asking me to do him “a favor”. I replied yes, of course. I then began to wonder why he had not said what sort of favour it was, and why he was asking me.

I decided to telephone him and find why he had not explained. His wife answered and said: “Is it about the fake email?” I could tell from her tone of voice that I was not the first caller.

This was a scam of some sort and probably the favour was to send money. The same day someone else in the same parish had their accounts hacked. The email addresses used were correct, but if I had looked carefully I would have noticed he would not spell “favour” like that and not say “hi”.

This all makes me quite cross, because these scammers are playing on church members’ kindness. A friend of mine also got the email and was upset that someone else was in trouble. We need to be aware of the risks and look out for messages of any kind which seem strange.

Criminals target churches and pretend to send emails from people in authority such as clergy, churchwardens or treasurers. They prey on our credulity and charity.

What should we do?

If you get a telephone call or email you and you are not sure if it is genuine, use another form of communication to check.

It is a crime, so report it to the authorities. If it is connected to a church, tell your diocese or governing body.

The scammers must have got these addresses from somewhere. How easy would it be to get a list of the names and addresses of your minister, leaders and treasurer?

Lastly, carry on being generous and kind. These scammers should not stop us.

2021: Time to choose the world you want

Fairtrade Fortnight 22 February - 7 March

Dah Oho, Fairtrade Cocoa Farmer, ECAKOG co-operative, Côte d'Ivoire
Fairtrade Foundation's CEO Michael Gidney reflects on a tough year
and looks forward to a brighter 2021.

'For too long in this society, we have celebrated unrestrained individualism over common community.' So said Joe Biden, back in 1987, during his first run for the US Presidency. Thirty years on, his words still ring true. True, across the industrialised world, where 'unrestrained individualism' has brought increasing inequality, and long, opaque supply chains making the planet dirtier and people poorer. Globalisation has undoubtedly been a force for so much good, but it has stored up problems for people and planet that have been ignored for too long. The shock of Covid-19 has shown us, more emphatically than any of us could have imagined, that life cannot carry on like this. This year, globalisation has literally been bad for our health.

And yet, 2020 has also shown us the other side. If there is one good thing to come from this tough, tough year, it's that we've recognised more than ever that we are all in this together. We cannot go it alone. That's why we've clapped for carers; why neighbourhood volunteering schemes have seen such support; why donations to food banks have reached unprecedented levels. It's a response to a crisis imbued with compassion and a determination to act.

Covid-19 has shown us how inter-dependent we are globally. The economic impact of the virus has been huge. People in developing countries who grow and make products for the UK have been particularly hard hit – reduced orders have meant produce has gone unsold and wages unpaid. Millions of farmers growing coffee, tea, cocoa and bananas for the UK have seen their incomes fall and are struggling to feed their families and send their children to school.

This is where Fairtrade comes into its own. A cornerstone of Fairtrade is the requirement for farmers to be organised at a community level. For many that's been a lifeline – Fairtrade producers have used their premiums to help their communities' pandemic response. Colombian farmers took the fight against Covid-19 to the streets using banana disinfectant, spraying the roads of their local towns. Flower growers in Kenya used Fairtrade-funded sewing machines to sew masks for the local community. Many producer groups organised food distribution for vulnerable people in their communities.

Fairtrade producers have proved to be more resilient, better able to bounce back. Important for the families involved, but also provides us in the UK with the products we buy every day.

As we look forward to a brighter 2021, what kind of world do we want to see? I hope this is the opportunity to reset our economy to Build Back Fairer, and this means two things:

1. Remembering how much we depend on producers in low-income countries for the food and products we buy every day. It's scandalous that they should toil in poverty so we can have cheap products. We rely on farmers every day; shouldn't we then treat them as our partners and ensure they are able to earn a living income?
2. Committing as consumers to join the dots. If we are worried about the climate crisis, about child labour, about exploitation of women around the world, about racial injustice, we must make the link to what we buy. Poverty is the missing link in so many corporate 'sustainability' schemes. Fairtrade aims to tackle the cause, where others address the symptoms. We have the power as consumers to bring about amazing change.

There is huge value in working together. Fairtrade producers have shown it this year in how they've supported their communities. We've seen it in the million acts of kindness for others through the pandemic, here and abroad. We can see how we can make trade work for all of us. 2021 is a year to be hopeful, and to carry these stories with us, and buy Fairtrade.

Interview

How long have you lived in this area?

I've lived in Enfield my whole life, which is now 42 years and I've not travelled far from my childhood home.

What made you choose our church to come to?

I grew up in Bush Hill Park, living in First Avenue and attended Bush Hill Park Primary School. My mum always took me and my siblings to church on Sundays and as we grew up we attended 1st Enfield Girls Brigade and 2nd Enfield Boys Brigade.

What makes you go to church at all?

Although I don't go to church as often as I feel I should, for me, it is about believing in a greater good and knowing that whatever happens in my life, I can trust in God to guide me through it. I've not been steered wrong so far!

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

I've got quite a few from playing the clarinet in the church band many years ago, but my all time favourite has to be, Shine Jesus Shine by Graham Kendrick. I remember the clarinet score being really interesting to play and love how positive a song it is. Even when singing it, it makes me feel happy.

*Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light*

Used with permission, CCLI 7878

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

Jude 20-21

‘But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life’.

I find it a nice reminder to keep myself in harmony with God’s continued love and presence.

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

I was battling for several years with the idea of leaving the teaching profession after working as a secondary school teacher for, at that point in my career, 12 years. I had been struggling to stay motivated due to huge pressures on achieving results, that my love for the job had fizzled out. It had become so bad that I began to dread even going in which for me was a huge issue because I had grown very fond of my form group as they felt like my extended family.

It took me two more years to build up the courage to finally leave and I remember handing in my letter of resignation and walking out of the Head teacher’s office, looking up at the ceiling and saying, “I’m in your hands now. I trust you.”

A year later, after completing my Masters degree in Urban Design, I got offered a job at Enfield Council in the Design and Heritage Department.

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

I’m not really sure... Maybe, try it and see where it takes you. Explore different churches in your area, as every group of individuals, offers something very unique and only you will know when it’s right for you because you will want to go back.

Vikkie



BUILDING LIFE FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES

A SERIES OF WEBINARS WITH CWM EUROPE



REVD. DR. PETER CRUCHLEY

'WHITENESS AND ANTIRACIST PRACTICE: FROM TALK TO ACTION'

MONDAY 8TH FEBRUARY (14:00-15:30)

Can whiteness and white privilege be dismantled? Peter's presentation will aim to help participants move from talk to action regarding more effective antiracist practices in the church.

REVD. MELANIE SMITH, REVD. DR. AL BARRETT & DAVID JONATHAN

A PANEL DISCUSSION ON LIFE-
FLOURISHING ACTIVISM

MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY (14:00-15:30)

The panellists will be exploring 'what would life-flourishing activism look like and mean'. This would include new ways of grassroots activism towards transformation. These three colleagues are involved in local community advocacy in a variety of ways.





CAROL TROUPE

'LOOKING BACK: LOOKING FORWARD'
MONDAY 8TH MARCH (14:00-15:30)

Carol is a Research Associate on the CWM Legacies of Slavery project and has been exploring LMS mission magazine archives. She reflects on her journey so far, and wonders what, if anything, can be drawn from the archives to help the church reflect on issues of mission, race and justice in the present day.

DR. EVE PARKER

**WHAT WOULD A LIFE-FLOURISHING
CURRICULUM FOR THEOLOGICAL
EDUCATION LOOK LIKE?**
MONDAY 22ND MARCH (14:00-15:30)

In her presentation, Eve will focus on case studies from her ongoing research - addressing the barriers to belonging in theological education, whilst exploring the liberative potential of engaged and transformative pedagogy and curriculum.



For each presentation, individual zoom links will be provided.
Please contact Sai & Michael at cwm.europe@cwmission.org

Making a Difference

Sometimes we may feel like we cannot exactly do a lot to make a difference in the world. What we often don't realize though is that we do have more power than we think.

We only need to begin noticing the news items that we hear about every day and then praying and thinking about our response to those news items.

Let us give you an example.

Just before the end of last year it was reported that 139 companies had paid staff less than the minimum wage. Those companies were named and shamed by the government.

Did you notice who they were, which companies were included?

What could you do, what might you be able to do about that news story?

Could we suggest that there are at least two things that could be done:-

1. Write to the Chief Executive and/or Chairman of the companies involved asking them to confirm that they will pay all staff not just the minimum wage but the Real Living Wage in future.
2. Avoid spending money with those companies in future until you receive the assurance requested above.

If you require more information either ask us for the details or simply do an internet search on the story "HMRC names and shames companies guilty of paying less than the minimum wage" – separately check out the Living Wage Foundation's website.

We can make change happen in the world, and help make the world a better place for all of us. We believe it is something that we need to be doing as witnesses to Jesus Christ in the world today.

Your ministers, Mark and Melanie

‘Being there’ for prisoners during Covid-19

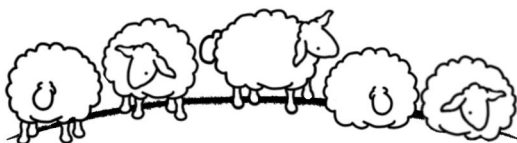
Surely the most severe form of lockdown this past year has been in our prisons. Prisoners have been left in their cells for up to 23 hours a day, with all activities suspended.

Whereas prayer and chapel services usually provide some outlet for prisoners, even these were halted. That meant that many prisoners with personal problems and anxieties were left with no one to turn to for help.

In response, Prison Fellowship launched Prayer Line. It is a telephone service with a freephone number, where prisoners have been requesting prayers for something personal by leaving their request as an anonymous recorded message.

The messages have then been picked up by PF staff, distributed to PF volunteer prayer groups, and faithfully prayed for.

The requests for help have ranged from prayers for the victims of the prisoner’s crime, to the prisoner’s family, themselves, and other prisoners.



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.

Life After Loss

citizens
advice

Enfield

How has COVID-19 changed your life?

Can't afford
funeral costs?

Weighed down by
unexpected
money problems
and mounting debt?

Can't work
due to
COVID-19?

You are not alone.

We can help you with:

- Immediate Emotional Support
- Bereavement Counselling.
- Fasttrack access to benefit, debt and universal credit advice.
- Emergency Relief Grants of up to £500.

Feeling
overwhelmed?

Struggling to cope
with grief after losing
a loved one?

Need to talk
about how you're
feeling?

Prayer

A Valentine Prayer

We pray today for those in love, those out of love, and those in between. We remember especially those who find themselves a little bit lonelier than normal.

We do not pray today for loved-up couples, exchanging overpriced flowers and foil wrapped hearts, leaking pheromones like diesel fumes at candlelit dinners. We are pretty sure, Lord, they will be OK (for now).

Instead, we hereby dedicate this happy-crappy day to all the brave teenagers who dared to send a card (hoping in vain with every fibre of their being for something back). Let them be a little bit more OK because we prayed.

We think of the mother, coping alone, who quietly bought herself flowers yesterday. Let her kids be kind today. Let her teenagers tidy their bedrooms. And if that's a miracle too far (we realise You've got a lot on right now), could they at least initiate a hug at bedtime. And, Lord, let those daffodils she bought herself last longer and shine brighter than those over-priced red roses that also caught her eye.

Finally, we ask You to look upon the elderly gentleman gazing today at a fading sepia photograph in a silver frame of a wedding in another time. Look at him and look with him and be with him in the remembering and the un-remembering too.

From Lectio365, Pete Greig

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

February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people.

February also celebrates the love between a man and woman: Valentine cards and romance abound. ‘Love’ as in social compassion is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, and National Nest Box Week.... Love is truly needed by everyone!

naming
Christ
Candlemas
Simeon
Anna
temple
love
Valentine
romance
Matthias
Fairtrade
Fortnight
coffee
bananas
chocolate
justice
poverty
nest box
marriage
wedding
Holocaust
leprosy



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 this month, please check the church website to confirm if the activity you want to go to is going ahead.
www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

