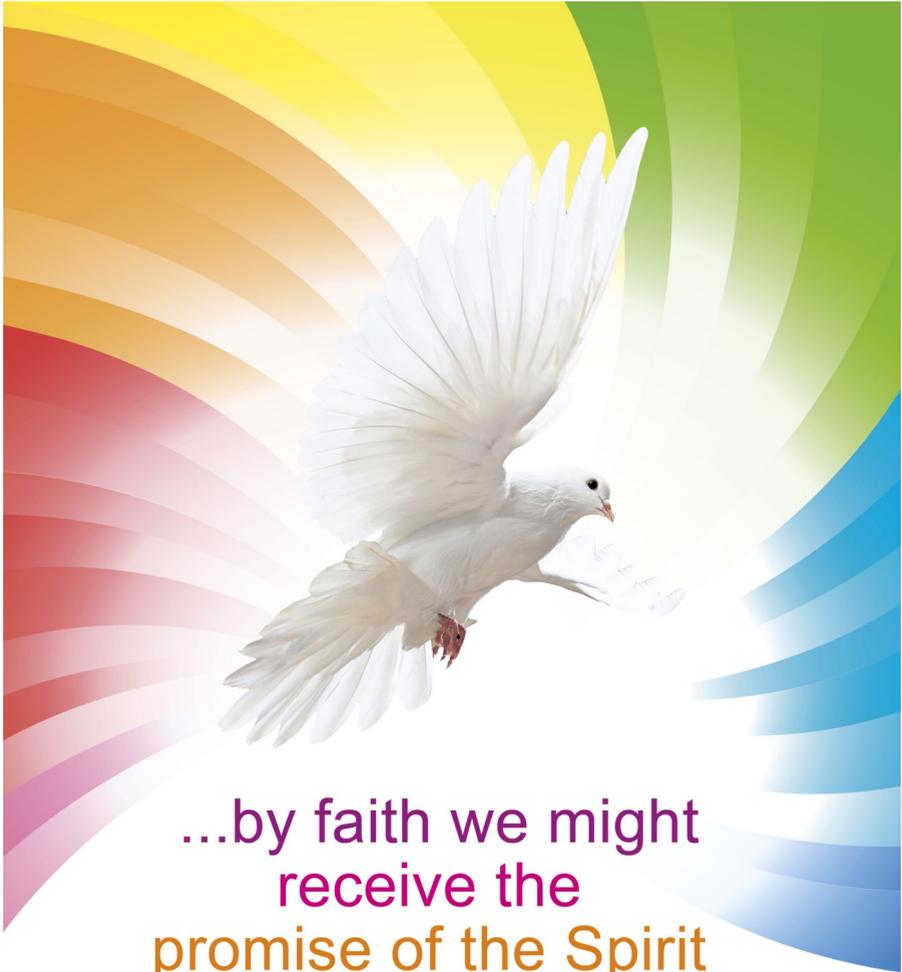




The
United
Reformed
Church

May 2021



...by faith we might
receive the
promise of the Spirit

Galatians 3:14

Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church
25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ

www.bhpurc.org.uk



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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.

“Jesus came and stood among them and said ‘Peace be with you’...’As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’ “
(John 20: 19 – 23)

We have come through the tragedy of death and discovered Jesus risen from the dead.

Jesus appears to the disciples, not simply once, but many times (see 1 Corinthians 15:

1 – 11 for more details). In these appearances what is he doing? Is he giving reassurance? Is he encouraging them for what is to come? Is he making promises about what is happening next?

Pentecost arrives and the Spirit is poured out upon those gathered to pray together leading to their being empowered to be witnesses to Jesus *“in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8)

Where does Enfield in North London fit in to this picture?

The Holy Spirit wasn’t given just at one time, in that one place – the Holy Spirit remains available to us here in Enfield in 2021. We can ask, as many did in those



early days of the church for the Holy Spirit to fill our lives:-

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
(Acts 2:38)

That Holy Spirit was given freely to those who came to Jesus and gave their lives to him, and it enabled the building of a community that came together, sharing all that they had – needs were met, people were fed. Others were healed. Houses were sold so that there could be provision for others. And there was a lot of prayer and worship.

The dynamics of that early Christian community might seem

strange to us today in the 21st century but they, for us, remain a challenge and we keep hearing Jesus speak about how we use what we have been given.

“What have you done with the gifts I have given you?” a voice echoes in our heads.

During the month of May we have many opportunities to respond to that voice as Christian Aid Week is with us once again, amongst the call of other needs coming from the world around us.

How do we best use the gifts God has provided us with?

We must surely begin by giving everything we have, ourselves included, over to God and praying that God would lead us, by the Holy Spirit, to do the work God wants each one of us to do.

For some of us it may mean that the ends of the earth are found in Enfield, for others it could be Glasgow or Guatemala? Are we

truly open to respond to God’s voice and God’s call?

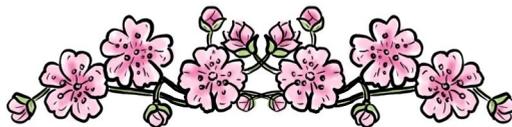
In the Acts of the Apostles we find Philip in different places at different times (Samaria, on the road to Gaza, in Azotus – see Acts 8) and we find Paul being prevented by the Spirit to go into certain places (Acts 16: 6 – 10) so we know that God can lead us forward and can stop us from going the wrong way.

Are we willing to step out and follow Jesus where the Lord might want us to go?

Your ministers,
Mark and Melanie

THANK YOU

Can we say a big THANK YOU to all those who helped recently with the clean up after the fire at Ponders End URC – this was truly one of those moments when we saw community in action and, we believe, the Spirit moving in our midst. Thank you again.



Smile Lines

What did I do with the car?

As I left a meeting at our church, I could not find my car keys. They were not in my pockets. They were not in the church. Then I thought - I've left them in the car! As I burst through the doors of the church, my heart sank: the church car park was empty.

With a heavy heart I called the police, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the really difficult call, and told my wife that the car had been stolen. There was a little gasp. "You did not have the car. I dropped you off. Remember?"

My heart sang as relief flooded through me. "Of course! Thank God! Well, come get me quick - I am already running late... what is keeping you?"

My wife replied with ominous calm: "What's keeping me? I'll tell you what's keeping me. The police are here. They think I've stolen the car..."

Coronavirus - warning about vaccine

This happened recently and is an important lesson for our friends and family in the older age group. A friend had his second doze of vaccine at the vaccination centre. Shortly afterwards he began to have blurred vision and struggled to get home.

He rang the vaccination centre and asked if he should go straight to the hospital for help. He was told NOT to go to the hospital, but instead to return at once to the vaccination centre and pick up his glasses...

Here is the News

Eco Church

Thank you to everyone who has been bringing their food wrappers in. Combined with some local people also giving us their wrappers we have been able to send off 8kg of crisps, nuts, popcorn and pretzel wrappers and 5kg of biscuit and cracker wrappers. We hope to have enough cheese packets to send off soon.

Churches Count on Nature:

5-13 June. Save the date!

From 5-13 June, in partnership with Caring for God's Acre and the Church of England Environment programme, A Rocha (Eco Church) is asking churches to run a wildlife-count in their churchyards or nearby land. A Rocha hopes that this project will facilitate churches taking action for nature where they are. Keep a look out in the next newsletter and on Facebook for more details.



Give Thanks appeal raises funds for vulnerable people

Christian Aid's latest appeal, which enables people to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccine and help others in crisis across the world, has raised £130,000.

Many people in the UK are feeling a sense of relief as loved ones receive their vaccines. Christian Aid's Give Thanks appeal encourages people to pass the blessing on, by helping others who have little protection from the pandemic.

Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities around the world access soap, water, food and vital health information as Covid-19 continues to destroy lives and livelihoods. Christian Aid partners have so far directly helped over half a million people in 27 countries. Donate here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-donate/give-thanks-your-coronavirus-vaccine>



Download WWF's 'My Footprint' app

We can help defend nature by making small changes to our everyday lives and building a better world. From cutting down plastic consumption to eating a plant-based meal, 'My Footprint' includes practical advice on how you can introduce positive changes to your life and

tracks your progress in reducing your environmental footprint.

Download the free app www.wwf.org.uk/myfootprint

Displaced Christians starving in Tigray, Ethiopia

Troops from the massive army of Marxist Eritrea have been massacring the Christian people of Ethiopia's Tigray region. Recently, three days of slaughter in the region left more than 100 dead.

They are only the latest victims, for already hundreds more Christians have died at the hand of the Eritrean forces in Axum, in central Tigray. According to Amnesty International, it could amount to a crime against humanity.

Food in Tigray is now desperately short. Famine has been predicted. Christian leaders from Tigray have appealed to Barnabas Aid to send funds. If you would like to help, please go to: barnabasfund.org

Hall refurbishment update

The work on the church hall is almost complete. A new ceiling has gone in, the walls have been painted, better doors for heat retention and safety have been put in and the new heating will go in soon. We hope to have the hall open again around the end of May.

The works are proceeding within budget, but this includes a loan of £50,000 which needs to be repaid. Can you help?

If you are able to help please visit www.give.net/bhp2 to donate online or Text BHPURC 5 to 70085 to donate £5. Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message. Also, please visit bhpurc.org.uk/ fundraising for other ways to support our church.

We Chose to Go to the Moon

On 25th May 1961, President John F Kennedy announced to Congress that the United States 'should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth.'

This reflected the United States' desire to catch up with the Soviet Union in the space race. Although an extremely challenging goal, it was finally achieved on 20th July 1969, when Apollo 11 commander Neil Armstrong stepped on to the Moon's surface.

Such a challenging mission required commitment and sacrifice from many people. What is our mandate, as the people of God in today's world? What challenge have we been entrusted with by God that requires our absolute commitment and sacrifice in these difficult days? When Jesus ascended into heaven, His last words to His disciples were significant: 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (Acts 1:8).

Our mission is to be witnesses for Jesus, making Him known in our workplaces, to our families and friends, as well as the wider community. A credible witness speaks of what they know personally. What is my story of how Jesus has changed my life?

However, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower our witness: 'you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you' (1:8). The Spirit enables us to display the fruit of Jesus' character and gifts us to be effective witnesses.

'We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard' (JFK, 12th September, 1962 at Rice University).

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham

Lectio 365

Lectio 365 is a Christian daily devotional resource that helps you encounter God and shape your life by praying the Bible every day.



Each day. Start and end your day with God...

Morning Prayers - Take 10 minutes to P.R.A.Y. 'P': PAUSE to be still. 'R': REJOICE with a Psalm and REFLECT on a Bible passage. 'A': ASK God to help us and others, and 'Y': YIELD to His will in our lives.

Night Prayers - Reflect, rejoice, repent and rest each evening to process the day and prepare to sleep with God.

Each week. Explore a theme or practice with a leader from the 24-7 Prayer movement. Throughout the year journey through six practices that help us shape our lives around the three great loves at the heart of Christianity.

Discover how we love God through prayer and creativity (Matthew 22:37), love one another through justice and hospitality (Matthew 22:39) and love the world through learning and mission (Matthew 28:18–20).

Read or listen on the go. Lectio 365 is available in both text and audio. You can access a day at a time or choose to download devotionals up to a week in advance to read or listen to them later.

Special seasons. In seasons like Advent and Lent explore a special focus including contributions from guest authors from the international 24-7 Prayer movement.

Try something ancient. Lectio 365 is inspired by Lectio Divina, a way of meditating on the Bible that's been used by Christians for centuries. Each day we read the same passage twice and come expectant that God will speak through it.

Reflected Faith: Hiding, waiting, hoping – FREE!

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last beginning to be able to come together again. Some countries and some areas of some countries will be more open than others and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be 'free' again.

May, in the Church's calendar, is supremely the month of freedom.

During the first few weeks we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met Him after His crucifixion and resurrection.

Then we celebrate His Ascension – Jesus' return to His Father.

And finally, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of His Church.

Freedom indeed!

This last year has for most of us felt like a waiting time to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear and the hope within us.

What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to His Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended.

It is the story of those 'simple' men who were scared and hiding one day and the next day bold and outspoken that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.

As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that whatever happened now would be manageable.

This month: Have a think this month about fears that you may have held inside you in this past year and how you have been able to

manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads? I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know His reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

The Revd Dr Jo White

Grandad was babysitting when he heard his little grand-daughter muttering the alphabet over in hushed tones. "What are you doing?" he asked her. "I'm praying," she replied. "I can't think of the right words so I just say all the letters. God will put them together for me 'cos He knows what I'm thinking."



© CHRISTIAN CRACKERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR by Phil Mason, published by Monarch

FREE FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES!

**Zebras Children & Adults Charity in Partnership with
The Lancaster Road United Reformed Church**



**Supporting those facing
hardship running until 30th
June 2021**

**Just drop-in every WEDNESDAY from
10:00 -12:00 and collect some healthy
fresh produce to help support you
through these difficult times
project running until 30th June 2021**



**Fruit & Veg collection point held at Lancaster Road
ENFIELD, Middlesex, EN2 0BS
(No referral, if you're in need please just come along)**

Zebras Children & Adults Charity reg No 1171051

Diary

May

See also **Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities**

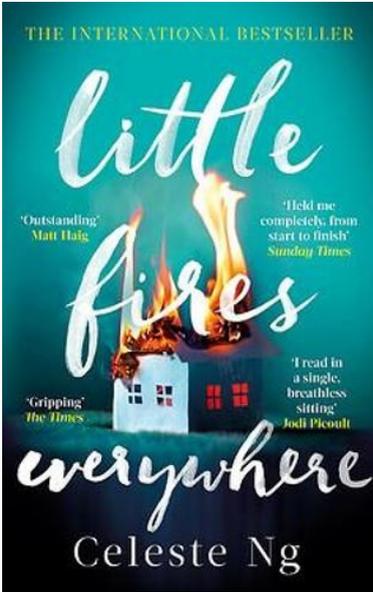
The diary is also online at www.bhpurc.org.uk/calendar

Sun 2nd	10:00am	Communion with Revd Mark Meatcher
Sun 9th	10:00am	Parade with Revd Martin Legg
Sun 16th	10:00am	Worship with Revd Mark Meatcher
Sun 23rd	10:00am	Worship with Revd Mark Meatcher
Sun 30th	10:00am	Worship with Evodian Fonyonga

Next newsletter deadline:
Sunday 9th May

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

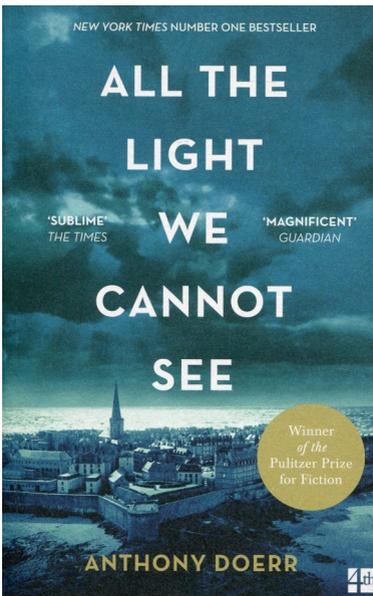
Book Club



Small Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

A good, well written book much enjoyed by most of us. The story centres on two families from very different backgrounds: the Richardsons, a traditional, middle class family living in the affluent Shaker Heights, Ohio; and the free-spirited, nomadic mother and daughter who go to live there as the Richardson's tenants. As the lives of each member of the two families come together, the author explores the characters and feelings of the participants with a deep understanding. The characters are likeable and each story line gives food for thought as it plays out to a dramatic end. The book explores family life and how well parents understand their maturing children and the strong pull of motherhood.

Yvonne



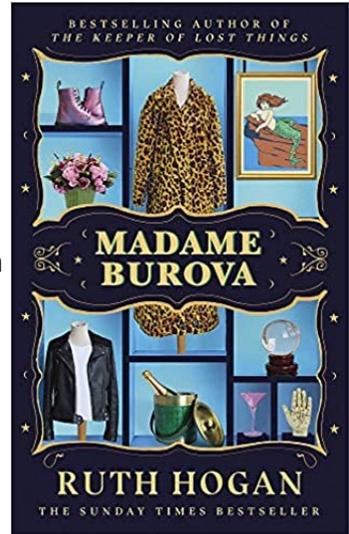
All the Light we cannot see by Anthony Doerr

This starts in Pre-WW2 France and Germany and links the lives of a girl and boy as they grow towards adulthood and experience life living through the War years and beyond. Marie-Laure lives with her father who works at a Museum in Paris. She is blind but it does not stop her father teaching this intelligent child to navigate Paris. Werner is an orphan living in a children's home in a mining region.

He is obsessed and has a natural aptitude for radio. He joins the Hitler Youth. Not everyone in the club read this but those who completed were thrilled by its clever writing interweaving the two stories while recognising its brutality at times.

Sylvia

We next meet on Monday morning 10 May and hope to be in a garden, weather permitting. The chosen book is 'Madame Burova' by Ruth Hogan.



Famine may be on the way

That is the stark warning of the Disasters Emergency Committee coalition of UK aid agencies, who says that the economic devastation caused by the pandemic is leading to increasing hunger in poorer countries.

Thousands are likely to die this year as the knock-on effect of Covid-19 worldwide has left millions less able to afford food. South Sudan and Yemen are already on the brink of famine, and Afghanistan and Democratic Republic of the Congo are also in deep trouble.

Just at a time when Covid-19 and wars have crippled the economic and health systems of many countries, humanitarian funding has dropped as donor countries also struggle.

Saleh Saeed, the committee's chief executive, explained: "People living in places made perilous by conflict, violence and climate disasters are coping as best they can, but the odds are stacked against them. The knock-on effects of the pandemic have crippled economies, making the world's poorest people even poorer."

Prayer Diary

MAY 2021

Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you
the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

Saturday 1st

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 2nd

Thanks for our Brigades as they help local girls and boys to learn useful skills

Monday 3rd

Judith

Tuesday 4th

Leadership & Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Saint George

Wednesday 5th

Second Avenue

Thursday 6th

For hospital staff

Friday 7th

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

Saturday 8th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 9th

Thanks for those who entertain us, make us smile and show us other worlds

Monday 10th

Julia

Tuesday 11th

Leadership & Congregation of Bush Hill Park URC

Wednesday 12th

Southbury Road

Thursday 13th

For Special Policemen & women

Friday 14th

Those suffering from HIV & AIDS and the charities who seek to find a cure

Saturday 15th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 16th

Give thanks for our homes and the shelter we have

Monday 17th

Kath

Tuesday 18th

Leadership & Congregation of Enfield Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday 19th

Third Avenue

Thursday 20th

For Community Support Officers

Friday 21st

Elijah, our sponsored child in Zambia

Saturday 22nd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 23rd

Thanks for the Holy Spirit

Monday 24th

Lisa

Tuesday 25th

Leadership & Congregation of St Andrews Parish Church

Wednesday 26th

Trinity Avenue

Thursday 27th

For doctors

Friday 28th

The work of Beyond Ourselves (we support them)

Saturday 29th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 30th

Give thanks for answered prayers

Monday 31st

Lynda





ZOOM to Zimbabwe

with **christian aid**

11th May
2021
2 pm

Updates, Music,
Food & Friendship

Email Suzanne for link
suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk

Hosted by
Commitment for Life

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.

Foreigners?

Among the estimated 130,000 people from Hong Kong who are making their way to the UK, there are bound to be thousands of Christians. What kind of reception will they get from the churches here?

We shudder when reminded of the cold shoulder shown to the 500 Jamaicans who disembarked the SS Empire Windrush at Tilbury in 1948, and others who followed. They came in response to a recruitment drive by London Transport and the NHS. Many were practising Anglicans, so naturally they made their way to churches. Many were told they didn't belong there.

St Paul's nightmare about the Church had become a reality, with the eye saying to the hand, "I don't need you." (1 Corinthians 12.21) As a result, the Church of England missed out on the faith, experience, and witness of brother and sister believers from the Caribbean.

Hong Kong citizens who hold British National Overseas passports can now apply for a work visa, enabling them to live and work in the UK, after which they may apply for permanent UK citizenship. They will bring a wealth of knowledge with them, including the experience of living under an increasingly repressive regime.

This is our chance to learn from past errors and to turn hostility into hospitality. We will soon discover that we have at least as much to receive as we have to give. UK society has already been enriched by immigrants, especially those who belong to ethnic minorities in this country, but are in the majority, worldwide. The NHS alone would collapse without them.

In Bible times, Christians who were from Jewish backgrounds found it hard to believe the Church could accommodate foreigners. First there was a division between Hebrew-speakers and Greek-speakers. An even bigger row followed, when new Christians in other countries were regarded as sub-standard. Then St Peter had a visionary experience which contradicted his narrow upbringing. This is how he summarised it:

"I now realise it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him, no matter what race they belong to." (Acts 10.34)

Chinese? African? Caribbean? European? British? The real Church will accommodate all of them and then look for others to welcome.

Interview

How long have you lived in this area?

I've lived in Bush Hill Park for 48 and a half years. I was born in Newington Green and we lived for 11 years in Stoke Newington. It was just after the war and we rented rooms upstairs, we didn't have a toilet indoors, we had to walk quite a way downstairs and outside to the shared toilet outside the downstairs kitchen!

After Stoke Newington we moved to Manor House and lived in a flat on the 4th floor there for 19 years. It was lovely to have a proper kitchen and bathroom! I had started going to Brownies at a Methodist church in Stoke Newington and stayed there for Guides too. We continued going to Highbury Quadrant church near Clissold Park.

After my gran died and mum got the all clear from her cancer we started to look for a house of our own which meant moving out of town a bit. We had been looking for a house in Bush Hill Park but each time we made contact, the house had just been sold. Doreen Bamberger, who we knew from Highbury Quadrant and knew we were looking for a house, called us one day while we were eating dinner to say there was a lady on her road looking for a private sale and could we get there that night! Needless to say, we finished dinner sharpish and made the trip north on the first bus possible! There was so much space! It was the first time I got my own room.

What made you choose our church to come to?

Because we knew Doreen already it made sense to go to BHP. We arrived three weeks after Ralph Eveleigh left and we always joked that he knew we were coming and that's why he left!

What makes you go to church at all?

I have enjoyed all the different activities and things that happen at church. As I spent time at BHP URC I was asked to help in the Brigades and also got involved in other activities like homemakers on a Tuesday

in the church parlour. There were speakers and that's where we learnt quilting with Maureen Howard's aunt.

Church is a good way to get to know people in the area. It's nice to see new faces and be with like minded people.

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

I have a few favourites, two that stick with me are Make me a Channel of your Peace and Amazing Grace.

Make me a Channel of your Peace speaks to you so well, it brings peace and has a great message about working with each other and helping people.

*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*

Used with permission, CCLI 7878

Amazing Grace reminds me that no matter how sinful we are God welcomes us with open arms. The words make the love of God evident. You can feel the closeness of God in it.

*T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed*

Used with permission, CCLI 7878

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

I don't have any specific favourite verses but I do like the book of Acts and the story of Paul. It's good to see that God can work with anyone and the story of Paul's shows that. He started by beating Christians and putting them in prison but he turned around and became a big force behind the early church and saw amazing miracles because of that.

I also like the gospels, they are very helpful for life. In particular the Beatitudes which are a helpful guide to how you should live.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Matthew 5: 7-8

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

Yes. When my mum was quite ill with cancer throughout the 1940s and 50s I would pray and felt a sort of calm come over me so I was never too worried and somehow knew it would all be well and it was.

Also, I like seeing God in nature, I find it makes life that much better. I remember being away on a camp in Ramsgate where the fields were beautiful and surrounded by trees and a river, I turned to one of the girls and said isn't this beautiful, she just replied nah! You don't have to go too far either, Forty Hill with the squirrels and birds is lovely. It is a great way to rejoice and refresh.

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

Come along with me one day and I'll introduce you so you can see what you think. People will pray for you and prayers are answered. It's good to be in a church where other people look out for you.

Judith





We need your help to help others.

Our food distribution project is working very well with many new families and individuals being referred for help; to the point we need to appeal for more donations to share.

People can either drop these in the donation boxes at Sainsbury A10 or Lancaster Road branches or deliver direct to the Centre. We have some large families on our list as well as single women and those sheltering.

People can donate to the fund for this via JustGiving at www.justgiving.com/enfieldwomenscentre

When buying things in packs – rice, pasta, etc. please buy in packs no more than 2kg – it is easier to distribute to families than large bags of pasta, rice etc. Whilst we can deliver to families the large sacks are difficult. We can share the same weight in goods amongst families – we make sure all families receive goods weekly. Some people still insist on coming to the Centre personally so smaller packs are also easier for them to carry. Our clients consist of families with children and also older folk or single people who are all vulnerable/isolated for a range of reasons.

Items in need: canned meats & fish, Quorn products, pastas (all sorts), noodles, cous cous, lentils, rice, instant mash, coffee (inc. decaf), tea, hot chocolate, canned veg, canned spaghetti in sauce, beans & sausages, canned fruit, canned custard, milk, fruit juices, squash – low sugar if possible, gravy granules, condiments, jars of sauces for pastas, curries etc., cooking oils, jams, biscuits, cereals, nappies, baby wipes, talcum powder, nappy cream, toilet roll, toiletries, washing up liquid, soap, plasters, cotton buds, sanitary pads, cat and dog food

Enfield Women's Centre www.enfieldwomen.org.uk

Raise money, support your friends, give to a cause. Show you care.

CMS honours its women missionaries who are working for a better world

Two centuries after the death of Mary Bouffler, the first woman sent out in her own right by Church Mission Society to be a missionary overseas, CMS is honouring the achievements of inspiring women who followed in Bouffler's footsteps, to share their faith and transform communities.

Bouffler travelled to Sierra Leone in 1820 and tragically died less than a year later. She was the first in a long line of countless CMS women missionaries to battle injustice and prejudice and fight for change, human rights and empowerment.

From Ann-Marie Wilson, who set up the charity **28 Too Many** to highlight and stop the practice of FGM (female genital mutilation), to Helen Kisakye (nee Burningham), who founded **SPLASH**, a dance troupe in Uganda that intentionally includes young people living with disabilities, and **Nevedita**, who leads a programme in Sri Lanka for children who have been abused and traumatised, women have been integral to mission throughout CMS's history.

Healing, restoration and opportunity are common themes where these pioneering women are involved.

CMS local partner Rachel Karanja, a businesswoman, church leader and entrepreneur from Kenya, explained that being left housebound for over a year after a stroke inspired her to set up **Women of Destiny Kenya**. She said: "The charity helps to support women who have faced significant struggles in their lives and enables them to discover their God-given destinies."

Debbie James, CMS's Deputy CEO and Director of Mission Transformation, said: "At times in CMS's own history, women have been undervalued but what has been achieved over 200 years is testament to the tenacity, talent and imagination of countless women of God".

Prayer

Hand clapping and joyful praise

Most stunning God,
when we stop and think of you, and all that you are,
**we are filled with awe and gladness
and bring our joyful praise to you!**

When we think of the world you created
and see how beautiful our planet is,
**we are filled with awe and gladness
and bring our joyful praise to you!**

When we think of the stories passed down to us
revealing your love for us,
**we are filled with awe and gladness
and bring our joyful praise to you!**

God who soars beyond all,
continue to give us words and habits that are
welcoming,
embracing,
including,
hospitable,
so that your house may become a home for all.

Nan Maxwell

From the URC prayer handbook 2015 for 14th May looking at Psalm 47

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

The first Sunday in May is Rogation Sunday. This is when many parishes still 'beat the bounds'. Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land. The practice began with the Romans, who processed around the cornfields each Spring, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, in order to get rid of evil. About 465 AD the Western world was suffering from earthquake and storm. Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields. Thus 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial. It arrived in England early in the eighth century. Each Spring, led by the priest, a little party from the parish would set out with a Cross to trace the boundaries of the parish. They'd implore God to keep their corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to harvest. In the days when maps were scarce, 'beating the bounds' helped remind everyone just where the boundaries were. Do you know yours today?

sunday	may
rogation	beat
bounds	asking
blessing	seed
land	romans
processed	cornfields
spring	earthquake
storm	prayer
cross	boundaries
crops	harvest
maps	

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

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
6.30pm 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

