

February/March
2024



Trinity
United Reformed
Church

The Messenger

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,
A couple of years ago, I bought a new camera. I've always been interested in photography, and this camera gives me the options to really customize the settings for whatever conditions I want to shoot in. The big problem is that I don't know what any of these settings do!

That Christmas, I received Digital Photography: A Complete Course, a book which says it will teach me to be a better, more educated, photographer. It's promise: in only 20 weeks, I can master the art of using my camera in the correct way.

Twenty weeks!?! I don't want to wait twenty weeks...I want to know all of that now!

I realize that to learn just about anything properly takes time. It takes patience. It takes commitment. But I suspect I am not alone in wishing that more things in life could just be instantaneous... that things could just happen more quickly.

That desire for instant gratification may seem like a sign of the times, but the Bible reminds us that people have

always known what they wanted, and have always been frustrated when what they wanted didn't materialize as quickly as they would have liked.

Our Lenten Bible Study this year will focus on the Book of Jonah—a familiar name to many of us among the Old Testament prophets, who's story is, perhaps, the most un-prophet-like story in the Bible. Jonah thinks he knows better than God what should happen to the people he is sent to preach to, and he throws a fit when things don't happen quickly enough and in the way he would prefer them to happen.

I don't want to give too much away about what we will be talking about, but suffice it to say, Jonah might find himself at home in the hurried and frantic pace of our lives today. Think about it: we want our churches back to the way they were before COVID...we want a more stable economy and lower inflation...we want peace in the Middle East and in Ukraine...we want more sunshine in the winter... and when do we want all of this?!? Now!

But the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that all of this will be resolved in due time. In recent months, I have been using the following passage as part of my prayer times. I find that saying these words with intention, not only helps calm my general anxiety about the state of the world today, but also helps to give me perspective on some of the larger issues facing our churches. I offer these words to you this month, in the hope that they might aid your time of prayer, as well:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Peace and love,
Brian

Thank You

To the Elders and members of Trinity URC,
Many thanks for all of the Christmas cards and wishes, and especially for the amazing hamper full of Christmas goodies! My family and I are very thankful to live and serve in such a generous community.

Many thanks,
Brian

Prayers for February

St Mungo's
Middle East
Ukraine and Russia

Advanced Notices

Lenten Bible Study

This year's Lenten Bible Study will focus on the Book of Jonah. Many of us will have grown up knowing the story of Jonah and the whale, but when was the last time that you spent time thinking about what happens to Jonah after he and the whale part company?

Please join us for lively conversations about Jonah, his call, and his frustration with God for four weeks, starting Tuesday, 27 February. We'll meet in Roope Hall at Trinity URC, Upminster starting at 9:45am, and led by Revd Brian Buschkill. As has been our recent practice, our Bible Study sessions will be recorded and available to view on our YouTube page within 24 hours of each session. If you have any questions, please contact Brian at buschkill@gmail.com.

Church Lunch

The lunch will be held on Sunday 25th February 2024, after the service. Tickets will be on sale soon at the cost of £12. There will be a raffle and a quiz. All proceeds will be in aid of Church funds.

Heath and Havering Communion

The next monthly communion meeting will be on Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 5.30pm at Nelmes church, led by rev Brian Buschkill and rev Alison from Romford URC. These services are informal contemplative and last about 30 to 45 minutes. Everyone is very welcome to attend.



Are you in need of some

TLC

Trinity Leisure Club



**Join us for tea, biscuits
and indoor games.**



£1 per session

**Find us in the Roope Hall
Trinity Church, Upminster**

1 - 3 pm

Every Thursday



Craft and Coffee Mornings

Our Craft and Coffee mornings take place on the second Saturday of each month from 10am to 12pm. Money raised from the craft sale goes towards our church charity for the year, Harold Hill Foodbank.

Upcoming Craft and Coffee Mornings:

Saturday 10th February
Saturday 9th March
Saturday 13th April
Saturday 11th May
Saturday 8th June
Saturday 13th July
Saturday 10th August
Saturday 14th September
Saturday 12th October
Saturday 9th November
Saturday 14th December



Donations for the Foodbank are always being collected. All packaged or tinned foods are most welcome. The collection box is situated in the South Porch.

Items most needed are: tinned meat and fish, tinned fruit and vegetables, tinned tomatoes and rice pudding, long-life milk and fruit juice and instant mashed potato.



TRINITY URC

10AM-12PM

CRAFT SALE

COFFEE MORNING

SECOND SATURDAY

EVERY MONTH

In aid of the Harold Hill Foodbank

Sunday Services

February

4th	Communion	Rev Brian Buschkill
11th	Church Parade	Claire Bottone
18th		Rev Brian Buschkill
25th		Worship Group

March

3rd	Communion	Rev Ann Woodhurst
10th	Church Parade	Rev Brian Buschkill
17th		Tim Banks
24th		Rev Brian Buschkill
31st	Easter Sunday	Rev Brian Buschkill

All services start at 9:30am unless otherwise stated.

Trinity URC, 29 Station Rd, Upminster RM14 2SJ
www.heathandhaveringurc.co.uk