



The HEATH

WELCOME
BACK TO
CHURCH



News, Views & Comment from the
United Reformed Church, Chadwell Heath

50p

September 2020

Dear Friends,

Welcome Back, Chadwell Heath URC is opening again on 6th September 2020.

The service will start at the later time of 11:30am and will be a shorter service due to the fact that we are not allowed to sing.

Please can we ask that you enter the Church building through the front door.

Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance and other points around the building.

Please don't forget to wear your mask.

Look forward to seeing you.

The Elders.



Pastoral letter - August 2020

Dear Friends,

For many the month of August heralds an annual holiday. As I prepare to head North to Scotland, to visit family and friends, I am mindful that preparations are being made to re-open our churches. Let us hope and pray that we will soon be worshipping together. What a joyous time that will be!

This letter gives me the opportunity to thank the Elders and Office Holders, in our churches, for the admirable way they have executed their duties, especially during these 'strange times'. I quote from '*Being an Elder in the United Reformed Church*' by Stephen Mayor, 'If we are to follow the Biblical pattern it is right that a local congregation should have a body of dedicated men and women, carefully chosen and properly commissioned, to look after the welfare of the Church and its members in every way possible.'

In Acts 20:17-38 we are shown the kind of spirit that should be in the leadership body today. Luke tells us about Paul calling together the leaders of the church in Ephesus. He shares with them his life and ministry, including his concern regarding the future. He charges them to look after the congregation and its witness and the proclamation of the Gospel.

Nor do I forget the members of our congregations, for daily we should remind ourselves that we are not just 'a mass-produced product of human genes but each of us is a purpose made person with a unique place in God's story. Psalm 139 verses 13 & 14 reminds us, 'You, O God, created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.'

Indeed, we are called to share the load of Christian ministry, witness and service. The sharing of Christian fellowship includes sharing material things as well as doing 'spiritual' things. Helping neighbours, whether or not they are followers of Christ, has been a feature of many of your lives during the past few months, and I thank you most sincerely.

May you all, whether going away on holiday, or just enjoying your home and garden, keep safe and well.

Yours in Christ,

Ann



What's in Your Hand?

September is usually the time when we get back to our normal routines after the summer break. With the current coronavirus pandemic, it's very different this year! However, it is still a good time to consider how God can use us to make a real difference in our workplace, school, family, friends and community. He equips us with everything we need to make His love known.

When God gave Moses the job of bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, He asked the question, '*What is in your hand?*' (Exodus 4:2). Moses was holding his staff, which represented his livelihood (what he was good at); his resources (his flock represented his wealth) and his security (which God was asking him to lay down). God asks the same question of us: *What has God given you?* Our gifts, temperament, experience, relationships, mind, education can be used in the work God has given us to do. How will we use them to make a difference in the places where He calls us to serve Him?

John Ortberg, in his book *It All Goes Back in the Box*, speaks of Johnny, a 19-year-old with Downs syndrome. He worked at a supermarket checkout putting people's items into bags. To encourage his customers, he decided to put a *thought for the day* into the bags. Every night his dad would help him to prepare the slips of paper and he would put the thoughts into the bags saying, '*I hope it helps you have a good day. Thanks for coming here.*' A month later the store manager noticed that Johnny's line at the checkout was three times longer than anyone else's! People wanted Johnny's thought for the day. He wasn't just filling bags with groceries, he was filling lives with hope!

What has God given *you* that will help and encourage others?



In Memory of Harry Skipp



Some of these words will be familiar for those of you who managed to join us and watch the webcast from Dad's funeral service on the 21st August. They are just a few snippets of a very long life, lived well, as dad would have been 89 years old on 20th August this year.

Dad was born on 20th August 1931 to Florrie and John Skipp who lived at 144 Turners Road in Bow, East London. Dad always said that made him a true Cockney being born within the sound of Bow Bells.

They lived with Grandad and Grandma Pring (Florrie's parents) in a 4-storey house with steps leading up to the front door with a basement underneath.

Before the second world war Dad attended school at Thomas Road primary school and Sunday school at Edinburgh Castle Mission in Burdette Road. In his memoirs he also recalls waiting outside a pub for one of his uncles and being bought a lemonade and packet of crisps with a salt twist of blue paper!

It seems that Grandma Pring was reasonably well off. She was a money lender and owned an Austin 18 car, which they used to take out for family visits to Ramsgate, Margate or Maldon.

Dad's sister, Anne, was born in the London Hospital on 7th March 1937 on an apparently snowy day.

One of the abiding memories that Dad had was the radio announcement by Neville Chamberlain on 3rd September 1939 that Britain was at war with Germany. I guess that many children of the time would remember that fateful day as not long after, many children were evacuated to places thought less likely to experience air raids. In Dad's case his evacuation led him to stay in the village of West Huntspill in Somerset with a Mr & Mrs Horseman. The stay in Somerset must have been for about 2 years as Dad returned to London in 1942 and attended The Warren Senior Boys' School in Chadwell Heath from 1942 until 1945. On leaving school the headmaster wrote the following:

"During the time that Henry Skipp has attended this school, we have found him to be an honest, hardworking and trustworthy lad.

He has made great progress in all branches of the School work and has consistently occupied a good position in examinations." He goes on to say: "He has pleasing manners, and at all times endeavoured to give satisfaction to all concerned in the work of the School."

Mill Lane Congregation Church (now United Reformed Church) featured strongly in the life of Dad. It was where he met our Mum, Peggy, and where he was Church secretary for over 30 years and an deacon then elder until shortly before his move to Ash Grove Care Home in 2017.

Mum & Dad met, like others in the Skipp family, at Mill Lane Church and if memory serves me correctly, they both joined the choir and from then on love blossomed until they were married on 20th September 1952.

Around 1952/53 Dad did his National Service with the RAF where he learnt the skill of working with radar. I have a collection of books that show he spent some of his time studying the Old Testament and also a moral leadership course run for the RAF by the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches.

As we know, mum and dad enjoyed a family of 4 boys: Paul was born in 1955, Ian in 1957, David in 1959 and Jonathan in 1969. A great deal of family life was spent at our home in London Road, Romford and links with Chadwell Heath continued through church life at Mill Lane as Dad continued as church secretary and led the Junior Church Primary group for many years. He was also very involved for many years ensuring that the church did its bit to raise funds for Christian Aid, arranging door to door collections and helping out as the local coordinator.

Dad was a graphic designer, and much of his design skill was put to internal design changes in the church, making Christmas decorations, building a sailing dinghy and other small model boats and planes. Later in life this skill was put to making cards to raise funds for the church and putting his skill to producing the church magazine for a good number of years.

Much of his time was spent using a cine camera and taking photographs, all of which give us so many remarkable memories to look back on. There are a number of church related cine films, now as digital files, which are good to look back on and I am happy to share if any of you are interested. They include a Sunday School outing, a Youth Club camping trip and a 25 mile walk from Southend to raise funds for the church.

Our Dad, with Mum shared a very happy life together. Once retirement came their lives seemed to get even busier. As some of you will know Dad loved being involved in the church. He joined with others at regular working parties and could often be seen around the building sweeping up and ensuring everything was in good order. He was also quite happy to lead worship if required and continued his passions for singing hymns and sharing his thoughts about particular readings or hymns that meant something to him.

The Mill Lane church over twenties club that Dad and Mum joined as twenty- year olds, continued well into the retirement of all the members.

Dad was never really the same after Mum died and with his age came the onset of Alzheimer's disease which eventually robbed him of much of his memory, but he continued to be the gentleman he always was.

Dad leaves behind 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 6 Great Grandchildren.

Church Gardening Against the Odds?

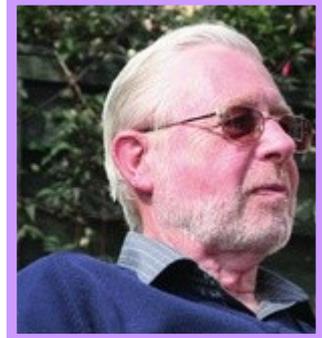


A motley collection of wild flowers starting in the lawn. It's been difficult bringing them through the heat wave but they're happier now. Hope they spread to a meadow next year!

Beryl

Dear Friends at Chadwell Heath,

Harry Skipp (20th August 1931 – 30th July
2020)



As many of you already know, Harry passed away recently after a long period of poor health and hospital stays during lockdown which were testing for him and the family.

I would like to make a personal tribute to Harry who was one of my first Sunday School teachers when I started at Chadwell Heath aged 7. Harry and his wife Peggy were a great influence on my childhood and journey towards Christianity and became lifelong friends.

Harry was a great family man and a faithful servant of the church, and I have many happy memories of Sunday School, Scripture Exams, parties and outings, church bazaars and picnics, choirs, pantomimes and musicals, house groups and... whatever the activity Harry and Peggy were there!

Due to current restrictions, I was unable to attend Harry's funeral but thanks to a webcam link I was able to pay my respects from home. It was a little strange regulations meant the service could have no singing for a man who sang his whole life but David led a great tribute to his Dad.

Rest in peace, Harry, safe with your Lord; singing, I'm sure, in heaven.

With my love to all the Skipp family,

Jill Hunt

He gave us eyes to see them:

'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael

The weeks and months of lockdown have been difficult and testing times for many of us, but they have also provided the opportunity to look afresh at the world of nature. With less traffic on the roads, less air pollution, and less noise pollution, the sky has somehow seemed bluer and the bird song more joyful and confident. It is appropriate that we focus this month on one such bird noted for its liquid, tinkling song – the goldfinch. In this month we also celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8 September, and so the painting is 'The Madonna of the Goldfinch' by Raphael.



Raphael was only 37 years old when he died in 1520, but his work is marked by maturity and great beauty. No more so than in this painting which shows Mary with a young Jesus and John the Baptist. You could easily miss the tiny bird which is carefully held by John and gently stroked by Jesus, who has one foot resting on His mother's. It is an intimate, tender scene which was painted in 1505 as a wedding gift for Lorenzo Nasi. It was badly damaged by an earthquake in 1548, painstakingly restored in the early part of this century, and now hangs in the Uffizi in Florence.

As we look, we rejoice in the grace and simplicity of the scene. We look again and ask ourselves 'Why a goldfinch?' The bird has a red spot on its head, and legend tells that the goldfinch flew down to the cross of Calvary to take a thorn from the crown of thorns. As it pulled the thorn in its beak, its head was splashed with a drop of blood.

And so this painting of gentleness and innocence opens out into a wider canvas of redemptive love. Our thoughts move from infancy to the cross. Mary, sat on a rock, is reading 'The Throne of Wisdom', and the artist is inviting us to ponder where true wisdom is found. Here, as we look at the wonder of nature and new life with a mother and children, but also as we look ahead to the 'wisest love' of Jesus who is our Redeemer.



A cup of joy!

A tea shop is a wondrous place
Where I for one just love to be!
A place to rest from life's harsh pace
And sit and drink a cup of tea!



Indeed, it's time to take a rest!
From all life's pressures, take a break!
And just today it might be best
To have a slice of home-made cake!

Saint Michael

Saint Michael, angel of the sea,
Lord of the horses he,
Saint Michael, of the angels king,
Of war, of shepherding;
On steed he flies across the skies;
The first-fruits of the harvest corn,
The first-fruits of the flock-lambs born,
Are his, he meets the soul forlorn.

The saints and angels watch o'erhead,
Their wings and prayers o'erspread:
The righteous ones in heaven wait,
St Peter at the gate;
In might arrayed they shield and aid;
Be with us e'er, archangel powers,
Be with us, angels, life's long hours.

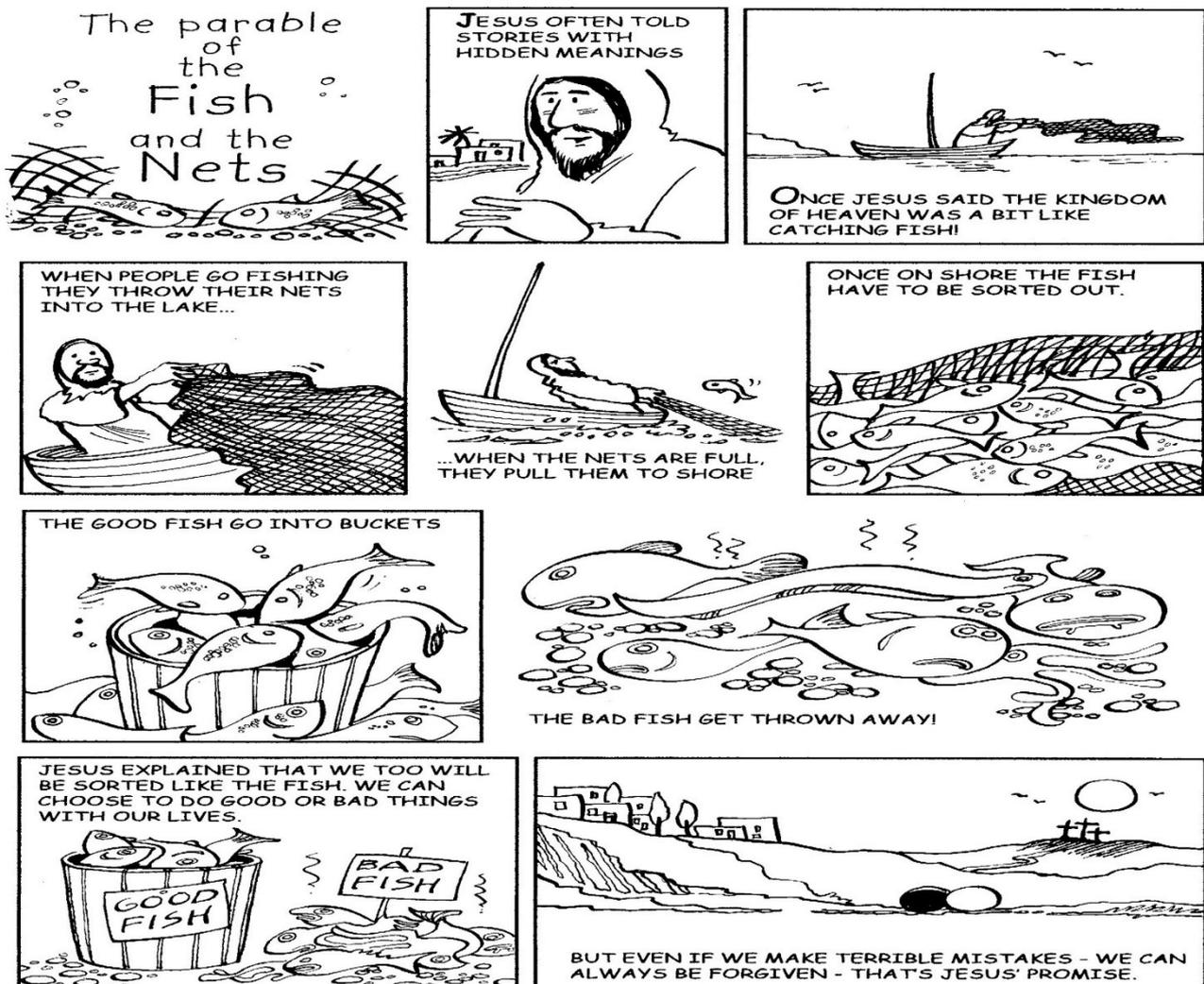


The another-must-have item for your home

Another "hard to find" item at present is men's hair clippers. When I checked Boots online site, of the 25 models they usually stock, only 3 were available (one of which was £99!)

I finally found the last set in Boots in the Brewery at Romford, (at a more sensible price) and transformed from an ageing hippy with hair over my collar and around my ears, to something more like the Mitchell brothers from Eastenders. You will have to wait for the Church to reopen to see the full effect!

David Sagers



Book Reviews

– a Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and its Aftermath

By Tom Wright, SPCK, £7.99

What are we supposed to think about the coronavirus crisis? Some people think they know: “This is a sign of the End,” they say. “It’s all predicted in the book of Revelation.”

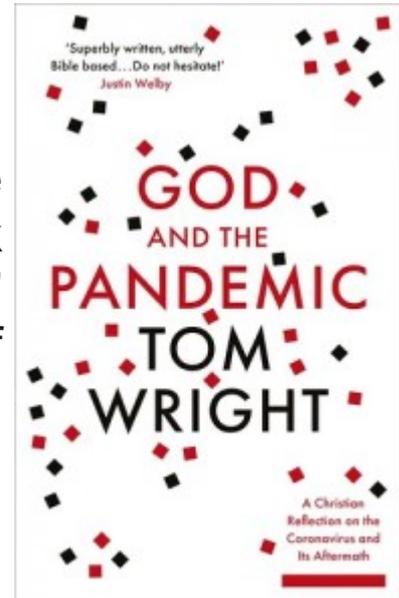
Others disagree but are equally clear: “This is a call to repent. God is judging the world and through this disease He’s telling us to change.” Some join in the chorus of blame and condemnation: “It’s the fault of the Chinese, the Government, the World Health Organization...”

Tom Wright examines these reactions to the virus and finds them wanting. Instead, he invites you to consider a different way of seeing and responding – a way that draws on the teachings and examples of scripture, and above all on the way of living, thinking and praying revealed to us by Jesus.

Anna Chaplaincy Carer's Guides pack

BRF, £10 per pack

How do we look after ourselves and others better in the wake of a health crisis such as Covid-19? This Carer’s Guide series offers practical help and guidance to carers who find themselves needing to provide spiritual support to older people or others in residential care.



Diary/Noticeboard:

Chadwell Heath + Heath & Havering Group of Churches

Foodbank: Thank you for your continued support. We are short of cereals, milk, tinned fruit, sweets, ketchup & pet food. We are very grateful to receive any non-perishable food items, as well as general items e.g. washing powder/liquid, washing up liquid, tin openers – plus all important personal/ female/ toiletries including soap, toothbrushes & toothpaste/toilet rolls & baby nappies, sizes 5/6.



Smile Lines for September

Late Being the office supervisor, I had to have a word with a new employee who never arrived at work on time. I explained that her tardiness was unacceptable and that other employees had noticed that she was walking in late every day.

After listening to my complaints, she agreed that this was a problem and even offered a solution. "Is there another door I could use?"

**

A sure way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes.

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On dating app: 'Princess, having had sufficient experience with princes, seeks frog.'

Our neighbour's son is very active in church – he squirms, wriggles and fidgets.

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Why is it that saying: "Have a nice day" sounds friendly, but saying "Enjoy your next 24 hours" sounds threatening?

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I told my suitcases that due to the pandemic, there will be no holiday this year. Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.

**

This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house and told my dog. We laughed a lot.



Happy Birthdays in September



Ann Woodhurst 1st, Jo Clifford 5th, Heather Saville 8th,
Caroline Grubb 17th, Dorothee Buurma 26th

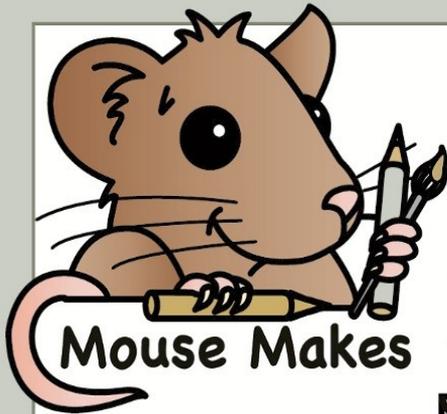
i	s	v	p	g	z	k	u	s	c	j	q	g
l	d	p	w	a	c	l	r	q	c	e	a	h
m	p	i	o	h	r	z	u	u	s	s	l	a
c	l	c	r	i	p	p	l	e	d	u	l	r
v	a	k	t	p	r	i	e	s	t	s	o	v
s	n	e	h	m	a	s	s	t	a	w	w	e
x	s	d	q	d	i	s	c	i	p	l	e	s
h	h	s	b	r	e	a	k	o	m	p	d	t
t	e	w	a	n	b	b	y	n	n	e	a	i
r	e	h	d	i	r	b	u	h	l	o	v	n
i	p	n	w	h	e	a	t	a	a	p	i	g
c	i	f	m	k	a	t	e	n	w	l	d	o
k	x	o	o	b	d	h	b	d	s	e	t	q

allowed
healed
harvesting
sheep
kindness
plans
question
wheat

disciples
Sabbath
break
people
rules
trick
Jesus
priests

crippled
bread
Pharisees
David
picked
hand
worth
laws





The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

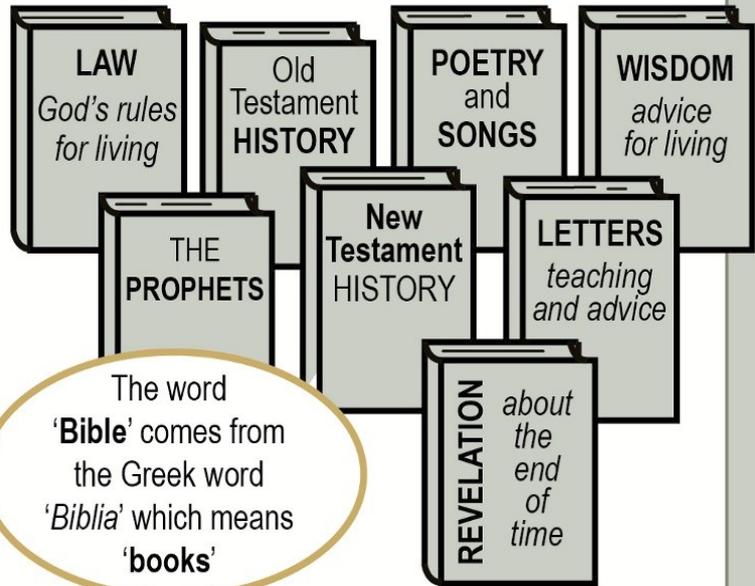
There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?



BIBLE WORDS

The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

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



The word '**Bible**' comes from the Greek word '*Biblia*' which means '**books**'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:

-  **Mirror**
James 1:23
-  **Food**
Hebrews 5:12- 6:1
-  **Honey and Gold**
Psalm 19:10
-  **Light**
Psalm 119:105
-  **Rain**
Isaiah 55:10-12
-  **Seed**
Mark 4:14
-  **Hammer**
Jeremiah 23:29
-  **Fire**
Jeremiah 20:9
-  **Living Word**
Hebrews 4:12
-  **Sword**
Ephesians 6:17

...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.



WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES
Foodbank, Thursday
10:00am - 12 noon.



Web site: <http://www.heathandhaveringurc.co.uk/chadwellheath.html>
Chadwell Heath URC is part of the Heath and Havering Group



**Inclusive
Church**



The
**United
Reformed
Church**



Please send any news, information or an article for the Heath to Dianne Crisp.

Email Dianne.crisp@ntlworld.com The deadline is Monday 21st September 2020 for the October issue.