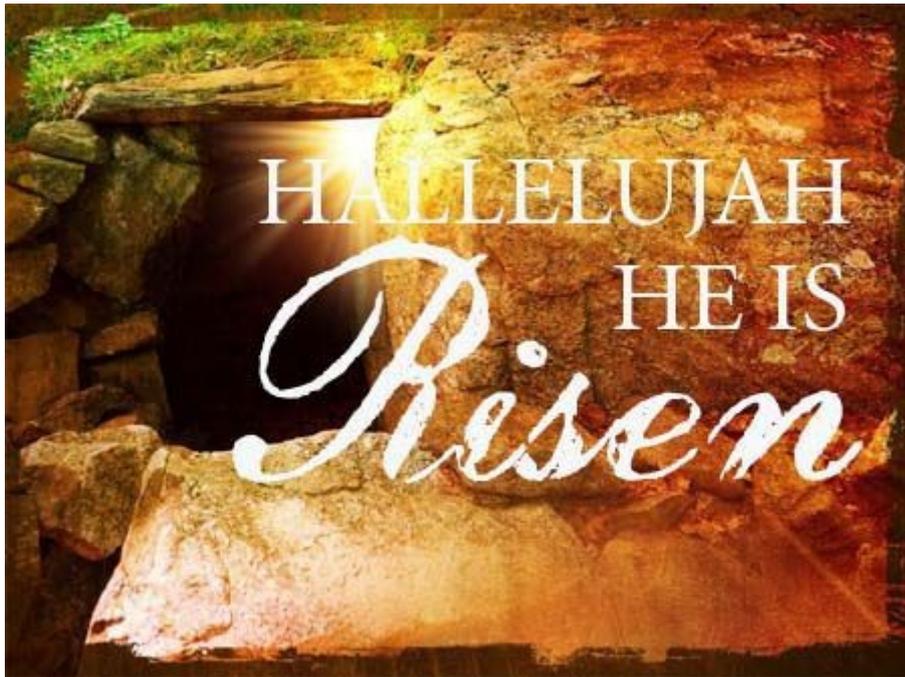


The HEATH



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

April 2018
50p

“We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor 1: 23-24, NRSV)

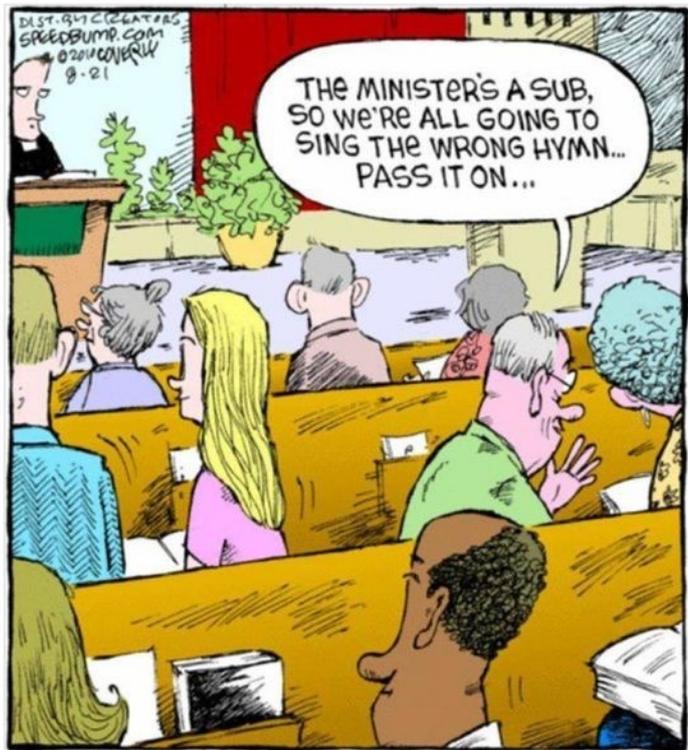
Dear Friends, HAPPY EASTER!

In my planning for Holy Week and Easter, I can't help thinking of Easter Sunday coinciding with April Fools Day this year. What is your best memory of an April Fools prank?

Mine is from my teenage years and actually happened in church:

During the notices, it was announced that the church needed to cut its costs to save money for some larger redecoration projects. For the year ahead, it had been decided to leave the heating turned off in church. Instead, people could bring their hot water bottles along to worship!

Naturally, one good soul appeared in church the following Sunday, dutifully carrying her hot water bottle. (This was probably one of those moments when the minister decided to stop including pranks in his notices on April Fools Days)



At Easter, church members and friends will once again be celebrating the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ as the central message of our Christian faith. While many people in our world focus primarily on chocolate eggs, baby animals and flowers this Easter, we have a very different story to remember and to share: the Good News of God's love, revealed in Christ. The message of the cross seems foolish to many who see only the wisdom of this world. An accused criminal serving his death sentence as a political prisoner posing a threat to national security - surely many would support this kind of punishment!

"But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, ... so that no one might boast in the presence of God." (1 Cor 1: 27-29, NRSV).

God, in Jesus, challenged the rulers of the world and their laws. Surely only a fool would annoy the religious authorities as much as Jesus did after entering into Jerusalem (and the Gospel stories of the Passion narrative from Palm Sunday on are worth re-reading on our journey towards Easter!) Surely he couldn't expect there to be no consequences of his actions and words.

However, not all was finished on the day of Jesus' crucifixion. The foolishness of Jesus' selfless, loving, rebellious death became an example of God's grace for us. As Creation itself groaned in agony at his death, God's wisdom was revealed - to the most unlikely people of the time: the Romans, the women. Love replaced evil deeds and thoughts, and the risen Christ became a beacon of hope to the people.

This Easter, let us share the Good News by sharing God's love selflessly, abundantly, and unconditionally with the people around us. God promises new life!

"Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Cor 5: 17)

May God bless your Eastertide!

Your minister *Dorothee*

CHURCH DIARY APRIL

Sunday 1st	11:15am	Easter Day. Holy Communion — Revd. Dorothee Bäärma Communion Table -Angela
Wednesday 4th	7pm	Elders Meeting
Thursday 5th	10.00am	Foodbank, Coffee & Conversation, Church Library time
Sunday 8th	11:15am	Tim Banks
	6:30pm	Evening Communion at Western Road
Monday 9th	7pm	Elders Meeting
Thursday 12th	*Foodbank will be closed from 12 th April until 10 th May, due to the refurbishment of the kitchen and the local elections on 3 rd May.	
Sunday 15th	11:15am	Revd. Dorothee Bäärma Followed by Refreshments - Angela & Christina
Sunday 22nd	11:15am	Chris Knowles
Sunday 29th	11.15am	Brenda Brinditt

*** During our Refurbishment the alternative Foodbank Centres are as follows:**

1. Church of the Ascension, Collier Row Road, opposite Collier Row Library. Fridays 12.30-2.30.

2. St Edwards Church, Wykeham Centre, Market Place, Romford. Wednesdays 10.30-12.30.

3. Romford Baptist Church, Main Road, Opposite Police Station. Mondays 12-2.

Worship Themes March

The Junior Church are using different teaching guides for each age group and the themes listed below are based on the Lectionary and will possibly be used by those leading our worship.

April 1, 2018 <i>Easter Day</i>	* <u>Acts 10:34-43</u> or <u>Isaiah 25:6-9</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 15:1-11</u> or <u>Acts 10:34-43</u>	<u>John 20:1-18</u> or <u>Mark 16:1-8</u>
April 8, 2018	* <u>Acts 4:32-35</u>	<u>1 John 1:1-2:2</u>	<u>John 20:19-31</u>
April 15, 2018	* <u>Acts 3:12-19</u>	<u>1 John 3:1-7</u>	<u>Luke 24:36b-48</u>
April 22, 2018	* <u>Acts 4:5-12</u>	<u>1 John 3:16-24</u>	<u>John 10:11-18</u>
April 29, 2018	* <u>Acts 8:26-40</u>	<u>1 John 4:7-21</u>	<u>John 15:1-8</u>

Happy Birthdays in April



*3rd Dianne Crisp, 5th Henry Clifford,
9th Evie Catlin & Emelia Williams, 12th Lidia
Catlin, 18th Bethany Thomas, 20th Joan Bentley*



Is anyone interested in having film evenings now and again? If so, please speak to her or any Elder and we will try to organise these as there is plenty of material for reflection on films with a Christian perspective.

Dorothee

Do you require Prayer?

Should a quiet time for **private prayers** be requested before any service, please speak to an Elder who will accompany you or ensure your privacy in the Quiet Room.



Prayer

A graphic with a light yellow background. On the left side, there are three pink lilies with green leaves and buds. A dotted yellow line forms a large circle around the text. The text is centered within this circle.

A Prayer for Easter Eyes

My Lord, Jesus,
You have risen to new life!
Give me new eyes with which to recognize
your presence in the world around me.
Sharpen my vision so that I see beyond the
ordinary events of each day and into the
extraordinary reality of your grace.
Brighten my view of the world with renewed
hope in the coming of your Kingdom.
Soften my gaze so that I view others with the
kind of tenderness and compassion you
showed to so many.
May each day of this Easter season provide
glimpses of your glory.
In your sacred name, I pray.
Amen.

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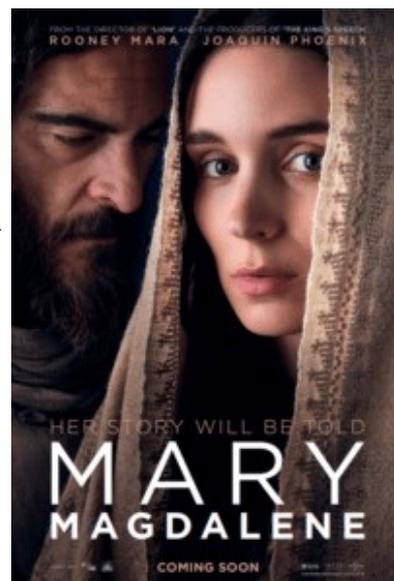
I was reading my copy of the Reader's Digest today and found this as part of an article on concrete structures that I thought I would share with you.....

'The original brochure for Bristol's Clifton Cathedral, which was commemorated in 1965, explained that "Most informed Christians are well aware that the buildings we call churches are not strictly essential for Christianity. It's the Christian him/herself who is the temple of the living God".'

Elaine

MARY MAGDALENE-THE MOVIE

I went to see this film as there have been many interpretations of the character of Mary Magdalene over the last two millennia. A review I read before I went, was, I felt somewhat negative so I needed to make my own mind up.



The film was slow to get going while it showed Mary (played by Rooney Mara) and her relationship with her family. However once she left to follow Jesus (Joaquin Phoenix) the film stepped up a gear. The storyline now shifted to Jesus' preaching and performance of some of his miracles. Some of these scenes I felt were very moving.

Bearing in mind this was a film about Mary and not Jesus the focus of the film next centered on the disciples' reaction to her place amongst them, which was somewhat mixed.

We also find her present at the entry into Jerusalem and the Last Supper. After Jesus' arrest and trial which she is not aware of, due to having been knocked unconscious by a Roman soldier, she then witnesses his Crucifixion. This is very graphically portrayed. She then is present at his burial.

She, of course, is the first to experience the Resurrection and has then to tell his disciples who not surprisingly do not believe her. They had been portrayed in the film mostly as a group of revolutionaries expecting the new kingdom on earth. It was left to her to tell them the true meaning of Christ's message.

On the whole a thoroughly thought provoking film, and if you get the chance I would highly recommend that you go and see it.

Tim Marshall

Treasurers Report 2017

Last year's income was derived from offertory, hall hire, manse rent and miscellaneous and totalled £33240. Of this offertory accounted for £ 11370 (£1020 or 8% down), with a further £2775 recovered under Gift Aid. This represents 42% of our income (same as last year).

The manse provided an income of £6650 with £890 expenses (20% of income).

Miscellaneous income (magazine, photocopying, donations) totalled £330 or 1% of income.

The remainder of the income came from hall hire and produced £12111 or 36% of income. This is £2040 less than last year.

From this income we paid all our routine expenses including £13250 Ministry and Mission (up £400 on last year), £1800 cleaning, and £5025 heating, water and insurance. We spent £1475 on administration, and gave a total of £895 to various charities. Pastoral expenses amounted to £1475 (£1300 down) and we spent £510 on pulpit supply, £350 less than last year.

At the end of the year we had a surplus of £7925 which was transferred into repair account.

We did not hold a Gift Day this year. (Oversight!)

Capital Account – with addition of bank interest of £15 the account closed with a balance of £16785 having bought pew cushions and tablecloths.

Repair Account. We spent £765 on gas and electrical work, £585 on gardening, £5075 on roof and drains, £475 on sundry items, and £900 on quinquennial survey. Fundraising events raised £275. The balance stands at £36930 after adding surplus of Church Account.

Junior Church account has been unused for several years so the balance of £867 was transferred into Capital Account.

Church giving to Christian Aid throughout the year amounted to £240.

From our Christmas Offertories we donated £290 each to Street Pastors and Alzheimers Society.

At the end of the year the Church assets stood at

Capital Account	£16785
Repair Account	£36930
Loan Account	<u>£ -3800</u>
	£49915

Our total assets have decreased by almost £4000, arising from unexpected drain renewal following the appearance of a large crack in the Church costing £2400, and necessary refurbishment of the hall floor costing £2000.

Our expenses are likely to increase next year as energy costs have increased by 20%, and we now employ cleaning contractors. We also have agents managing our manse which has an additional cost so manse income is reduced.

Whilst we have lost some hall hirings, we have gained others, due to start in January.

With the declaration of a 1/2 minister vacancy for Western Road and Heaton Way, from 2018 we will be sharing Dorothee's expenses and manse maintenance between 3 churches rather than 5. It is difficult to predict what effect this will have on our finances.

David Sagers

Refurbishment Works: The kitchen will be closed from noon Sunday 8th April to noon Sunday 29th April. General Church Maintenance Works have started so please be careful around the building.

QUIET DAY
TUESDAY 29TH MAY 2018



RETREAT HOUSE
PLESHEY

Meeting in Stapleford Church car park at 9.15am and returning by 5.00pm.

The cost including transport and lunch would be £18 per head.

The Diocesan Retreat House Pleshey, is set in one of the most attractive villages in Essex. This is a chance to get away from the hustle & bustle of daily life, and remain quiet or have relaxed discussions. If you would like to come please see Roger, or contact him Tel: 01992 815838

Email: rogergayler@btinternet.com



SUNDAY SERVICES



10.30am Prayer Time

11.15am Morning Worship

Family All Age Worship 2nd Sunday

Holy Communion 1st Sunday

Heath & Havering Group Holy Communion

2nd Sunday in the month at 6.30pm

(at alternate Churches)

WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Elders Meeting second Monday in the month 7.00pm

Foodbank, Coffee & Conversation, Church Library

time, Thursday 9:30am

Minister

Revd Dorothee Bührma

RevdDorothee@t-online.de Tel:01708228489

Web site: <http://www.heathandhaveringurc.co.uk/chadwellheath.html>

Chadwell Heath URC is part of the Heath and Havering Group

**Please send any news, information or an article for the Heath to Dianne Crisp. Email Dianne.crisp@ntlworld.com
The deadline is Wednesday 25th April 2018 for the May issue.**