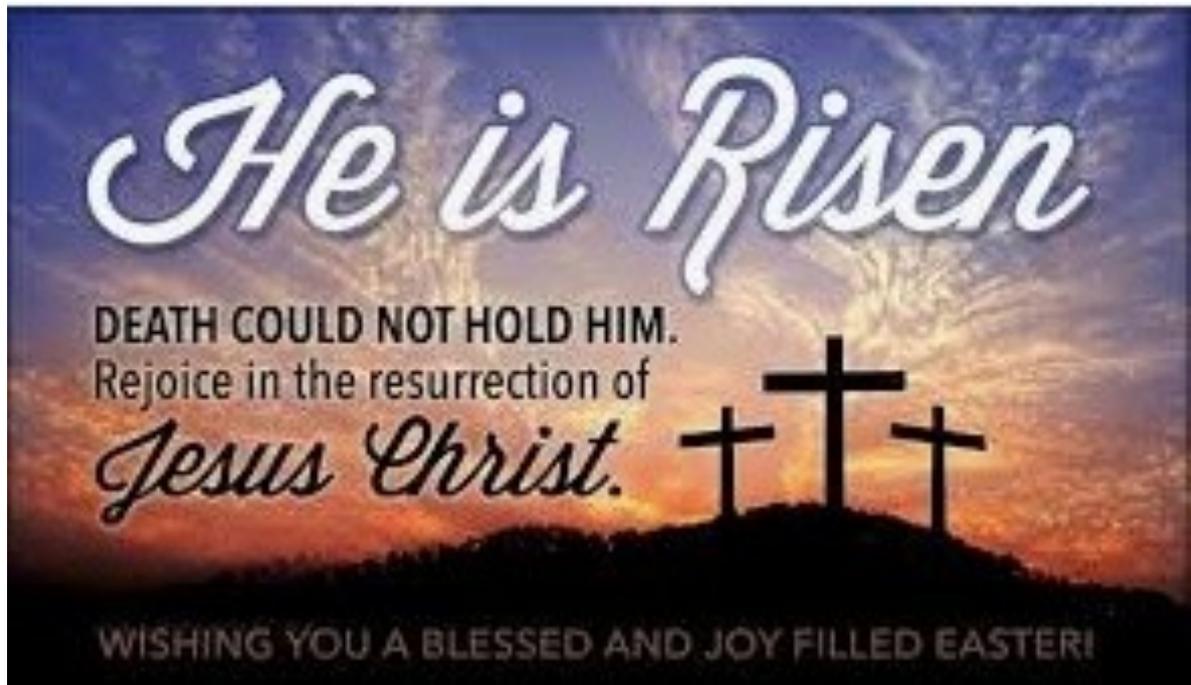




The HEATH



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

Easter 2020

50p

Dear Friends,

I wanted to send you a message, to reassure you that as a congregation you are in the thoughts and prayers of many, especially the other Heath and Havering Churches.

Solomon and I would like you all to know how sad we were to hear of Elaine's death.

To many of you she was a very dear friend, but to us all she was an active and long standing servant of Chadwell Heath United Reformed Church. She was faithful to the end.

Circumstances do not permit us to gather to say our final farewells to Elaine, but I am sure we will all wish to arrange a service of thanksgiving for her life as soon as our church doors are open again.

from John 14: verses 1-6

In John's Gospel we read,

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God; trust also in me.

In my Father's house there are many mansions;

if it were not so, I would have told you.

I am going there to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back and take you to be with me

that you also may be where I am.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

And in answer to Thomas' question Jesus said,

'I am the way and the truth and the life.'

Please join me in prayer as we commit Elaine to God's care and ask for comfort and peace for her remaining family members and for ourselves.

Now that the earthly life of Elaine has come to an end,

we commend her soul to God's eternal care.

Go, silent dear friend

your life has found its ending;

to dust returns your weary mortal frame.

Remember that we are all dust,

like grass, like a flower of the field.

One moment we burst into bloom,

then vanish, vanish forever.

Go silent friend, your life has touched us,

So dear Lord, let rest eternal be granted to her,

and let light perpetual shine upon her. Amen.

and continuing in prayer

Almighty God,

We pray for each one affected by Elaine's death
for you all took part in her life story;

Father God, reach out and encircle everyone here
in this moment with Your loving arms.

Grant to us all the comfort You have promised to all who mourn.

To each member of the family, especially Janice and Wendy
we ask that You will bring them the help that is needed at this time; the
strength to endure sorrow in all its intensity
and to face death in all its apparent finality.

For all the members of the congregation, we ask that You will bring the help
that is needed at this time;

the strength to endure sorrow in all its intensity
and to face death in all its apparent finality.

We give thanks, Lord, for the ongoing work of Queens Hospital and King
Georges Hospital, and the many organisations that are offering help to
others.

Lord in Your mercy, we ask that you will keep us safe and
hear our prayer.

Amen.

Just remember memories can never be taken from you.
Nothing can detract from the joy and beauty
you have all shared with our dear friend.

An extract from 'Footprints'

One night I had a dream.

I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord,
and across the sky flashed scenes of my life....

I noticed that many times along the path of life,
there was only one set of footprints.

I questioned the Lord, who replied,

'My precious, precious child, I love you and would never,
never leave you during your times of trial and suffering.

When you see only one set of footprints -

It was then that I carried you'.

Keep safe, and know that there are those who care about each one of you.

Yours in Christ,

Ann

25 March 2020

An Important message from the Treasurer.

We are going through unprecedented times, and never before has our Church been closed like this. Whilst we are all worried regarding the effect on our lives of this viral infection, I am sure that all of us are missing the opportunity to worship and share fellowship together.

Our income comes from offertories, hall hiring's and manse rent. During this period when we are unable to meet personally, the running expenses of the Church continue. Direct Debits for Ministry and Mission, utility bills, and cleaning alone cost £1650 a month. This crisis could not have come at a worse time for the Church as we have just started to repay a £40,000 loan to Synod for refurbishing our manse. The loan repayments are £720 a month, met from manse rent, with the remainder going in to Church funds.

Of course, to make matters worse, all of our hall hirers have closed so we have also lost the income from them (around £1400 a month) which is vital to our Church running costs. Our offertories average around £800 a month and expenses are around £900 a month. Our personal giving is an expression of our discipleship and this income is vital to the Church at this time. I would therefore encourage you all to continue with your regular financial support.

Many of you use the offertory envelope scheme and this acts as a reminder to contribute weekly, even if you do not attend every week (our expenses are still there even if you are not!) During this difficult time there are other ways in which you can make your donations. The most efficient way is by standing order or bank transfer. (Our bank details are CAFbank, A/c name Chadwell Heath United Reformed Church, Sort code 40-52-40, account No 00005219 – also giving your name to identify payments.) Alternatively you could send me cheques – hopefully banks will remain open to pay them in! Cash could be posted in the Church letterbox on the left hand side door by the bin store area. Perhaps monthly payments would be the most convenient way at present. To anyone not using the envelope scheme, particularly if you pay income tax, please contact me for details of how I can recover 25% of your donations under Gift Aid at no cost to yourself.

Whilst we have around £22,000 of assets, nearly £10,000 is earmarked for repairs. If we do not maintain our personal giving to the Church we could quickly deplete our funds and put our survival as a Church at risk.

David Sagers Tel: 01708-442831

david.sagers@yahoo.co.uk

SPRING LUNCH

Spring lunch on 1st March was a small but happy gathering. Tea and too much pudding followed and plenty of good humoured chatter. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the wonderful spread.



Beryl Allison

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham continues his look at various Psalms.

Psalm 22: Why have you forsaken me?

'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Psalm 22:1 & Matt 27:46). *Where is God?* is a common question voiced today and shared by Jesus on the cross on the first Good Friday. This question is answered in the psalm, as we look through the lens of Jesus' crucifixion.

It is a real question: Both David and Jesus question God about the pain and darkness of their experience. It is a real question for all suffer, yet they are still able to hold onto a God of love, who has their lives in His hands: *'Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.'* (3).

It requires faith to ask: Their complaint about the apparent absence of God is not a sign of losing faith in Him. David remembers those who have trusted God in the past and been saved from their troubles: *'In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and You delivered them.'* (4). Just like Jesus on the cross, we are able to entrust ourselves *'to Him who judges justly.'* (1 Peter 2:23).

It is answered in experience: When David cried out to God, he experienced his deliverance: *'For He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden His face from him but has listened to his cry for help.'* (24). As a result, David was able to praise God and witness to His faithfulness.

The fulfilment of these verses are seen in Jesus' resurrection, which we celebrate on Easter Sunday. He was vindicated by God and has become the source of life and hope for all who trust themselves to Him.

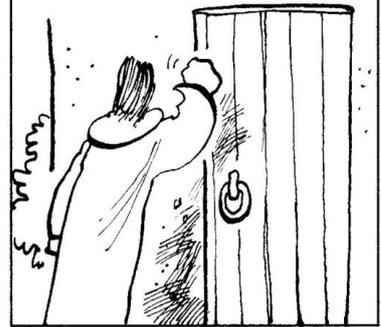
In answer to the question *'Where is God?'*, we hear the answer, *'Look to the cross of Jesus!'*

Words and Actions

JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS - AND HE OFTEN WENT WALKING WITH THEM.



ONCE, ON A JOURNEY, JESUS CALLED AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY



MARTHA WAS VERY PLEASED TO MEET WITH JESUS, AND SHE MADE HIM WELCOME



MARY WAS VERY EXCITED TOO AND WANTED TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING JESUS HAD TO SAY



BUT MARTHA, WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSED WITH MARY! SHE THOUGHT HER SISTER SHOULD BE HARD AT WORK. NOT SITTING AROUND - JUST LISTENING



LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT MARY HAS LEFT ME TO DO ALL THE WORK BY MYSELF?!



MARTHA, YOU ARE WORRIED AND TROUBLED OVER SO MANY THINGS



JESUS TOLD MARTHA THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN JUST FUSSING OVER A CLEAN HOUSE!



PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN LEARN, LIKE MARTHA, IS TO MAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO JESUS.



See Luke 10.38-42

Church Maintenance Report

First of all I would like to express my sorrow, along with everyone else, at the devastating loss of Elaine. Elaine has been very helpful to me regarding maintenance matters over the years, in particular liaising with hall hirers when there was maintenance work to be done around the hall, and for facilitating through the Thursday food bank a means of getting a few in-house jobs done – with much appreciated help from David Saggars (and cake from Angela).

We had to cancel our March AGM this year, as you will know, so I have offered my Report to Dianne Crisp to put into the Heath magazine. You never know, during this lockdown period it might actually get read! Anyhow, enjoy

1. Work January to March 2020.

There are three months to report on since the previous Church Meeting in November 2019. Work carried out during the period January to March 2020 is shown in the table. 9 in-house jobs have been carried out, plus 5 contracted jobs to the total value of £940.

Unfortunately in January we needed to undertake some electrical and plumbing repairs (never cheap!). Firstly to replace the heating element in the kitchen hot water cylinder and replace some faulty external security lights. Then on top of this we needed to repair some plumbing in the main toilets. This resulted in a total spend on contract work of £940. This is still a good saving on the budget amount of £1500 per quarter.

As long as the church lock down continues, and income is greatly reduced (from which maintenance costs are funded), I shall keep maintenance down to the minimum essentials. Luckily we have no outstanding maintenance problems at the moment.

2. Summary of 2019 work

The total cost of contract work during 2019 was £4,870. This is about 20% less than the budget target of £6,000. There were high renovation costs for the Ashton Gardens property, coming from both the church reserves and a Thames North Synod loan. These will be recouped over time from the property rental but in the meantime we will continue to keep a close eye on maintenance costs.

The full list of work undertaken in 2019 is given in the table below.

Of particular note in 2019 are:

Following the accident in the ramp room, although not attributed to any church failings, prompted some changes to the ramp surfacing and the positioning of the light switches in the car park lobby and ramp room.

Worthy of note is the valuable input, free of charge, from Craven Court and a couple of its residents, with weeding and tree and hedge cutting along the western side of the church. This will be very helpful to us in reducing gutter problems from leaf fall, and in making the west side of the church more manageable.

In the church itself, we finally solved the ongoing roof leak above the projector by hiring a scaffold to access the loft space, from which we could locate and direct the roofer to the source of the problem. We have also installed new LED main lighting to the church to replace the old halogen spotlights.

We have also redecorated the two rooms between the church and the hall with a well chosen soft yellow and white, replacing the harsh dark brown and blue. Everyone seems to be happy with the outcome.

MAINTENANCE LOG FOR YEAR 2019

Month 2019	In-house work	Contracted work	
		Work items	£ cost
Jan	Black/yellow tape fixed to ramp kerb in Orange Room	Remedial EICR work (order placed) Roof repair above projector and adjacent west tower Identify circuit fault and install new light fitting in Orange Room.	(in abeyance) 150 203
Feb	Ease door to kitchen immersion heater cupboard Trial removal of grease stains hall floor.	Relay surfacing to internal ramp. Fit two way switches in Passage room. Fit new external light in car park.	200 500
Mar	Replace broken plug and chain Ministers toilet. Replace missing hooks on hall curtains. Remove curtains and poles from hall windows for Charren Club. Fit hooks to immersion cupboard for brush etc. Fit soap dispensers ladies and gents toilets. Fit towel rail on kitchen door.	Replace main lighting in church Remove scaffold from gallery Retain scaffold boards in roof space.	950 -- 40
Mar	Church meeting 17 March		
Apr	Paint immersion cupboard in kitchen. Clean hall heater filters. Rehang curtains in hall.	Replace faulty switches in hall, by fire exit and by ramp room door. Inspect faulty switch and tape off out of use, ramp room adjacent to hall door.	117
May			
June	Remodel front left garden edging. Fix Baby Changing sign to disabled toilet door. Fit new door closer to kitchen. Adjust daylight setting hall side passage. Test lights to hall fire exit with daylight sensor disabled. Clean centre ceiling light in ramp room. Repair screen at ladder store.	Clear all gutters and downpipes (church and hall) Vulcana gas service Weedkiller to west side, hall north side, and car park perimeter. Renew distorted length of gutter, hall north side.	120 394 150 135
july	Church meeting 7 July Fix gutter "caterpillar" leaf guards Quiet Room roof. Clear out Games Room for hire use.	Reposition ext light by hall fire exit. Fit new urinal flush system in gents toilets	Foc 335

Aug	Fix gutter caterpillar to west aisle gutter.		
Sept	Fix Hot Surface stickers to church heaters. Fix Not Drinking Water stickers in toilets. Fix notice on hall front door regarding checking lock. Replace bulb in Ministers toilet. Fix leak in disabled toilet	Annual PAT testing New batteries to Fire Exit signs in hall Lower remaining two external hall lights	196 162 foc
Oct	Weed within light wells to ramp room. Remove guards from wall heaters ramp room and games room. Replace bulb in Ramp Room.	Redecorate Ramp Room and Games Room Prune shrubs and weed beds incl moss and weeds at side of hall. Investigate power outage to timer switches. Repair phase fault to incoming power supply. Weeding and tree cutting to west side.	911 100 100 foc foc
Nov			
Dec		Replace faulty heater switches in hall.	107

MAINTENANCE WORK UNDERTAKEN JAN 2020 TO MAR 2020

Month	In-house Other jobs this month	Contracted work this month	
		Item	Cost
Jan	Install clock in kitchen. Clean and refit urinal trap, gents toilet. Disconnect small washbasin gents wc. Remove decorations.	(Replace faulty security lights west side.	390
		(Replace faulty immersion heater element. Repair faulty cistern in gents wc and replace pipework to urinal.	250
Feb	Clear circular gully in car park. Clear linear surface drain in car park. Reset RCD to Apse circuits.	(Fit roller catch to ministers wc.	70
		(Cover hole on floorboards in church. (Raise sticking weatherguards to church front door. Free vertical slides on pulpit.	30
Mar	Investigate spillages gents wc. Replace broken handrail bracket to ramp room.	Check gutters and downpipes all round	200
	Church Meeting 29 Mar 2020	TOTAL	940

Finally, as always many thanks to everyone who continues to provide support in maintenance matters.

Brian Allison

Treasurers Report 2019

The figures.

Last year's income was derived from offertory, hall hire, manse rent and miscellaneous and totalled £32598. Of this offertory and gift aid accounted for £ 12650 (£354 or 2.75% down). This represents 39% of our income.

The manse provided an income of £2825 with £6551 expenses (8% of income)

Miscellaneous income (magazine,) totalled £53 or 0.1% of income. The remainder of the income came from hall hire and produced £17065 or 52% of income.

From this income we paid all our routine expenses including £12600 Ministry and Mission (£1020 down on last year), £3304 cleaning (up by £127), and £5637 heating, water and insurance. We spent £1391 on administration, and gave a total of £805 to various charities. Pastoral expenses amounted to £1860 (£35 up) and we spent £640 on pulpit supply, £80 less than last year. At the end of the year we had a deficit of £193 which was met from Capital account.

We did not hold a Gift Day this year.

Capital Account – with addition of bank interest of £23 the account closed with a balance of £10978 having bought a microwave and sound desk chair, and contributed £10,000 to manse refurbishment.

Repair Account.

We spent £2695 on electrical work, £832 on plumbing, £510 on fire extinguisher and gas heater maintenance, £354 on gardening, £1152 on decorating and £3300 towards manse refurbishment. Fundraising events raised £71. The balance stands at £10978
Church giving to Christian Aid throughout the year amounted to £156

From our Christmas Offertories we donated £275 each to Samaritans and Macmillan cancer care

At the end of the year the Church assets stood at

Capital Account	£11053.27
Repair Account	£10978.36
Loan Account	<u>£ -1600</u>
	£20431.63

Our offertory income fell by £350 this year (2.75%) whilst our hall hiring income rose by £5350 (45%) Our expenditure exceeded our income by £193 due to significant work on our manse.

Our total assets are £13,050 lower than last year, again due to refurbishment of the manse. These assets are split between Repair account (for regular property maintenance) and Capital account (our emergency reserve).

We did not receive any manse rent for 8 months following the death of our tenant and the need to refurbish it before re-letting. A new tenant is now in place and rent will start in January.

David Sagers

Treasurers Report 2019

The Explanation

Over the last 2 years our assets have reduced by £30,000 (60%). However whilst this gives some concern, it is readily explained. We started 2018 with £50,000, which was reduced to £33,500 due to substantial work carried out on the Church under the 5 year maintenance programme. We thought we were reasonably stable at that point but in 2019 our long term manse tenant died and it was necessary to refurbish the property before it could be relet. The total spent on it was £57,300, for which we received a loan of £40,000, paying £17,300 from our own funds. This reduced our total assets to £20,400. The interest on the loan is presently £100/month.

We did not receive any rent after April whilst the work was being done, although there were still bills such as council tax to be paid, and the Landlords Licence (renewable every 5 years) cost a further £910.

On the positive side, we are in the process of selling our share in Jim Dalglish's manse, which will enable us to reduce our loan liability by around £20,000. We have new tenants in the manse and the rent now achieved is just over double the previous tenancy. This increase in rent will be used to repay the loan over about 3 years, so it will be some time before we see the full benefit.

I started 2020 with around £10,000 in Repair account (by its very name to be used for routine maintenance and repairs on our aging building) and £10,000 in Capital account, providing an emergency reserve fund for any unforeseen circumstances, or the purchase of new equipment. Most jobs are now carried out by contractors although work done personally by our Fabric Secretary and his careful organising of contractors helps to keep those costs to a minimum.

Our day to day Church running costs are funded by offertories, manse rent and hall hiring. From this we pay Ministry & Mission (which pays Ministers stipends etc), pulpit supply, cleaning, heating, insurance, administration and our own manse expenses.

When a minister is appointed we will share their pastoral expenses (car allowance, mileage/parking, books, worship resources, stationery, phone/internet). We will also contribute to the costs of their manse at Upminster, a responsibility which continues whilst the property remains empty awaiting a minister.

Last year the average weekly offertory received in the plates was £194. If our average attendance was 15, this would equate to £13 per person per week. However I do reclaim £50/week (£3.30/person) in tax recovery under Gift Aid. (When did you last review your giving?)

Against this, our expenses were £630/week of which Ministry and Mission alone accounted for £242/week.

Our manse rent should now start to cover the costs such as insurance and repayment of the loan, and hopefully there will be little other expenditure as the property has been fully refurbished. There is still a shortfall of income against expenditure, and this would be a problem were it not for the use of our premises by other organisations. We have Charren Womens Club, a Tuition Group, Weightwatchers, Christian Apostolic Church and Friday Prayer Group meeting weekly, and Residents Association meeting monthly. The premises are used for around 85 hours a month plus our own use for services and foodbank.

David Sagers

The prayers of Hippolytus (c 190 – c 236), though he lived in the third century, profoundly influenced 20th century liturgical writers. He was a priest in Rome who was deported to Sardinia during a persecution, where he died. His hymn for Easter was widely used throughout the Western Church.

Easter, our Marriage Ceremony

You have protected us, Jesus, from endless disaster.
You spread Your hands over us like wings.
You poured Your blood over the earth,
Because You loved us.
The anger which we deserved You turned away from us
And restored us to friendship with God.

The heavens may have Your spirit, paradise Your soul,
But the earth has Your blood.
We celebrate the coming of your Spirit always:
The Spirit leads the mystic dance throughout the year.
But Easter comes and goes.
Power came from heaven to raise You from death,
So that we and all creatures could see You.
All living things gather round You at Easter.
There is joy, honour, celebration, delight.

The darkness of death is driven away.
Life is restored everywhere.
The gates of heaven are thrown open.
In You, risen Jesus, God has shown us Himself,
So we can rise to Him as gods.
The gates of hell are shattered.
In you, risen Jesus, those already dead rise to life,
Affirming the good news of eternal life.
Now Your promise has been fulfilled.
Now the earth is singing and dancing.
Easter is our marriage ceremony.
At Easter, dear Jesus, You make us Your brides...

A Prayer of Hippolytus



Useful tips

I recently helped Beryl with the refreshments in the church hall after Sunday service. I was very impressed, as apparently were others, with Beryl's idea of putting some boiling water in the bottom of the cups before the service, so that they were then up to room temperature or above by the end! No more coffee or tea going cold too quickly once poured.

This prompted a discussion at the next foodbank morning about useful tips we could perhaps share through the Heath magazine. My contribution is as follows:

Have you ever lost the end of the sellotape, stuck down on the roll, and on finding a "ridge" were not sure which way to try and peel it? Well worry no more. When you buy a roll, on the inside of the cardboard ring around which the sellotape is wound, draw three spaced out arrows in the direction of unwinding. It works a treat, believe me.

If you have any little tips ("wrinkles" they used to call them where I came from), please send them in to the Heath.

Brian



Artwork, Mice At Prayer

By Deborah Nobel



Happy Birthdays In April



Dianne Crisp 3rd, Henry Clifford 5th, Evie Catlin
9th, Emelia Williams 9th, Lidia Catlin 12th,
Christina Buxton 22nd



Heath & Havering URC
United in Christ

True leadership — Word Search

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

special
mud
example
teacher
Passover
bless
bickering
road

celebrating
feet
servant
serve
Jesus
important
least
bowl

Peter
later
robe
disciples
bath
wash
towel
understand

Smile-lines for April

Palm waving

It was Palm Sunday, but five-year-old Jamie stayed at home with mum because of a bad cold. When his father and sisters returned, they were carrying several palm fronds. His sister explained: "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by."

"That's not fair!" Jamie protested. "The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd..." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."

Don't break'em

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

The lady paused for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments," she said politely.

From Church notice-sheets:

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our Children's Minister, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Baptisms: after Easter, the North and South ends of the church will be utilised. Children will be baptised at both ends.

Coming up: Theological Open House. We discuss thought-provoking topics. Your opinions are hardly welcome.

Next Sunday Mrs Brown will sing a solo at the morning service before the vicar preaches on the subject of 'Terrible experiences and how to survive them'.

Players picked for St Andrew's darts team will be pinned to the board on Thursday.





WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES



Foodbank, Thursday 10:00am –12 noon

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.

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