

The HEATH

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is **love**.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 NKJV



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

February 2018

50p

Dear Friends,

***Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made
known to God.***

***And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

(Philippians 4: 4-7, NRSV Bible)

Do not worry about anything!

At the start of this new year, there is much we could worry about.

I read a statistic recently claiming that January is generally the month in which people feel at their lowest. I would assume that this is caused by a number of factors, such as the dark, long winter days, the bleakness of our surroundings after the exuberance and light during Advent & Christmas, and the level of expectation our society presents us with at the turn of the year.

And every year around this time I am reminded of Bonhoeffer's powerful hymn, *By gracious powers*: "*By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered, and confidently waiting come what may, we know that God is with us night and morning, and never fails to greet us each new day.*"

Bonhoeffer wrote this hymn in prison at the turn of the year that would end World War 2. He didn't know what the new year had in store for him. He would never see any further new years on earth. He didn't know just how near he was to meeting his Lord. These hymn words are among the last writings of Bonhoeffer. And they express a deep faith in God's presence. They reflect the peace of God which surpasses all understanding.

Likewise, Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians from prison and expected it to be one of his last letters, as he was sure of his impending death at the hands of the Roman Empire.

Both Paul and Bonhoeffer were able to use the most difficult times in life to encourage people in faith. Both knew and trusted that God was with them and found His Peace even in their own turmoil and anxiety.

Let us rejoice, not worry, and experience the Peace of God transforming our lives!

This new year, some things will change in our churches and the Heath & Havering Group. Others will remain the same. Our vacancy for a part-time colleague is officially declared and advertised to URC ministers and ordinands. While we are waiting to hear news of anyone exploring a call to our vacancy, we are implementing some changes to prepare for this new minister. The Heath & Havering Group will consist of 2 pastorates, served by a stipendiary minister each. From this month (February), I will wind down my pastoral and ministerial involvement with the Romford pastorate (Western Road and Heaton Way), which is in vacancy, and will then focus primarily on the full-time pastorate of Trinity, Nelmes and Chadwell Heath URCs.

Both Ann Woodhurst and I will continue to be involved in the leadership of the Heath & Havering Group and look forward to welcoming a new colleague to the Ministry team when the vacancy has been filled. We will continue to coordinate group activities jointly and to build up mutual support and fellowship among the members of the group.

Ann will continue to preach in all the group churches, while I will honour my commitments until June and then focus solely on the churches of the pastorate I have been assigned by the Steering Committee in the light of the vacancy.

Whatever this year presents us with as churches and as individuals - "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." God Himself will surround us with His Peace. Let us be thankful, let us rejoice, but most of all, let us allow God to embrace us and wrap us in His Peace.

In thankfulness for the shape of my ministry with you so far, and with joyful anticipation of what is yet to come, may the Peace of our Lord be with us all!

Love & blessings,

Your Minister *Dorothee*

CHURCH DIARY FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st	9:30am	Foodbank, Coffee & Conversation, Church Library time
Sunday 4th	11:15am	Holy Communion — Revd. Dorothee Bührma Communion Table - Angela Saggars
Thursday 8th	9:30am	Foodbank, Coffee & Conversation, Church Library time
Sunday 11th	11:15am	The Elders
	6:30pm	Evening Communion at Heaton Way
Monday 12th	7pm	Elders Meeting
Thursday 15th	9:30am	Foodbank, Coffee & Conversation, Church Library time
Sunday 18th	11:15am	Revd, Ann Woodhurst Followed by Refreshments - Cassie & Diana
Thursday 22nd	9.30am	Foodbank, Coffee & Conversation, Church Library time
Saturday 24th	6:30pm	Quiz and Jacket Potatoes
Sunday 25th	11:15am	Revd. John Kennett

Christmas Morning Martin Wheadon took his last service at Mill Lane URC. As usual it was anything but ordinary and this is Peter' Baker's facebook post:

“So that was Martins last service as a Heath and Havering Minister at Chadwell Heath URC. No order of service as usual (watch out newbies) and told us to pick three hymns. We picked “What kind of greatness” by Graham Kendrick which I had downloaded with words for the projector. He didn't know it but managed to turn his confusion into a talk about what kind of Christian we are, one who joins in half heartedly but gets better, one who joins in with gusto even if he hits a few wrong notes when there are others to cover his mistakes or one who keeps quiet cos others are doing a good job. (See,I was listening)

Then he asks a four foot tall teddy bear to join him at the front (you had to be there) and uses this in a second, off the cuff sermon which didn't make us feel like we were being lectured at or the minister was reading a script like others have done but kept our attention and left us with something to think about. We will miss you Martin Wheadon and can't wait for you to come back as a visiting preacher.”

He really is a remarkable person, Minister and friend.

Worship Themes February

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.

February 4, 2018	<u>Isaiah 40:21-31</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 9:16-23</u>	<u>Mark 1:29-39</u>
February 11, 2018	<u>2 Kings 2:1-12</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 4:3-6</u>	<u>Mark 9:2-9</u>
February 18, 2018	<u>Genesis 9:8-17</u>	<u>1 Peter 3:18-22</u>	<u>Mark 1:9-15</u>
February 25, 2018	<u>Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16</u>	<u>Romans 4:13-25</u>	<u>Mark 8:31-38</u> or <u>Mark 9:2-9</u>

Happy Birthdays in February

7th Dot Lambert, 9th Pearl Elizabeth Thomas,

12th Sam Campbell, 25th Diana Bailey,

29th Tim Marshall



Foodbank Items: Thank you for your continued support with donations. We welcome all non-perishable items again now including personal & (+ female) hygiene items needed too. Thank you again.

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.



My Prayer, by Helen Steiner Rice

Bless me, Heavenly Father—Forgive my erring ways.
Grant me strength to serve thee; Put purpose in my days.
Give me understanding, Enough to make me kind,
So I may judge all people With my heart and not my mind.
Teach me to be patient in everything I do, Content to trust your
wisdom And to follow after you.
Help me when I falter, and hear me when I pray,
And receive me in thy kingdom
To dwell with thee someday.

Flower Rota: *Would you like to sponsor flowers for a Sunday special to you or do your own arrangement?* The 2018 calendar is available on the entrance table! Please see Angela Saggars for further help.

- **“Dig Deeper” Meetings at Trinity URC, Upminster:** 29 Jan; 12/26 Feb; 12 Mar all at 7.30pm in the Chapel, following the “Bible” Series of TLS Lite. All are welcome.
- **Copies of the Annual Diary are available next to the magazine box.** Please help yourself to one.
- **4th February:** There will be a **Special Church Meeting to discuss the changes in Charity Law.**
- We are now registered as an **Inclusive Church.** Posters are up and leaflets are available for information.

EULOGY - JOY SADLER

From the beginning I knew that I must be the one to deliver the eulogy for Joy – I have known her far longer than anyone else, and I wanted to do it – but I have found it very hard to condense 93 years of very full life into anything of acceptable length for today. She was so many things to so many people, loyal friend, valued colleague, dedicated church officer, dear auntie, talented writer and preacher – she touched so many lives. But only to me was she sister – a unique and sometimes ambivalent relationship, which not even death can end, and that is where my thoughts come from. I shall leave it to others to reflect on other parts of her life. So where shall I start?

Obviously, at the beginning – or almost the beginning, because Joy arrived in this world, in Hampton Road Ilford, 5 years before I did. For 5 years she was a much loved only child but with lots of relatives living nearby – my father was an only child but my mother was the eldest of 8 children, and all four grandparents lived close by. Joy started school at the age of 5 already able to read – fortunately she had a sensible teacher who gave her the run of the bookcase while she taught the rest of the class, and Joy could indulge what would become a life-long love of books.

Nobody talked about pregnancy in those days, least of all to children – we were always told babies were found under gooseberry bushes or were delivered wrapped in a blanket dangling from the beak of a flying stork. So it must have come as quite a shock when our father brought Joy home after a happy day spent with her grandparents and she found our mother nursing a small baby. We didn't have gooseberry bushes in our garden, so clearly the stork had called. I never really knew what she thought about it, but in those days people often had things 'on approval' to see if they really wanted them. The story was told in our family that the 5 year old one day asked rather plaintively – 'When are we going to send her back?'

Fortunately for me, they decided to keep me and Joy and I grew up together in a loving Christian home. I won't pretend we always got on – sometimes we happily played often imaginative games together, but the 5 years between us meant that often we did our own thing, living parallel lives, especially once Joy passed the 11 plus exam which was necessary to enter a grammar school.

Sometimes we fell out. As my mother always said 'They are such different girls'. Sometimes we liked each other very much but at other times we found each other extremely annoying and said so – it was a very sisterly relationship! But when Joy was 15 and I was 10, World War 11 broke out and everything changed.

Most of the children in this area were evacuated en mass and billeted on anyone who would have them in what were considered safe parts of the country. It was not until I had children of my own that I realised how traumatic it must have been for my parents, and also for Joy on the verge of adolescence and much more aware of the whole situation than I was. Also our mother had told her to look after her little sister, and I was determined she wasn't going to tell me what to do! In later years Joy told the story of how, on arrival, the children were all put together in a hall and people willing to take them in came and chose the ones they wanted. By that time I had fallen asleep and looked misleadingly innocent, so one or two people chose me, only to change their minds when they learned that we came as a pair! Joy told it as an amusing story, but I think the sensitive adolescent felt rejected and sad.

Well, we all survived the war and in spite of less than ideal conditions, Joy studied hard and eventually achieved good grades and was awarded a scholarship which enabled her to go to university – not something that all that many people from families like ours did then. After obtaining her degree in French and German at King's College London she did another year's teacher training and started a career in teaching which she enjoyed and was good at. However, wartime traumas and the fact that Joy set herself such high standards had taken their toll and she suffered a break-down which eventually meant she had to give up teaching. Joy was a very sensitive but also very private person who was not nearly as self confident as she appeared – she had many friends but seldom showed her deepest feelings – after childhood I don't think I ever saw her cry. This inability to let go probably contributed to her mental health problems.

After her recovery she sought a new career and eventually found it as a Careers Advisory Officer, working for the London County Council. This work suited her very well; advising young people and taking a special interest in those who came in despair after not having got the grades they needed, giving them informed and sympathetic advice. She also wrote and reviewed various careers pamphlets, gave talks at many schools and even had slots on radio and once on television to speak and give advice on available careers. She very much enjoyed this work, made many new friends, and went on doing it until her sixties, when, as she used to put it, 'Maggie Thatcher abolished the London Authority and with it the Careers Advisory Service.' So Joy was made redundant, but she found plenty to fill up her time.

Joy was a lifelong Christian and a loyal member of Vine Memorial Congregational Church (later Vine URC) from the age of about 7 or 8. She became one of the youngest deacons – later elders – and served for many years and under several Ministries as Church Secretary. She became a qualified lay preacher and her services were popular both in this church and in many other local churches – she was much in demand even through her eighties and would travel, usually by public transport, to small congregations, sometimes of only 6 or 7 people, putting just as much effort into these services as any other. All her sermons were painstakingly written out by hand. She also edited the church magazine for many years and taught in Junior Church. Beside all this she served on several committees for the Synod and in later years became very interested in inter faith relations and joined the Faith Forum and the Women's Group.

Joy also became a Traidcraft representative, ordering fairly traded goods to be delivered to her house then bringing them up to Church in her shopping trolley. She was passionately interested in fair trade and supported it in every way she could, including going out and giving talks to schools and various groups. She had always enjoyed travelling abroad – never the beach holiday kind, but ones where she could see unusual places and meet the local people. Through Traidcraft she was able to visit some of the places where the goods came from and meet the people who produced them – many of these holidays were physically demanding but she continued to go until quite late in her long life.

Joy had many friends, from school, university, work and church. Until almost the end of her life she was good at keeping in touch with long, entertaining and newsy letters. She outlived all her closest friends but in many cases kept in touch with their children and even grandchildren. She never had her own children, but she took a keen interest in friends' children and grandchildren and was a much loved 'auntie' to many. She was also much loved by her niece and nephew, Marion and Geoff and her great nephew and niece, Alex and Zoe. We shall all miss her at our Christmas get-togethers.

Joy was a modest person and I think she would be amazed at the number of people here today, and at the outpouring of love and sorrow that greeted the news of her death.

Joy had deeply held principals and strong views, and her faith was very important to her. My own somewhat ambivalent relationship with her through our early years grew into a genuine love and respect as we grew up – although our lives took different courses we never lived far from each other and always kept in touch. We found that could talk to each other about anything, and often did – my husband used to say after a particularly long phone call –‘What do you two find to talk about – you only saw her yesterday!’ That’s not to say that we never disagreed or made the odd sisterly catty comment, but we soon got over it and we knew that we could always rely on each other in time of need.. Joy was generous and loving but never made a show of it – she was never comfortable with open displays of affection like hugging and kissing – even as a child, I remember her saying crossly –‘Don’t touch me!’ But she expressed her love and compassion in many other ways.

I’m sorry this is rather long – but she did so much with her life and there is a lot more I have left out. She was always very scornful about eulogies which painted people as plaster saints and I hope I haven’t done that, because it wouldn’t do justice to the real vibrant, amusing, clever, generous – and sometimes annoying – person she really was.

She had an amazing memory for when things happened and, was still very much herself until the end, determinedly independent even when her body was beginning to fail her. Her final gift was to the MS Society to whom she had bequeathed her brain tissue for research, and somewhere among the cards and letters is one explaining what a valuable gift this will be.

Joy will be much missed, but as long as any of us live she will live on, in our memories and in our hearts.

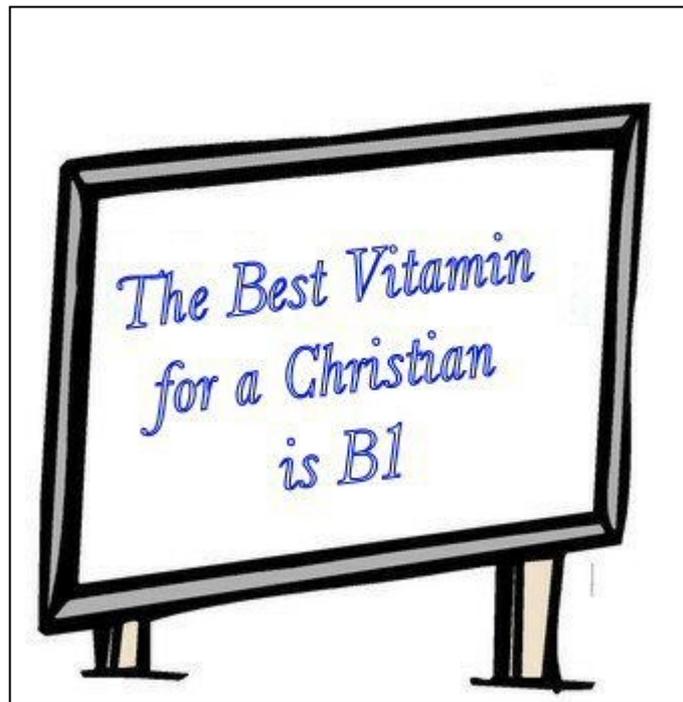


Puzzle Corner

Bible Incomplete: Fill in the missing letters to complete the passage. Solution on last page.

R_j_i_e_v_r_o_e._r_y_w_t_o_t_e_s_n_.

l_e_e_y_h_n_g_v_t_a_k_:f_r_h_s_s_h_
w_l_o_G_d_n_h_i_t_e_u_c_n_e_n_n_
y_u.



Please send any news, information or an article for the Heath to Dianne Crisp. Email Dianne.crisp@ntlworld.com

The deadline is Wednesday 22nd February 2018 for the March issue.



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

Solution to Bible Incomplete:

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. I Thessalonians 5:16-18