The HEATH

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

Dear friends,

There has been a lot of attention in the media recently about Christian Nationalism. In many ways, it is the impetus behind much of the MAGA movement in the United States, and it also underpins many of the social policies of a number of representatives of the UK political party, Reform. This quasi-religious movement is gaining power in many places around the world, and it's important to consider what it is, and how we should respond as Christians.

Christianity (broadly speaking) is a global, spiritual faith centred on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, prioritizing personal salvation, peace and justice, and universal love. In contrast, Christian nationalism is a political ideology that merges Christian identity with national identity, seeking to use government power to preserve a specific social worldview.

By attempting to make a direct connection between Christianity and a particular political viewpoint or culture, Christian Nationalism (and those who practice it) creates division, mistrust, discrimination, and as we have seen recently, violence. Ironically, these are the very sorts of behaviours that Jesus cautioned his followers about.

In John 17, Jesus is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane prior to his arrest and crucifixion. Part of his prayer in that moment is that "they may all be one." Jesus expresses a desire for unity, tolerance, and understanding among humans, even in his most challenging hour. Throughout his ministry, Jesus often spoke, ate, and socialized with those of different faiths. In doing so, he modelled for us a way of being faithful to God while building up the strength of the larger community.

As Christians, we might not always be able to understand the differences between our neighbours who practice a faith different to our own. But, we have an obligation to treat everyone we encounter as the fellow children of God that they are.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews reminds their readers of one of the basic tenants of Hebrew culture and faith: "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." When we show compassion for others (no matter what they look like, where they are from, or what religion they practice), we are living out our faith in a very real and public sort of way.

God has the power to change hearts, but He doesn't need a flag or political rally to do so. God uses us as his hands and feet in this world. How is he using you in these times of divisive language and action?

Peace be with you,

Brian

Church Diary Summer 2026

7th June 11:15	Morning Worship & Holy Communion.	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
14th June 11:15	Morning Worship	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
21st June 11:15	Morning Worship	Led by Rev. Christine Harding
28th June 11:15	Morning Worship Followed by Church Meeting	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
5th July 11:00	Morning Worship & Holy Communion	Led by Rev. Ann Woodhurst
12th July 11:15	Morning Worship	Led by Tim Banks
19th July 11:15	Morning Worship Followed by Elders' Meeting	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
26th July 11:15	Morning Worship	Led by Tim Marshall
2nd August 11:15	Morning Worship & Holy Communion	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
9th August 11:15	Morning Worship	Led by Cassie Baker
16th August 11:15	NO SERVICE	
23rd August 11:15	NO SERVICE	
30th August 11:00	11am Joint Heath & Havering Worship	Joint Service at Nelmes URC
6th September 11:15	Morning Worship & Holy Communion Followed by	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill

Worship Themes

Church will use the themes listed below

Proper 5 (10) - June 7, 2026
- Genesis 12:1-9 and Psalm 33:1-12
- Hosea 5:15-6:6 and Psalm 50:7-15
- Romans 4:13-25
- Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Proper 6 (11) - June 14, 2026
- Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
- Exodus 19:2-8a and Psalm 100
- Romans 5:1-8
- Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

Proper 7 (12) - June 21, 2026
- Genesis 21:8-21 and Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
- Jeremiah 20:7-13 and Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18
- Romans 6:1b-11
- Matthew 10:24-39

Proper 8 (13) - June 28, 2026
- Genesis 22:1-14 and Psalm 13
- Jeremiah 28:5-9 and Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
- Romans 6:12-23
- Matthew 10:40-42

Proper 9 (14) - July 5, 2026
- Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13
- Zechariah 9:9-12 and Psalm 145:8-14
- Romans 7:15-25a
- Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Proper 10 (15) - July 12, 2026
- Genesis 25:19-34 and Psalm 119:105-112
- Isaiah 55:10-13 and Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
- Romans 8:1-11
- Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Proper 11 (16) - July 19, 2026
- Genesis 28:10-19a and Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
- Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44:6-8 and Psalm 86:11-17
- Romans 8:12-25
- Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Proper 12 (17) - July 26, 2026
- Genesis 29:15-28 and Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128
- 1 Kings 3:5-12 and Psalm 119:129-136
- Romans 8:26-39
- Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The United Reformed Church

Worship Themes

Church will use the themes listed below

Proper 13 (18) - August 2, 2026
- Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 17:1-7, 15
- Isaiah 55:1-5 and Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
- Romans 9:1-5
- Matthew 14:13-21

Proper 14 (19) - August 9, 2026
- Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 and Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b
- 1 Kings 19:9-18 and Psalm 85:8-13
- Romans 10:5-15
- Matthew 14:22-33

Proper 15 (20) - August 16, 2026
- Genesis 45:1-15 and Psalm 133
- Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Psalm 67
- Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
- Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Proper 16 (21) - August 23, 2026
- Exodus 1:8-2:10 and Psalm 124
- Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalm 138
- Romans 12:1-8
- Matthew 16:13-20

Proper 17 (22) - August 30, 2026
- Exodus 3:1-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
- Jeremiah 15:15-21 and Psalm 26:1-8
- Romans 12:9-21
- Matthew 16:21-28

Proper 18 (23) - September 6, 2026
- Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149
- Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40
- Romans 13:8-14
- Matthew 18:15-20

The United Reformed Church

Chadwell Heath's Easter Activity Day, by Cassie Baker

On Saturday 14th March, we had our first Easter Activity Day, an idea that came to me at our recent elders training. To say I "ran with it" would be an understatement! From the question "How do we get more people coming into our church", an idea sparked and wouldn't leave me alone.

From 1pm till 5pm, the church was decorated and open. We had card making, colouring in, word searches, mazes, make a bracelet, a quiz, guess the name of the bunny (Bugs), guess the weight of the cake (a lot!) and an Easter egg hunt around the church. I think Karen Buschkill had challenged herself to do every activity!

I'd also asked Trinity and Nelmes URCs if they would be willing to provide something visual to add to the Easter decorations. Trinity brought a beautiful cross and Nelmes shared their Easter display board they had been adding to each week. As for Chadwell Heath, we turned our little alcove into the empty tomb.

I was afraid no one would come, and I'd have to eat all the chocolate egg prizes myself. Thankfully we had many visitors from our three churches, and even a couple of parents with their two children pop in, having seen the balloons outside, to have a go at the egg hunt. It was great being able to share in fellowship together.

Safe to say the day was a success, and likely to become an annual event. Thank you to everyone who helped set up and run the day, and thanks to everyone who came and took part.

Growth Prayer

God of mission
Who alone brings growth to your Church.
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grown in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We are using this growth prayer in our worship each week.

Celebrating Fathers

This month we celebrate the importance of fathers on Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's Fatherhood and what it means for us.

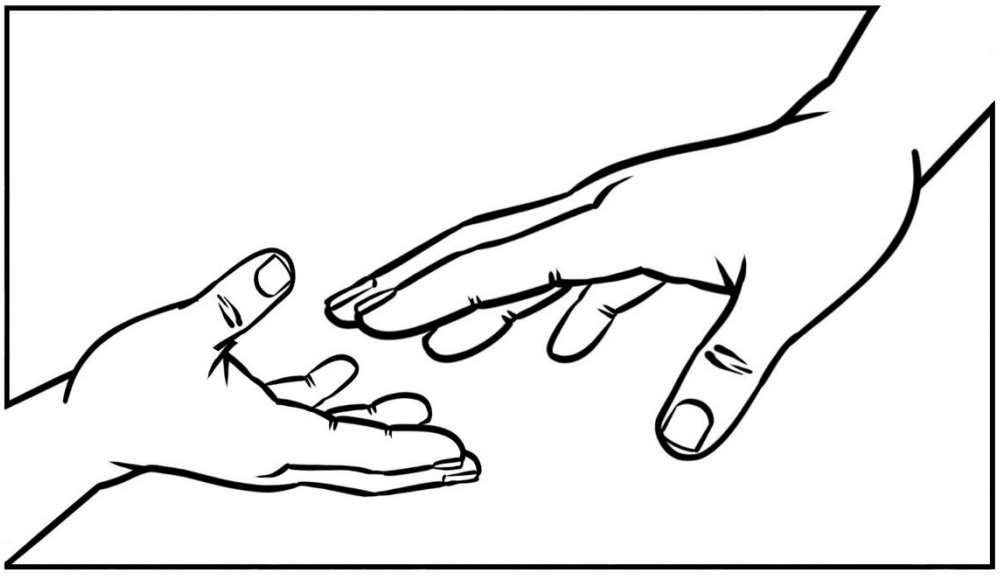
At His baptism, when Jesus came out of the water: *'heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.'* (Matthew 3:16,17). What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with His Father, our relationship with God and the role of fathers?

The Father's presence

When Jesus was baptised, the Father was present in the Holy Spirit. It's the Spirit who enables us to address God as daddy (*'abba'*, Galatians 4:6) in an intimate way. God is present with us and understands our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. Dads should relate to their children like this.

The Father's love

The Father described His Son as *'beloved'*; like us, Jesus was the subject of God's unconditional love. Dads should assure their children of their constant, undeserved love.



Jacob: the man who encountered the holiness of God

Have you ever had a dramatic turning point in your life? Was there an incident, a meeting or something you saw or read which profoundly changed you? The Old Testament character Jacob had a dream, which changed his life.

One night, in the region of Luz, a Canaanite city, Jacob had a dream. He saw a ladder, on which were angels, linking earth with heaven. The dream revealed to him that God is continually connected with this world. When Jacob woke up, he knew he was in a special place. He became a changed man and changed the place name from Luz to Bethel, which means House of God. Many years later Jacob changed his name from Jacob to Israel. Bethel became a holy place.

How might we define a holy place? We could say it's a place where God has touched earth with something of heaven e.g. with a miracle or a vision. Venues such as Lourdes (France), Lindisfarne (England), St Peter's in Rome or Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre are considered Holy Places. The Garden of Gethsemane was a special place for Jesus.

Jacob certainly wasn't faultless or impeccable. His encounter with God didn't completely change the way he behaved, but it gave him a fresh perspective on life and where he fitted into God's plans. Like Jacob we too may encounter God at a particular time and grow slowly with God and His plans for us. God doesn't wait until we are perfect before He can use us. Sometimes we too may need a Holy Place to make or to return to, to help us remember we are in God's hands.

Dear God, in my busy life, find for me a place where I can be still; a place to meet with You. I am weak and need your strength for each situation. Give me a holy place where I know your arms are embracing me, always safe and secure. Amen.

Well-dressing in Derbyshire – May to September

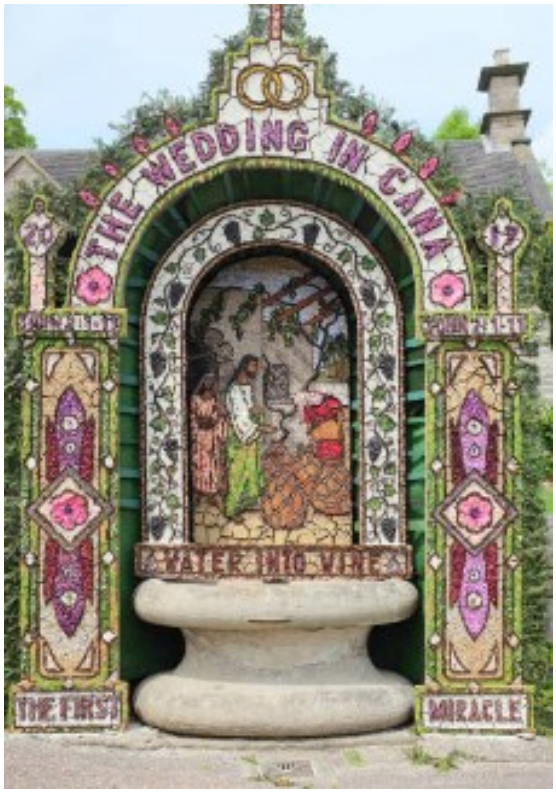
Derbyshire is known for its wells and well-dressing. The annual tradition followed in many villages of decorating the village wells, or 'well dressing', attracts sightseers from miles away.

By ancient, centuries-old tradition, five wells are decorated. Boards are set up around each one which is then covered in clay. The clay is then impressed with thousands of colourful flower petals to create pictures and tableaux. Often the stories illustrated are from the Bible.

It is thought the practice may date back to the 14th century, and it may have started as an act of thanksgiving when the community escaped the devastation of the Black Death. Over the years, and before piped water became available, it also became an act of thanksgiving for the village's supply of clean, clear water.

Today more than 80 Derbyshire villages still follow the tradition, and the season extends through the summer. Many wells have a biblical theme, or are inspired by royal occasions or sporting events.

Generally, the Derbyshire wells are *not* considered holy or named after saints. Most were just the original village water tap. However, Buxton does have a celebrated holy well, where people regularly line up to collect its special waters.



Buxton mineral water is bottled and available in supermarkets, but in the town itself, at St Anne's well, it is free. Through medieval times there was a chapel on the spot, and pilgrims came seeking cures and to leave offerings.

Henry VIII put an end to the practice, but later the town became a spa and patients heard of the therapeutic reputation of the waters and came to bathe and drink, much as the ancient Romans had done in pre-Christian times. Today the free Buxton water emerges from a pipe set in a modern plinth containing a statuette of St Anne, the mother of Mary and Jesus's grandmother.

BBC Proms will still celebrate the USA – despite Trump's lawsuit

The BBC will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with a programme of American classical music this summer.

That is while Donald Trump pursues his multi-million lawsuit against the corporation.

But he is not the only thing that is making the BBC uneasy. BBC insiders are also wary of the shifting political situation between the US and Iran, which could make the Proms concerts at the Royal Albert Hall a target for anti-war demonstrations.

However, the concerts will still go on to showcase the music of famous US composers, including George Gershwin, Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein. American conductors will even lead several of the shows.

Sam Jackson, the BBC Radio 3 controller, said: "The 250th anniversary of American independence is a major moment in world history. We live in uncertain times, but our current geopolitical situation should not lead us to 'cancel' great music, or to deny licence fee payers the opportunity to hear repertoire of both the past and the present."

The Proms will launch with the First Night on 17th July.

Life, Death, the Universe and Everything

It was in the garden when man first met
His Creator God and walked with Him.
The pleasures of Eden were his to enjoy
The genesis of man who was then without sin.

To make him complete God took Adam's rib
Forming Eve to be by his side,
But the devil appeared in the form of a snake
Offering fruit that they should have declined.

Paradise lost, they were sent from that place,
They had disobeyed God and death entered in,
No longer to walk in the cool of the day
And enjoy all the pleasures that God could bring.

But God's in control of all He has made,
Our world and beyond and mysteries untold,
There are more things in heaven and earth than we know
To be revealed as time ends and eternity unfolds.

By Megan Carter

This prayer of Jacopone da Todi (c 1230–1306) reminds us of how personal and real our relationship with Christ can become….

A new creature

Once I felt I was melting under the heat of anguish.
Once all hope of happiness had left me.
Now I melt under the heat of Your warm joy,
And my present bliss excludes even the memory of past misery.
I am a new creature, Lord, reborn in You.
Your grace rises up and rushes through my veins.
You re-fashion my heart, as a sculptor fashions a statue,
Shaping it in the perfect image of love.

Jacopone da Todi (c 1230 – 1306) was a Franciscan lay brother, briefly imprisoned by the Pope for his opposition to the papal corruption of the time. This is from his prayer 'Ecstasy through Christ'.

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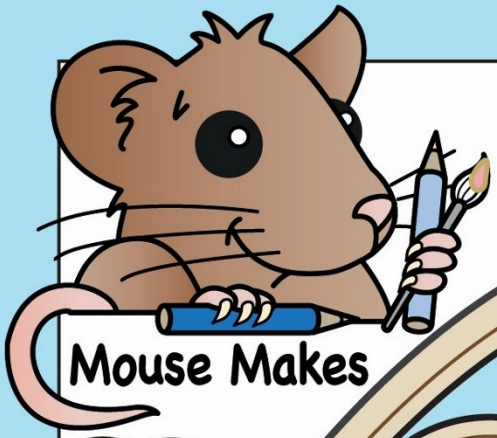

"May the grace of the Lord **JESUS CHRIST** and the love of **GOD** and the fellowship of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you all."

2 Corinthians 13:14

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

JESUS • CHRIST
SON • SAVIOUR • LORD
EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY
TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR
BREAD • WORD • HEALER
VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

GOD • FATHER
ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH
YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY
HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR
ETERNAL • CREATOR
KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE
SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

HOLY SPIRIT
GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS
COMFORTER • GUIDE
ADVOCATE • WISDOM
POWER • TRUTH • BREATH
LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE
WIND • FIRE • TEACHER

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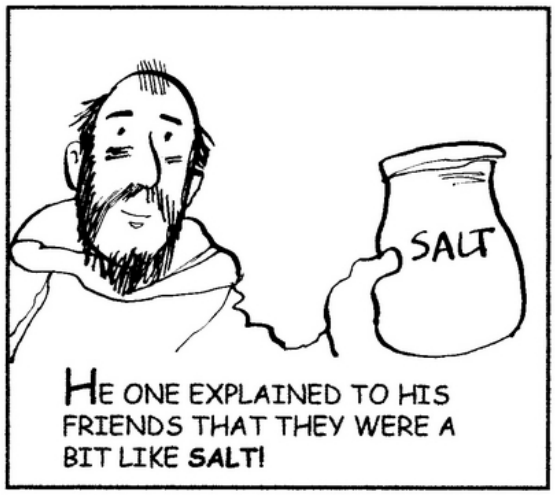
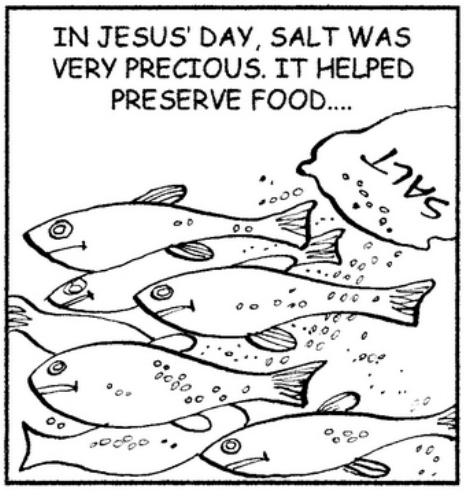
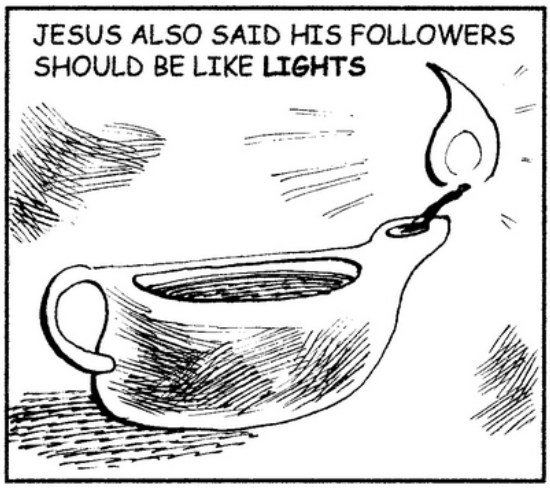
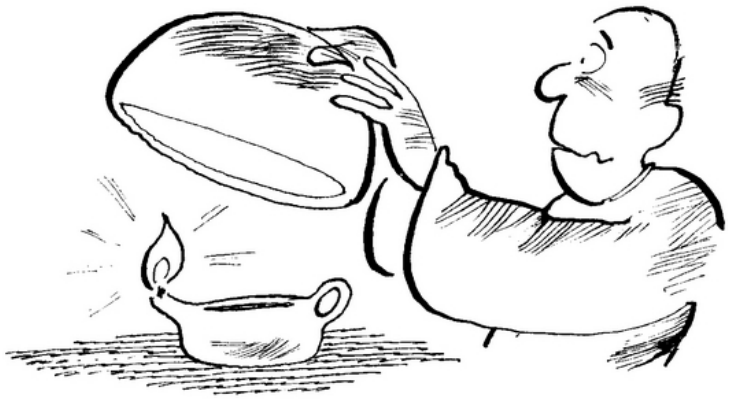
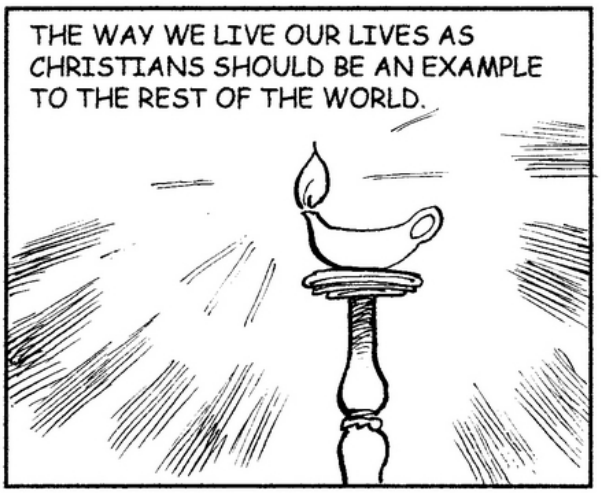
The tale of the Salt and Light

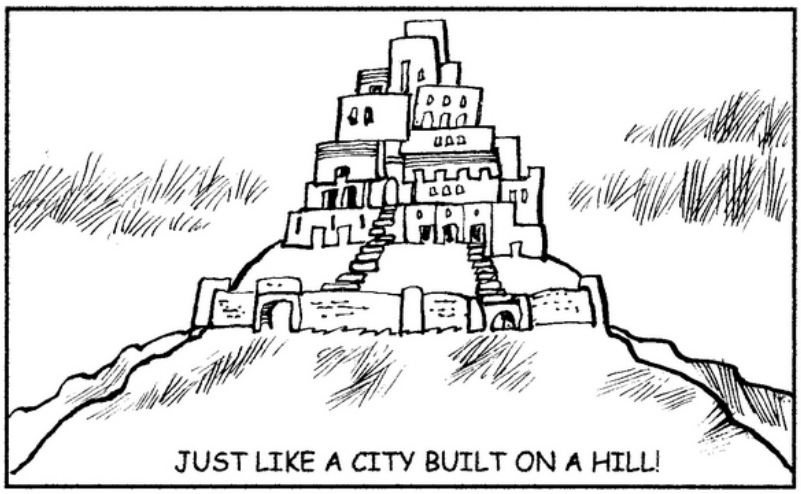












The United Reformed Church

Diary/Noticeboard:

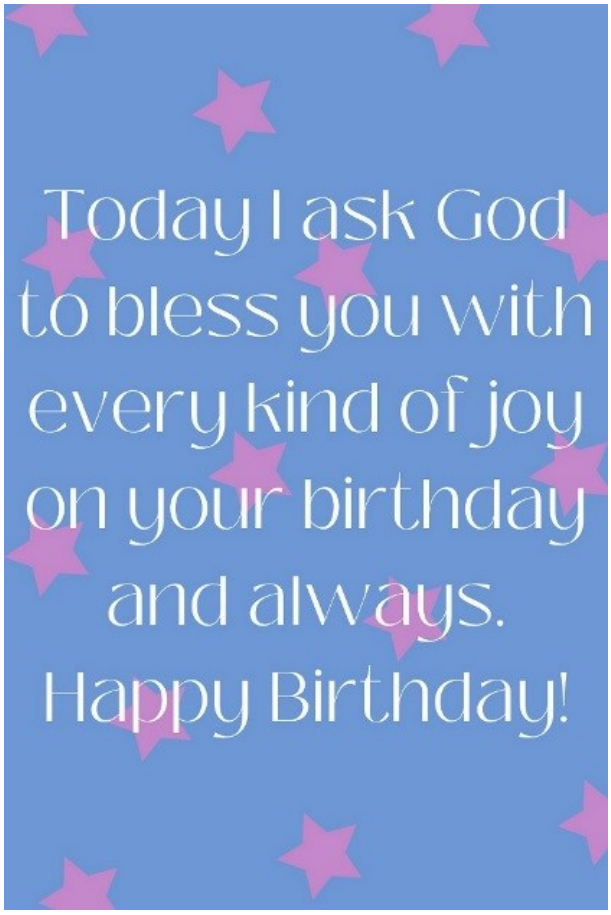
Chadwell Heath + Heath & Havering Group of Churches

Foodbank:

Thank you for your continued support.

We are currently short of Washing up liquid, Washing detergent, Toilet rolls, Hand wash, Creams, Custard/Rice pudding, UHT Milk (whole), Tinned Corned Beef, Cereals, Drinking Chocolate and Cooking Oil.

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, toothbrush-es & toothpaste/toilet rolls & baby nappies, sizes 5/6.



Happy Birthday's

Richard Lamour 24th June

Beryl Allison 8th July,
Karen Buschkill 10th.
Alfie 15th,
Cassie Baker 23rd.

Josie Wheatley 11th Aug,

Gary Catlin 13th,

Martin Wheadon 14th.

Ann Woodhurst 1st September

WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES
Foodbank, Tuesday & 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

Our Minister's contact details are: **Revd. Brian Buschkill 216 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, RM14 2BL**

01708 784701 07548 447067

buschkill@gmail.com

H&H Communion Service at Nelmes

H&H Communion Service at Nelmes URC every 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm starting 14th January 2026.

Please send any news, information or an article for the Heath to Dianne Crisp. Email ChadwellheathURC@gmail.com The deadline is Monday 31st August for the September Edition.

Thank you