



The HEATH



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

50p

March and April 2024

Dear Friends,

March lies (this year) in the heart of Lent. It can be a tough time, both spiritually and physically. As we endure the often cold and dreary days of winter, we long for the warmth and beauty of spring. Likewise, as we turn our spiritual focus inward during Lent, we long for the glory and celebration of Easter.

As the flowers continue to emerge from their winter slumber, and the trees start to show signs of blossoming, our spirits yearn to do the same. But our Lenten observances remind us that before we can celebrate resurrection, we must first attend to the places in our bodies, minds and spirits that need healing.

This need for healing may not be the result of any particular event in our lives, but more likely is the result of the metaphorical scars and bruises we accumulate as we try to live out our Christian values in this broken world. And so it is that all of us stand in the need of healing on a regular basis.

One of the first steps in healing is to admit to what we need healing from. This is the most important—and often most painful—part of the process. It is to admit that things have not always gone the way that we would have liked them to. It is to admit that sometimes we got things wrong. And that's often a very hard thing to do.

But we can be fortified in those efforts because we know the promise of Easter—the promise of life beyond death—and the hope that comes with that assurance.

But we're not there yet.

Our Lenten disciplines remind us that this work of healing is a constant in our lives, and something that we must work at every single day. But, as Easter approaches, there is light at the end of the tunnel!

And so, as we endure together these last cruel weeks of winter, let us turn our minds towards thoughts of wellness, happiness and peace. And, let's make plans to spend Easter Sunday together!

Peace,

Pastor Brian



Church Diary March



3rd March 11:15am	Morning Worship & Holy Communion. Followed by an Elders' Meeting	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
10th March 11:15am	Morning Worship	Led by Tim Marshall
Friday 15th March	Funeral of Jean Quilty	At Forest Park Crematorium. Service to be led by Rev. Martin Wheadon.
17 March 11:15am	Morning Worship Followed by Church AGM	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill
24th March 11:15am	Palm Sunday Morning Worship	Led by Rev. Martin Wheadon
31st March 11:15	Easter Sunday Worship Followed by Tea/Coffee & Hot Cross Buns	Led by Rev. Brian Buschkill

Worship Themes March

The Church will use the themes listed below

March 3, 2024	<u>Exodus 20:1-17</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 1:18-25</u>	<u>John 2:13-22</u>
March 10, 2024	<u>Numbers 21:4-9</u>	<u>Ephesians 2:1-10</u>	<u>John 3:14-21</u>
March 17, 2024	<u>Jeremiah 31:31-34</u>	<u>Hebrews 5:5-10</u>	<u>John 12:20-33</u>
March 24, 2024	<u>Isaiah 50:4-9a</u>	<u>Philippians 2:5-11</u>	<u>Mark 14:1-15:47</u> or <u>Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)</u>
March 31, 2024 <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>



Church Diary April



7th April 11:15am	Morning Worship & Holy Communion.	Led by Cassie Baker
14th April 11:15am	Morning Worship	Led by Rev. Brian Busckill
21st April 11:15am	Morning Worship	Led by Tim Banks
28th April 11:15am	Morning Worship	Led by Tim Marshall

Worship Themes April

The Church will use the themes listed below

April 7, 2024	<u>Acts 4:32-35</u>	<u>1 John 1:1-2:2</u>	<u>John 20:19-31</u>
April 14, 2024	<u>Acts 3:12-19</u>	<u>1 John 3:1-7</u>	<u>Luke 24:36b-48</u>
April 21, 2024	<u>Acts 4:5-12</u>	<u>1 John 3:16-24</u>	<u>John 10:11-18</u>
April 28, 2024	<u>Acts 8:26-40</u>	<u>1 John 4:7-21</u>	<u>John 15:1-8</u>



H&H Communion Service at Nelmes

H&H Communion Service at Nelmes URC and then every 2nd Wednesday of each month going forwards.

Treasurers Report 2023

The figures.

Our income is derived from offertory, hall hire, manse rent and miscellaneous and totalled £46668.71. Of this offertory and gift aid accounted for £11586 (£1540 down). Offertory averages £965/month and represents 25% of our income.

Our manse provided an income of £14750 (31.6% of income).

Miscellaneous income totalled £73 (0.15% of income) comprised bank interest

The remainder of the income came from hall hire and produced £20259 or 43% of income. This was £274 up on last year.

The total income averages £3890/month

From this income we paid all our routine expenses including £13212 Ministry and Mission, £3641 cleaning (down by £550), £8430 heating, water and insurance and £1018 on administration. We spent £930 on pulpit supply (£300 down).

We donated £255 to Breast Cancer, Christian Aid, and Syria Earthquake appeal and £100 to Christian Hope International.

Ministerial expenses totalled £1024 and Trinity manse expenses £1717

The total expenditure averages £3080/month. The surplus for the year amounted to £9711 which was transferred to Repair account

Capital Account – with addition of bank interest and with no expenditure, the account closed with a balance of £22177.

Repair Account. We spent £938 on electrical and gas work, £490 on plumbing, £588 on fire safety maintenance, £557 on gardening, £2356 on decorating and £500 on miscellaneous items. Total expenditure for the year was £5435

At the end of the year the Church assets stood at

Capital Account	£22177.39
Repair Account	<u>£26650.36</u>
Total assets	£48827.75

Despite a fall in offertories, and increased energy costs our total assets increased by £4500

Our Capital Account provides a safety net of £22,000 whilst leaving our Fabric Secretary with access to £26650 for the upkeep of our building

David Saggars

Treasurers Report 2023

The explanation

Our day to day Church running costs are funded by offertories, manse rent and hall hiring.

Whilst last year our offertory fell by £1500, averaging £222 per week including gift aid, the average total weekly income was £897.

Against this, Ministry and Mission and heating alone accounted for £346/week, with total expenditure of £710/week. The remainder has to cover cleaning, administration, pulpit supply, insurance, minister's and manse expenses etc.

I am grateful to all who continue to support our Church since direct debit payments alone of £1700 go out each month, and if you are able I would encourage you to give your offertory either by bank transfer or by a monthly cheque. Of course I am still happy to receive weekly cash or envelope giving.

We receive £1260/month manse rent. Normally there is little in the way of maintenance required, but this year we agreed to replace the worn patio at a cost of £5340, subject to the tenant clearing the rest of the garden.

Our other source of income is hall hiring which represents 43% of our income and enables us to maintain our presence in Chadwell Heath.

Now that our minister has been in post for over a year the cost of ministry is easier to understand. Our share of Pastoral expenses only amounted to £85/month, plus £140/month Trinity manse expenses, and was offset by a saving of £300 on pulpit supply.

Our Fabric Secretary's careful management of work limited expenditure on repairs to £5400 leaving us with £26650 to start 2024, and with no activity on Capital account, we have an emergency reserve of £22177. The greatest expenditure in 2023 was dealing with dampness in the ramp room wall and subsequent redecorations. We have paid a deposit for enlarging the dropped kerb entry to the car park to provide better access and deter others from parking close to our gates.

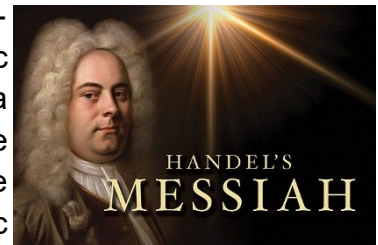
Our total assets of £48760 show an increase of £4500 and leave us in a comfortable position to start the year.

Handel's Messiah

Have you ever been to a performance of Handel's Messiah? I'm sure we have all heard of the renown Hallelujah Chorus which of course comes from this work and is sometimes performed as a separate item at many a Choral Concert. However there is much more to the Messiah than this well loved piece. The Messiah is in fact a musical composition for voices based on religious text, technically known as an Oratorio. This is so with the Messiah and basically covers the life of our Lord through to the great Amen at the end.

Whilst Handel was concerned with composing the music, he was assisted by a good friend namely Charles Jennens, a Patron of the Arts, who today might loosely be known as a Lyricist. Jennens had previous experience with Oratorio works, so no doubt they would have worked together joining the religious text chosen with Handel's wonderful music.

Oh no! The history bit (Brief). George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) Born in Germany he commenced composing music there, but moved to London in 1712 and became a naturalised Briton. He wrote many works including The Water Music for King George II as he processed down the Thames in the Royal Barge; another popular piece of music was for the Royal Fireworks in Green Park in 1749. During his lifetime Handel wrote 42 Operas countless Arias, Trios and Duets - his famous Messiah is his best known work.



The Messiah's opening performance took place in Dublin on 13th April 1742, (all of Ireland was then part of Great Britain) in honour of Easter and was well received. A London performance soon followed with similar reaction and the rest as they say is History. The Messiah is now performed both at Christmas and Easter time - not just here in the UK.

One of my favourite choral pieces in the Messiah is the prophecy - words taken directly from Isaiah Ch 9 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" - when I read these words I can hear Handel's wonderful music coursing through it - brilliant! If you ever get the opportunity to attend a performance of the Messiah I would highly recommend it as the whole performance can be very uplifting.

Len Clarkson

Foot note. It is customary to stand during the Hallelujah chorus and it is said that this started during a Royal performance when King George stood up for it, when the King stands everyone stands. Rumour has it that the King was actually catching a nap and when Handel's majestic music struck up, he shot up out of his seat and everyone stood up in respect. Believe what you like about that!

Why saying hello is important

What lessons can Christians learn from a London rail worker who was recently honoured by King Charles, for talking 29 people out of taking their own lives?

Maybe something about the power of conversation and being willing to 'stop for a chat.'

Rizwan Javed helped to save each life over a period of eight years, by being alert and approaching vulnerable individuals in difficult situations. He was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours earlier this year.

Rizwan was alert, and willing to engage people in conversation.

Anglican priest Jemima Prasad's style of talking with people has been described as 'bus stop theology.' She put it into action on the half-mile walk from her home to the church in Lozells, an inner-city area of West Birmingham, with high unemployment and poverty.

Her engaging approach is featured in *Stick with Love*, a recent book by Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall in northern England.

She explained: "I don't go out looking to talk to people, but I am ready to do it. I don't pass anybody without saying 'Hello' and when I leave, I always say 'God bless you.' Meetings happen on a daily basis, but often only last as long as it takes for the bus to arrive.

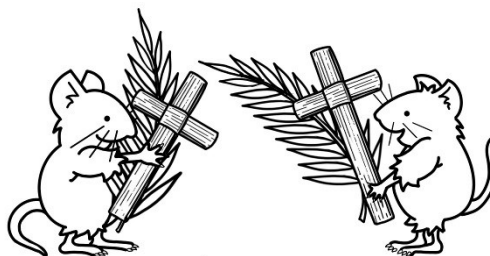
"People often say they are not religious, but I say we are all spiritual beings, and they agree. So, I simply tell them that weak and simple people like me call that God."

Sadly, we are living in a society where conversations are being closed down. People who might have chatted on the bus or train, are now deeply involved with their mobile phones.

Supermarkets are phasing out staffed checkout points, so that elderly people and others who live alone are deprived of those conversations that can make a difference to their day.

Jesus asked questions as a vital component of His earthly ministry. His deep conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 begins with Him asking for a drink.

Maybe we, as Christians and churches, need to be looking out for more chances to start conversations, to give people the opportunity to open up about their lives. In our busy, rushing-around world, there are many people out there who are just longing for a chat...



The Knitted Bible



A friend visited this travelling exhibition in Thorpe Le Soken, Essex recently she was very impressed so I thought it needed to be shared.

The people of St George's Reformed Church Hartlepool started knitting at the end of February 2008. They were only intending to create the last Supper, but enthusiasm and imagination combined to make them much more ambitious! So there are now 36 stories in all. Which they loan out all over the country.



Their hope is that in depicting some of the best known Bible stories, everyone who sees them will be able to understand and enjoy them and may discover some detail that they had forgotten or never new before—whilst learning more about God and his love for this world.



Quiz on the Book of Numbers

1. How many chapters are there in the Book of Numbers?

34,35,36,

2. "*Bemidbar*," the Hebrew title of the book "Numbers" means what?

In the beginning, In the wilderness,, Accounting

3. What does the book of Numbers describe?

the priestly rituals and rules for conduct, the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt,
the numbering of God's people.

4. How many years will the Israelites wander in the wilderness?

30, 40, 50

5. What tribe was given the responsibility of doing the work of the tabernacle?

Asher, Judah, Levi.

6. In Numbers 16, a man named Korah led a rebellion against Moses. How did God end this rebellion?

They were all stricken with leprosy, They were eaten by worms, The ground opened up and swallowed them.

7. Why does God prohibit Moses from entering Canaan in Numbers 20?

because he spoke to the rock, because he threw the rock, because he strikes the rock.

8. What did Moses hold up in Numbers 21, to heal the people who had been bitten by poisonous snakes when they looked at it?

The Ten Commandments, A Brass Serpent, Aaron's Rod.

9. When the twelve spies were sent to Canaan, how many returned with a good report?

Two, Twelve, One.

10. 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' What are these verse from Numbers 6 called?

The Shema, The Mezzuzah, The Aaronic Blessing.

(Answers are on the back page.)

Surveying the Cross



In England in the 1600s, singing in church was confined to simple melodies attached to the words of the psalms. Each line would be sung in turn by a precentor, and the congregation would follow. This was a slow, stilted and rather uninspiring process!

When Isaac Watts was 15 years old, he complained to his father that singing in church was nothing but tuneless dirges. Watt's father, a church deacon, challenged his son that if he could do better with the worship he could go ahead and try.

Watts rose to the task in a big way: during his lifetime he wrote over 600 hymns! And from that time, countless poets and composers have followed his example, and enhanced the way we worship God.

Many churches will sing one of Watts' hymns this Easter: *When I survey the wondrous cross*.

It is written as though Watts is standing in front of the cross, gazing at the crucified Jesus, and taking stock of what this all means to him.

Incredibly, Watts describes the Roman device for capital punishment as a 'wondrous cross' and views this as an amazing scene of God's love. The cross was indeed a sight of horror, but it was also one of love where Jesus died for our sins.

As Paul put it: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." *Galatians 6:14*

Watts realises that anything he has of value pales into insignificance when considering the magnitude of Jesus coming from the glorious realms of heaven to live for a while on earth. As Watts looks at his Saviour dying in agonising pain, he knows there is no place for self-esteem. Jesus sacrificed Himself for us, securing our salvation and it is only about Him we should boast.

Watts uses an imagery of the starkness of the crucifixion with 'sorrow' and 'love'. It was sorrow for our sin that took Jesus to the cross; it was not the nails that held Him there, but His love for us.

The final verse is about gratitude and commitment. What can we give to Jesus as a 'thank you'? How can we repay Him? Even if we could give the whole world as a gift to Jesus it would be inadequate — a 'present far too small'.

Our only proper gift can be to offer Him our own 'soul, our life and our all'.

The tale of the Tower Builder

BUILDING SITE FOR SALE

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

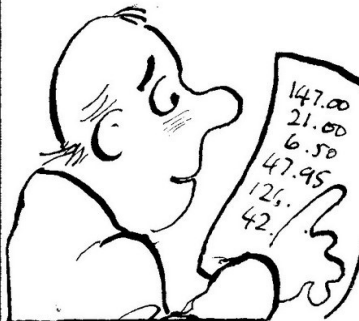


ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



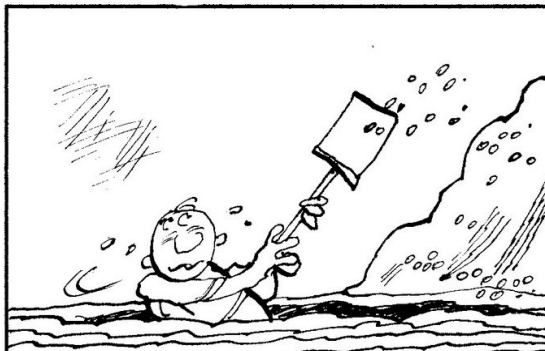
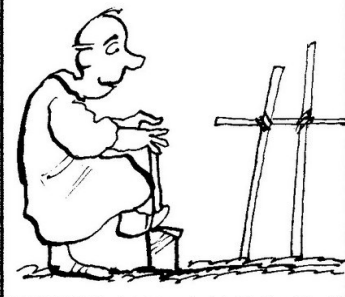
JESUS BEGAN, 'IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



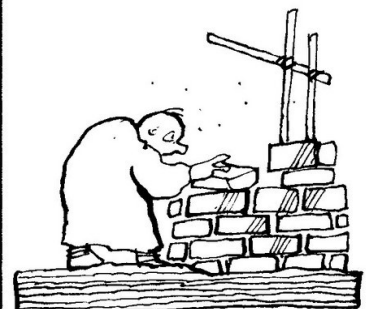
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS...

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,

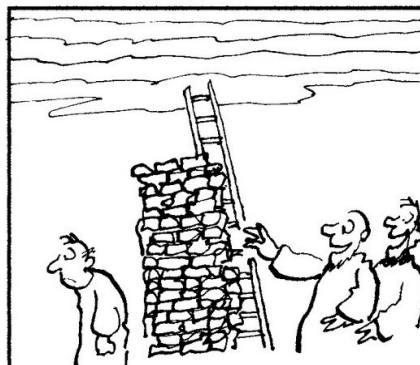


....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



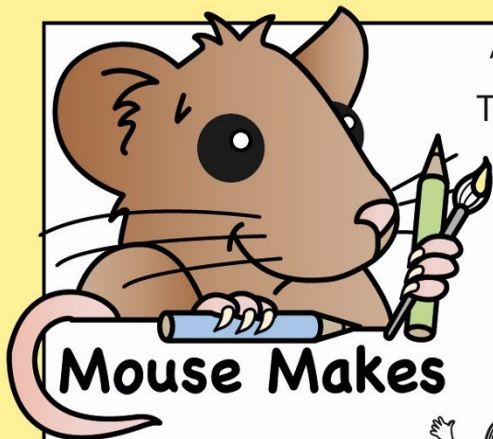
...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!

TOWER TO BE CANCELLED BUILT HERE

WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



"I am the **resurrection** and the life.
The one who believes in me will live
even though they die."

John 1:25



READ the Bible
passages to find
the answers to the
crossword clues

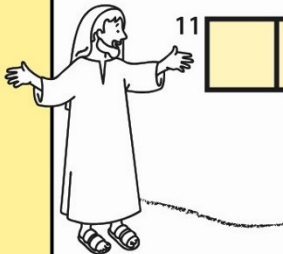
Matthew 21:1-11

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



Matthew 26:17-29

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



Matthew 27:27-61

17. What was Jesus' crown made of?
9. What was Jesus crucified on?
14. Who's tomb was Jesus buried in?
13. What did they wrap Jesus' body in?
16. What did they roll in front of the tomb?

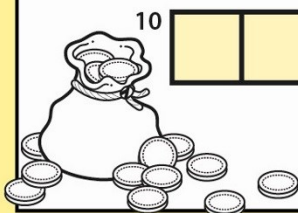
Matthew 26:36-75

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?



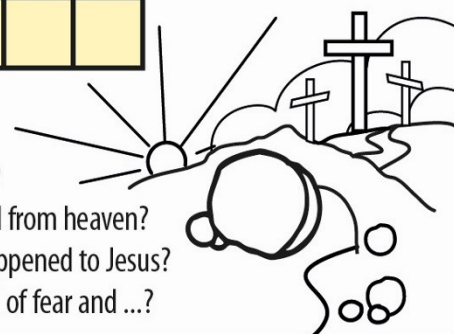
Matthew 26:14-16

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?



Matthew 28:1-10

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



Easter Prayer 2024

Almighty, God,

You hold all things in Your hands. You make sense of everything!

So often we only see where we are now, what we feel now, in this moment – but You know the end from the beginning.

In all our troubles, our assurance is in Your sovereignty, in Your mighty act of salvation.

Thank you that, just as after winter comes spring and after night comes morning, so, most gloriously, after death on Good Friday, comes resurrection on Easter Day!

Christ is Risen – and we can know, by the indwelling of his Holy Spirit, that He is risen indeed!

We can know, in our real and every-day lives, where our help comes from.

Hallelujah! Thank you, living Lord,
In Jesus name.
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

The Gardener

Spring's a time for planting in the warming earth

Seeds and saplings growing at this time of birth.

Carefully we tend them, pulling out each weed

Watering and weeding every plant and seed.

Yet we are just helpers – nothing done alone

For without our Father, nothing will be grown;

He's the Creator, He alone can bring

Growth into our gardens each succeeding spring.

Let us praise our Maker who makes life appear,

Praise Him in the springtime, and throughout the year;

Praise Him for all nature – ev'ry tree and flower

Gaze upon the garden, praise Him every hour!

God the gracious gardener cares for more than plants

As to us, His children every breath He grants.

He that for salvation gave His only Son,

Do not fail to praise Him for all that he's done.

By Nigel Beeton

Diary/Noticeboard:

Chadwell Heath + Heath & Havering Group of Churches

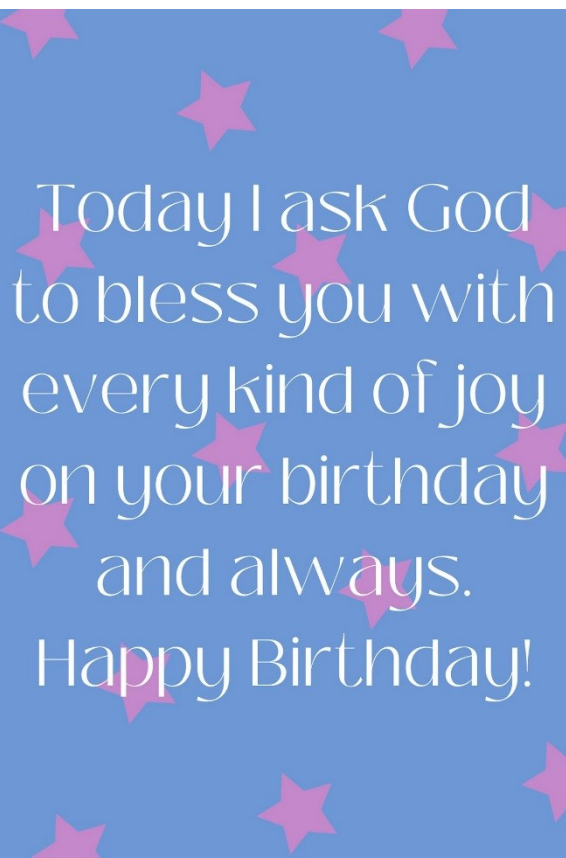
Foodbank:

Thank you for your continued support. We are short of Long-life milk – full fat & semi-skimmed, Long-life fruit juice, Breakfast cereal & porridge oats, Savoury snacks – crisps, crackers, etc, Jars of pasta sauce, Tinned spaghetti, Cooking oil, Nappies – size 3 and above, Washing powder and Toilet Rolls

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.



Happy Birthday's in March & April



Len Clarkson 2nd,
Ethel Baddoo 6th.

Dianne Crisp 3rd,
Evie Catlin 9th,
Lidia Catlin 12th,
Harvey 17th,
Christina Buxton 22nd.





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



Our Minister's contact details are:

Revd. Brian Busckill
216 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster, RM14 2BL
01708 784701 07548 447067
busckill@gmail.com

Quiz on the Book of Numbers:

Answers:

36

In the wilderness

The numbering of God's people

40

Levi

The ground opened up and swallowed them.

Because he struck the rock instead of speaking to it

A brass serpent

Two

The Aaronic Blessing



**Please send any news, information or an article for the Heath to
Dianne Crisp. Email Dianne.Crisp@ntlworld.com The deadline is
Wednesday 24th April for the May Issue. *Thank you***