



**Inclusive
Church**



The
**United
Reformed
Church**



The HEATH

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

September 2018

50p

Dear Friends,

“Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding”

(Proverbs 3:13)

The cycle of the Academic year moves on swiftly, and this year we are feeling the excitement as a family, as Elijah prepares to start school and Jeremiah looks forward to pre-school.

Many children and families enjoyed “time off” over the summer holiday period. Children and young people connected to our church will have received exam results and prepared for school or university over the summer.

Education is seen as an important part of life in our culture and we hope to instil not only factual knowledge but also wisdom and life-skills.

The Bible frequently reminds us that God is the Source of all wisdom and knowledge.

“By wisdom the Lord laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; by his knowledge the watery depths were divided” (verses 19-20)

Wisdom is life-giving in our faith tradition. It is at the heart of God. If I had continued my academic studies after receiving my MA degree, I would have liked to look into the nature of Wisdom in the Bible. My suspicion is that the Wisdom of God in the Old Testament is comparable to the Spirit of God in the New Testament - Wisdom may even be a 4th person of the Trinity!

Proverbs 3 reminds us to continue our learning journey throughout our Christian life: **“do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart ... Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding”** (verses 1 & 5)

We are invited to adopt a culture of continuous learning. We do not receive faith completely at any one point in our lives. Faith is a journey, not a destination!

As Christians, as followers of Jesus, we need to model our living on the lives of the disciples - asking questions, making mistakes, even going off-track a bit, and finding more answers as our journey of faith continues.

Whenever we feel settled or comfortable in our faith, we begin to lean on our own understanding. Instead of learning more about God's teaching (and what it means for our lives), we may become complacent, thinking we have reached the end of the journey.

How can we keep God's commands in our hearts? How can we be sure that our convictions echo the Wisdom of God?

The answer seems simplistic: We are in need of continuing education. We need to study the Word of God, and the reflections of God's people. We need to come together to worship God and to learn from each other (or the preacher). We need small groups and gatherings where we can have more informal conversations about issues of faith. We need time and space to reflect, share and grow in our faith - in our church community or even in online forums.

At the heart of God's wisdom, it seems, is this command: **“Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.”** (verse 3)

Whether we are continuing our journey of education within secular educational establishments this month, or whether we are learning and growing primarily in faith-based environments, may we strive to reflect God's love and faithfulness in our lives and to our world.

May we know God's love and peace in our lives - even when our understanding seems dim! May we continue to seek Him as the source of our life and may God bless us on our faith and life journeys!

Your Minister

Dorothee



Heath & Havering URC
United in Christ

CHADWELL HEATH URC SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018



I took over as Church Secretary in June after Jo Clifford finished her second term as a serving Elder. At times, I have felt quite overwhelmed by the position but have had a great deal of help and advice from Dorothee and the other serving Elders. I now feel I am getting to grips with everything involved in being Church Secretary and I am learning new and interesting things about the URC every day.

With the help of Heather Saville as Pulpit Secretary, we have had a number of new preachers come and take our services as well as some familiar faces. We have enjoyed learning some new songs and, of course, having some old favourites. It has been good to have different styles of preaching, some enthusiastic and some quieter, all with a wonderful message for us from God.

In September 2017 we welcomed Emelia Williams as a new member into our church family.

We are continuing to develop our links with the churches in Chadwell Heath and have had several joint events.

The Foodbank still fulfils a great need in our area and we have been blessed with regular contributions from some of the local churches.

We have had a number of social events including 2 quizzes, coffee mornings (some with crafts), a car treasure hunt finishing in a BBQ and bring and share lunches.

We are about to have the outside of the building repainted and our kitchen refurbished which has been made possible with the help of a grant towards the cost from the URC.

We are thankful to a committed band of members and church family who help in so many ways including dealing with problems concerning our church fabric, paying the bills (our Treasurer), operating the sound system and hymnal, setting the Communion table, arranging the flowers, editing our magazine, looking after the garden areas, putting out the bins and helping with refreshments after the service to mention but a few. If I have not mentioned the particular job you do, please accept our thanks as you are all vital to the running of Chadwell Heath URC and the Elders could not manage without you.

Diana Baker - Church Secretary

WHAT IS...The United Reformed Church? This leaflet is available in Church

Becoming a member

People often ask whether they need to 'join' their church and 'become a member'. This is not essential but, for those who decide to take this step, it can deepen the sense of belonging. The URC encourages regular attendees to consider church membership when they start to think of a particular church as 'their church'. Church members commit to supporting the church through giving, through action, and by taking part in the Church Meeting, as well as through regular attendance at public worship. If you would like to know more about becoming a member, please do speak to the minister or worship leader – they will be delighted to answer any questions.

For URC books and resources: www.urcshop.co.uk

For more information: www.urc.org.uk

'Being "Reformed" means that we delight in exploring the Bible, we do not fear change, and we try to run our churches in ways that take everyone's insight and contribution seriously.'

What is
The United Reformed Church?



The
United
Reformed
Church

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Introduction

We are very glad to welcome you to our church. This leaflet tells you a bit more about the wider family to which we belong – the United Reformed Church (URC).

The URC is a group of Christian churches across England, Scotland and Wales and is part of the worldwide family of Reformed Churches, which has a total membership of more than 70 million. The URC itself has around 53,000 members in 1,426 congregations, with more than 600 active ministers.

Historical background

The name United Reformed reflects our roots in the Reformation. This began in 1517 after Martin Luther published his '95 Theses' attacking papal abuses. The 'Reformed' part of our name also reflects our continual aim of reforming ourselves to be a Church for the present day.

The United Reformed Church Act of 1972 formally merged the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church in England and Wales. One MP described this merger as: 'one of the most historic measures in the history of the Christian churches in this country'. The denomination expanded when the Churches of Christ joined us in 1981, followed by the Scottish Congregationalists in 2000.

The URC is a nonconformist Church. Put most simply, this means that we are not an 'established' Church, with a formal link to civil authority as the Church of England and Church of Scotland have. We are committed to working closely with Churches of all traditions, in prayer and social action, and many of our local churches are now united with local churches from other traditions.

What we believe

We believe that in the Bible we can hear the Word of God, still speaking to us today, and that each of us can find fulfilment through loving and serving Jesus Christ.

Lack of hierarchy and a respect for individual conscience mean that the URC is not dogmatic and embraces a wide variety of opinions. At the same time, in the words of our *A Statement of Nature, Faith and Order*, together we are committed to 'God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the living God, the only God, ever to be praised.'

We are proud to be an intercultural Church, where people with varied ethnic and cultural roots enrich one another's Christian living. All posts in the URC, whether voluntary or paid, are open to both men and women. We were pioneers in ordaining women – our first female minister was ordained in 1917.

More information on our core beliefs can be found at <http://bit.ly/urcbelief>.

'Lack of hierarchy and a respect for individual conscience'

Our organisational structure

The URC has a democratic three-tier structure:

Local church congregations – hold meetings to govern their affairs. Each church has local leadership from elected elders, but the Church Meeting of members is the main decision-making body at local level.

Synods – there are 13 synods: the national synods of Scotland and Wales plus 11 regional synods across England. Each provides oversight of regional matters and is led by a synod moderator.

General Assembly – is the URC's ultimate decision-making body. It meets biennially to celebrate, discuss and make decisions on the life and work of the denomination. Mission Council is the executive body of the General Assembly and meets twice a year.

Getting involved in church life

Local churches offer a varying range of community activities in addition to Sunday worship, which is at the centre of church life. For details of activities at our church, ask a member of the congregation or check out our church website.



CHURCH DIARY SEPTEMBER

Sunday 2nd	11:15am	Holy Communion — Revd. Dorothee Bűrma Communion Table - Christina
Thursday 6th	10.00am	Foodbank, Coffee & Conversation, Church Library time
Sunday 9th	11:15am	Revd. Ann Woodhurst
	6:30pm	Holy Communion at Nelmes
Monday 10th	7pm	Elders Meeting
Thursday 13th	10.00am	Foodbank, Coffee & Conversation, Church Library time
Sunday 16th	11:15am	Revd. Dorothee Bűrma - Cafe Service Followed by Church Meeting
Thursday 20th	10.00am	Foodbank, Coffee & Conversation, Church Library time
Sunday 23rd	11:15am	Angel Tiebas
Thursday 27th	10.00am	Foodbank, Coffee & Conversation, Church Library time
Saturday 29th	10.30am	MacMillan Coffee Morning
Sunday 30th	11:15am	Rev. Christine Harding

Worship Themes September

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.

September 2, 2018	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
September 9, 2018	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125	James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
September 16, 2018	Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
September 23, 2018	Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1	James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
September 30, 2018	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50

St Marks Baptist Church have a Mini-Mart on Thursday
September 20th from 10am to 2pm

They also have a Christmas Bazaar on
Thursday 15th November 11am to 4pm (including cream tea)
Saturday 17th November 10am to 1 pm
Christmas items and new goods.

Lord

Give me strength in my weakness.

Give me faith in my fear.

Give me power in my powerlessness.

I'm trusting You.

AMEN

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.



I just want to start by saying a HUGE thank you to everyone who has supported us and for your generous donations. In total we raised over £800 with gift aid. All thanks to you...

Sunday 8th July Bath Race for Life

After 6 months of fairly sensible training consisting of at least 2.5 miles twice a week. Paula, Bea and I were ready!

What we weren't ready for however, was the 28°C heat!

Bea steamed across the starting line with the runners whilst Paula and I were firmly within the pack of walkers. Not crisps I might add!

The DJ from Heart FM as well as the local Bath MP set us off and we very quickly managed to break away from the crowd to our rehearsed jogging pace. The course was very windy and often turned back on itself making you to feel like you were covering the same track twice, but it was a beautiful setting in front of the Royal Crescent but often with very little shade. Some parts were so hilly we could only walk! However, we managed a good time with Paula even broadcasting a Facebook live video of her and I crossing the finishing line at 43 minutes. Bea sped through at just 35 minutes.

The sense of camaraderie was intense. Females united together with one goal in mind. Everyone has been affected somehow by cancer. Whether it was the lady in remission, another who was currently undergoing treatment or the young girl who had lost her Nanny recently. **As for me, I ran in memory of our dear friend Margaret Smith.** We were all there hoping to make a difference and raise money for this vital charity.

Thank you again for the part YOU played in supporting and sponsoring us.
Jo Clifford



Happy Birthdays in September



1st Sept Ann Woodhurst, 5th Jo Clifford,

8th Heather Saville, 17th Caroline Grubb,

26th Dorothee Bührma





David's 2018 Bowls Tour

At the beginning of July I dragged Angela away on another bowls tour, this time to Norfolk. When I stood down as President of Essex Vice Presidents Association, my successor only agreed to take on the role of next President if he could take the tour to Park Farm Hotel in Hethersett near Norwich. This proved to be an excellent choice – comfortable rooms, first class service and very good choice of food considering they were catering for 62 tourists in addition to their normal guests.

Our tour started with a game on the Sunday afternoon before booking in to the hotel. We had further games on Monday and Tuesday, with a day off for relaxation on Wednesday before two more games on Thursday and Friday. The tour started during the period of hot weather, and many of the greens we bowled on were what can best be described as “challenging”. Indeed, most of them were more brown than green! Despite this, we managed some success in our games and thoroughly enjoyed the company of the tourists and of the clubs we visited.

The games started at 2pm, and were within 30 minutes drive of the hotel, so we took the opportunity of exploring the area on some of our free mornings. Of particular interest were Wymondham Abbey and Hingham Church, both providing cool tranquil spaces to enjoy before facing the hot unshaded greens in the afternoons.

Wymondham Abbey is an imposing twin-towered building and contains a fine angel roof and a very large gilded altar screen erected as a First World War memorial. Originally a Benedictine monastery, it was founded in 1107 as a daughter house to St Albans Abbey. The grand stone structure was initially used by both monks and parishioners. This caused frequent disputes until in 1249 the Pope ruled it should be divided, with monks using the eastern end and the western end becoming the Parish Church.

Hingham Church dates from the early 1300s and its 120 foot tower forms a landmark for miles around. Large perpendicular windows from 15th century reflected the importance of the eight Guilds forming a major part of Hingham life, although their stained glass was lost in 17th century. In 1622 one Samuel Lincoln was baptised in the Church



and in 1638 he sailed to America, settling in Hingham, Massachusetts. He was to be the great, great, great, great grandfather of Abraham Lincoln, whose bust adorns the north aisle of the Church. The connection is maintained in the village with the Lincoln Tearoom, which Angela insisted we visit!

The pews are adorned with a vast array of kneelers commemorating the Guilds, local buildings and trades and past people of significance in the Church and village. Whilst we were the only visitors that morning, there were four ladies “of a certain age” in the Church. We thought they were perhaps cleaning, flower arranging etc, but they explained they were a PE class doing their exercises. In silence, they walked around the aisles, did push-ups on the end of the pews, and step-ups on the plinth of the font. What a lovely way to use their Church! On the way out we found their notice, which read “PE class in progress. You are welcome to come in, but please don't laugh!”

We spent our day off visiting a National Trust house, followed by a gorgeous water garden. Originally farmland, when it flooded the owners son jokingly suggested making the water garden. The result is eight acres of land dotted with five islands set in lakes and streams interlinked with bridges. There were lots of shaded seats and a bird hide overlooking a lake. It was a delight to wander through it all, and a midweek break from bowling was good for both of us!

David & Angela Saggars



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 Bäärma

RevdDorothee@t-online.de Tel:01708228489

Web site: [http://www.heathandhaveringurc.co.uk/
chadwellheath.html](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 Tuesday 25th September 2018 for the October/
November issue.**