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kindle

SEPTEMBER 2017

The magazine of the Romford United
Reformed Churches at
Western Road and Heaton Way



**The view from
Len Covell's seat**

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mohammed Ramadan, who may be executed at any time in Bahrain.

Aleksandr Rafalsky, who was sentenced in 2004 to life imprisonment in the Ukraine after probable torture and a forced confession.

Oqbamichel Haiminot in Eritrea, who has suffered solitary confinement, extreme abuse and repeated imprisonment for refusing to recant his Christian faith.

Khaing Myo Htun, who is in detention facing charges of sedition for collecting evidence of human rights abuses by the Burmese army.

Zhang Shaojie, who was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment in China for leading an unregistered Christian church. His wife and baby have fled the region but continue to receive death threats.

Pray for those in many countries of the world who are facing the death penalty, especially in the USA, China, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Pray also for those in Uganda who are persecuted and abused for their sexual orientation and identity.

Pray also for all victims of torture and ill treatment across the world. May all governments honour the commitment to stamp out torture, over three decades after the ground-breaking Convention against Torture was adopted by the United Nations in 1984



Great Advice!

If a dog was the teacher you would learn such things as:

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the chance to go for a joy ride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

When its in your best interest, practice obedience.

Let others know when they have invaded your territory.

Take naps. Stretch before rising.

Run, romp and play daily.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

Avoid biting, when a simple growl will do.

On warm days, stop and lie on your back in the grass.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout.....

Run right back and make friends.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.

Stop when you have had enough.

Be loyal. Never pretend to be something you are not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

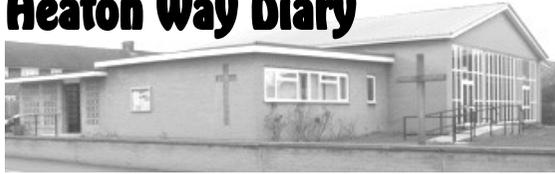
When someone is having a bad day, be silent and sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

Author unknown



Found by Betty Hollinrake

Heaton Way Diary



September 2017

3rd September 11.15am Revd. Dorothee Bührma
 10th September 11.15am Revd. Martin Wheadon
 17th September 11.15am Revd. Anne Woodhurst
 24th September 11.15am Gill and Fiona

Acts Of Kindness

Martin led our service at Heaton Way on the 2nd of July. He spoke of how small acts of kindness was something to aim at we all enjoyed chatting on the subject. And then Martin who we would like to have dinner with Kay spoke of Jennifer Rees Larcombe an author who I particularly love as she is very honest with her feelings and love of working for Jesus.

I mentioned that she had just suffered a heart attack Martin at once that we could send a get well card as an act of kindness from Heaton Way we all signed it and Martin was going to send it on. It was a lovely service as usual.

I would like to thank all who take our services and especially Western Road as they take our services so often and Betty for playing for us these are huge acts of kindness and are appreciated by us all.

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings.

Little Johnny, a child in the kindergarten class, seemed especially intent when they told him how

Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said,

"Johnny what is the matter?"

Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife

The place is very well and quiet and the children only scream in a low voice. - George Gordon

Pastoral Letter

Dear friends,

The Church is like a Hot Tub!

Let me explain.

Firstly, we had a lovely holiday traveling up North, visiting friends and churches in Manchester, the Lake District and then in the Western part of Scotland. Even Iona featured for a day (and that day trip included 5 ferry crossings!).

In Scotland, I have become a "hot tub convert"!

With the cold weather and strong winds (and often also the rain), it is such an efficient way of warming up again quickly after a day out. I had initially been surprised that so much of the holiday accommodation in Scotland featured either a hot tub or a swimming pool with sauna. We rented a holiday lodge for a few days - complete with our very own hot tub. We hadn't particularly looked for somewhere with a hot tub, but when it was there, it added much joy and warmth to our days.

And this made me reflect on the role of the Church in our society:

Many people don't initially look for the church either. Life seems busy enough, there are many activities to occupy our spare time outside the church, and many people simply enjoy the comfort of their own homes after a day at work. They may have a basic belief in God, Jesus and in Heaven, but the church doesn't appear in their lives very often. And they get on fine with life.

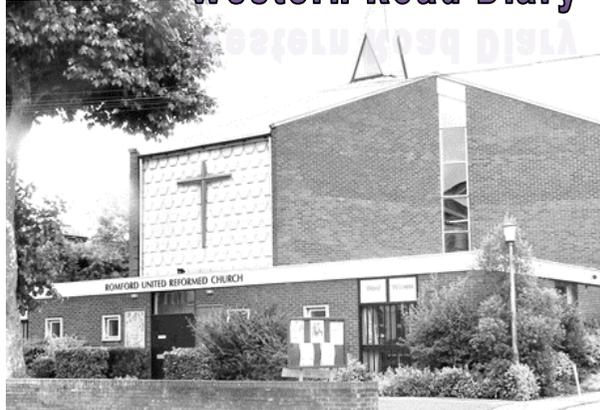
What prompts people to come to church again and engage with their own faith is the "rough weather" in life. When things aren't as smooth, when icy breezes shake us up, when storms shake our very foundations in life, then we are more likely to look for the warmth of the "hot tub" church.

And once we have allowed ourselves to step in, momentarily leaving all our "stuff" behind, we find ourselves surrounded by the warming comfort of God's embrace. We become still. Whatever burdens we carried, however cold we felt, we sink into God's arms and rest there for a while. Even if the breeze continues to blow around us, the hot tub offers a sanctuary and gives us a different perspective.

After spending some time inside the comfort of the hot tub, we feel strengthened and ready again to face our surroundings - whatever the weather. As we step out into life again, we decide which things we need to pick up again, and then we do so with new energy. And when we get more familiar with using a hot tub, it becomes an increasing joy to step in, even if the day has not been windy or cold at all. The hot tub is never a necessity but it can add much joy to our days.



Western Road Diary



September

- Friday 1 Art Time 4
 Saturday 2 Westies Child Contact Centre Trinovante Coffee Club @ BB's Card Club
 Sunday 3 **Morning Worship – Revd Dorothee Bùurma**
 Tuesday 5 Trinovante & Retired Gentlemen's Club Badminton
 Wednesday 6 Morning Prayers Soup & Cheese Lunches
 Friday 8 Playgroup Morning Coffee Boys Brigade
 Sunday 10 **Morning Worship – Revd Martin Wheadon Evening Communion At Nelmes – Revd Ann Woodhurst**
 Monday 11 Parent & Toddlers House Group @ 83 Clydesdale Road
 Tuesday 12 Playgroup Morning Coffee Joan's Friendship Club Trinovante & Retired Gentlemen's Club Badminton
 Wednesday 13 Morning Prayers Soup & Cheese Lunches Art Time Elders' Meeting
 Friday 15 Playgroup Morning Coffee Boys Brigade
 Saturday 16 Westies Child Contact Centre
 Sunday 17 **Morning Worship With Communion – Revd Ann Woodhurst**
 Monday 18 Parent & Toddlers House Group @ 83 Clydesdale Road
 Tuesday 19 Playgroup Morning Coffee Trinovante & Retired Gentlemen's Club Badminton
 Wednesday 20 Morning Prayers Soup & Cheese Lunches Church Meeting
 Thursday 21 Rainbows Brownies Youth Praise Planning Meeting 7.30pm Church Fair Planning Meeting 8.00pm
 Friday 22 Playgroup Morning Coffee Boys Brigade
 Sunday 24 **Morning Worship – Gill Shepherd & Fiona Skidmore**

Kingsley Choral Group Charity Concert

This choir, which Graham Davies and Jim Rivers sing with, presented a wonderful concert to raise funds for the church charity Whitechapel Mission It



was good to hear Graham and Jim in action. The choir under the leadership of Tom Jackson invites quest performers and the one chosen was really someone very special His name REJUS JAKAS, a very charming thirteen-year-old violinist, who has been playing since he was three years old. When he is playing you can see the real pleasure that he is experiencing. He has already won many awards, so his parents

must be very proud of him. He is definitely a star of the future and we wish him every success in everything that he does. So watch out for the name REJUS JAKAS, as he thrills his audiences for many years to come. Thank you to the Kingsley Choral Group for raising the wonderful sum of £490 for Whitechapel Mission.

Tea in the Garden

Members of Trinovante and the Retired Gentlemen's Club were invited to 40 Lake Rise for tea and cakes in the garden and were blessed with a beautiful sunny afternoon. Vera joined the gentlemen in a game of croquet and was quite a star. Some visitors sat by the water the whole afternoon while other sat and chatted on the lawn and were entertained by the croquet players who did not quite stick to the rules! There were plenty of willing helpers who did a grand job cutting up cakes and carrying trays of tea to the tables. Parts of the garden are quite wild but no one got lost in the jungle! Trinovante President Revd Martin Wheadon was able to attend joining in the 'fun' croquet and he came first in the quiz. He brought the festivities to a close with a prayer of thankfulness for a wonderful afternoon. So, thank you to anyone who helped in any way – cake providers, tea makers, washers-up etc. Donations for jam raised £30.10 for the charity Whitechapel Mission.



Tom & Betty

A skip day and summer clean.



What a great success this proved to be, about 20 of us gathered and set about cleaning and filing the skip.

In the end we had two skips, but what a difference we have made, every cupboard has been emptied, cleaned and refilled in the kitchens . All the organisations have sorted and tidied their cupboards, the Prayer Room Cupboard has lost some of the contents that have been in it for decades, and the Lower Worship Room cupboard is so tidy and organised it is amazing. The hymn book vestibule is sorted and cleaned, and the Small Meeting Room is organised. The space behind the curtains on the stage is empty! The Westies storage has been sorted. The Church has lost the odd chairs and bits and bobs that seem to gather. And best of all the B.B. demolished two of the sheds in the car park and got rid of all the accumulated rubbish, a whole skips worth.

The result a fresh, tidy and happy church building for us to use and enjoy. Our very grateful thanks to all who helped, it is so worthwhile.

And woe betide anyone who leaves any rubbish about, it will go straight in the bin.

Gill

Magic in the church

There are some things in the church which seem to happen as if by magic, but if you investigate further you will find that there is always someone in the background. How important do you think the tea towels are? If the tea towel drawer was empty there would be an outcry, as all refreshments provided by the various organizations would be in serious trouble and clean crockery would soon run out. But the magician goes by the name of Jean Morrison, who regularly collects the dirty tea towels takes them home for laundering and brings them back to refill the tea towel drawer, it reminds me of the widows cruse of oil in the bible! (1 Kings 17 x8-15) So, a big thank to Jean for her devotion to this task over many

years. Of course, if you have an event, you could help by taking the used tea towels home yourself to refill the drawer.



Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.

Robert Louis Stevenson



OpenDoors
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

Maldives

Leader: **President Abdulla Yameen**
Population: **376,000 (A few thousand Christians)**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Government: **Islamic republic**
World Watch List Rank: **13**
Source of Persecution: **Islamic extremism**



The leaders of the Maldives claim that their citizens are 100 per cent Muslim, and take pride in that fact.

Migrant Christians are closely monitored and their meetings are restricted, while Maldivian Christians must keep their faith completely secret. Converting to another religion means losing your citizenship, and being found to own a Bible could result in a prison sentence. Some Maldivian Christians have been forced to move abroad to escape persecution.

Please pray

- That God would enable secret believers to meet together safely and have access to the Bible
- For Maldivian people to have dreams and visions of Jesus, and be led to believers who will be bold enough to share the gospel with them
- Discipleship is a challenge because of security issues - pray that Maldivian Christians would grow in their faith.

Waitrose = "We guarantee our fish is responsibly sourced". Like the fresh line caught Tuna from the Maldives.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Believe you can and you're halfway there.

Theodore Roosevelt

Can you find the 16 books of the Bible?

“I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible merely by fluke; it kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalised. But now the truth finally struck home to various numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a fascination few moments for you! Yes, there will be some really difficult ones to spot; others may require judges to help them. I quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them. There will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are 16 names of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One preacher found 15 books in 20 minutes.....but it took him 3 weeks to find the 16th!!!!”

This was in the church magazine in my home church in Belfast thought you might like to try it. One book is very hard to find but a King James version may help.

Found for us by *Christine Grant*

Not so smart phone

According to a meeting of Pediatric Academic Societies in San Francisco the more time spent by toddlers with phones and tablets the longer they take to develop complex speech. A study taken of 900 Canadian children by Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children for every 30 minutes extra time per day they spent watching a hand-held screen, there was a 50 per cent greater chance of delayed speech.



The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.
Helen Keller

Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.

Malala Yousafzai



image from: http://www.mynorthside.com/assets/2419/12_digin2-web.jpg

Let's Dig Deeper!

- Have you ever been left with some questions about God/ the Bible after a Sunday Service?
- Would you like to know more about the Church and its Reformed Roots?
- What was Worship originally intended to be? And what should we make of it?
- How should we pray? Does prayer work?

These (and more) questions could be the focus of a joint Heath & Havering discussion group - and you could be part of it!

Using the URC's TLS Lite materials, I would like to invite you to consider joining me for some regular reflections and conversations about our Reformed Christian faith.

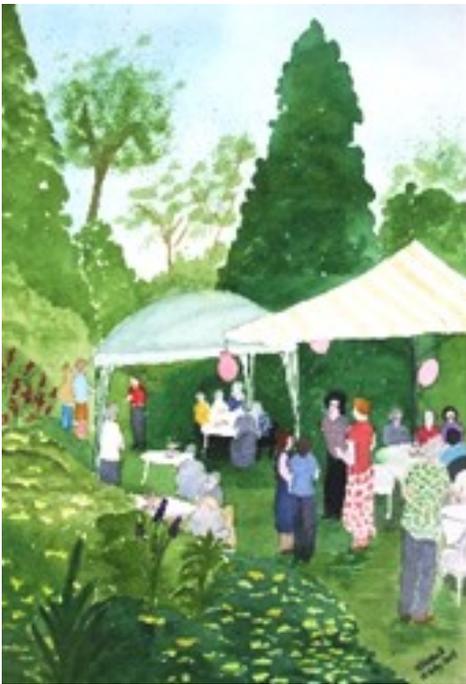
The aim is to start with 3 fortnightly meetings in October and November (title: "You, the Bible, God & Worship") and then to see where this takes us.

Interested? Available? Please contact me and indicate your availability or preferences of time/ day/ venue. I will advertise fixed meetings in next month's magazine, based on feedback received.

Let's dig!! **Dorothee**

RevdDorothee@t-online.de 01708 228489

The Church "Indoor" Gardens



After all the sunny weather, it was disappointing to have rain on **the** day, However, the "garden" was set up in the General Purposes Room and lots of people arrived to enjoy the afternoon, playing games and taking part in the 'Bring and Buy and enjoying tea and cakes. Sitting at the tables gave a good opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere. **The** occasion was the time for the raffle to be drawn, there were many prizes to be drawn for the children and adults, so it was obviously going to take some time to discover all the winners. The Dennis family seemed to be especially lucky!! Everybody was disappointed when time was up, but all agreed that the indoor Open Garden had been a great success and had raised £290 for the church Charity, Whitechapel Mission, supporting the homeless of London. Thank you to all those who helped to organise the event.

Whitechapel Mission Autumn Collection

The date for this year's Autumn collection is **Sunday 8th October 2017**, so please start collecting. Only adult clothing is needed, as well as shoes, toiletries (razor blades, soap etc) in fact anything that we may need for our own daily life. There is no room at the church to store the clothing so please do not bring it before the date, However, if you need to dispose of anything at the moment please let me let me have it and it will be stored in our garage at home. Whitechapel Mission is a wonderful charity, caring for the homeless in London, it is so good for us to support them as they do not receive any government assistance. Thank you.



Betty Hollinrake

History of the Whitechapel Mission

In 1876 the forerunner of the Whitechapel Mission was inaugurated as 'The Working Lads' Institute and Home' at a Public Meeting in the Mansion House, presided over by the Lord Mayor of London. Little is known of the founder, Mr. Henry Hill, but the work was conducted from rented premises at The Mount, Whitechapel Road, London until 1885 when a brand new building was constructed to house the work at 285 Whitechapel Road (famous as the building that housed the enquiry into the 'Jack the Ripper' case). This building was opened by Queen Alexandra and King Edward VII also attended. From 1896 the work was continued by a Methodist minister, Revd Thomas Jackson and the burgers of the City maintained their association with the work, with the Lord Mayor of London and the Sherriff attending the anniversary celebrations each year.

The Whitechapel Methodist Mission was a Primitive Methodist foundation, arising from the home mission activities of one of the Methodists' greatest ministers, the Revd Thomas Jackson who worked in the East End of London for 56 years. His work at Whitechapel built on his earlier work in Bethnal Green, Walthamstow and Clapton. The Whitechapel Mission combined social work with evangelical work. The station began in 1897 when Revd Thomas Jackson bought the Working Lads' Institute which was due to close owing to a shortage of funds. He used this as the basis for his work in Whitechapel. In 1901 the Mission acquired a property on Marine Parade, Southend, to continue the provision of holidays and convalescent stays for the poor from the area. In 1906 Brunswick Hall was purchased and this enabled a physical separation of the social work and evangelical work. The Mission's many activities included free breakfasts and penny dinners for local children; a Medical Mission; a free legal advice service; a night shelter for homeless men; distribution of food, coal and grocery tickets to the poor; prison gate rescue work especially amongst young lads, which developed into full probation work with the opening of Windyridge Hostel.

The objective of the Institute then was to keep its doors open for orphan and destitute lads. Food, clothing, lodgings, and friendship were provided for upwards of 3,200 needy homeless between the ages of fourteen and eighteen years. In its first year the Institute served over 11,000 breakfasts and was open each and every morning for the homeless of any age.

