

Contact Us

Ministers

Rev'd Dorothee Búúrma

01708 228489

E-mail address :-

RevdDorothee@t-online.de

Rev'd Martin Wheadon

E-mail address :-

Mrtnwhead@aol.com

Secretary Western Road

Graham Cull

E-mail address :-

01708 724198

rurc.sec@gmail.com

Secretary Heaton Way

Louise Manning

E-mail address :-

01708 344832

e.manning@ntlworld.com

Treasurer Heaton Way

Audrey Goodwin

E-mail address :-

01708 760476

mwgoowin@ntlworld.com

**Copy for the next issue of Kindle should be placed
in the box in the church office or e-mailed to :-
robinmorrison21@outlook.com**

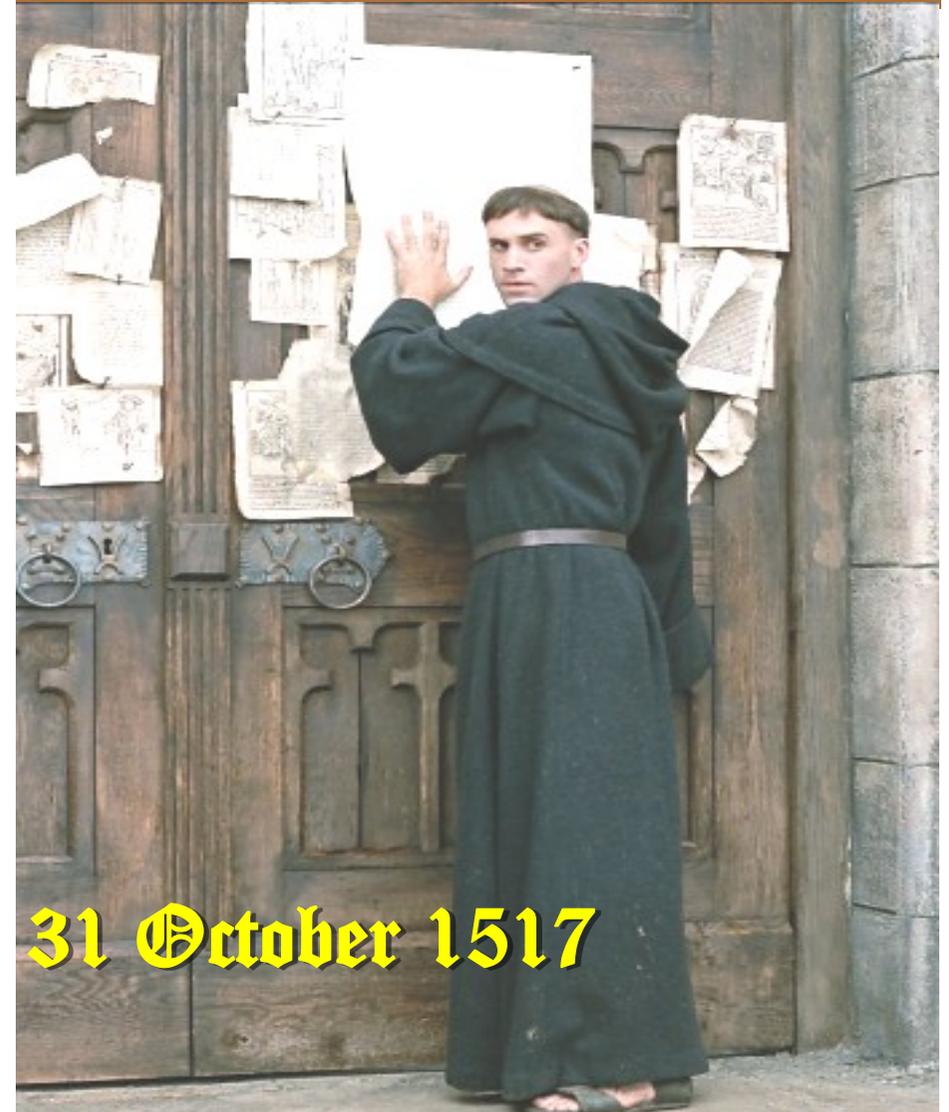
Deadline for the next issue 22 October 2017



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October 2017

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



Some recent headlines from around the world you may have missed

- EUROPE - Countries have fulfilled less than a third of their asylum relocation promises
- PAKISTAN – Christian man sentenced to death for WhatsApp blasphemy”
- NIGERIA – Released Chibok girls finally reunited with families, but 113 still held by Boko Haram
- IRAQ – Eight churches in Baghdad close as Christians flee violence
- AFRICA – UN report acknowledges “religious ideas” as terrorists’ primary motivator
- MALDIVES - Christians losing the few rights they have
- ERITREA - Questions about status of Eritrean patriarch
- BURMA - Burma Army's campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya.
- INDIA = Journalist and HUMAN rights activist killed
- And finally some good news.
- CHINA - Human rights lawyer released

You rule forever, Lord, and you are on your throne, ready for judgement.
 You judge the world fairly and treat all nations with justice.
 The poor can run to you because you are a fortress in times of trouble.
 Everyone who honours your name can trust you, because you are faithful
 to all who depend on you.

Psalms 9: 7-1

Six rules about words

- The six most important words
 - I admit that I was wrong
- The five most important words
 - You did a great job
- The four most important words
 - Consider others, not yourself
- The three most important words
 - May I help?
- The two most important words
 - Thank you
- The one most important word
 - We
- The one least important word
 - I

Found in a church Hall by Betty

August Worship exploring Earth, Water, Fire and Air

Firstly, I should like to thank the members of our congregation for their faithful, participating and willing attendance at worship over the last month. We know that some are not so keen on having challenges and coming to worship in a different way but are delighted that this time has been so well attended and apparently enjoyed.

Jim, Graham, Fiona and I would not want to lead worship necessarily in a different way all the time. It takes much longer to plan and prepare for 'café style worship' but we have also enjoyed the challenge.

It was a good opportunity to try something different, and we hope that you also found something new. We acknowledge that it is harder to find the quiet times and traditional pattern of worship on these occasions but we believe that it can bring a fresh impact and opens new dimensions to our thinking.

Can you let us know what you found from the worship times in August, whether it is worth repeating on other occasions?

Was the balance about right?

Were the activities fun for all age worship?

Was it good to have the children with us all the time?

New hymnsdid they fit the theme and add to our understanding?

Was it a change not to have a hymn/prayer/sermon pattern?

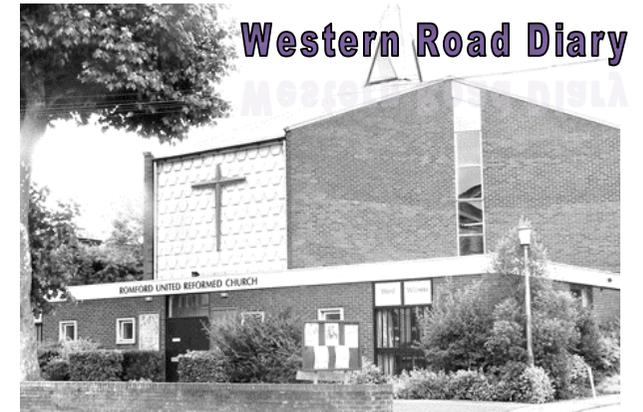
Do short bites clarify your thinking rather than a whole sermon/

Did you have something to take away with you to think about for the coming week?

Thank you again.

Gill

Ps I loved having the red gladioli to support the fire theme!



October

- Sunday 1 **Morning Worship – Revd Dorothee Bùürma – Harvest Festival Parade & All Age Worship**
- Monday 2 Parent & Toddlers House Group @ 83 Clydesdale Road
- Tuesday 3 Playgroup Morning Coffee Trinovante & Retired Gentlemen's Club Badminton
- Wednesday 4 Morning Prayers Soup & Cheese Lunches Elders Meeting
- Thursday 5 Dothan House Rainbows Brownies
- Friday 6 Playgroup Morning Coffee Boys Brigade
- Saturday 7 Westies Child Contact Centre Trinovante Coffee Club @ BB's Card Club Harvest Supper & Sing-A-Long – 7.00pm
- Sunday 8 **Morning Worship – Trevor Cottrell Evening Communion at Western Road – Revd Dorothee Bùürma**
- Monday 9 Parent & Toddlers House Group @ 83 Clydesdale Road
- Tuesday 10 Playgroup Morning Coffee Joan's Friendship Club Trinovante & Retired Gentlemen's Club Badminton
- Wednesday 11 Morning Prayers Soup & Cheese Lunches Art Time Trustees Meeting
- Thursday 12 Rainbows Brownies
- Friday 13 Playgroup Morning Coffee Boys Brigade
- Sunday 15 **Morning Worship with Communion – Revd Dorothee Bùürma**
- Monday 16 Parent & Toddlers House Group @ 83 Clydesdale Road
- Tuesday 17 Playgroup Morning Coffee Trinovante & Retired Gentlemen's Club Badminton
- Wednesday 18 Morning Prayers Soup & Cheese Lunches Messy Christmas Planning – 2.00pm
- Thursday 19 Rainbows Brownies **6.00pm – Brownies Youth Praise**
- Friday 20 Playgroup Morning Coffee Boys Brigade



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



OpenDoors
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

Saudi Arabia

Leader: **King Salman**
Population: **32.7 million (1.4 million Christians)**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Government: **Monarchy**
World Watch List Rank: **14**
Source of Persecution: **Islamic extremism**



Despite the fact that leaving Islam is punishable by death in Saudi Arabia, the number of Saudi Muslims coming to faith in Christ is increasing.

All Saudis are considered to be Muslims, and the legal system is based on Sharia (Islamic law). There are no church buildings at all in Saudi Arabia and Christian services take place in secret places. Believers from Muslim backgrounds usually keep their faith hidden - several who were discovered were forced to leave the country in 2016.

Please Pray

For opportunities for Saudi believers to share their faith with their families, and for their family members to be open to the gospel
For protection for secret believers
Praise God for Saudis who have discovered Jesus through dreams and visions, or through Christian TV programmes. Ask God to reveal Himself to more people, and pray that they would grow in their faith.

³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.'

³³ 'Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'

Matthew 18:32-33 New International Version (NIV)

A good friend - The walking stick



Having recently accepted the need to use a walking stick, I have discovered what a good friend it is! A stick not only helps mobility, but is the most amazing multi-purpose gadget. If you drop something just out of reach it will bring it nearer. If something is in the way it is a good pusher. It will push a lever up or pull it down; it will push a window open, close curtains or pull a chair nearer; it will hook under the straps to lift a bag; it will even scratch your back where you cannot reach! It is a wonderful example of how to be a good friend ready to help in so many situations. Now I feel very blessed to have my walking stick. *Betty*

Short Quiz

The following short quiz consists of 4 questions and tells whether you are qualified to be a "professional." According to Andersen Consulting Worldwide, around 90% of the professionals they tested got all questions wrong. But many pre-schoolers got several correct answers

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?

Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?

Wrong Answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant and close the door.
Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your actions.

3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?

Correct Answer: The elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. This tests] your memory.

OK, even if you didn't answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your abilities.

4. There is a river you must cross. But it is inhabited by crocodiles. How do you manage it?

Correct Answer: You swim across. All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Conference. This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

Five Hundred Years Ago

Martin Luther was born on 10 November 1483 in Eisleben. His father was a copper miner. Luther studied at the University of Erfurt and in 1505 decided to join a monastic order, becoming an Augustinian friar. He was ordained in 1507, began teaching at the University of Wittenberg and in 1512 was made a doctor of Theology. In 1510, he visited Rome on behalf of several Augustinian monasteries, and was appalled by the corruption he found there.

During his early years, whenever Luther read what would become the famous "Reformation text"—Romans 1:17—his eyes were drawn not to the word faith, but to the word righteous. Who, after all, could "live by faith" but those who were already righteous? The text was clear on the matter: "the righteous shall live by faith."

Luther became increasingly angry about the clergy selling 'indulgences' - promised remission from punishments for sin, either for someone still living or for one who had died and was believed to be in purgatory. "At last meditating day and night, by the mercy of God, I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith. Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through the gates that had been flung open."

On **31 October 1517**, he published his '95 Theses', attacking papal abuses and the sale of indulgences.

Luther had come to believe that Christians are saved through faith and not through their own efforts. This turned him against many of the major teachings of the Catholic Church. In 1519 -1520, he wrote a series of pamphlets developing his ideas - 'On Christian Liberty', 'On the Freedom of a Christian Man', 'To the Christian Nobility' and 'On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church'. Thanks to the printing press, Luther's '95 Theses' and his other writings spread quickly through Europe. Events quickly accelerated. At a public debate in Leipzig in 1519, when Luther declared that "a simple layman armed with the Scriptures" was superior to both pope and councils without them, he was threatened with excommunication.

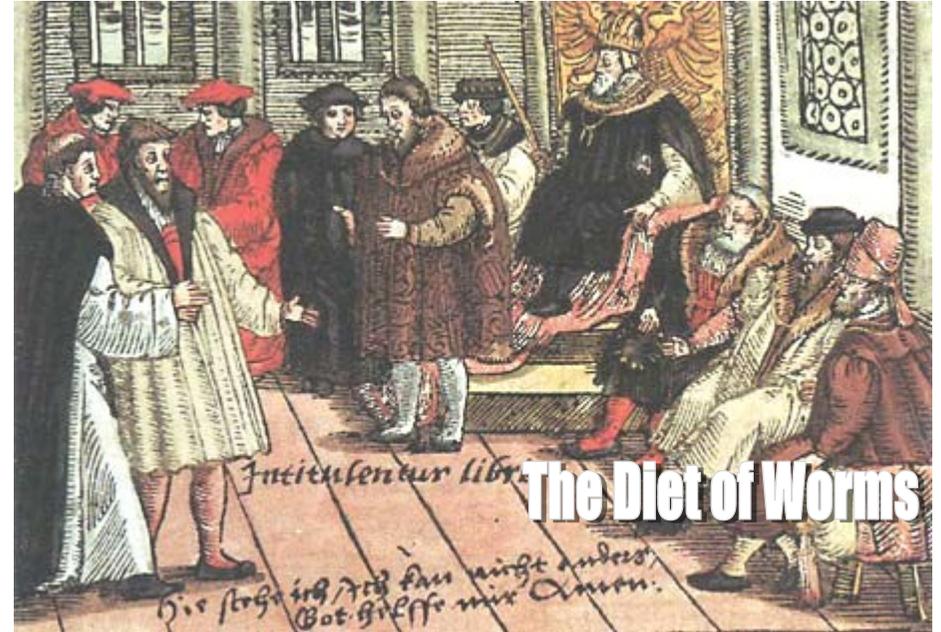
In January 1521, the Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther. He was then summoned to appear at the Diet of Worms, an assembly of the Holy Roman Empire. He refused to recant and Emperor Charles V declared him an outlaw and a heretic. Luther went into hiding at Wartburg Castle. In 1522, he returned to Wittenberg to lead, with the help of men like Philip Melanchthon, the fledgling reform movement. In 1525 Luther married Katharina von Bora, a former nun, with whom he had six children.

Luther then became involved in the controversy surrounding the Peasants War (1524 - 1526), the leaders of which had used Luther's arguments to justify their revolt. He rejected their demands and upheld the right of the authorities to suppress the revolt, which lost him many supporters.



In 1534, Luther published a complete translation of the bible into German, underlining his belief that people should be able to read it in their own language. The translation contributed significantly to the spread and development of the German language.

Luther's influence spread across northern and eastern Europe and his fame made Wittenberg an intellectual centre. In his final years, he became more cantankerous and argumentative sometimes saying nasty things about fellow reformers and he wrote polemics against the Jews, the papacy and the Anabaptists, a radical wing of the reforming movement. Luther died on 18 February 1546 in Eisleben.



Luther's legacy is immense and cannot be adequately summarized. Every Protestant Reformer—like Calvin, Zwingli, Knox, and Cranmer—and every Protestant stream—Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, and Anabaptist—were inspired by Luther in one way or another. On a larger canvas, his reform unleashed forces that ended the Middle Ages and ushered in the modern era.

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say.

Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.

Martin Luther