



The
United Reformed Church

KINDLE

Newsletter of the Romford United Reformed Churches at Western Road and Heaton March

April 2021

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Easter acclamations - a fitting opening for a newsletter that is published just before Easter. Our celebrations of Christ's resurrection are likely to use some form of those words, the word alleluia particularly comes in many of the Easter hymns. Alleluia, when did you last think about what it means? Praise Yahweh (the word for God in the Hebrew Scriptures) now, it is a command and an exhortation.

Praise God now, we might find it hard to praise God after 12 months of living with a global pandemic and all that has entailed – restrictions on leaving home, the mind -boggling large numbers of deaths, each one mourned and families left devastated, as well as the economic effects. Yet we can and must praise God now, for the love of family and friends sustained despite not necessarily being able to meet; for the fellowship of the congregations, again sustained through phone calls and zoom; the skill of scientists who developed vaccines in record time; and the dedication of doctors and nurses and other care staff.

Alleluia, for all that and lots of other things, not only on Easter Sunday but every day; Praise God for each new day, for new life in Christ, new growth in church and all the lovely spring flowers and buds, alleluia, alleluia!

New life, growth are concerns for all of us as we think about returning to our buildings and reopening for worship and other activities after this most strange of years. The Easter message one of joy and new life cannot be celebrated or preached without talking first of suffering and death. Too often we are tempted to skip over the betrayal, torture, and death of Jesus to get to the joy, we cannot and should not wish to avoid those events. By analogy for our congregations the death of an activity/event leads to a new life in a different way, growth in a new activity.

New life, new opportunities, new challenges Easter is all of those and much more it is the heart of our faith, Jesus died that we might be forgiven, and rose to life that we might have life, life in all its fullness.

I wish you all a happy Easter and leave you with the Easter acclamations.

Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alison

SUNSHINE

COINS



GIVE THANKS

FOR



SUNSHINE

HERE IS A LABEL FOR YOUR COIN COLLECTION. Just sew/pin on to your bag or stick on to jar- You can also roll it up and put inside your jar. Perhaps the youngest in your household would like to be responsible for reminding everyone else. May all your days be sunny!

Olive



I hope that you have all now received from your elder an envelope containing palm crosses, colouring sheet, and a newsletter with details of our Easter worship on zoom.

On behalf of Western Road and Heaton Way I sent a patio olive tree to Sheila Maxey, to thank her for being our Interim Moderator. I understand she was delighted with the gift.

The URC are raising money to give thanks for the covid vaccine. Money can be donated via the URC website coronavirus link or sent to Fiona Skidmore clearly marked for Christian Aid. Depending on government restrictions we are hoping that we can do Christian Aid collections in the Liberty Mall this year as in previous years.

If you have not started already please remember to put a coin, every day that the sun appears, in your sunshine bags/jars from 1st April until 30th June.

Please take your flowers to the cross on Easter Sunday and place in the little pots that Gill has prepared for us – The stems need to be cut to approx. 3 ins to fit in the pots.

Elders will meet in April and, depending on how the government's road map is progressing, will discuss the possibility of returning to the church building. Please see the URC website re: Coronavirus recommendations.

So, for now we will continue to meet on Zoom – I know it is not the same as being in church and meeting face to face, - sometimes there are hiccups with feedback, background noise which distorts the sound, and internet connection problems but we are thankful that we still are able to worship together, see each other and chat together.

In the meantime, all please all keep safe and well.

Love Pat



News from Synod

Saturday 22nd May 11am Farewell event for our moderator Revd Andrew Prasad.

Saturday 5th June 2.30pm Induction of our new Moderator Revd George Watt

Please put the dates in your diaries.

Western Road Zoom Services.

Our Sunday services for the next few weeks on Zoom on the usual log in are:

Maundy Thursday 1st April with Holy Communion – 7.00pm – Revd. Alison Davis

Good Friday 2nd April – at 10.30am - Revd. Alison Davis

Easter Sunday 4th April with Holy Communion at 10.00am – Revd. Alison Davis

11th April – Graham and Jim

18th April - Revd. Ruth Mitchell (Holy Communion)

25th April – Fiona

2nd May - Jill Hunt

URC Children's & Youth Work and Education & Learning invite you to a series of free, online workshops to improve communication skills.

There are eight workshops, with two per topic: video editing, social media, sharing stories and using signs and symbols for more inclusive worship.

Book to attend any one workshop, each pair, or the whole series!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/series-of-workshops-building-skills-confidence-and-capacity-in-comms-registration-144181152709>

01/04/2021: Creating and editing videos for beginners: This session will show you how to make a simple video using easily accessed, free, Microsoft software. By the end of the session, you should be able to understand how to make a simple video with sound, how to edit it and be able to go off and experiment!

The session is led by AJ Mills.

15/04/2021: Creating and editing videos- next steps: This session is for those already able to create and edit simple videos and will introduce you to free and paid for software and demonstrate the possibilities to help you create more complex videos with sound.

The session is led by AJ Mills.

29/04/2021: Social media for beginners: This session will introduce you to widely used social media platforms, their particular features and how to use them to promote your group, event, church in the most effective way.

The session is led by Oli Deeks.

13/05/2021: Improve your social media: This session will for those already using social media for their group, event, church will look at getting more from the main social media platforms and creating engaging content for them - how to use them effectively, with more advanced options and applications.

The session is led by Oli Deeks.

20/05/2021: Inclusive worship using signs and symbols- session 1: Lorraine will introduce us to Makaton (unique language programme that uses signs, symbols, and speech) and using Widget (communication in print) to support worship that is more accessible to those with needs. You will also hear about other inclusive ways of worshipping. At the end of the session, you will have some ideas of things to try out in worship.

The session is led by Lorraine Webb.

17/06/2021: Inclusive worship using signs and symbols- follow up session: Come back and share what you have learned and tried out; share your successes and challenges and learn from each other. Lorraine will lead us and encourage building on the previous session.

The session is led by Lorraine Webb.

27/05/2021: Sharing stories more effectively- session 1: Want to write a press release, a good news story or an eye-catching advertising piece? Come along and find out some of the 'tricks of the trade' to help your writing get the message across more effectively and interestingly. By the end of the session, you will have a greater understanding of the power of words and be encouraged to go away and try out the ideas.

The session is led by Ann-Marie Nye.

01/07/2021: Sharing stories more effectively- follow up session: Come back and share what you have learned and tried out; share your successes and challenges and learn from each other. This session will build on what you did the previous session.

The session is led by Ann-Marie Nye.

Additional info:

All sessions will be recorded. Each session will take place from 7.30pm to 8.45pm.

We are pleased to be able to offer small grants (up to £200) to those connected with URC's who attend these training sessions. The grants will be to enable you to put the training into practice (i.e., purchasing equipment, software, further training) and will be by application (more details at the sessions).



BUILDING LIFE FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES

A SERIES OF WEBINARS WITH CWM EUROPE



PRIYA LUKKA

What Would Life-Flourishing Reparations Look Like?
Monday 12th April (14:00-15:30)

REV. JULIE SIM

Big Data in The Age of Surveillance Capitalism'
Monday 26th April (13:00-14:30)

Driven by her interest in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), Julie's presentation will explore the opportunities and challenges of big data analytics. This webinar will touch on the role of tech giants in the age of capital surveillance and privacy issues of data mining in the digital world.



MAXIME DE LUCA

Art & Life-Flourishing Communities'
Monday 10th May (14:00-15:30)

PROF. DR. ANTHONY REDDIE

'Theological Implications for The Legacies of Slavery: Some Preliminary Thoughts'

Monday 24TH MAY (14:00-15:30)

This session will draw on the archive work undertaken by Professor Reddie as a part of a CWM funded pilot research project looking at the Legacies of Slavery. Prof Reddie will look at the ways in which Church leaders in the 17th and 18th centuries incorporated ideas around the notion of 'race' into biblical interpretation as a means of justifying a racialised approach to Christian mission. The implications of this move are still with us. Slavery may have ended but as the events of last year have shown, Black Lives still do not matter. How can the church make a difference?



For each presentation, individual Zoom links will be provided. Please contact Sai & Michael at cwm.europe@cwmission.org

Black History Monthly:



Monday 19th April, 7.30-8.30pm

Elizabeth Heyrick's classic 1824 Anti-slavery Pamphlet, In April we are reviewing a classic text from the struggle of Abolitionists with the UK Establishment as they sought to end slavery in the British Caribbean colonies. It is a lively pamphlet by a Quaker woman, Elizabeth Heyrick, called "Immediate, not gradual, abolition" written in 1824 (after the slave rebellion in Demerara) in which she picks a fight not only with the Slave Interest, but with the male leaders of the UK Abolitionist movement. Its vigour is undimmed, and its relevance remains fresh and challenging today. The text of Elizabeth Heyrick's pamphlet will be available on the URC website...

ZOOM LINKS

<https://zoom.us/j/99060809545?pwd=YlFOR2k2TUozbmJiWVZPSkxMQjNXUT09> Meeting ID: 990 6080 9545
Passcode: 264326

Digital Copyright Clinic

The URC will be running a copyright clinic on 31 March at 3pm. This is for anyone who would like to learn more about copyright rules, hosting services online, or have copyright questions answered.





Research Project Twin Town Partnership Havering - Ludwigshafen / Romford URC - Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Ludwigshafen-Gartenstadt

Michaela Schneider-Wettstein has sent us an email as she is researching the link that existed between the two churches and areas. She would like to speak to people who have been involved in the exchange either by visiting Ludwigshafen and /or receiving visitors here. Her eventual aim is a short documentary which will form part of her master thesis.

If you are interested or have any documents about the exchange, please let Pat or Alison know and we will give you all the details.



Car Park



The new car park permits will be available on the first Sunday we meet again in church. They will be laid out in envelopes on two tables in the vestibule, with a box on each table for your payment: £55. Cheques should be payable to

“The Trustees of the Romford United Reformed Church”.

Please do not send me your payment in the post before then as, due to the cost of postage, I may not post your permits to you, unless I have to, (e.g., due to yet another lockdown).

Jean

Notice outside a North London church: - WANTED – Workers for God – PLENTY OF OVERTIME



As part of Walking the Way, Stepwise is one of the tools created to help us think about whole life discipleship and how we live our faith, especially in these challenging times.

There will be an online group starting Faith Filled life, the 1st Stepwise stream, after Easter. This group may be from across Thames North Synod and will be facilitated by Revd John Campbell and Revd Alison Davis. If you are interested in finding out more about Stepwise or joining the group, please get in touch with Alison davalisonm7@gmail.com

There is a video of the recent webinar about Faith Filled life on the Stepwise page of the URC website.

Spring is on the horizon and I have some plants which I would like to sell in aid of the Women's Refuge. There are not quite as many as last year and I estimate they may be ready at the end of April. (Not sure if the weather will be ready though!). If you would like to buy some please contact me during the last week of April, when I will know when they will be ready, there will probably be some pelargonium and some zonal geraniums. **Olive.**

Tel 01708 746802

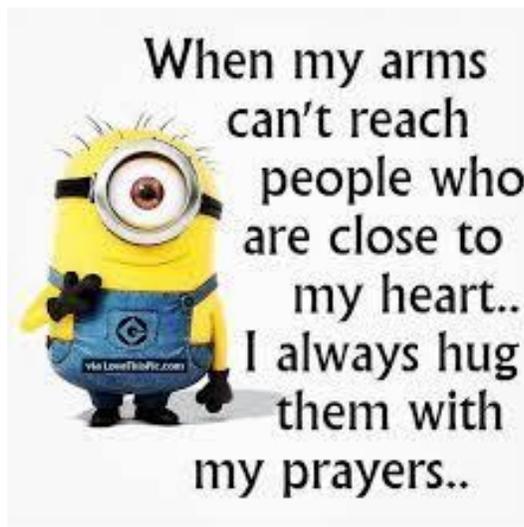
o.buckley56@btinternet.com



Lockdown

Do you have any stories or anecdotes about lockdown that you want to share with us? They can be poignant, amusing reflections, or merely an account of what you have done. If so, please send them to Kindle, with photographs, if appropriate.

Editor



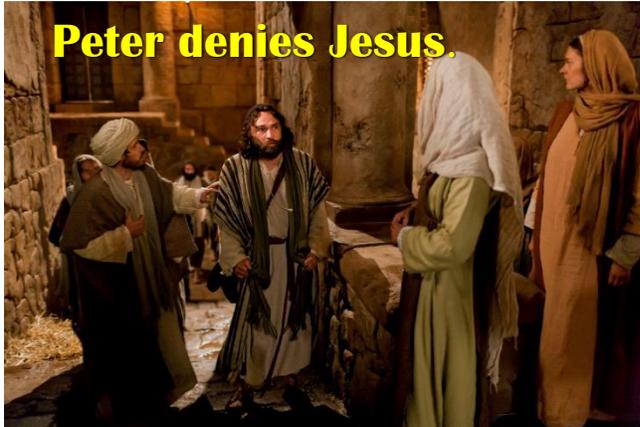
To Make You Laugh

A 102 year. old lady was asked if she had any worries. She replied, "Not since I got my eldest son into a Care Home".

Articles

The Apostle

Well, I was afraid, I admit it. I was afraid of pain and death, afraid of being wrong, and afraid of authority. I was not used to facing up to such people then and I knew I could not keep my countenance. I did not have that kind of courage. I was always willing to fight, but the thought of standing before Annas and Caiaphas chilled my blood, and I could not do it. So, when they asked me if I knew Jesus, I said “No”. I am only a



fisherman, but I know what honour means, and I lost mine then. I had walked for three years with one foot on earth and one foot in heaven and I said “No”. He was my friend, and I said “No”.

When we saw him afterwards, it was different. You know he was raised with all his wounds? I bore my wounds as well. It was not that I did not believe, of course. But I had not gained by this resurrection. I had lost. I could not pretend that I had been wrong about him, or that saving my skin had been the right decision. He was raised, I had said “No” and he knew it, and I was as bad as Judas.

I did not know what to do, to be honest with you. It was a strange time. There was a sense of waiting, but we did not know what for - and I have never

been a patient man. So, we went fishing, some of us, and you will know the story: he told us where to cast the nets, and we caught our boatload, and we scrambled ashore for breakfast.

I have thought about that often – how the meal was ready, but he invited us to bring what we had as well, and how we shared bread and fish as we share bread and wine. That was when my wounds began to heal. I believe “Just as I am” you sometimes sing well; I came to Jesus just as I was. And he took what I brought and shared it with everyone as if it were worth something. I am a strong man. and proud of it. But I am not strong all the time, and I no longer judge myself for that. I lost everything when I said “No”. Jesus gave it back to me with a smile.

From *Olive*

World Day of Prayer 2021

You may have missed World Day of Prayer; it takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. In 2021 that was **March 5th**. The World Day of Prayer is an International ecumenical Christian laywomen’s initiative. It is run under the motto “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action,” and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

In 2021 Women’s World Day of Prayer is looking at Vanuatu.

Vanuatu Facts

The islands of Vanuatu lie in the South Pacific.

There are several volcanoes and the islands have suffered from floods and cyclones.

There are two seasons: a hot, humid season from November to March, ending in heavy rains; a cooler dry season from April to October.

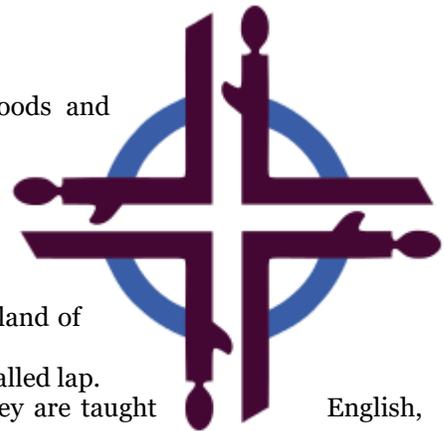
The islands have lush tropical vegetation, with lots of pineapples, bananas, mangoes, sweetcorn, sweet potatoes, yams, and taro.

Farmers keep cows but the most important animal is the wild boar.

The biggest island is called Santo but the capital, Port Vila is on the island of Efate.

The people of Vanuatu use coconuts in their cooking and make a stew called lap.

The children of Vanuatu speak the language of their local village. They are taught French or Bislama at school.



English,

Although it is a tropical island life is hard, pray for the people of Vanuatu.

Lilian Lindsay

I had never heard of her until I read a magazine article. As we have just passed Int. Women's Day, I thought you might be interested to read a shortened version. She was born in 1871, the third of 11 children. When Lilian Murray (as she then was) applied to the school of the National Dental Hospital in 1892, the Dean would not allow her to enter the building in case her presence distracted the male students. Instead, she was interviewed on the pavement as he leaned out of a window! After such a frosty reception, it is not surprising that she failed to gain admission to the school. Undeterred, she opted instead to study at the Edinburgh Dental Hospital & School, where attitudes were more enlightened. From there she graduated with honours in 1895 becoming the first qualified British female dentist. She set up in practice in London and then, on her marriage to fellow dentist Robert Lindsay, with her husband in Edinburgh. In 1920 they moved to a flat above the British Dental Assn at 23 Russell Square, London and it remained their home for 15 years. An experienced practice dentist, she focused on research from that point on, writing over 60 publications exploring the history of dentistry. She also developed the Association's library from 350 books to 10,000 and collected items that became the foundation of its museum. She was awarded the B.E.M and died in 1960. Her achievement as a female pioneer was recognized by a Blue Plaque in 2013 and placed in Islington where she spent her formative years. Sadly, just 4 years later the house was destroyed to make way for a



development. The Plaque survived and is now at 23 Russell Square. If interested, you will find more details of her life online.

Betty

It makes you think.

I do not know how many of you watch the television programme "Richard Osman's House of Games", but in one of the rounds in a recent edition's contestants were given a name each and asked whether their name was included in a given subject. The names given included Mark and Jason. Contestants were then asked to indicate whether their name was included in the bible. Well, of course Mark was but what about Jason! The answer Jason was correct but who was Jason? Surely a minor character.

There are several mentioned in the bible but, the most well-known Jason, was called the Thessalonian. A kinsman of Paul he entertained him and Silas and was in consequence attacked by the Jewish mob. (A.D. 48.) His house was ransacked, and he and several other "brethren" were severely handled by the mob. When the mob failed to find Paul and Silas, they dragged Jason and "certain brethren" before the rulers of the city, accusing Jason of treason in receiving into his house those who said, "There is another king, one Jesus." The magistrates, being troubled, took security from them, and let them go. He seems also to have been with him at Corinth, five years afterwards. It is conjectured that Jason and Secundus, were the same person mentioned twice in the New Testament.

It is surprising where a simple question in a quiz can lead you.



QUOTE- Diplomacy is the art of letting other people have your way.

(Sir Simon Jones-Foreign Office)

We begin again

'The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.' (Psalm 19:1-2)

Hope

*You don't need to create
your own hope –
the sky is full of it.*

*Wake up early one day
(I dare you)
and watch the sun rise,
watch how it encourages the Earth
to become itself, only more so,*

*watch how it allows all things
(even the sad beings)
to be colourful, and beautiful,*

*then listen,
listen as it says
quietly, but undoubtedly,
'We begin again.'*

Gideon Heugh

Found by **Ruth Mitchell**

May you have –
Walls for the wind
And a roof for the rain,
And drinks bedside the fire
Laughter to cheer you.
And those you love near you,
And all that your heart may desire.

Celtic Blessing

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