



The
United
Reformed
Church

KINDLE

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

April 2022

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I find it very difficult to watch or listen to the news at the moment, maybe you do to. The pictures and stories of the Ukrainian people, what they are going through and the inhumanity that is causing their suffering to leave me feeling angry and helpless. I am grateful to a colleague who shared with us recently the following poem by John Roedel.

In the face of war, I'm so small. Yet love is big.

I can't make the world be peaceful
I can't stall tanks from roaring down roads
I can't prevent children from having to hide in bunkers
I can't convince the news to stop turning war into a video game
I can't silence the sound of bombs tearing neighbourhoods apart
I can't turn a guided missile into a bouquet of flowers
I can't make a warmonger have an ounce of empathy
I can't convince ambassadors to quit playing truth or dare
I can't deflect a sniper's bullet from turning a wife into a widow
I can't stave off a country being reduced to ash and rubble

I can't do any of that
the only thing I can do is love the next person I encounter without any conditions or strings
to love my neighbour so fearlessly that it starts a ripple that stretches from one horizon to the next

I can't force peace on the world
but I can become a force of peace in the world
because
sometimes all it takes is a single lit candle in the darkness
to start a movement
"Lord, make me a candle of comfort in this world let me burn with peace"

How true despite all the horror and my feelings of helplessness, I can love my neighbours and all people, pray for peace and work for peace where I am.

Love will triumph in God's time, that is the Easter message, suffering love crucified and dead, triumphant love risen and glorified, seen in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In the midst of the suffering in our world, in Ukraine and other places, in our own situations when life is tough, the love of God, seen in Jesus Christ our risen Lord sustains us and enables us to love as God loves.

I wish you all a glorious Easter. Christ is risen he is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Alison



saint francis hospice



As you will be aware we are supporting St Francis Hospice this year and on Sunday the 20th March we were fortunate to have Sean, who volunteers at the hospice, come to give us a short talk.

He was very enthusiastic about the work the hospice does and how we can help raise money for them. They receive some funding from the government but are otherwise reliant on donations and fund raising. We have a concert in June by Jonathan Veira, the proceeds of which will go to the hospice so please contact Glynis if you haven't already booked a ticket. We are also now collecting used postage stamps as the hospice can get money for them, I'm sure you'll agree that this is an easy way to help raise some much-needed money. Sean did suggest some might like to do sky diving.....

I'm hoping that Sean will send me more details about the hospice which I can share with you via Kindle, he will be back to talk to us again later in the year.

Jill

The cross with Ukrainian Flags



What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear?
What do you call the Easter Bunny the day after Easter?
What's the best way to make Easter easier?

14 Carrot Gold
Eggshasted
Put an "i" where the "t" is.

What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at school?

He was eggspelled!

What's Happening

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday 14th April 7pm – sign-up sheet in foyer

Good Friday 15th April 10am

Easter Sunday 17th April

11am with other churches at St Edwards in the Market Place

8.30am Easter Breakfast – sign-up sheet in foyer

10am All age worship followed by greening the cross with flowers you have brought to the services



Christian Aid week

15th – 21st May 2022

30K steps challenge

I am planning on attempting the 30K steps challenge again this year in May to support Christian Aid. How about a group of us joining together to support and encourage each other and increase the amount we can raise? Interested please contact me.

Alison



Church AGM

AGM

The Church AGM will take place during May's Church Meeting. In preparation for this, I will be collating the AGM reports for each organisation and kindly ask that if you run a Church group/Youth Group you email your groups report to me as soon as possible. The cut-off date will be Friday 15th April 2022. My email address is joannecox@gmail.com Any problems, please let me know - Thank you -

Joanne

Good Friday

The origin of the name "Good Friday" is unknown. There are numerous theories behind the name Good Friday, but none are backed by solid evidence. Many believe that the "Good" means "Holy," while others are convinced that "Good" is a gradual change from "God." Each country and language has their own unique interpretation and translation.

Easter Art for Everyone

fig/jfc

Junior Family Church and the young people enjoyed making a piece of artwork for an exhibition called Easter Art for Everyone. It is being organised by the Salvation Army and is available for groups or individuals to display their artwork. It will be displayed in Laurie Walk in Romford from the 11th - 17th April. The theme is Forgiveness and Betrayal, and it will be great that our children and young people have contributed to a community wide exhibition. Their amazing artwork is shown in the photo but if you are in Romford town centre between 11th and 18th April, please do go and take a look. Thanks

Lorraine





Whitechapel Mission Autumn Clothing Collection Sunday 10th April 2022

The date for the Whitechapel Mission Clothing Spring collection will be on MONDAY 11th April. Please bring your items of ADULT clothing shoes. Toiletries etc. to the church on Sunday morning 10th April. Tony Miller says the services the Mission offer are needed now more than ever.

Ceri

Good Friday

We may know the Friday before Easter as Good Friday but other countries refer to this day as Easter Friday, Holy Friday, Great Friday. or Silent Friday. the very first Good Friday was observed on Friday, April 3, A.D. 33.

jv **JONATHAN VEIRA**

"FRESH FROM HIS FANTASTIC BBC AWARD WINNING
JV LIVE FROM THE STEINWAY ROOM ONLINE SHOWS"

— THE —

UN ~~LOCKDOWN~~

Tickets
£10

United Reformed Church
58-60 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LP
Friday 3rd June 2022, 7:30pm
Tickets available from: glynis-concert.tickets@hotmail.com
Please be aware that there is no on-site parking. Spaces are available in the multi-storey car park, opposite the Church.

jonathanveira.com

Tickets

Tickets are now available for the Jonathan Veira concert on Friday 3 June 2022. To avoid disappointment please contact Glynis for tickets.



Thames North Synod Meeting Saturday 26th March

Our Synod meeting was an interesting one we welcomed a number of new ministers and said farewell to some. There were three items of business that we will need to take further.

- Safe recruitment for all volunteers/workers and a review for those in post, part of our safeguarding responsibilities.
- Legacies of slavery – a report and questions have been produced for us to discuss before General Assembly, in July, is asked to approve a statement of apology and confession and to embark on a programme of repairing justice. The documents will be made available in the foyer
- The environmental policy seeking to reduce our carbon footprint and to take action to live sustainably. Green Apostles have been appointed to assist local churches

Synod next meets on Saturday 22nd October

Card Club

Olive asked in the March edition of Kindle that it would be nice to know what the groups who meet in the church building do.

Card club has been running for many years and our numbers have fluctuated over time, at present there are often about 10 of us, though this might go up to as many as 15. Some of us make cards, Glynis and I now use the time to do the church birthday cards as well as ones for our own needs, others also make cards, Martin writes his cards adding plenty of jokes, some bring other hobbies, such as drawing/crocheting/knitting /scrapbooking or whatever they have been working on at home. And of course, there is always time for a cup of tea!

Jill

Western Road Ladies

In last month's Kindle, Olive asked if we would do a short report on our groups. This is ours.

Western Road Ladies meet once a month usually second Thursday in the month. It is really just for ladies to get together have a chat over a cup of tea and there is always cake and we try a different activity each month. So far this year we have been out for a meal at Zizzi in Romford, had a games evening and a book night when we all brought along the book we were reading or our favourite book to tell the others about. Next month we are hoping to go to the cinema. The date has been changed due to Easter, so we aren't meeting until Thursday 21st April. Everyone is very welcome whatever age we go from 20's up to 80's so you can all come along. 7.30pm in the hall. Looking forward to seeing some new faces.

Christine Grant

Good Friday

Churches across the world ring in the special day with 33 bells tolls in remembrance of Christ's years on Earth and to also commemorate the day of his death.

On a particularly slow news day in 1930, BBC radio announced, "There is no news." Listeners then heard piano music for the rest of the day. Do not hold your breath for a repeat this year.



For the anniversary service on 1st October, we are invited to send postcards to the URC. On one side of a blank postcard give what details you're happy to share (e.g., name age name of your URC).

On the other side, as imaginatively and brightly as possible share your thanksgiving to God for an aspect of the URC.

Completed cards are to be sent to Sam Richards at Church house by 1st August 2022.

Christmas Tree Festival

Christmas Tree Festival will be held on the weekend of 19th/20th November. Please put this in your diary and keep the dates free as we need everyone to be involved either by helping or attending on the days. The Christmas market will be on the Saturday along with the display of trees and we will be open again on the Sunday just for the Christmas Tree display.

What we need:

People to run a stall, steward the display of trees, help with refreshment, bake cakes, and collect items needed for the stalls.

Any items needed for the market can be brought to the church and stored there. This is what you can start collecting:
Toys

Bottles for the Bottle Tombola please check the use by date on them.

Cuddly toys for the Teddy Tombola

Brick a brac for the White Elephant stall.

If you do any crafts that can be sold on a Craft stall, please start making them now.

Books and DVD's

Nearer the time we will tell you how you can help with the raffle as we will be making hampers for this.

We will also be having indoor plants for those of you who have green fingers. They can be provided nearer the time.

Any that are not sold will need to be taken back home with you.

If you run a group in the church, please be thinking about how you will decorate your tree. We would like all groups to provide a tree for the display.

Please invite family and friends along to this. It will only be a success if we get lots of people through the doors and not just the church family but other people to help support this.

We will arrange another meeting after church one Sunday so anyone can attend not just the ladies from the Western Road Ladies as you may have better ideas than us.

Christine Grant

Articles

Church Vision Project: UPDATE 2

In order to get things moving, we have decided to home in on two critical elements which are under our own control, not requiring approval or funding from Synod. These are two items which even without the wider plan of drastically reconfiguring the church interior, would still be necessary to have. These are the hearing aid loop and the platform lift.

1 The Hearing Aid Loop

In advance of the wider sound system upgrade it really is fundamental that all members of the congregation should clearly hear what is going on, and the hearing aid loop has long been an item of complaint.

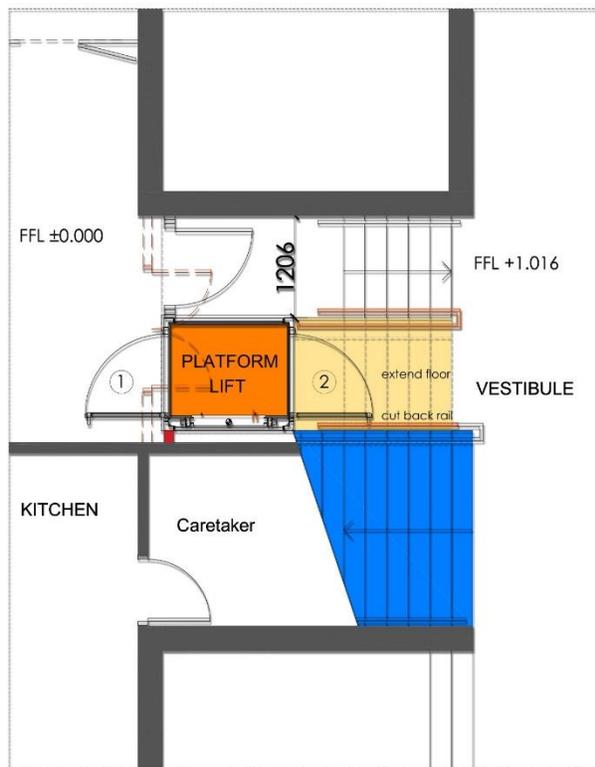
We have had the system tested by specialists and after establishing that the wire loop was indeed continuous and not broken, we are left with two issues. The loop control box itself doesn't power up as an internal fuse had blown. This is a special fuse, and it is currently on order. Hopefully this is the only reason for it not working, but we are told that an internal component could also be at fault. The second issue is that for part of its route around the church the loop wire sometimes runs along with an electric cable, and this can lead to interference and reduction of sound quality. Once the loop control box is up and running, we will test for interference.

2 Platform Lift

It is another long-term complaint that the church is on so many levels and the stair lift is cumbersome and embarrassing to use. If we do go ahead with levelling the Sanctuary floor and other building works to form a cafe at the front of the building, then the Sanctuary area will be out of commission for some time. We will therefore need to hold our services in the upper hall, so it makes sense to make this space easily accessible to all in advance.

The solution to this is the installation of a platform lift and it was agreed at the March Church Meeting to proceed with this. The lift will be located in the stair well area (see Photo 1) and sit in its own freestanding glazed metal framed shaft (Photo 2).

WESTERN ROAD URC - PLATFORM LIFT



Ground Floor Plan



First Floor Plan

The lift car will be large enough for a wheelchair user and helper together with simple push button controls and will run from the lower kitchen/GP room level 1 to a half level above (vestibule level 2) then on to the top level 3 at the upper Hall. There will be doors onto the lift at levels 1 and 2 but a half height gate at level 3 opening onto the top landing. To access the lift at level 2 the stair down to the kitchen will be reduced in width and a short bridge constructed across to the lift shaft. See the plan drawing below.



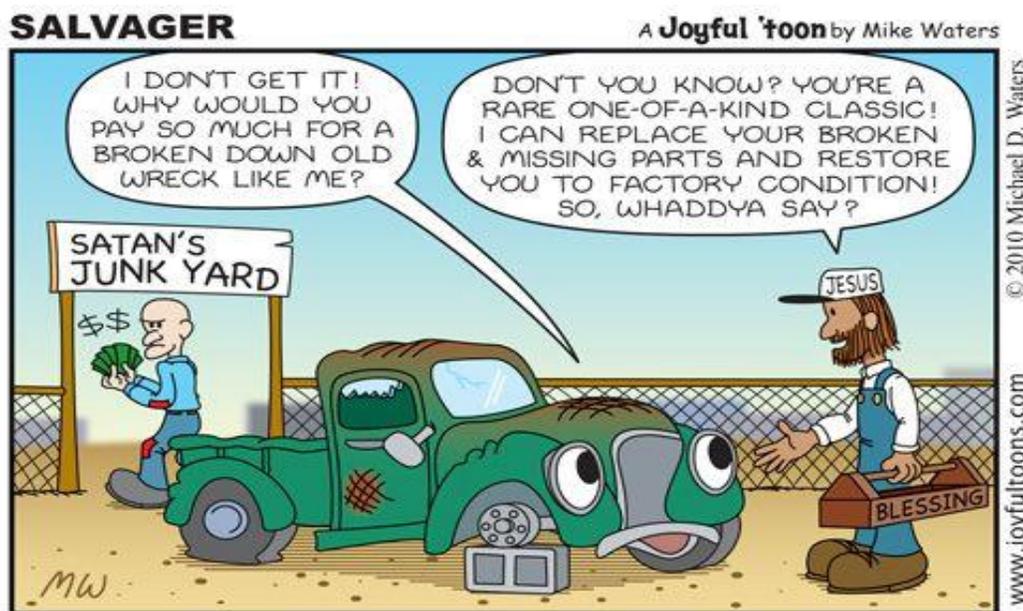
Photo 1 – The Site



Photo 2 – Platform lift shaft

We will now move onto detail drawings, getting a firm price and application for building regulations approval from the council.

Jim Rivers



For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

— LUKE 19:10 NIV

Rainham Hall update

During the Easter period the garden will have an Easter Egg hunt in the Garden at Rainham Hall from Thursday 7th April- Saturday 9th April and Thursday 14th April -Monday 18th April suitable for all ages, booking is not needed for this event. Below is the link about the Easter egg Hunt. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/386e0617-18ec-4f3d-8664-91a65ed5de1/pages/details> Rainham Hall is open again after being closed due to the pandemic. The hall and garden are fully open the public again. The current exhibition is about Anthony Denney who was at the Hall from 1964-1969 and worked as a photographer for Condé Nast (which includes Vogue and House & Garden magazine) and was an also an interior designer is running to end of this year. Please come and visit Rainham Hall. The cafe will be reopening again in June. This is the link to more information about the exhibition. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/rainham-hall/features/the-denney-edition-at-rainham-hall>

Article Written by Andrew (Volunteer at Rainham Hall)



If you have any items of news, information about forthcoming events or would like to write an article, prayer, or poem for inclusion in Kindle please submit it to the Editor for inclusion in the next edition. Would

any member like to write a few words about Sheila Palmer who sadly passed way recently? If so, please send it to the Editor for inclusion in next month's Kindle.

Minister

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Kindle

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