



KINDLE

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

June 2021

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

The 25th May saw the 1st anniversary of the murder of George Floyd in the USA. Churches together in Britain and Ireland organised a service of reflection broadcast live in the evening. It will be broadcast again on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday 30th May and is available on the CTBI website.

It was a powerful and moving service with the theme “doing justice”. All the speakers, from across the denominations, around the four nations and from various racial backgrounds were very challenging, one in particular stood out for me. Revd Les Isaac, the CEO of the Ascension Trust and responsible for the Street Pastors initiative, said this “all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing” (attributed to Edmund Burke) and went on to speak about the need for everyone particularly Christians to do justice, by standing up, standing out and speaking up for justice and calling out the injustices we see on our doorsteps as well as all around the world. A direct quote from his words “our faith, our Christianity is dead if it's not practical if it's not relevant and it doesn't speak out and speak up for justice. I'm for justice”

I was left thinking about the injustices that the pandemic has highlighted, the racial and social injustices that are around me but also what am I doing for justice, what are we doing for justice? Something for us all to think about. I encourage you if you can listen/watch the service.

It was lovely to see folk in both congregations last Sunday as we reopened for in person worship. Our thanks go to all who got the building ready for us and to all who have made it possible for us to worship from our own homes over the last 16 months, let us hope the buildings can stay open for worshipping together and other activities. Unfortunately, there is no information yet about when we might be able to sing or do away with masks and social distancing.

In our hearts we all know that the world is a very different place than it was a year ago, I'm not sure our minds have caught up with that and some do not see the need for change in the church, I return to some words from Les Isaac, “it can't be business as usual for the church, society, nations and the world...” He was talking in terms of theme of doing justice, but it applies more generally, I think.

The congregational questionnaires for Western Road are slowly being returned and the information will be collated and shared with everyone in due course. I am looking forward to discovering your ideas and thoughts as we continue to seek God's will and purpose for our lives and our fellowship. We face interesting, challenging times together and with God so I hope we will all be inspired and step up to the challenges.

Talking of challenges, I am over three quarters of the way towards by target of 300,000 steps in May as of the evening of the 25th the total was 256,098. Thank you for your encouragement and support. The Just Giving page total stands at £303 and I know folk have given direct to Christian Aid and to the church for Christian Aid as well as sending me money which I have passed to the church. Thank you again.

Alison



JFC/FIG

It was so lovely to meet up again in the church building with the children and young people after such a long time. It was an enjoyable but extremely busy time. Although we have had to make many changes the children and young people adapted quickly and easily. They enjoyed learning about the Festival of Pentecost and watching water being poured into an overflowing cup (with a bowl underneath) to demonstrate how the holy spirit is poured out over all creation. After this they made Pentecost Wind Twirlers and then each wrote an acrostic prayer for the world. As well as learning about the Christian faith, our aims this term are to focus on being kind, helping and listening to others. At the end of our group, we now also have a Question of the Week to encourage discussion and listening to others. Our question last week was - If you could be any character from the Bible, who would you be and why? We had fun answering the question and there were many varied and excellent answers and reasons! What would your answer be?

Lorraine and the JFC/FIG Team

From:

The United Reformed Church Finance Committee

To:

All members and adherents of

United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships

It would be fair to describe the year-and-a-bit since March 2020 as having been “different”, wouldn’t it? Lots of us have experienced loss of loved ones, loss of income and perhaps jobs. All have experienced periods of lockdown; periods without ‘non-essential’ shops; and continuous and extensive disruption to our ‘normal’ social interactions and relationships. The world we thought we understood and could take for granted has been utterly transformed. How many of us imagined at the start of 2020 that we could go months without a haircut or without people not in our ‘bubble’ entering our homes?

As members of United Reformed Church congregations ourselves, we understand much of what your church community has experienced since March 2020. The absence of what is now regularly labelled “in-person worship” for much (or all) of this time has compelled us to turn to other ways of being church. Buildings in which we used to praise God regularly have been shut, both to regular worshipers and others who might have sought solace within their walls during these desperate and troubling times. It has been hard to maintain close fellowship with people we only meet over Zoom (or the like) – if we are digitally enabled.

Financially, things have been extremely tough too. Plate offerings have collapsed; some regular givers have had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God’s work; and those churches which hire out their premises have seen income from that source disappear.

At denominational level, we feared that these financial troubles would spell disaster for the URC’s Ministry and Mission (‘M&M’) fund through which the URC has always supported and developed our stipendiary ministers and Church Related Community Workers. It would have been all too easy for congregations to forget that for almost 49 years this fund (under various names) has provided stipends, pension contributions and training for all ministers throughout the three nations in which the URC operates: so that ministry

reaches where synods judge it to be most needed and is paid for according to each congregation's ability to contribute (though the ways of determining that vary from synod to synod). It was all very well to remind ourselves that the M&M fund is meant to be the first call on every congregation's resources if the undertaking to financially support our ministers is to be honoured. We feared that drastically reduced income would make that impossible and that, because the need was less visible than the other calls on your diminished resources, payments to the M&M fund would have stopped first.

We are sorry if we ever doubted you.

It quickly became apparent that, although some congregations had to reduce their pledged giving to the M&M fund, many more of you were continuing to meet the 2020 commitments you had made during better times, despite the struggles that required. At the start of that year, we had been expecting churches and synods to contribute around £18.5 million to the fund. By the year end, all but half-a-million pounds of that had been received. Since Church House staff and committees managed to reduce their budgeted expenditure by almost £1 million, your money enabled us to meet the full costs of our Ministries, Education & Learning, Children's and Youth Work and Mission departments in 2020 as well as covering amounts spent on safeguarding, denominational governance, and communications.

What is perhaps even more amazing is that, collectively, you have pledged to give £17.3 million during 2021 despite the financial problems caused by the pandemic being fully apparent well before your offers for this year were made.

We are always grateful for the financial support given each year to the M&M fund by all of you; but this past year has been phenomenal.

Thank you to those of you who have been able to maintain or increase financial support for your church congregation through this difficult time. That has enabled those responsible for your congregation's finances to keep more money flowing to the M&M fund than we expected.

Thank you for all your previous financial support to those of you who, after prayerful consideration, have had to reduce or stop giving in response to your changed financial circumstances.

Thank you for the pledges your congregation has made about contributing to the M&M fund during 2021 even though you were by then aware of the impact the pandemic was having on your local congregation's finances.

Thank you in anticipation for what you agree to offer to the M&M fund during 2022 to enable the denomination to deliver ministry, education and learning, children's work, and mission activity on God's (and your) behalf.

We are aware that synods have played a significant part in encouraging and supporting many congregations with their contributions to the M&M fund. We have separately written to Synod Treasurers to express our thanks to them and their colleagues too.

Of course, our giving for God's work is in response to the amazing generosity and love of God which we see in Jesus. Nonetheless, it is important for us to thank every one of you for what you do for God, your congregation and its and our denominational finances.

Thank you!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Hardie (Treasurer) and John Piper (Deputy Treasurer)
On behalf of the whole United Reformed Church Finance Committee

What's Happening

It was good to see so many of us back in church on Sunday. Thank you to Alison for our celebratory Pentecost service. Thanks also to everyone who worked so hard getting the church ready for our return. The red and yellow ribbons looked wonderful!

I trust you have by now; all received the 'emerging out of lockdown' survey forms from your elder. I urge you all to think about how we as a church can move forward after being isolated for so many months. What is your vision for our church? Your replies will be collated, and your thoughts will be anonymous when reported back to the elders and church meeting. So please let us know what you think. Thank you to all those who have returned their forms so far.

On Saturday 5 June at 2.30pm on Zoom – Induction of our new Moderator Revd. George Watt.
Women's World Day of Prayer will be at St. Edward's Roman Catholic Church (near Romford library) on Friday 2nd July at 2.00pm.

Induction of our new Moderator Revd. George Watt.

Unfortunately, because of current restrictions it is not possible to invite everyone to this special service. But we hope that as many as possible can **join us on the livestream via the Thames North Synod YouTube channel** where there will also be a recording for viewing later. A link will be sent out nearer the time.

Saturday 5th June 2021
2.30 pm
City Temple URC

Sunday Services in church for the next few weeks are: -

- 6th June – Alison
- 13th June – Ann Woodhurst
- 20th June – Ruth – Holy Communion and All Age Worship
- 27th June – Jill Hunt
- 4th July - Fiona

Blessings **Pat**



A big thank you!

Thank you so much for the presents we received on Sunday from the church, in place of a Christmas party/outing because of lockdown. It was a lovely surprise!
Ryan, Kiera and Liam

Sunday Offertory

Over the last 12 – 15 months several people have regularly given me their Sunday offertory money, others of you have swapped to standing orders and we are very grateful for all this continued support. Thank you very much.

Thanks also to all who are taxpayers and have signed Gift Aid forms allowing the church to claim back tax on contributions thus making a considerable difference to the church's finances. For every £1 given, 25p can be claimed back. Last year we received a cheque from HM Revenue and Customs for £6,387.37.

Please, if you pay tax and have not already signed one of these forms please consider doing so; it does not cost you anything and the church benefits and the tax man has to pay out!

Speak to me if you want to know more!

Jill Cottrell

Soup & Cheese Lunches

We are pleased to announce that lunches will resume on Wednesday 23rd June and will be served from 12.30 – 1.45 for a 2pm finish in the GP room.

Despite restrictions being recently eased, we would like to show some caution therefore, entrance will be by the main Church door & exit by the LW Room door. The kitchen door to be used only by those who cannot manage the stairs down to the GP room. Masks to be worn if moving around the hall area.

Lunches to be ordered at the counter on arrival & brought to the tables. One of our helpers will be on hand to take orders for drinks, which will also be delivered to the tables.

To make lunches the success they were for 40 years we need help & customers. There are many jobs to do. Please let Ceri or Andrew know if you can help by text, WhatsApp, e-mail or calling us on:

Ceri 07956 395359 ceridonaldson@icloud.com

Andrew 07952 260721 andrew.donaldson8@btinternet.com

It was March 2020 when we last served lunches, far too long!

We look forward to meeting with you all again soon.

Thank you,

Ceri & Andrew

Twinning

At Church we have twinned every toilet through 'Toilet Twinning' – here is another twinning idea to challenge us. It was sent to me via Tearfund.

Here in the UK, we are starting to enjoy more freedom as the coronavirus restrictions are lifted after an extremely challenging year.

But many other countries are still in the grip of the pandemic, wrestling with a health emergency and an economic crisis, alongside many other challenges.

More than 40 million people are now facing a hunger crisis in countries like South Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

There are no food banks or furlough schemes in the vulnerable communities where we and our partner organisations are working. Many families can only afford one meal a day if that.

But here is an opportunity to help: Fridge Twinning.

Our friends at Toilet Twinning have just launched a new campaign to provide emergency food and cash vouchers. They are also providing training and support for small businesses – helping people find new ways to earn a living so they are more resilient to future shocks.

Could you feed a family from your fridge? For more information, and to twin your fridge, [please visit the Fridge Twinning website today.](https://t.co/61M1WWH9HL)

#FRIDGETWINNING LAUNCHED A WEEK AGO

AND ALREADY WE HAVE HAD MORE THAN

1,000 FRIDGES TWINNED! THANK YOU!

HELP BEAT COVID HUNGER: TWIN YOUR FRIDGE

   [HTTPS://T.CO/61M1WWH9HL](https://t.co/61M1WWH9HL) [HTTPS://T.CO/HNGKQSPXN](https://t.co/HNGKQSPXN)

J

Your generosity during the pandemic has been extraordinary and humbling – and we are so grateful. Please stand with us in praying for 'daily bread' for those in the grip of a hunger crisis.

Ruth

Whitechapel Mission

Trying to think of a way to raise funds for the Whitechapel Mission, it occurred to me that I could do a sponsored 'something'. As walking outside is not an option, I was inspired to do a 'stair climb'. O I am determined to walk up and down stairs five times in the morning and five times in the afternoon every day for ten days, making a total of one hundred climbs. If you think that you could sponsor me for that, I would be delighted to hear from you. All the money raised would go to Whitechapel Mission, which helps the homeless in London with food, clothing, washing facilities, social advice etc. The need for the services offered is even greater now. As so many people who have lost their jobs cannot pay the rent and have been evicted. And this would be a way of supporting the Mission in their work. Money, or a cheque payable to Whitechapel Mission could be put through the door. If this is agreeable, I propose to start at the end of June. Please let me know if you can offer support. Thank you.



Whitechapel Mission

Bringing hope where there is despair



Betty

I am well aware that during lock down it has been harder to keep everybody up to date with what has been going on and one of these examples might be the decision by the Elders that I should receive a gift for the times I have spent being an Elder and also your Church Secretary.



I first served as an Elder during Alwyn's ministry then as Secretary. It has continued so that I have been working with Lythan, Dorothee, Jim and then for a short while with Alison at different times, let alone the times we have been in an interregnum. Of course, the Grahams have done their stints.

But now, it is time for me to retire and learn to manage my COPD. I no longer have as much energy as I have had so it is well time to hand over the reins to Pat.

This all builds up to me saying an enormous Thank you for the almond tree which is now in my garden. I will enjoy it for many years to come and have great pleasure in watching it grow and blossom.

My love and thanks and blessings to you all, ^^^^^

Gill

On my recent birthday, when I reached the age of 91, I was quite overwhelmed to receive so many birthday cards.

So, this is my thank-you to everybody who for their good wishes. T was a wonderful day, when our two daughters came with their partners, and we were able to go out to lunch as the sun shone to make it warm enough to sit outside the restaurant. So, I feel well launched into my 92nd year! Both Tom and I feel very blessed to be so well and able to get out and about, as well as managing our lives at home. It will be wonderful when we can come together with our church family once again, and it looks as if this day is not too far off now. We remember everyone in our prayers every day and feel privileged to greet everyone on #Zoom each Sunday. So, thank you once again and hopefully we will be able to meet again soon. God bless you all.

Love Betty



The cross at the front of the church

The decorated cross at the front of the church is in red, yellow, and cream to help us celebrate Pentecost, representing Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

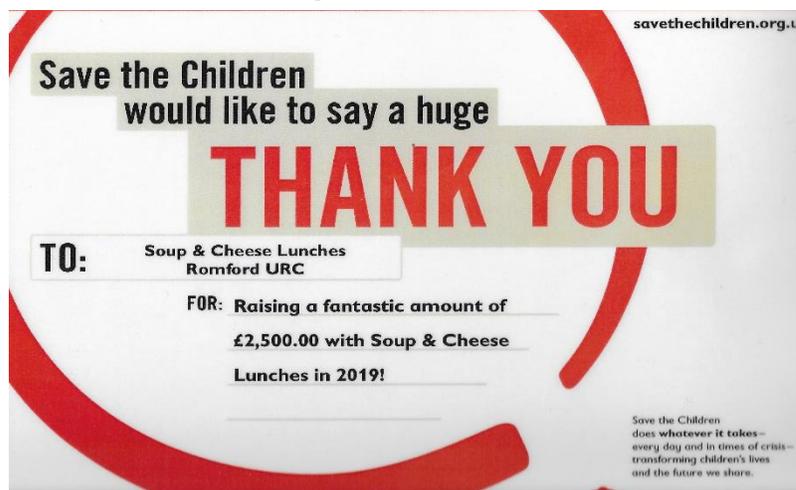
But further explanation can be: -

- Red is for the blood of the cross,
- Yellow is for flames bringing the Holy Spirit down and, then
- White is for the light of the world or the Holy Spirit.

The ribbon tied in bows are to celebrate the birthday of the Church. We thank Trevor for refurbishing the cross so it can last many a year.

Gill

Soup and Cheese



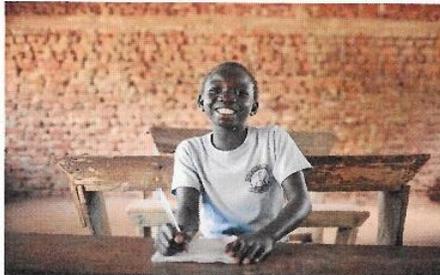
11 March 2020

Soup & Cheese Lunches
Romford United Reformed Church

Dear Ann and the Soup & Cheese Lunches team,

Thank you for raising a fantastic amount of £2,500.00* with your lunches in 2019! The money you've raised will help give children brighter futures here in the UK and around the world.

Venetia*, 9, lost both her parents in the war in South Sudan. Scared and alone, she fled to Uganda, where she lives with a foster parent in Imvepi refugee settlement but had missed almost a year of school. Now Venetia's back in education. "I am happy to be in class", she says. When she grows up, Venetia wants to become a nurse.



Venetia's future is looking brighter now she is back in school - she is one of millions of children we help alongside our amazing supporters like you every year.

Together, we stand side by side with children in the toughest places to be a child. We do whatever it takes to make sure children survive, get protection when they're in danger, and have the chance to learn. We hope you feel proud to be part of this change for children.

Thank you for your continued support - it means a lot.

With best wishes,

Thalea and the Fundraising team

*If this total is incorrect, please let us know - we want to thank you for every penny raised.

Please see overleaf to find out how you can change how you hear from us.

Articles

London July 2020

Robin asked to send in stories of what we got up to during lockdown. Thought you might like to hear about our day out. One of the things we missed the most was going up London so once we started coming out of lockdown last July, we thought we would go up London for the day. What a very different London we found to what we were used to.

We were a bit nervous about getting on a train, but we got the train at about 10.00am. There was plenty of room and the majority of people



were wearing masks, but I will be truthful when someone near us started to cough we got up and moved. We got off at Liverpool Street after being very careful not to have touched any surfaces on the train and we started to walk, and boy did we walk just short of 20,000 steps in the day.

We headed towards St. Pauls Cathedral. Shops and restaurants were just opening up at home but in London many were still closed and many more were boarded up. We went down Fleet Street where we found a church open. As we had not been in a church since March, we went in. There was no one there but the warden and us. It was dark, cool, and so peaceful, it was lovely just sitting in a church with our own thoughts and a silent prayer. Back outside again and on to Covent Garden, a favourite place of ours usually crowded with street artists, markets, and people but there was no market, no street artists, and no people. As we walked over the cobbles, what a different sight to the last time we were there back in



February. Still, we were able to move on to Leicester Square. We had not been out for a meal since before lockdown and we were looking forward to lunch in one of our favourite restaurants a Lebanese one. Imagine our disappointment when it not only was closed but it was boarded up. We still do not know if it will ever open again. It was not too much of a problem finding



somewhere else to eat. We sat outside and with only two other tables occupied there was no problem social distancing. What we noticed most was the lack of tourists. Normally at that time of the year in London it is crowded with workers, tourists, and day trippers. July 2020, we had it to ourselves.

After lunch we made for Trafalgar Square. As it was still lunch time there were a few more people about eating sandwiches on the steps. We set off to St. James Park where we sat on a bench and watched the world go by. Some people were there for walks and a few families were having picnics. Onto the Mall where we have been for many Royal events along with thousands of people but only us today. Through Green Park and on to Piccadilly, past the Ritz and Fortnum & Mason, so different to when we were there at Christmas when it was so crowded. There was some traffic about but mainly lorries as building works were still going on otherwise half empty buses, and a few private cars and taxis. One other thing we did noticed was random hand sanitisers on the sides of roads. We walked through Piccadilly and back to Covent Garden, time for a coffee where we had a bit of trouble ordering it on an App. In the end they just served us a coffee. Technology!!!



Our day finished sitting peacefully in the gardens of Lincoln Inn Field no problem finding a bench that day before we headed to Holborn to meet Ian as he finished work and we could drive home. It was lovely not having to battle the crowds, but the atmosphere was not the same all in all it was really quite sad. The day made us realise just how much this pandemic has affected the city we love and all our lives. We should be thankful our church has come through it relatively unscathed and as we open our doors once more may we hope and pray that we never have to close them again.

John and Christine

Mobile phones, a boon, or a curse?

Ever since I retired, I have ceased to use a mobile, or a smart, telephone. Even though your mobile phone has more computing power than the computers used for the Apollo 11 moon landing I find the use of them can be very invasive. The average person unlocks their mobile phone 110 times a day! Are they so frightened of losing contact with their friends, who often are no more than feet away from them?

Do you know that Phubbing describes the act of snubbing someone by using your mobile phone in their company? Teenagers that use a phone more than 2 hours a day increase their risk of depression and anxiety. Indeed, Nomophobia is severe anxiety caused by the thought or act of losing your phone or running out of battery. Well, over 90% of adults always have their phone within arm's reach.

Nearly half of smartphone users 'couldn't live without' them. Could you go a day without your phone? How about a lifetime? A massive 46% of smartphone users say that they 'couldn't live without' the device, according to [Pew Research](#). That is almost half of the world's users.

I am, however, in the minority, as more people in the world can access a mobile phone than they can a toilet! Some people say that they cannot live without a mobile phone, but are they more essential than, say, a toilet? It would seem so as apparently mobiles have 18 times more bacteria on them than toilet handles! Whilst 100,000 mobile phones are dropped down the loo in the UK every year. We now have waterproof mobile phones these came to market because Japanese youngsters like to use them in the shower.

There are other dangers in mobile phone ownership, as, Mobile phone radiation has been linked to infertility, headaches, insomnia, and tumours. Manufacturers of mobile phones state in their small print that phones should be used at least 25mm away from the head to reduce the risk of ill health from mobile phone radiation. The first mobile phone was made in 1973 and when the first mobile phones that went on sale in 1983 it cost nearly £2,500 each. In 2012 Apple sold 340,000 phones per day.

Must I have a mobile phone just because a bank wants to send me a text, why not an email? I am not a Luddite! but I do not have a mobile phone, I have a landline and computer or tablet access to the internet and I do not feel the need to telephone or text when I am in the middle of nowhere.

Editor



Some thoughts on prayer

'During the pandemic and as we gradually emerge from lockdown, thinking about what next, I have read and heard many prayers but one that resonates most just now are the lyrics of 'We Seek Your Kingdom' that we have shared in recent services. It contains so many facets of the current situation and I share the words here:

We Seek Your Kingdom (Lyrics)

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere.
We long for heaven's demonstration here
Jesus your light shine bright for all to see.
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Before all things, in him were all things made.
Inspiring culture, media, and trade
May all our work serve your economy
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Peace, truth, and justice reigning everywhere.
With us be present in our public square
Fill all who lead with your integrity.
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Forgive us Lord, when we have not engaged.
Failing to scribe your heart on history's page.
Make us again what we were made to be.
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Faithful to govern ever may we be.
Selfless in service, loving constantly.
In everything may your authority
Transform, revive, and heal society.

Melody: Eventide (Abide with me) by William Henry Monk (Public Domain)
Lyrics: Noel Robinson, Andy Flannagan, Graham Hunter

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Also, however, I sometimes find the words of this 'Everyday Prayer' are just what I need to use:

*Lord, in all I do today,
Remind me that there's just one way
to do the things that I do best,
to put my mind and heart at rest.
And that's to put in your great hands,
My life, that you alone have planned.*

Jill Hunt

Five Star Hotel

During lockdown last autumn one family were inspired to make a bug hotel using all the odd bits in the garage, shed and around the garden. This included a few of the children's building bricks which added colour and a bit of style to the building which became quite a substantial size. An early viewer (human) decided it was a Five Star Hotel. As the news spread round family and neighbours the witticisms flooded in. "I take it that Hen Parties are banned, but do you cater for stag beetle nights?" Do you allow swarms? Are there special rates for larvae? Can one negotiate rates for overwintering? What are the arrangements to prevent guests eating each other? Are parasites welcome and if so, can I get a room on tick? Can I take ladybirds up to my room? If a guest eats the walls is there an extra charge? If a guest creates silk sheets is there a discount? Are Nectar points available?

Olive

Lockdown



Robin has been disappointed in the lack of response to his request to write about what we had been doing during lockdown. For me it has been a period of complete frustration at not being able to meet with the specialists who are supposed to be treating me for Dermatitis Herpetiformis and Coeliac Disease with which it is associated. Many of my hospital appointments have been cancelled or changed to telephone conversations, which are difficult for me being deaf and also does not allow the specialist to see the itching and painful spots and blisters that I am suffering with.



That is my moan over I have kept myself busy with art, painting in oils which I do not usually do. I have completed five pictures trying to follow in the style of the late Bob Ross as can be seen on BBC channel 4 at 7.30pm Monday to Thursday most weeks. He makes it look so easy; he says it is easy, anyone can do it. I am reminded of my old school reports which often used to say "Must try harder" I will keep trying.



Another project was prompted by the frog spawn that appeared in our garden pond which has about twenty goldfish, well five are the rest are very dark brown. We knew that the tadpoles would not survive when they hatched out, so I decided to construct a wildlife pond in another part of our



garden. I purchased a pond liner and began digging out a pond. It is built on sloping ground, so I had to build up one side with some of the soil that I dug out to make the pond. Once the hole was the shape and depth required any sharp stones were carefully removed and the pond liner was spread out and fitted into the hole before starting to fill the pond with water adjusting the liner as it was slowly being pushed back against the sides of the hole. The liner edge was trimmed and the edge held down with old roof tiles until such time as I could replace them with cobblestones and gravel.

Now the fun part began, we purchased pond plants, oxygenating plants were top of the list, then some marginal plants together with various flowering plants to put around the edge hoping their roots would help hold the sloping soil on the lower edge of the garden. The frog spawn which we had placed into an old washing up bowl had been floating in the new pond for several days and was beginning to hatch out was released into





the pond. We have enjoyed watching the tadpoles grow day by day feeding them and are waiting for their legs to start developing then it will not be long before they leave for pastures new.

During this time, I have refurbished the wooden cross that has been out in front of the church building, removing the rusty wire netting and treating the wood with wood preserver. Also, there are now plastic netting sleeves that can be slid onto the arms and upright parts of the cross to hold flowers etc. as required. By the time you read this the cross will have been decorated with ribbons to celebrate the start of Pentecost.

What is next? Who knows? Hopefully, we will start to return to a more normal way of life.

Trevor.

Weeds

As my

learn



scooter rides over the pavements, I notice all the weeds that grow up in the cracks, and similar places. These weeds seem determined not to be exterminated! Whatever the weather, they have a strategy to cope with anything. Perhaps they have a lesson for us, and we should be like them and survive, whatever befalls.

They get pulled up, thrown on the compost heap, put in the incinerator, shredded etc but still they keep returning. And as well as providing greenery, they most times have a beautiful colour in a bloom they produce.

Although most of them do not smell very nice, they enhance the environment to make things look lush and inviting. So, could we from them and enrich the world about us? I think that this is a topic worth a serious thought.

Betty

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