



**KINDLE**

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

**July 2021**

## *Minister's Letter*

*Dear Friends,*

We have just passed midsummer, and it seems to me that the year is flying by despite lockdown and restrictions which sometimes makes days drag, time still flies by. Summer is upon us with the warmer weather (hopefully), longer days, it is a lovely time of year when we often enjoy the best of plants, flowers, and trees. It is a good time to be continuing to emerge out of lockdown into a different reality and society. Society and our world are different places now and I hope that humanity will learn from this pandemic, not only learn but keep remembering our need for each other and that caring for each other and the world is the best way. We have seen examples of incredible care and service, not least from all who work in the NHS, in care provision and in health care around the world. We continue to give thanks for their dedicated service. Their example inspires us I hope and reminds me of Jesus' words "This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:12-13).

Both congregations have been back worshipping in person for about a month now and it has been wonderful to see folk. As yet we do not know when other restrictions about singing, mask wearing etc will be lifted, but hope that before the summer is out, we will be able to sing again. In the meantime, we are well served by those who source music videos and our musicians. We are grateful for all who keep our buildings Covid secure and each of us continues to do our bit, sanitising our hands, leaving the buildings promptly.

I will be attending the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church from 9th-12th July all on Zoom. There is an open invitation to everyone to join General Assembly for the Sunday morning worship at 11am. It will live stream and available on the URC YouTube channel.

Finally, I completed the 300,000 steps challenge comfortably with 316,000+ steps and nearly £500 for Christian Aid. Thank you for your support.

I hope everyone has a good summer.

*Alison*



### **Services for the next month are as follows: -**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> July    | - Fiona - All Age Worship   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> July   | - Revd. Ann Woodhurst   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> July - | - General Assembly Service will be live streamed - (details on the URC website) |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> July   | - Revd. Alison Davis (Holy Communion) - Church Meeting                          |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> July   | - Jim Rivers and Graham Davies  |

### **Soup & Cheese Lunches**

Will now resume on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July at NOON following new Covid guidelines.

**The Revd George Watt, Minister of Reigate Park United Reformed Church (URC), Will be Thames North Synod's new moderator from July 2021.**

**George is coming to lead worship on September 5<sup>th</sup> at Western Road.**

**I thought you might like to know a little about him.**

George was born and brought up in the Highlands of Scotland, living most of his childhood in the village of Lairg in Sutherland. He came to faith through the work of Scripture Union and was also nurtured through his local Church of Scotland and its youth fellowship.

George's family moved to the Shetland Islands when he started studying at Stirling University where he gained a degree in history, but also studied economics, statistics, and religious studies. On graduating, the minister moved to the Medway Towns in Kent where he started work as a statistician with Lloyds of London. He went on to become a computer implementation analyst.

George joined the URC in Gillingham and became an Elder at the age of 23. He met and married his wife Linda and then started training for the ministry at Mansfield College. His first pastorate was at Freemantle and Isaac Watts Memorial Churches in Southampton. In 1998, he moved to St Andrew's, Cheam where he was minister for 12 years. George has been the Minister at Reigate Park Church in Surrey for the past ten years.

George and Linda have three sons: Nathan, married to Emily, who works as a BT consultant; Jacob who is studying medicine at the University of Aberdeen, and Reuben who is studying ethical hacking at Coventry University and is currently the URC Youth Moderator. He has particularly enjoyed being involved in local schools as a governor and leading collective worship. Recently, he provided moderatorial cover in the URC's Southern Synod and serves as Synod Council Convener. In his spare time George enjoys cooking, gardening, and walking.

Speaking of his nomination, George said: "I am really looking forward to working with and supporting the churches and ministers of the Thames North Synod. I am excited by the diverse nature of the Synod and all the richness that entails. In these challenging times I hope to be able to encourage the Synod in its witness and mission." George succeeds the role after the Revd Dr Andrew Prasad announced his retirement. Dr Prasad is due to retire in early 2021, having served as Synod Moderator since 2008.

*Fiona*



**Sunshine Collection**

Well, the weather lately has kept us busy finding coins for our collection! You may remember that we said the scheme would end on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We would like you to bring your collection bag/jar to church on Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>. If you could change some of the coin into notes I am sure our treasurer would be delighted, but do not worry if that is a problem for you, just bring it as it is. We hope that you will be able to bring them forward during the service but need to check out Covid rules. We will let you know on the day how we will do this. Thank you all for joining in this fundraising- I look forward to knowing how we have done.



**Congregational Survey**

Thank you to everyone who has returned their survey. We received responses from nearly half the congregation, and they are being collated. If you did not respond or forgot to return your survey you can still do so. If you have lost your survey then please get hold of Pat, Alison or your elder for another copy.

*Pat & Alison*



### **Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who had some of my plants and thank you for your donations to Women's Refuge. The final total was £133 which I have handed to our Treasurer. I hope the plants bloom well for you.  
*Olive*

### **Thank You**

Thank you for the beautiful fuchsia plant I received from Church in recognition of the time I have helped out at Junior family Church. I have been asked how long I have been in charge of JFC – I really do not know. We had already planned changes before Covid made us all think again. I wish the new team well. Thanks again  
*Ann*

### **Thank You**

Text from card received from our retired Moderator Revd Dr Andrew Prasad

"I wish to thank you and the Romford pastorate for your generous gift at my retirement. I have engaged with both the congregations/churches over the years and do appreciate their mission and enthusiasm. Also, it is my pleasure to get to know you and work with you though briefly. Blessings"

*From Kirean & Andrew Prasad.*

### **From the Trustees**

The Trustees are very grateful for the first instalment of £5000.00 that they received from The Church as part cover for the M&M of the Churches Offertory and investment income. We hope that they will be able to cover the balance in September.

Fortunately, Church income has held up remarkably well, whilst the Trustees suffered extremely. Here is to better times.

*Dennis.*

### **Whitechapel Mission**

Thank you to all those who gave most generously to the recent collection. This was arranged quite quickly when I was informed that Tony Miller would be in the area. After reading the following item in the press, it is more important than ever to support the Mission.

#### **Tenants in fear as evictions start again.**

More than 800,000 householders renting a home are worried about being evicted in the next few months, research has suggested. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has said that 400,000 families had already been served with an eviction notice or told that they may be evicted.

Campaigners warn that tenants face a wave of proceedings as bailiffs can resume using court orders for repossession. The charity said that the temporary ban on bailiff enforced evictions introduced in March last year had given renters much needed security. The report said that the survey of more than 10,000 showed 'clear warning signs' of a rise in evictions and homelessness as the ban ends. About 400,000 families are expecting to be evicted and a further 450,000 households are in rental arrears, the foundation said.

Rachel Earwaker, of the charity, said the rise in evictions risks hampering our economic recovery.

Please continue to collect for the Autumn collection, there is, of course, plenty of space in our garage to store items until then! So just let me know if you have items .... adult clothing and shoes, toiletries etc. we are always pleased to see you.

*Betty 01708 760607*



**Kindle**

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# Articles

## 'Surprised by God'.

I have a tendency to collect and keep a lot of things just in case they might be useful. I was reminded of one such item when I was telling a friend about the story.

This one was in an old Every day with Jesus Bible reading notes, which were entitled, 'Surprised by God'. In one particular reading we were challenged about our attitude and outward reflection of being a Christian. The Bible verse quoted was Psalm 105:3 '.... let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.'

Selwyn Hughes wrote:

'..... Many of us who are followers of Christ have, somehow or other, given the impression that the Christian life is anything but full and joyful. Far too often our general attitude suggests that Christianity is a heavy load which we are carrying rather than a living faith which carries us.



One day a member of a certain church, who was a somewhat grim-looking individual, paused while a Salvation Army open-air meeting was being held in the East End of London. A young Salvation Army girl, hovering on the outskirts of the crowd, approached him, and asked him if he was saved. Embarrassed by the question, he replied tartly, 'Of course I am'. 'Well Sir', she advised, 'I suggest you tell your face about it!' Challenging words, but they went home.....'\*



'So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.' Colossians 2: 6-7.

\* With kind permission from CWR (Crusade For World Revival)

*Found by Ruth Mitchell*



## More progress

I remember seeing some time ago a series of postcards sent between Ealing and Gunnersbury West London) in which two ladies made an arrangement for luncheon, there were at least three cards sent and received in one morning. In London in **the good old days**, we used to have up to TWELVE deliveries per day, enough to enjoy a substantial multi-letter same-day conversation if needed! (A post card for those too young to have seen them was a thin oblong of thin card, usually with a photograph on one side, which was used to send short hand written messages, usually from a holiday) .I was reminded of this when I went to post a letter recently, I had written that day, and when I went to post it I found that the collection from the local post-boxes was 9.00am. This meant that if you wrote a letter on day one and sent it by first class post the same day it could not possibly be delivered until mid or late morning on day three. A long way from less than two hours! We are fortunate that today with text messaging and mobiles we do not have to rely on the written word!

Incidentally, I had to write a letter even though I was invited to send an email. The recipient asked for details of an email account to receive the letter, but I knew that my father did not have an email account with them, and I could not open one for him. Ah well, such is progress.

*Editor*

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