



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

July 2022

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

As I thought about what to say this month, the words of a hymn that we sang this last Sunday went through my head. The New Zealand hymn writer Shirley Erena Murray is able to express such profound thoughts in this hymn about our journey of faith and the ever-changing landscape we journey through. I hope you find the words as powerful and helpful as I do.

Faith has set us on a journey
past the landmarks that we know,
taking risks with no insurance
but the Word that tells us 'go!'
Friend or job or home or lover
we may need to leave behind,
outworn truths and ways of thinking,
baggage to the past consigned.

Some are swags of easy conscience
who with others hitch a ride,
some are tourist-package Christians,
dollar-safe, with Book and guide.
There are others on this journey -
those who long and pray and search,
heave the stones to free the structures,
love the Christ and leave the Church.

We are this unlikely people
in the Body knit as one,
company of clowns and cripples -
some are wise, and some can run.
Prophets are our travel agents,
gospel-makers lay this road:
to the place of peace and promise
faith will take us into God.

Also, as I write the news is breaking of the horrific bombing of a shopping centre in Kremenchuk in Ukraine, the number of dead and injured is not yet known but it is a senseless act of war with civilians the victims. I wonder when it will end, how we can make sense of it and what part our faith may have. There are no easy answers, we are shocked by the suffering and needless death, faith doesn't take away the pain, our faith takes us into God who is present in the suffering and enables us to keep hoping in God's promises.

Alison

CHURCH NEWS

Church Quiz Night

Thank you to everyone who attended the Quiz on the 22nd May. It was very well supported with over 70 people there making 10 teams. Lots of the church family attended and they then brought along many more friends and family, and we also had a team from Nelmes church.

The Quiz had a Platinum Jubilee theme, and we went through the 70 decades of the Queen's reign and also found out how much we actually knew about the Queen. We were very impressed at how many of the Commonwealth Flags people knew and the photos of the lesser members of the Royal family.

Fish and chips were lovely, piping hot and plenty of it. Everyone had more than enough, and all enjoyed it.

Thank you to everyone who helped arranging the food, selling raffle tickets, washing up and clearing up afterwards and thanks to my Guides for making the bunting.

It was really good to get back to doing the normal events we had always done. We think everyone enjoyed the evening and it raised an amazing £510.00. Thank you to everyone.

John & Christine



After three days of heatwave a number of company and junior section boys went, with four leaders, to Life To The Max at The Boys' Brigade headquarters at Felden Lodge. Needless to say, on Saturday 18th June the weather changed, rain and a cool wind where the order of the day, what a difference 24 hours can make! Were we downhearted? no. The boys enjoyed themselves and cannot wait for next year.

The aim is to get as many children and young people from across London together on one day! Some 450 young people together with their leaders attended. The event included funfair rides (including Dodgems, King Frog and Teacups, craft, activities organised by the Army & Navy, inflatables Sumo Suits, Soft Archery Range and much more!

Jonathan Veira

Thank you to everyone who came to the Jonathan Veira concert on 3rd June. We hope you enjoyed it. He is such a talented man.

Thank you to all the people who helped in so many ways to make the evening a success. I won't mention any names for fear of missing someone out, but thanks go to the Admin Team; to everyone who prepared and decorated the rooms in church; for all the donations of cake; to the First Aider; the Fire Marshall; the Catering Team; the Traffic Marshall; the Logistics Team; the Technical Support; the Welcome Committee; all the Gofers/Runners....

And a very special thank you to members of House Group (and to Jonathan) for indulging me and happily agreeing to accompany Jonathan by "signing" while he sang "King of Kings, Majesty".

Grateful thanks to everyone for your help without which the evening would not have been possible.

I am delighted to say £176 was also raised for St Francis Hospice during the evening.

Much love, Glynis x



What's Happening

Rainham Hall

We have a group booking for the Heath and Havering Churches on Saturday 17th September starting at 11:30am. It is £5:00 per person for a group visit, if a National trust member it is free entry.

Thanks *Andrew*

Which Bible character was the best musician? Samson—he brought the house down.

When someone needed a boat made, what did the people in town say? "We Noah guy."

Security

If you enter or leave through the front door of the church, please ensure that the door is securely locked.



Action by Christians against torture

Archbishop Desmond Tutu 1931 – 2021

Desmond Tutu, a patron of ACAT-UK from its early days, recalled how, as a child, he was walking with his mother when a priest named Trevor Huddleston tipped his hat to her – the first time he had ever seen a white man show this respect to a black woman. The incident impressed him deeply and he realised that he did not have to accept discrimination and that religion could be a powerful tool for campaigning for racial equality.

Many years later, when apartheid legislation in South Africa was repealed (1991), the then Archbishop Tutu – he was elected Cape Town's first black Archbishop in 19886 – sent to ACAT the following message:

At one time it seemed as if apartheid was too powerful, too entrenched to be shaken, let alone be destroyed. It was supported by some of the world's greatest democracies. We failed to persuade President Reagan and Mrs. Thatcher, as she was then, to impose sanctions against then apartheid regime.

Today apartheid has ended. South Africa is a democracy. A great victory was won over powerful forces of evil. That victory was possible because people around the world supported the anti-apartheid struggle. They mustered moral forces against evil.

Torture is evil and must be opposed with the same passion for goodness that was invested in the struggle against the evil of apartheid. We won against apartheid. Know that we will win against torture and you in ACAT can and will make a difference.

God bless you.



If you or your group hold an event at the church, why not publicise it, well in advance, in Kindle.

A final prayer

Loving God, Thank you....
For the wonderful world which we all share
For the joy of love and friendship
For the challenge of helping to build your kingdom.

Strengthen....
My determination to work for a world of peace and justice
My conviction that, whatever our nationality or race, we are all global citizens, one in Christ
My courage to challenge the powerful with the values of the Gospel
My commitment to find nonviolent ways of resolving conflict – personal, local, national,
and international.
My efforts to forgive injuries and to love those I find it hard to love.

Teach me....
To share the gifts, you have given me
To speak out for the victims of injustice who have no voice
To reject the violence which runs through much of our world today.
Holy Spirit of God Renew my hope for a world free from cruelty and
evil of war, so that we may all come to share in God's peace and Justice.
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An ACAT prayer

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