



## *Minister's Letter*

*Dear Friends,*

Last week I attended the Ministers Gathering in Staffordshire an opportunity for Ministers and CRCWs to get together to worship, share bible study, workshops, keynote speakers and social time. It was a good event with a focus on Jubilee.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the URC's 50th anniversary and the biblical concept of Jubilee. Our bible studies were led by Dr Meg Warner, who led us through some of the Old testament texts about Jubilee and helped us relate them to the other key text of the event from Luke 4: 16ff. Jubilee can be about the year of the Lord's favour and is a time of celebration, thanksgiving as well as restoration. It is unclear whether the Israelites ever truly practiced the restoration of land etc at Jubilee, but they certainly celebrated and gave thanks as well as cared for the land.

I came home more enthused about the coming jubilee celebrations thinking about giving thanks and wondering what we would give thanks for, but also about restoration and do we need to restore relationships that have broken and how we could begin to restore the land, not in terms of ownership but in terms of caring for God's creation.

*Alison*

The Ministers Gathering was 9-12th May and this piece is unfinished due to Alison being off sick.



### **Plant Sale**

Thank you to all those who purchased plants. My neighbours also bought some, so I was able to send £30 to our treasurer to add to the total raised for our church charity this year.

*Olive*

# Bake for Dementia Events 2022

We would like to thank everyone in their continued support for families living and coping with Alzheimer's and Dementia.

**So far, we have raised the amount of £370.00 for the charity.**

Never could we imagine that both days (U.R.C Western Road & Kall Kwik Chiswick) would be a great success. We are very proud that our cakes went down a treat with you all. A special thank you to my friend, Ravinder for baking **three** Victoria sandwich cakes. It was her way of remembering Mum and their shared joy of baking.

We especially also remember Ann's beloved husband, Ceri and Kevin's father and Cary's and Andrew's granddad Glyn having recently passed away after suffering with Alzheimer's.

We do not know what the future holds for us all. So, it's nice that we are here for each other, supporting and caring. Even if it is just phone call, it will mean a lot to someone.

With God's Blessing Helen and Andrew xx



JustGiving Menu  

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H C Young  
**Bake off - The Alzheimers Society- Andrew & Helen**

Andrew & myself are raising awareness for Alzheimer's Society because more than ever, support is needed

 **£370**  
raised of £1000 target  
by 9 supporters

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## Quiz 2022

There was a successful quiz held at the church on 21<sup>st</sup> May and the Editor understands that it raised a good sum for our Church charity for 2022, St. Francis Hospice, but the Editor has not been given any details

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## Why do Brides Wear White?

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied, 'Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.' The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

## Adam & Eve

After having children, Adam and Eve started getting a lot of questions from their kids about why they no longer lived in Eden. Adam has a simple answer for this: "Your mother ate us out of house and home."

# What's Happening

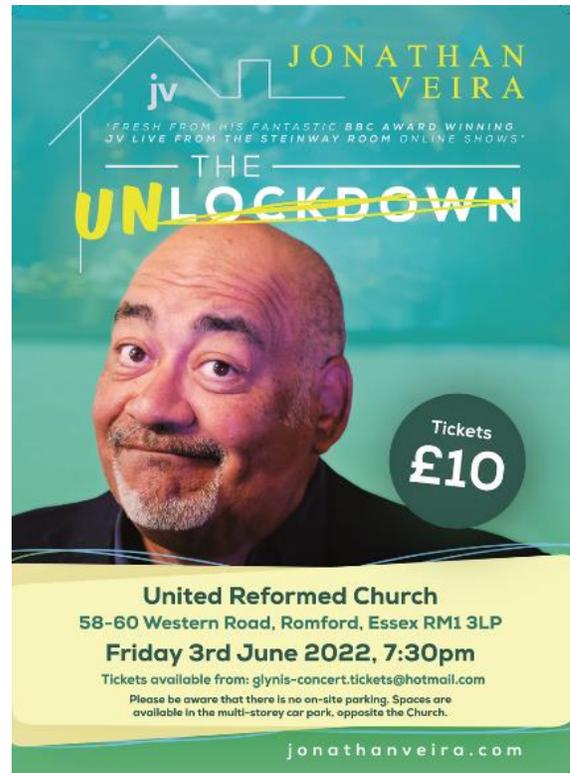
## Reminder

The talented international singer, comedian and raconteur, Jonathan Veira, will be performing at the United Reformed Church in Western Road, Romford on Friday 3rd June 2022 at 7.30pm. The concert is now just one weeks away. We do still have some tickets available so if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in seeing this wonderful show then please make contact with us soon so that we can reserve a ticket for you. All profits from this concert are in aid of our 2022 charity: St Francis Hospice.

If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact us on:

[glynis-concert.tickets@hotmail.com](mailto:glynis-concert.tickets@hotmail.com)

or ask Glynis as soon as possible,



## PENTECOST

*Pentecost Sunday 5th June*

*On Pentecost Worship 5th June we are offering a number of crafts and activities followed by a picnic party. There will also be Birthday Cake. So, stay after church, bring your picnic, do some crafts eat birthday cake and have fun. A signup sheet is in Church, so sign up soon.,,sheet will be in church on*

Sunday.

**NELMES PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION**

## NELMES PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2pm.**

**Cost£5**

Enjoy an afternoon of entertainment, singing and a delicious cream tea.

The Afternoon will begin with a presentation of "The Queens Story" in words and music followed by The Song Birds choir singing a concert version of Oklahoma. You will be served a traditional cream tea after which you will be able to participate by joining in with the singing of some familiar popular songs.



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## HAVERING PRAYER EVENT

with Helen Yousaf

Focusing on  
Mission and the Prophetic

**Wednesday  
22nd June 2022**

Coffee 7pm Start 7.30pm

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

St John's & St Matthew's Church  
South End Road  
Rainham, RM13 7XT

Organised by Across Havering

A colorful, abstract painting of a cityscape with a large teapot pouring liquid into a container. The background is a mix of blue, green, and purple, suggesting a sky or water. In the foreground, there are buildings and flags. The teapot is white and is pouring a golden liquid into a dark container. The overall style is expressive and textured.



### **Safeguarding a reminder**

A reminder to all users of the church premises that you must not enter a room or space that is already being used by other users especially where children are present without the permission of the leader of that group. This applies whether the children are Rainbows, Brownies, Boys' Brigade, playgroup, Mother and Toddler or any dancing or drama group. If you are involved with an outside letting you must not, under any circumstances, allow any member of your group to enter into any such room. All the leaders of uniformed organisations. Playgroup or Mother and Toddlers have been DBS checked, you and members of your group may not have been. We have a duty to keep all children safe while they are in our care or on our premises.

*The Safeguarding Team*



### **Rainham Hall**

Rainham Hall is now fully open again to the public. It does not feel like work it feels like going to see friends to catch-up and enjoy a cup of tea and welcoming visitors again.

If people are interested, I can make a group booking to come and look around Rainham Hall and garden for church friends. If anyone is interested to come to hall, I can make a group booking for some time in July - September if people are interested. We can discuss dates soon. To contact me with interest, feel free to email at [andrew.donaldson8@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.donaldson8@btinternet.com) or send me a message at 07952260721. Be great to see friends at Rainham Hall and myself and other great volunteers will happily show you around.

*Kind Regards Andrew'*



## **Romford United Reformed Church Annual General Meeting Reports 2022**

### **Minister's Report**

2021 was another unusual year with the global pandemic affecting our lives and all our activities. We worshipped and met online for 5 months of the year because of lockdowns and concern for each other's safety. We reopened the building for worship at Pentecost and celebrated the church's birthday with joy at being able to meet together again. From then other activities gradually resumed. Thanks to all the "techie" people who enabled us to keep worshipping and in touch during the lockdowns.

At the end of 2020 Gill Shepherd stepped down as church Secretary after many years and her service was marked with great thanks shown in the gift of an almond tree. Pat Jones was elected as secretary and soon began to bring her own style and skill to the role. Unfortunately, ill health struck, and Pat has been prevented from doing all that she would want to do, but by phone she has been a great support and encourager.

Sadly, during the pandemic 4 members died, Beryl Sweet during the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown, Joan Young, Roy Doust and Jacqueline Davis in 2021. They are all missed and their contributions to church life over the years was immense.

During the last year we launched the Vision project which is ongoing with lots of ideas and plans for our mission, worship, life together and service to the community. Your prayerful support is much needed and

greatly appreciated by the group. The plans include alterations to the building so the accessibility is improved.

The congregation is well served by both the trustees and the elders. We owe them all our thanks for the work and service they give ensuring that our premises are maintained and that our worship and witness continues. However as always there are folk whose work and service can go unnoticed until something goes wrong or doesn't run smoothly so thank you. Your prayers and support have been invaluable to me as I have settled in and got to know everyone.

I hope that 2022 and beyond will be an exciting time of growth and development.

*Alison*

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### **Treasurer**

Last year, despite Covid restrictions which made it difficult to hold any social events to raise funds for our charity, we raised just over £3000 for the Refuge and also sent £300 to Christian Aid.

This year we are looking to pay for some of the work that is planned to take place in the building.

Thank you to everyone for the continued financial support of Romford URC throughout the last couple of years. Many of you have changed to giving your offertory by standing order which makes the counting on a Sunday much quicker! If anyone else wishes to do this, please ask either of us for the bank account details. Thank you too for those who are able to gift aid their giving, this raises several thousand pounds over the course of the year.

*Fiona and Jill*

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### **Trustees**

As in 2020, the Trustees income suffered very badly from the effects of Covid. Rental income virtually disappeared

And dividends decreased. Hopefully, the situation is now improving and although we had to temporarily borrow £10,000 from the Church earlier on, in 2022, the position has now stabilised. The M & M remains very high at £50,000 p.a. although it will reduce in 2023 as the assessment is always in retrospect.

Apart from routine maintenance, little was done in the building, but discussions have been ongoing re major alterations to it. A new Lift has now been ordered in place of the old difficult Chairlift and the Hearing Loop will be upgraded or replaced, greatly benefitting those who are hard of hearing.

A new gardener has been appointed and this is working out very satisfactorily. 4 trees have been rooted out on left hand drive as the roots were threatening to undermine the foundations of the building next door, also the 2 very high ash trees opposite the main church entrance have been pruned.

We are all hoping for better and easier times, so the Trustees wish you all a Happy and above all Healthy 2022

*Dennis Riches (secretary)*

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### **Badminton**

We are a small group of about 8-10 players & most importantly we all get on well & have a great laugh.

Not all of us take it too seriously, after all it is only a game!

We play every Tuesday at 7.30 for 2 hours when we have 4 or more who can make it. I think Tuesday 8 played & then we had to set up a system as to who played with who next but fortunately or sadly that doesn't happen very often!

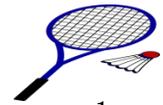
We have a WhatsApp group where on a Monday I ask all, 'who is up for playing tomorrow night'? That way it saves 2-3 people turning up only to find there's not enough to play.

We all bring our own water to drink between games & don't stop for tea & biscuits & chocolate like we used to over a chat. We just take 5 mins between games when we catch up with each other's news from the week.

We are also playing by the new rules now, whereas we used to play by the old.

8 of us got together at Christmas for a meal at the Golden Lion & will do this year hopefully.

The facilities are great & we really appreciate having this venue to meet at.



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*Hilly*

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### Anchor Boys

At the moment, we have a group of five boys who attend regularly on a Friday evening – 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm. We are also very lucky to have Richard Dennis helping on a Friday and making sure all the planning is prepped for the week and everything that is needed is taken to Anchor Boys, and Nathan Johnson, a Company section member who has been helping every week.

Some of the topics we have covered this year are:

Safari; Penguins; Dinosaurs; Diversity; Jonah; Daniel and the Lions' Den and Easter.

Each week, our evening consists of a mix of crafts, games, Bible stories, theme tie ins and prayers for a balanced programme. Even with five boys, it can get very loud and boisterous, so we have some high energy games mixed in with quieter parts of the evening plan. We have made all sorts of craft this year including Mother's Day gifts, safari hats, clay dinosaurs, mill bottle diversity elephants and Chocolate Easter nests. We are eagerly awaiting our next term and have lots planned to do with the boys.

**Debbie Dennis**



It has been a challenging two years since the first lockdown was pronounced. We followed the instructions from The Boy's Brigade Headquarters and the URC and met face-to-face whenever we could. We followed all health guidelines, cleaned all equipment, and wore face masks as appropriate, but the activities had to change to avoid close contact. Despite, or perhaps because of these changes. We lost a number of boys, and we currently have six boys on the register.

The evening programme always starts with an opening, usually with a spiritual message or something relevant to current events, followed by one or two "achievements" or activity based around the achievement scheme, followed by a game's session (which always goes down well) then drinks and a biscuit. The evening ends with a closing prayer.

*Jean & Robin*

### Company Section

In September, we gained 5 boys from the Juniors along with another boy who has joined us from the company at Elm Park which has now sadly closed meaning we now have a section of 13 boys. We have lost several members following the lockdown, but we hope to do some recruiting in the coming months.

As we are now a smaller section, we no longer have set teams, but we do still do some form of challenge each week usually splitting the boys into two teams competing against each other. These challenges could be something physical or mental and it can be quite entertaining to see some of the competitiveness on show (this can be the staff as well as the boys)!!

September also saw the Brigade launch a new badge scheme for the Company Section so our new boys are working towards these badges whereas the boys who were already part of the section will continue to complete the old badge scheme. The new badge scheme does allow for greater flexibility and offers a great variety of activities.

Activities completed this year include circuit training, cooking, making catapults, the Olympic and Paralympic games and various quizzes. Our older boys have also started the Monopoly Challenge working out a route to visit all the spaces on the Monopoly board. We hope to complete this in the summer term.

Once the summer term is under way, we will dome some of our usual off-site activities including some games at Bedfords Park, an activity weekend at Thriftwood Campsite in Brentwood and our annual potted sports and barbecue.

*Graham Cull*

### Card Club

Following our enforced closure during the Covid pandemic, the Card Club restarted in September last year. We are pleased to say that our numbers remain the same as before the closure and we have settled into our meetings on the first Saturday of the month from 2-5pm.

When we first started the Card Club in 2007 it began with us making cards and learning different techniques. However, over the years the Club has evolved into something more than that. Some of us do still make cards but there are others who knit, crochet, draw, paint and quite a few who do scrapbook. Maybe we should now call ourselves the Craft Club instead. Anyway, whatever our talents or craft of choice, it is a lovely opportunity to spend time catching up on news and to share ideas over a cup of tea and a piece of cake!

Jill and Glynis make a lot of cards! They have jointly taken over from Jacqueline the sending of birthday cards to all church members at Western Road and Heaton Way; they supply a card stall at church events; and manage to keep the card stand in the Coffee Bar topped up with cards - with all donations going to the church charity. If there are any "special" cards that you would like, do please ask us and we will do our best to provide them for you.

We are currently missing one member of the group. We miss you Pat and wish you well and look forward to the day when you are able to come back to the Club.

*Glynis*

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### **Coffee Mornings**

On Tuesday and Friday morning coffee and tea is available for anyone to join in and enjoy a time to talk and get to know more people. This year is proving more difficult to recruit new customers. We have a faithful pair who still come even though their children are at school. It has become a place of support for them. We have changed the time to 11-12pm. Every time we say let's stop the Tuesday mornings, we have a better turnout! The number of people coming varies considerably



In some ways it is very useful as a link with the Line Dancers with whom we have a very good relationship. As always, the conversations are very valuable. Today we shared ideas about helping a couples concerns that their son was sharing about what would happen if his mum died. We were able to lend Mum a book about helping children understand about death. (The books are on the third shelf down in the bookcase in the Hymn book area).

We share in the hopes, joys and sorrows with many of our customers which is a significant part of the time spent.

*Annette and Jill*

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### **Colouring/Crafternoon Club**



This year has seen some changes to the format of this group, initially we were solely doing colouring, and this had been popular mainly with the ladies of church and beyond. When we reconvened we renamed ourselves the Crafternooners. The hope was that would widen the brief and context of those who came. After 6 months it has settled into 'Bring and do whatever craft you are doing at home', so individually we have those who share in doing Puzzles, the latest one was quite difficult and took 4 weeks, we have painters, cross stitchers, knitters, crocheters, piano practice and of course some colouring in and more.

Conversations are many and varied but often are concerned with ways to help those who are struggling through their own or family health concerns. An important part of the group is to support and encourage the members. Tea and biscuits complete our activities. We are regularly 9-10 members; we would welcome more but is a healthy balance between church members and friends.

*Annette and Gill*

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### **House Group**

Up to a dozen of us meet most Monday evenings and we have a chat over a coffee or a tea, a time of worship, and then a discussion that is designed to help us on our faith journey. Over the last few months, we have looked at getting to know God personally and Ruth has been sharing some of her story with the group. We have learned some new songs, discussed different ways of worshipping in private and as a congregation. Looked at ways of just 'being' with God. Being quiet and listening for God's voice. Being honest and confessing to God how we really feel. Being humble and recognising the greatness of El Shaddai. Being sure of our faith not because we are so great but because He is.

It is a safe place to ask questions and express views. I look forward to the fellowship we share each week very much.

*Fiona*

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### **JFC**

There have been many changes to JFC over the past two years. The coronavirus pandemic meant that we were unable to meet in the building and we had to have our church services on Zoom. In January 2021 leadership also changed, I took over as co-ordinator and Debbie continued as a leader. We were very fortunate to be able to meet monthly on Zoom in a Breakout Room. Although there were challenges, it was lovely to speak to the children and young people again and share Bible stories and complete activities together. We even made some origami sheep!

In May 2021, we were able to return to face-to-face meetings. Even though we had to make lots of changes, such as meeting upstairs in the big hall, social distancing, many cleaning procedures, using individual resources, keeping the windows open, all the children and young people adapted extremely well to the changes.

We have around fifteen children and young people and although they all don't always attend on a regular basis it's so lovely to see them when they do. Our ages range from three to nineteen and we are so lucky that some of our teenagers have agreed to help on the rota to look after the younger children. We now have two leaders and seven helpers on our rota, which is a fantastic achievement, and we are grateful for all their help. We aim to make our sessions, fun, friendly and as well as following what is in the Roots programme every week, we try to promote values such as love, honesty, courage and kindness.

In September, Ruth joined us to take a group with our young people once a month. They are enjoying exploring the topic of Friendship.

April 2022 has been a busy month for us, our group worked on a piece of Artwork for the Easter Art for Everyone Exhibition in Romford. They also took part in the Easter service. It was lovely to see so many of our children and young people reading and serving communion.

It is fantastic to give our children and young people the opportunity to feel a valued part of the wider church *and to learn about God in a way that is relevant to them.*

*Lorraine and the JFC Team*

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### **Music Group**

The Music Group at Western Road was formed during July 2014. We play on the first Sunday of the month and at other times when requested. At any stretch of the imagination, we



are a mixed bunch coming from diverse musical backgrounds. But what we have in common is enthusiasm which I hope comes across when we accompany the Hymns normally for Sunday's 10.00am worship at Western Road. At the moment there are six or seven of us depending on other commitments. It would be wonderful if others could join us. Plenty of help will be given to beginners and to those that might feel apprehensive. Why not come and join us? We usually rehearse for just an hour one Sunday a month at 3pm.

*Annette*

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### **The Retired Gentlemen's Club**

The Gentlemen's Club here at Western Road U.R.C. was founded nearly 20 years ago and was initially started by Tom Hollinrake along with Harry Berry.

Apparently, the husbands of the wives attending the Women's Guild got together and suggested they start a club of their own, which still continues to meet at 2.00 p.m. on a Tuesday afternoon.

At the start of this gentlemen's club the games on offer were Cribbage, Draughts, and Cards.

Then it was decided to be more adventurous and developed into the availability of Indoor Bowls, and Snooker.

Snooker was always refereed by Alan Davis who was a keen snooker fan.

Historically we used to take our ladies out for a Christmas meal. This stopped during the Coronavirus pandemic.

We have recently reached out to the "Dementia Community, via Havering's Hub in North Street. We have now been joined by Jack accompanied by his Grandson and also one other gentleman. Both Dementia sufferers

We normally play board games such as Rummikub or Tri Dominoes then chat about world events over Tea and Biscuits provided by the ladies of Trinovante. (It has recently been suggested that we also start playing Cribbage)

The Coronavirus stopped our meetings for 18 months but this year we have started meeting again.

We are always happy to welcome new gentlemen to the group.

***Alec and Trevor***

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### **Toddler Group**

Toddler group re-opened its doors in September 2021, following the covid guidelines to ensure the safety of our families. We continue to run every Monday during school term time from 1pm until 2.30pm. I'm pleased to report that our numbers have risen, and we now have an average of 6 families attending each session. It is amazing to watch the babies, toddlers and Mums blossom after being isolated for such a long time and we hope and pray that as confidence returns following the COVID restrictions more families will find us! The group is open to all children



between the ages of 0 – 4 years and our aim is to provide a safe, stimulating environment for the children to develop and play. This also provides an opportunity for the mums/carers to meet up and make new friends. We advertise on Havering Council's website, Netmums.com, the church notice board and by recommendation.

The cost is £1.50 per session per family, which includes a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. The rent is calculated at 20p per family attending the group each week. The Playgroup staff help us to set up each Monday and Lyn and Jean are kindly on hand to make the drinks for us.

We provide the families with support and advice when needed and issue a newsletter each term informing the families of any Church activities, such as special seasonal services, church events and any dates when we will be closed.

*Joanne and Zena*

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### **Trinovante**

Since our re-opening in September 2021, we have been building up our numbers again. They are now almost at pre- covid levels. Some members retired but these have been replaced with some very enthusiastic new ladies. At the moment we regularly attract between 20 – 25 members every Tuesday afternoon. Our revised time of 1.30 -3.30pm has really encouraged friendships to be made.

We have had numerous visiting speakers. The most memorable to- date was a Keep fit Instructor whose instructions were accompanied by up- beat music! We also had other speakers, among these was a very informative lady - A Pearly Queen from Deptford. The charitable work that organization does for the poor of London is quite something. Often our friends from Church come and entertain us. We have made cards, listened to talks and generally enjoyed ourselves.

We have our first Coach Outing planned since returning and this will be taking place in July.

A varied program of events has been planned for the coming year and hopefully we can continue to flourish with our ethos of Friendship, Fellowship and Fun.

*Annette*

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### **Western Road Ladies**

Western Road Ladies meet once a month usually second Thursday in the month at 7.30pm. We have been meeting now for about 3 years. It is an assortment of ladies of all ages and sizes most are from the church, but a few friends come along also which is good. We have been missing Pat as she can't join us at the minute but hopefully once she is well, she will be able to join us again.

During lockdown we did meet on zoom doing quizzes, games, craft and even cooking. It wasn't quite the same plus you had to make your own tea and cake because that is a very important part of our meetings. There is always tea and cake. As soon as we could meet up, we met in the garden of the church.

From September we have been meeting in the church each month. We have had a Harvest supper and learned about harvest, a Christmas craft, Christmas party, meal out, games evening and a book night. In the next few months, we are visiting the cinema, a craft evening, walk in the park with a treasure hunt and a tea party in the garden. Looking at it lots of our activities involve food but we all seem to enjoy that.

We are also organising the Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Market which will be held in the church on the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> November. Please put that date in your diary and try and support us.

Everyone is very welcome whatever age we have go from 20's up to 80's. So come along and bring any ideas as we are always open for new activities to try. Looking forward to seeing some new faces.

*Christine Grant*

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Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.

Robert Louis Stevenson

The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible.

Arthur C. Clarke

## Terence Glyndwr Brennan 1935 - 2022



Terence Glyndwr Brennan was born on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1935 in Maesteg – a town in South Wales of approx. 30,000 people. The main occupations were coal mining and working in Port Talbot Steel Works. He lived in a simple two up, two down terrace houses. His brother Howell was born approx. 18 months after him. There were no more additions to the family, except for stray dogs that Glyn insisted wanted to share his home - so his mother said.

Glyn was a sickly child, who spent most of his time outdoors. Most of each day was spent playing cricket or football or going for long walks with his dad William. They used to keep the neighbours well stocked with mushrooms, blackberries and wimberries.

He did well at school and progressed to the Grammar School together with his cousin Nesta. He took part in all sports and excelled in them all. He played for Nant-y-ffyllon, a local rugby team. He already showed leadership qualities – arranging fixtures & choosing teams.

Only noticeable bad time as he grew up was having to have a mastoid operation when he was a teenager. This left him deaf in the left ear. He remained deaf in that ear until about 10 years ago when modern technology allowed him to have use of his left ear again.

Because of his deafness he was unable to do National Service. He spent 2 years in Margam Steel Works as a student engineer, before he started a physical education training course at Trinity College, Carmarthen.

***This is an extract from Glyn's diary:*** From September 1955 to July 1957 Glyn was a student at Trinity College. I was the first in my family to decide on teaching as a career. Towards the end of my college days, I began to scan the Times Educational Supplement to find a post. One morning at breakfast it was announced that representatives from Essex will be in college that day to meet any students who may be thinking of teaching in Essex. I had been to Southend during the Easter period for a Rugby Festival and thought that it might be a good area to start in. Along with two friends I went to meet the Essex recruitment officers. They asked me which part of the County we were interested in, but when I mentioned Southend, they explained that Southend made their own appointments, as they were an excepted borough. We huddled together and thought about other Essex towns. We agreed we would ask about one of the Fords, Chelmsford, Romford or Ilford. After further deliberation, we agreed that Ilford looked too near to London, Chelmsford too far away so we descended upon Romford. Within a week we were each allocated schools. Malcolm Barbero got Crownfields a newly opened Primary School. Derek Footman got Chase Cross (now Bower) and I got Pettits Secondary Boys School. Soon a letter arrived from Mr. J.E. Gover explaining that I would be doing General Subject teaching with some specialisation in Physical Education.

I was contacted by the Romford Education Committee with a list of potential lodgings. I settled on Mrs. Fox who lived in Poplar Street, a pensioner who now lived alone. Mrs. Fox gave me bed, breakfast and evening meal and she kindly did my washing for me. When I first arrived, she asked me where I would be teaching and when I told her she became quite concerned and told me that it was a very rough school and hoped that I would be able to cope.

He goes on to describe his first days at Pettits with 44 boys in his first class. Pettits Boys School became Pettits Mixed, then much later Marshalls Park when it combined with Romford Technical School. He stayed loyal to his first school and stayed there for 40 years.

When Glyn came to Romford, Essex was crying out for teachers. Every school in the borough had Welsh teachers. On Friday nights it became a meeting time for the Welsh. At first, they met in the King's Head an old coaching Inn where Littlewoods used to be in Romford, then it became a sports night. They met at Quarles School to play badminton, then Forest Lodge when it was built where they played badminton & went swimming. It was at these social gatherings that Glyn met Ann.

Ann & Glyn moved into High Trees, an education owned flat in Gidea Park in the grounds of the Royal Liberty School, on the day Ann came out of hospital carrying their first-born child Kevin. They enjoyed being there, but when Ceri arrived on Kevin's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, it was time to look for a house of their own. Several months later, local gossip informed them that a house near Crownfield School, where Ann had been teaching, was up for sale because a family had split up. They scraped together a mortgage, moved in, and have been there ever since.

Glyn was thrilled with his job – his words. He enjoyed teaching all sports. There were fixtures arranged for after school on weekdays and matches every Saturday with training at other times. Glyn was proud of his teams. There is a fixture card outside of a season's football team. At the back he has proudly written **Played**

**30, won 30, F177 A34.** His favourite time of the year was Spring/Summer when he coached the schools Athletics team. He was a born organiser; he organised the district sports programme on many occasions. The pupils would do anything for him. If someone was injured and had to drop out someone else was chosen even if it was not their chosen event. One point for competing was better than a blank space, everyone did their best.

When Glyn became Head of Year, he would go round the Junior schools finding out about the pupils who would be under his wing. He found out their strengths and weaknesses and made sure they had someone they knew in their class.

As well as the more common sports, rugby, football, and cricket he taught swimming, boxing, and gymnastics and all athletics events.

When he first arrived at Pettits he volunteered to go on an organised holiday in the Easter Holiday break. Des Jones was in charge for the first few tours which were based in Europe. Glyn gradually took over; His holidays were based in this country. They began in Butlins but moved to various venues. These holidays were life changing for some. He left behind many thank you letters from the children and their parents. Jacque who taught with him will give an insight why they were so memorable.

As well as teaching sport he was involved in it himself, he played football and cricket. He was cricket captain at Marshalls, Rainham and Hornchurch not at the same time! When his spin bowling was not so good, he turned to bowls. Again, he was soon organising games. And made a good captain. It was a sad day when the borough closed the rink in King Georges Park.

A very long time ago he ran a boy's football club called CLOPARCRO (A combination of **C**lockhouse, **P**arklands and **C**rowlands) where the children came from. It was very successful and covered many age groups. The team played teams on the continent especially in Germany several times.

When Glyn began teaching, he taught numerous subjects Maths, English, Geography & RE amongst them & later he taught Mathematics alongside P.E. Comments we have received on Marshalls Park Facebook page from students he taught between 1960's to 1980's remember him for being a firm but fair teacher they all respected. Later after retirement he did private tutoring at home for students who would soon sit their GCSEs to give them extra tuition in areas they might be struggling with. There was never a shortage of students wanting his help. Additionally, he returned to the classroom teaching maths voluntarily, with both remedial students & as a classroom assistant. He preferred to teach students who were up for a challenge, he could be less tolerant when silly mistakes were made something Ceri says was true for her when doing Maths homework.

You can't finish Glyn's life story without mentioning Greyhounds. He owned several greyhounds. He was a successful owner and had many many cups and trophies at home to prove it.

In later years from time to time, the only sport he has really followed is Rugby, especially if Wales were involved. Friends at Romford and Gidea Park rugby club kept in touch and treated Glyn as a VIP. They were there through the difficult times, even though he could not remember who they were. He was respected by them all.

Ceri

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