



**KINDLE**

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

**March 2022**

## *Minister's Letter*

*Dear Friends,*

Spring is here. I've seen snowdrops, croci, daffodils, camellias and cherry blossom, all giving us wonderful colour and signs of new growth and new life. The trees are also beginning to show hints of their green leaves as they too burst into life. Thankfully the recent storms don't seem to have damaged the flowers or trees badly in those places I have been in.

The flowers and the storms remind us of the wonder and beauty as well as the power of nature and the weather. A fitting analogy for God - God is omnipotent, all powerful and like the wind can be fear inducing but there is also the beauty and wonder. The beauty of God's love seen in Jesus Christ and other people and the wonder of God who is beyond our imagination and yet knows and loves us as we are.

With spring the days lengthen, and we approach the season of Lent, a time of fasting and preparation traditionally. Quite often we think about giving something (chocolate, meat) up for Lent as a discipline and a way of drawing nearer to God. I am not good at sticking to negatives, so my Lenten discipline is taking something up, trying to do a random act of kindness each day, making a daily donation to charity, reading a Lent book, for example. I find it is easier to keep to something positive. There are lots of Lenten resources available.

I hope whatever your Lenten discipline, the 40 days will help us deepen our faith and draw closer to God.  
AWEM~

*Alison*

Postscript

The above was drafted earlier in the week and as I came to finalise it on Thursday, we woke to the news about the incursions into Ukraine and the threat that implies for the world order and stability. A prayer for the people of Ukraine is included elsewhere in Kindle and we continue to pray for wisdom for world leaders and peace.



### **Ludwigshafen**

It was with sadness that we learned that Rudi Keppe of the Ludwigshafen Twining Group passed away recently.

# What's Happening



## Following Christ in the Footsteps of the Saints. Guided by the story of St Winefride/Gwenffrewi

Our lent groups this year will be using the CTBI material looking at St Winfred's life.

We meet on Wednesdays starting on 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the Prayer room. All welcome.

The material can be downloaded for free from [Lent study 2022 \(ctbi.org.uk\)](http://Lent study 2022 (ctbi.org.uk)).

Copies are available for those without internet access.

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World Day of Prayer takes place on 4 March



### Chairs for church

The vision project has firmed up into 3 main projects to help the building have an update but having levelled the floor what will sit on!

We will need 200 chairs at an average cost of £100, some with arms, and stackable and some padding etc. the choice is varied but all come at a cost. I don't know about you, but I feel the vision is overwhelming in terms of cost. We are assured that there is enough money especially if we can get some grants from Synod.

But should we as a worshipping congregation be contributing.

A pound a week into the Chair Fund would gradually build up and may even be enough by the time the floor has been levelled in the Sanctuary!

Donations of £100 in memory of someone special would buy a chair.

Can we do this?

I'll make a pot for donations and a thermometer to show how well we are doing .....

Let us make a start...

*with very blessing as we look forward to sitting comfortably  
in church Gill*



A typical sanctuary chair many other styles are available



**Whitechapel Mission Autumn Clothing Collection  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The date for the Whitechapel Mission Clothing Spring collection will be on MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> April. Please bring your items of ADULT clothing shoes. Toiletries etc. to the church on Sunday morning 11<sup>th</sup> April. Tony Miller says the services the Mission offer are needed now more than ever.

*Ceri*

It would be much appreciated if we could read in Kindle news of the many groups that meet regularly on our premises. I would love to know what the Brownies, Rainbows and BB have been doing over the last few months. Has the Art group met, what have Trinovante been up to, are Western Rd Ladies meeting, Card Club etc etc...? Just a few lines about your activities, or lack of, and what you are hoping to do in the coming months- it will only take ten minutes or so. Many of us will be really pleased to read about your happenings. Thank you in advance



*Olive*

# Articles

## **A prayer for Ukraine**

Holy God,

We hold before you all who live close to war and conflict;  
and all who live close to the threat of war and violence.

We remember especially at this time, people in Ukraine and Russia.

We pray for nonviolence and peaceful resolutions of conflict.

Give us hearts of hospitality and sanctuary, forgive us all our hostility and hatred.

Bring all people to the humanity you give us,  
and to the reconciliation and healing for  
which you gave your life.

Strengthen us all to work with you to build justice and peace,  
reconciliation and healing, in our hearts and homes, in our streets,  
in all communities, neighbourhoods, and nations.

Bless all who live lives for the peace and wellbeing of others,  
and make their service fruitful.

In the name of Christ.

Amen

By the Revd Inderjit Bhogal, Honorary President, The Fellowship of Reconciliation <https://for.org.uk/>

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Prayers from the United Reformed Church to help bring you comfort and spiritual support during the Coronavirus pandemic.

**Prayers during the pandemic**

Eternal One,  
we are invited to believe we stand at Pandemic's end,  
to discard our masks, "take responsibility", and go back to normal.  
Yet we're reluctant Lord to go with the zeitgeist.  
We want to question the Powers,  
protect the vulnerable, and ourselves,  
see the developing world vaccinated,  
and have a better grasp of the science behind it all.

Guide us, good Lord,  
as we take tentative steps forward,  
give us the courage to stand against the tide,  
help us to raise our voices to protect the weak  
and challenge the strong,  
that your Kingdom will break into the chaos of our world.

Amen

*Suggested by Jill Hunt*



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

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