



Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

A brief letter this month as I'm just back from my holiday and up against the deadline.

I had a lovely time in Germany we were able to visit the Park der Garten, a bit like an Ikea for gardens, with model gardens, plant collections as well as impressive displays of daffodils, tulips and violas, the lilacs, azaleas and rhododendrons were just coming into bloom. We walked around seeing all the colours and the wonder and beauty of God's creation writ large, helped by a cloudless blue sky and warm spring sunshine.

The flower buds and new growth are fitting reminders of the Easter season we are in with the new growth and life that the resurrection of Christ promises us. It is all around us here too as trees are bursting into leaf. In May we mark Christian Aid Week and as last year I'm attempting the 300,000 steps challenge that's approx. 10,000 steps a day. The link to the just giving page is www.justgiving.com/RomfordUnitedReformedChurch. Please do support me.

Alison



Bake for dementia

Once again Helen Young and Andrew Donaldson are rising to the challenge to support people affected by dementia.

What is Bake for dementia? Bake for dementia is happening during the week of 25th April – 1st May to raise some dough with family and friends to help support people after a dementia diagnosis; enabling them to plan for the future and take the next steps to lessen the impact of the condition. Until the day that we have a world without dementia, your fundraising will help the people that are living with it, through care, campaigning, and ground-breaking research.

So, let's have a flan-tastic day and bake the world a better place! Andrew and Helen will be selling cakes after the service on Sunday 1st May, buy some to eat with your coffee or lunch. A collecting box will be available on the day or alternatively see the link on a Sunday leaflet for donations. Or alternatively you can donate online, please ask me for details.

Whisk love (with a cherry on top),

Helen and Andrew





Romford United Reformed Church
Saturday 21st May 2022

At
7.00pm

Quiz Night

**saint
francis
hospice**

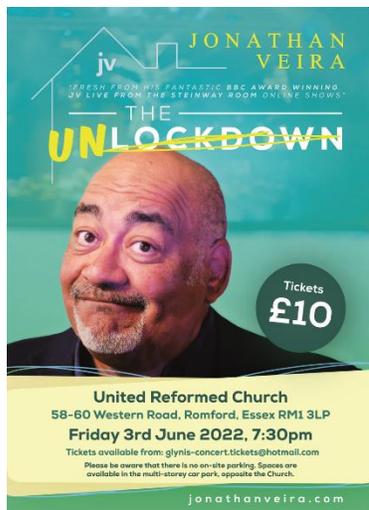


living with dignity

Choose from
Fish/Chicken/Vegan
burger & chips
Please feel free to bring
your own non-alcoholic
drinks

Table of up to 8
people
Tickets £10.00 per
person

Please book your tickets from
07734181685
or
christinegrant@btinternet.com



Reminder

Tickets are now available for the Jonathan Veira concert on Friday 3 June 2022. To avoid disappointment please contact Glynis for tickets.



Plants

I will not have so many plants for sale this year but hope to bring some along to church during May. Mostly geraniums and pelargoniums -- proceeds to Church Charity- St Francis Hospice. If you are thinking of buying it would be helpful if you could bring a paper/plastic bag as I do not have a supply this year. Thank you. *Olive*



Thank you



Thank you for all your prayers and caring thoughts while Glyn was in and out of hospital. His committal service will be at Corbets Tey Crematorium at 1.20 on Thursday May 5th. This will be followed by a Thanksgiving Service here, at our Church, starting at about 2.15 - depending on traffic.

All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served after the service. Come and help celebrate his life. Since Glyn's death I have received many, many cards and flowers galore. Thank you again for your support.

ANN



To our Church Friends

Thank you all for your messages, Tom and I are very frail now, and we both struggle with walking. Tom has carers to help him, so we are just managing to stay at home. We do miss everyone and join in with prayers.

Our love to you all,

Betty and Tom



Easter 2022

Just a word of thanks to all those who had input in any way to our Eastertide services and gatherings. It was nice to welcome friends from other churches on Maundy Thursday, and great to join in worship and have times of fellowship together. *Olive*

Turning the Synod Green



At the March Synod three environmental resolutions were passed overwhelmingly, as in the words of our new Synod Environmental Policy we affirmed that ‘caring for God’s Creation and protecting the environment are fundamental Gospel commitments and central to our Missional Discipleship, as outlined in the United Reformed Church Environmental Policy’. The three resolutions were:

1. THE POLICY: As part of its strategy to implement the URC Environmental Policy and to respond to the growing climate and ecological crisis, Thames North Synod meeting on 26 March 2022, adopts the Thames North Synod Environmental Policy 231212. 2022.

You can read the policy in full on the URC website <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/church-local-and-global/become-an-eco-church-or-congregation/>

2. IMPLEMENTATION: Synod asks all local churches and their members, together with Synod bodies throughout Thames North, to identify actions that they can take to implement the policy. We hope in the year ahead many more Synod churches will register as Eco churches, using the excellent resources and survey that A Rocha (the Christian Conservation group that runs Ecochurch programme) provides. The first step for local churches is to identify one or two people (or a small group if possible) who can act as advocates for the environment. For more information on Eco Church see the website [Eco Church – An A Rocha Project](#)

The website has some great resources for children and young people [Resources - Eco Church \(arocha.org.uk\)](#) The Synod policy emphasises the importance of listening to their voices and encouraging them and we will be seeking the help of the Synod Youth Executive in this. Synod committees and groups are being asked to consider how they can support local churches in the task. Committee Conveners will be meeting soon to consider this further.

3. GREEN APOSTLES: Synod appoints Terry Hinks, Peter Skerratt, Jill Nugent and Maggie Hindley to be Synod Green Apostles (as outlined at the Synod held 20 March 2021) to promote the Environmental Policy.

The four Green Apostles and others in the Synod Green Team (Anna Barrett and Peter Musgrave Andrew Mills) will be contacting local churches to offer support and encouragement.

More information will be coming out soon, but in the meantime if you want more details, please contact Terry Hinks on minister.trinity.coresend@gmail.com



What do you call it when worms take over the world?
Global Worming.

Did you hear about the 83-year-old woman who talked herself out of a speeding ticket; she told the young officer that she had to get there before she forgot where she was going?
Makes perfectly good sense to me....

Did you know that global warming is making students do worse?
Because all I’ve heard is that C levels are rising.

An American, a Saudi Arabian, and a Chinese person were asked what their opinion on the global wood shortage was. Unfortunately, none of them understood the question.

The American asked, what’s a shortage?

The Saudi asked, what is wood?

The Chinese asked, what’s an opinion.

Articles

Sheila Margaret Palmer 17th December 1940 – 5th February 2022

Sheila was a war baby, born on the 17th of December 1940 in the Pilot cottages, at 'Hawker's Cove' near Padstow in Cornwall as Sheila's mum had been evacuated to stay with relatives. Sheila had an idyllic early life, playing in the fields, on the beach and later attending school in Padstow by hitching a daily ride in the local lifeboat. On returning to Romford Sheila's parents paid for the children to attend a small private Roman Catholic school. The Sister's knew Sheila was from a family that did not regularly attend a Church, so they suggested she went to Sunday school down the road at the Romford Congregational Church. This was a significant moment in Sheila's life, as without this, Sheila and Michael may never have met! She went on to develop a strong Christian faith and to embrace Church family life and serve others through the church in so many different ways! Sheila passed the 11 plus exam and was awarded a scholarship to attend The Ursuline Convent School in Brentwood.



In 1953 the Romford Congregational Church started up a youth club that met every Saturday. This is where Sheila and Michael started to get to know each other. They enjoyed dancing, games of billiards and played as doubles partners in table tennis competitions against other clubs in the area. At school, Sheila excelled in Maths and the sciences, so she chose to attend Leicester University to study for a Chemistry and Maths Degree, followed by a Diploma in Education. Sheila's first teaching job was at West Hatch Technical High School teaching Chemistry.

Sheila and Michael were married on 2nd April 1966. They were the first church couple to be married at the newly built United Reformed Church in Western Road. Stephen was born in 1968, Julie in 1971 then Phil in 1975. At church, Sheila continued to teach the children in junior Sunday school and engaged in all aspects of Church family life. Taking the children to toddler group, playing at the Badminton club, singing in the choir, and serving as a pastoral visitor. Sheila was a hardworking and devoted mother, always keen to support Stephen, Julie, and Philip in all their activities, like Boy's brigade, guides, dancing, orchestra, and many shows and productions!

In 2002 Michael became redundant for the third time, the firm was asking for volunteers, so he put his hand up and retired at the end of the year. Julie and Phil were both living in Chichester, so they decided to move to the south coast, and moved to Chichester in May 2003 where they joined Christ Church,

In April 2016 Sheila & Michael Celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Sheila's health started to deteriorate from about 2019, she had several health conditions and eventually had a late diagnosis of Parkinson's in November. She was finding life a real challenge. Whilst her demise was a shock, however the family were thankful that she did not suffer longer and know that her faith held her through the demanding times.



May there always be work for your hands to do.
May your purse always hold a coin or two.
May the sun always shine upon your windowpane.
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend always be near to you and
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

(traditional blessing)

St Francis Hospice



For those of you who don't know anything about Saint Francis Hospice we opened our doors for the first time 38 years ago, this July (2022). We are an adult hospice with our ages ranging from 18 years to 100 plus in Havering-Atte-Bower in Romford, Essex. We are one of the largest adult hospices in the UK, because we cover the areas of Havering, Brentwood, Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and parts of West Essex.... Almost 1 million people. We offer care and support to patients and patient's families with any life limiting illness, however long that may be. So many people think that a hospice is a place where people come to die, but

we provide so many services to ensure our patients are living with dignity and a good quality of life.

We are often associated with just being a cancer charity, not so. Heart disease, motor neurone disease, asbestosis and dementia and Alzheimer's end of life care are just some of the complex illnesses the hospice specialise in. We are a registered charity because we receive approximately 30% funding from the government and NHS combined, which means we have to raise approximately 70% in voluntary donations. This equates to £8.28 million in voluntary donations this year to continue offering our services, without charge, to people who need them.

There are a range of other services we offer such as Hospice at home, where people who need our support can receive our care in their own homes. Pemberton Place (our day clinic). Bereavement and family support services, our 'OrangeLine' telephone support service for the lonely, isolated, and recently bereaved. We also help our community by offering volunteering opportunities whether that be on our wards, fundraising department or in our hospice shops.

One bed on IPU - £5000

1 hour of patient care on our wards £25.25

Meal for a patient - £5 or £10

Hospice at home nurse to do their job - £54 a

day

Best Wishes

Sean Erwood

Local Engagement Team



Minister

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Kindle

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