



KINDLE

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

November 2021

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

November is a month for remembering, or at least the first half is. The 1st November is All Saints Day an opportunity to remember and give thanks for all God's saints alive and dead. In the New Testament, particularly the Epistles the people of God are called saints. I'll leave you to find the references. Saints are not just people who have been recognised for their achievements and canonised by the Church, worthy though they are. We are all saints, seeking to follow Christ and live and love as he did.

Then on the 5th Bonfire Night recalling Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. I enjoy the fireworks that have become associated with the 5th but wonder how many remember the origins of the celebration and its history. It is a good thing that the celebrations have largely lost their anti-roman catholic sentiments.

11th and 14th November are Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, remembering those who have died in war mainly the two World Wars but also in all conflicts since 1945, the Gulf Wars and Afghanistan to name two. Our focus rightly is on members of the armed forces who have died, but we also need to remember those in the emergency services and those living with life changing injuries and mental scars. As last year we will gather on the 11th at the Cross outside the church to remember and observe the silence.

Remembering, recalling past events is important as we then hopefully learn from them and don't repeat the mistakes.

Remembering is also about putting back together, belonging again and I think we see this when we celebrate Communion. Jesus' command was to do this in remembrance of him. I wonder how many Communion tables those words are carved on?

Our celebration of Communion is a remembering of the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection and it reminds us of our belonging and re- members us as part of the body of Christ.

Alison

**After 46 years of serving
lunches at our Church, we are
sad to announce that Soup &
Cheese is closing.**

Ceri & Andrew



Jacqueline Davis

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Jackie's death in the early hours of Monday morning the 18th September. It was in early August, at about the same time that Alan was able to get a place in the Hillside Care Home, that she started to have trouble swallowing her food. This problem became so bad that she went to A&E at Queen's mid-August and received the devastating news that they could do nothing for her and that her condition was terminal. Being quite a private person, she didn't want this news to be broadcast widely, although most people were aware she was ill. After another hospital visit in mid-September, she sent a message to me that she wished to be read out to the church family on Sunday 19th September. Some people may have missed that service and quite a few who were there have asked for this message to be reproduced in Kindle to remind them of what was in reality her farewell message to us all.

"Good morning, everyone. Sorry not to be joining you in person today but, now home again from hospital, I hope to be joining you on Zoom.

Mere words simply do not seem adequate to convey my deep appreciation of all you have done for my family and me over so many years, not only these past few difficult weeks. Each kind thought, prayer, card, or call has meant so much to us and especially in dark days, your Christian love has carried me onwards and given me such comfort. Thank you, each one of you, from the bottom of my heart. I keep you always in my thoughts and prayers, enjoying all the news, and rejoicing that we are all now able to move forward together again at Western Road and in the community.

Alan is being well cared for in Hillside and I am at home with a care package to keep an eye on me. Unfortunately, I am no longer able to use the phone but am on email and have a lovely big white board to write on!

Thank you all again for being so kind, loving, and supportive.

Russell, Eleanor and I send all our love, thanks and prayers to you all - today and every day.
xxxxxx Jacqueline."

Whilst sorting some papers out this week I found this very appropriate quote -

"The most beautiful monument a single person can get is built in the heart of his fellows."
Albert Schweitzer

With all her thoughtfulness, kindness, creativeness, and sunny disposition, I know Jackie has built a towering monument in each of our hearts. She will be sorely missed.

Graham

Bloopers in Church Bulletins

On a church bulletin during the minister's illness: GOD IS GOOD; Dr. Hargreaves is better.

Applications are now being accepted for 2-year-old nursery workers.

If you would like to make a donation, fill out a form, enclose a cheque, and drip in the collection basket.

A worm welcome to all who have come today.

During the absence of our Minister, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.



Memory walk

London Olympic Park

26th Sept 2021



As part of our personal journey with Alzheimer's and dementia we both feel that working together is better as a team to raise awareness and to give to support to each other and to other friends and relatives is an achievement and testimony to two great influencers in our lives. As you know **Mr Brennan** was my school teacher at Marshalls Park Secondary School and is also Andrew's beloved Grandad, who is still going strong. Of course I can't forget our late dearest Mother, **Joan Vilma Young** retired S.R.N Theatre Sister at Oldchurch Hospital. We must also remember other friends and relatives that are living or have sadly past away to this awful disease. They are **John-Michael Broomes**, **Thelma Harris** and **Louise Reddington** and countless others too many to mention.

So the day had finally arrived. After much preparation and fundraising Andrew and I took on the challenge of completing the walk around the Olympic Park area on the 26th Sept 2021.

It was to our delight that we had supporters in Ceri and Niall and we also had motivation walkers in my brother, Richard and my friend to Mum and me, Tony.

The day started off with **Gareth-Locke-Locke** (Made in Chelsea star) speaking frankly about his mother, whom was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's eleven years ago and how lockdown has had an effect on families and sufferers. ***"It's incredibly touching to know that everyone here today has a connection to this terrible condition, and we're doing all we can to raise as much money as possible for a future without dementia."***

To get us warmed up and motivated for the walk, we had the pleasure of a Zumba instructor, **Princess Topaz!** We had already walked the allotted target distance getting to the meeting point at Hopkins Field. All I can say is, too funny for words what she was getting us doing as we were all a bit tired already!

So as Ceri and Niall waved us off along our way, it gave us time to reflect and chat along the way to everyone and it was nice to know that we are not alone. Everyone's shirt had a story to tell and for one day we were united as one against dementia. If you haven't been to that side of the Olympic Park, we would urge you to visit the area in the summer. As there is plenty of green spaces and picnic areas for you to enjoy. We had a plan to do as many laps as we could on the day. So we are pleased to say that Richard did one lap (3 miles) as he had a bad cold, Andrew did two laps (6 miles) and finally Tony and I did 3 laps (9miles)! The very last 2km was the hardest but we had calypso music helping us along the way. We all got the medal as shown above for our efforts and to mark the special day.

We would like to say a **big thank you** for all your support and donations that we have received so far which is **£1316.00** and rising!

We do not know what the future holds for us all. So we should all be here for each other, supporting and caring. Even if it is just phone call, it will mean a lot to someone. Let's hope we can find a cure sooner rather than later.

With God's Blessing Andrew and Helen xxx



*Princess Topaz and
Gareth-Locke-Locke
getting us motivated*



*Andrew and myself
at the starting point, Hopkins Field*



*Andrew and myself
warming up with everyone
(look closely at far left!!)*



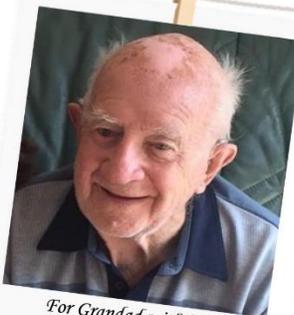
*Some of us taking in the scenery
at the Olympic Park*



*Andrew, Tony and myself
at the finish line after one lap!*



*Richard, Ceri, Andrew,
Niall and myself
outside the Olympic Stadium*



*For Grandad with love
from the Boy aka Andrew xx*



*A very proud Helen
at the finish line after three laps!
(2hrs 40mins)*



*Dear Mum aka Joanie,
This one is for you
"Happy 85th Heaven Birthday"*

If you have yet to make a donation and would like to and leave a message, you can still do so on either web link pages below. You can also view more pictures from the day too:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/H-C-Young

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andrewmemorywalk-21

What's Happening

For your diary



Messy Church

Carol singing
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
Boxing Day

will be on 18th December 2021, 2.00 to 4.30 pm (please sign the sheet in the vestibule if you can help)
outside the Church 23rd December 11.00am to 12.00pm
Communion service 11.30 pm.
10.00
Sunday 26th December 10.00

Playgroup Nativity

The Playgroup Children and Staff would like to invite you to our Nativity play on Friday 10th December at 10.45am (COVID restrictions permitting!)

We will be sharing tea/coffee and mince pies in the Playgroup room after.

Thank you



Church Bookstall

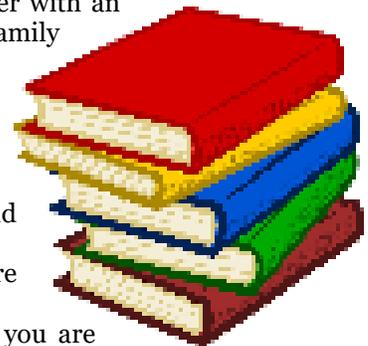
As most of you know, there is a second-hand bookstall in the church foyer with an honesty box for donations to the church charity. It is popular with church family and visitors, particularly the paperbacks and a **big thank you** to everyone who donates and uses the bookstall.

Naturally, it can get rather untidy and overloaded, and during lockdown we started to sort out the shelves and various bags of donations left round there. There were some that were really rather unsuitable for a church bookstall and also many large hardback books that don't fit on the shelves and just hang around.

I was able to sell a few online but most had to be taken to a charity shop. There is still some sorting to do.

Please continue donating books but can I ask you to think about those you are donating and whether they are appropriate to our setting. And please donate large hardback non-fiction elsewhere.

Also, no videos, they just stay unwanted on the shelves - let's keep it for books
Many thanks



Jill Hunt



The Methodist Church
WHITECHAPEL MISSION

(Founded by Revd. Thomas Jackson, 1896)

212, Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BJ
(Tel: 020 7247 8280) (Fax: 020 7392 2702)

www.whitechapel.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 227905



05 October 2021

Allison Davis
58 Western Rd
Romford
RM1 3LP

Dear Allison,

Please accept and pass on our grateful thanks for the kind donation of clothing towards our work amongst people who are homeless and rely on the Whitechapel Mission for the simple necessities of life.

As the Whitechapel Mission continues to care for an increasing number of our most vulnerable guests during the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, we remain committed to the health, safety, and well-being of all. Our guests who are experiencing homelessness do not have the option to "stay at home" to avoid risk to themselves or others — so we are reliant on friends like you who choose to give generously.

We are closely monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as proactively seeking and following the latest guidance from the Government and other community partners. We are thankful for our supporters who help make it possible to continue our work.

We continue to offer our essential services with over 315,425 free meals served since the start of the pandemic. Our response balances the consideration that our guests are highly vulnerable to many challenges. I believe we have a duty to care and not prematurely suspend potentially life-saving services.

We are seeing new faces, with new worries — people who are desperately in need of the food, shelter, advice and hope offered at The Whitechapel Mission. People in need continue to be welcomed at our Whitechapel Centre.

Thank you again for your most generous donation. It really does make a difference to the lives of people who are homeless, whom we serve in your name.

With grateful thanks,

Chandrani Rakshit - Leigh
On behalf of The Whitechapel Mission

Daycentre

practical approach to helping people who are homeless, with food, clothing, showers, advice and counselling
020 7247 8280
mission@whitechapel.org.uk

Lifeskills Centre

changing lives programme aims to equip people with the skills to sustain a tenancy and to get back to work
020 7392 2715
lifeskills@whitechapel.org.uk

Education Centre

citizenship programme showing the effects of drugs and alcohol on real lives whilst gaining a knowledge on poverty, deprivation and exclusion
020 7392 2702
education@whitechapel.org.uk

Whitechapel House

residential project offering affordable housing to London's key workers



Grassroots
...a different point of view

In Conversation: Faith Perspectives on Building Life-Flourishing communities

- *multi-faith panel discussion*
- *a conversation amongst practitioners*
- *grassroot stories from individuals*
- *Q&A session*
- *storytelling*

SEE YOU THERE!

**25 NOVEMBER at
2:00pm via Zoom.**

Zoom link to follow



*A 2 Hour
Discussion*

*Free &
Open to
the Public*

for more information: sainimili.kata@cwmission.org

Shoe boxes

There are shoe boxes in the vestibule which appear to be part of a shoe box challenge and either completed shoes boxes or items to be placed into shoe boxes need to be brought to the church by 14th November. The Editor has not been given any information about this, who they are intended for! However, the Editor assumes that it is a church organised initiative.

Conversation and Theological Reflection for Minority Ethnic Women in the URC



Key Speakers: Karen Campbell, Tessa
Henry-Robinson, Maria Lee and Lorraine Downer

Saturday 6th November 2021, 10:30 - 15:30

Upper Clapton United Reformed Church,
85a Upper Clapton Road, Hackney, London E5 9BU

Event will be live streamed for those unable to attend
- details available on request to Nneoma

RSVP: Nneoma Chima
administrator@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Event Organiser: Westminster College, Cambridge
Sponsors: Cheshunt Foundation, URC Thames North Synod, URC, Lay Training Fund

Prayer for strength and guidance

Lord, I reach out to you for your guidance.
Please show me which way to turn.
Calm my anxious thoughts, come speak into my mind.
Strengthen me as I falter and feel weary.
May I feel strength rising up within my heart?
Bring clarity into my visions and dreams.
I trust that you are with me, no matter where I go, or what I decide to do.
Your journey with me always.
Amen.

From Andrew



Climate Change

The COP26 Summit meeting starts very soon, and I am sure you have heard reports and discussions on tv or by reading newspaper articles about what can be done to slow this down.

Probably, like me, you feel concerned but a bit helpless to do much about it. I am sure most of us do our best to re-cycle, minimise our use of plastic and try to limit what we put in our rubbish bag, knowing most of goes to landfill.

There are varied opinions about what should be done by the world's nations, our government and us. It seems appropriate to me that we should do something as a church to help in this crisis. I am not sure what would be best. One idea is that we raise money to pay for trees to be planted. Please think about this and I will try to get it on the agenda for the next church meeting. One thing we can all do is pray for a good outcome to the COP26 meeting.

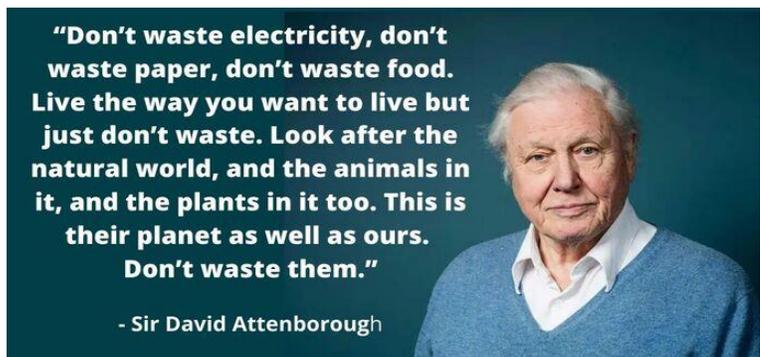
I also wondered if some of you that have ideas for things, we could do personally would be willing to share these, by a short note to Kindle.

Thank you, *Olive*

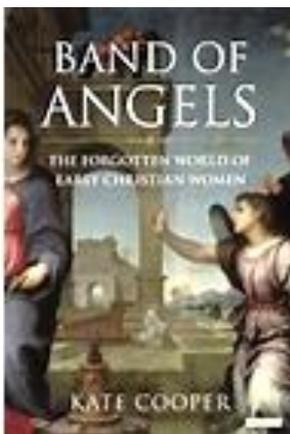
The COP26 event is a global united Nations summit about climate change and how countries are planning to tackle it. As COP26 Presidency, the UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies, and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire action ahead of COP26.

The Earth's climate has changed throughout history. Just in the last 650,000 years there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and retreat, with the abrupt end of the last ice age about 7,000 years ago marking the beginning of the modern climate era — and of human civilization.

The impact of a 4°C increase in world temperature will become increasingly severe and may not be avoidable through adaptation. though it is clear that the climate is warming in the long-term, temperatures are not expected to rise every single year. Natural fluctuations will still cause unusually cold years and seasons,



Band of Angels



I recently read a book called “by Kate Cooper. It is the story of the first 500 years of Christianity in the Roman Empire, which of course stretched across Europe and much of Asia. It is primarily about the women of the day. My knowledge of this period is rather scanty, so I learned a lot and found it very interesting. I have placed it in the Church Library. If you like biographies, I also left one of Charles Wesley there a few weeks ago.

Olive.

“Women in the ancient world lived almost invisibly in a man's world. Following the lives of influential women across the first centuries of the church, Band of Angels tells the remarkable story of how women from all walks of life, peasants, empresses, and independent businesswomen, contributed what they could to an emotional revolution unlike anything the ancient world had ever seen and played an invaluable role in Christianity's growth to become a world religion.”

Poppies for Remembrance

Scarlet poppies can flutter
like fragile butterflies
in the dry yellow corn
of summer.

And they can dance
like graceful ballerinas
among the feathery stalks
of barley.

Red poppies can glow
like bright little lamps
on our warm winter coats
in November.

And they can whisper,
like long-lost voices
from the forgotten fields
of Flanders.
Band of Angels

By Moira Andrews

The Soldier's Prayer

I asked God for strength that I might achieve.
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health that I might do greater things.
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy.
I was given poverty that I might be wise

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men.
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for –
But everything I hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

(Attributed to a soldier in the American Civil War; it applies to all who are fighting their own private battles in life)

Both poems found by Jull Hunt



The Nun' Prayer

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing
older and will someday be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject, and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy.
With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains.
They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others pains but help me to endure them with patience.

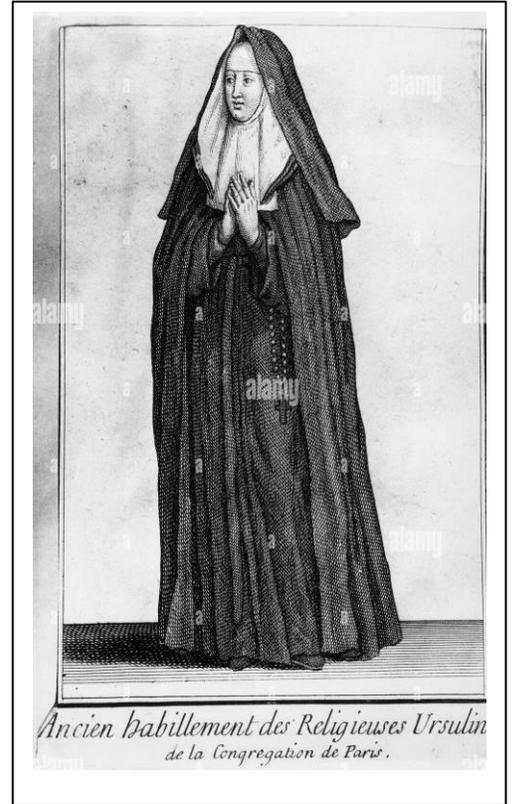
I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility, and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with, but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people.

And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so



17th Century Anonymous

Found by Betty

Minister

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Kindle

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