



KINDLE

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

October 2021

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

We are just past the autumn equinox so are officially in autumn, yet the weather is warmer and better than during much of the summer. Our climate and weather are all askew.

We of course know why; it is linked to global warming and the climate change that is associated with that. I do not understand much of the science but my experience of unusual weather patterns and what I see on the television and read about in the press makes for me an incontrovertible case for the need to change my ways, our ways to seek to arrest the rapidity of global warming.

There is lots of advice and guidance available to help us change our ways, reduce our use of energy, recycle more, and become greener. Sometimes in fact there is so much it is all a little daunting. For me in those circumstances the temptation is to do nothing, but I have come to conclusion that doing nothing is not an option.

Each one of us can make changes, small though they may be, that cumulatively will make a difference. I find this parable from Growing Hope produced by the Iona Community, helpful. The source of the parable is unknown.

It was a chilly, overcast day when the horseman spied the little sparrow lying on its back in the middle of the road. Reining his mount, he looked down and inquired of the fragile creature, "Why are you lying upside down like that?"

"I heard the heavens are going to fall today," replied the bird.

The horseman laughed. "And I suppose your spindly legs can hold up the heavens?"

"One does what one can," said the little sparrow.

In advance of COP26 in Glasgow churches across the UK have united to encourage all their members to become "advocates for justice" ahead of the COP summit. The Glasgow declaration signed by faith leaders states:

"We remind governments of their commitments made in Paris in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and of Article 17 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights to protect the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity."

"We call upon them to take the urgent action needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change."

"Across our doctrinal and political differences, we know that we must change our ways to ensure a quality of life which all can share, and we need to provide hope for people of all ages, everywhere, including future generations."

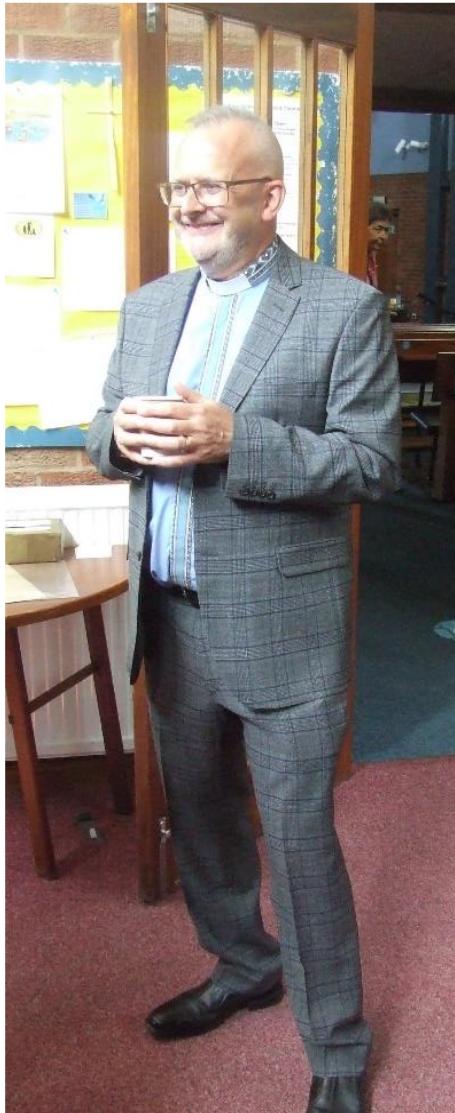
"To offer hope in the world we need to have confidence that those in power understand the vital role they have to play at the Glasgow COP26."

I hope we will become "advocates for justice" and are all encouraged to do what we can as we seek to care for God's world and God's people better than we have done.

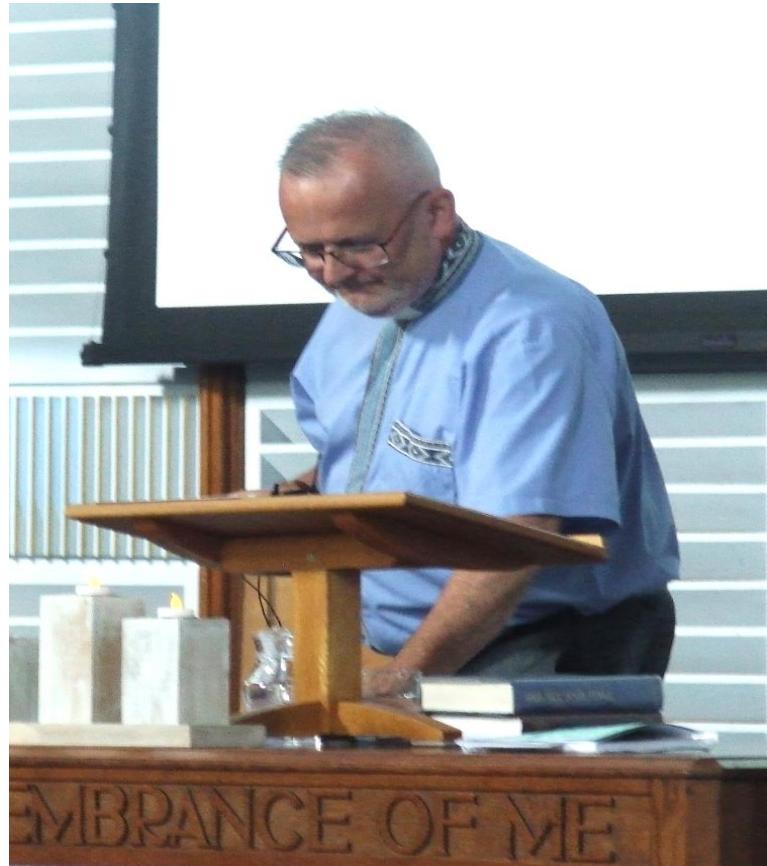
Alison



Moderator's visit



Western Road was pleased to welcome the new URC Thames North Synod Moderator, Revd George Watt on his first visit to a local church since his induction to the post in June 2021. The Moderator was unfortunately unable to stay to lunch due to a prior engagement but nevertheless his visit gave the congregation to speak with and to get to know him *and to realise that he was not so fierce as his sword stick would suggest. The Moderator wrote to thank the church for its hospitality and the opportunity to visit our church and to meet us.



Happy Birthday Dennis

Now that I have entered my ninety ninth year. I felt it prudent, after over 45 years as maintenance officer to the Church, to transfer the responsibility, whilst it is still possible to arrange an orderly exit. I know Alec will admirably fill the bill.

For the moment, I feel able to carry on as manager of the church flats and manse plus secretary ship of the Trustees, fortunately, my senses remain sharp.

As always, I wish the Church every success in these difficult times. Circumstances must improve financially and 2021 will be a great deal easier than its predecessor.

Thank you, for your rousing rendering of "Happy Birthday" and the cards. I hope we shall be able to repeat it in 2022.?

With love to you all,
Sincerely,
DENNIS.

Happy Birthday

On



so various races and length were taking place throughout the whole day. As we awaited our turn, we were told of the total raised so far across the country which was in excess of £3million and heard stories of how Cancer Research is making such a different to so many lives.

We want to thank you all the fabulous way in which you have supported us both with your donations and a special thank you to Alec who came and waved us off.

As I write our total is £1500 so **THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

Lots of Love Ruth and Fiona

Alzheimer's Society



Well done to Helen and Andrew for completing the walk on Sunday 26th September. Hopefully we will have a full report (and photographs in the next issue).

We send our best wishes to Betty following her operation,



What's Happening

W.R.L. (Western Road Ladies)

Below is the programmer for this year, please feel free to come to along to any meeting. Everyone is very welcome. And of course, there will always be time for a chat and cups of tea.

Programme for 2021/22

| | |
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| Thursday 14 th October – | Harvest activities & a Bring & Share Harvest Supper. |
| Thursday 11 th November – | Christmas Craft |
| Thursday 9 th December – | Christmas Party at Christine's home |
| Thursday 13 th January – | Meal out to be arranged |
| Thursday 10 th February – | Board Games Evening |
| Thursday 10 th March – you are reading and tell us about it. | Book night bring along a book |
| Thursday 21 st April – | Cinema |
| Thursday 12 th May – | Summer Craft |
| Thursday 9 th June – | Treasure Hunt walk in the park |
| Thursday 14 th July – | Tea party in the Garden |
| Thursday 12 th August – up. | Pudding evening for those not on holiday and would like to meet up. |

Please be adaptable as nothing is set in stone so some evenings may well change.

Christine



Whitechapel Mission Autumn Clothing Collection October 3rd & 4th 2021

The date for the Whitechapel Mission Clothing Collection has been fixed for Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th October 2021. Please bring your items of ADULT clothing shoes. Toiletries etc. to the church on Sunday morning. Tony Miller tells me that the services the Mission offer are needed now more than ever.

Betty

The United Reformed Church's Children's and Youth Work with Education and Learning

- offer practical suggestions for Hybrid Church, where we combine worship in person and online.
Hybrid Church for all – leading multi-sensory worship; practicalities of hybrid church; learning from experience. Via Zoom.
- On 30th September, Sam Hargraves will be running a session on leading multi-sensory worship.
 - On 14th October, Dan Morrell will be looking at the technical side and practicalities of hybrid church.
 - On 21st October, learn how three local URC ministers have been running hybrid services in their churches with different styles and different levels of tech.

Please book online at <https://hybrid-church-workshops.eventbrite.co.uk>



ZOOM WEBINAR @7PM

REIMAGINING CHURCH IN A WORLD OF FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY

OCTOBER 15, 2021 | OLIVE FLEMING DRANE AND
PROFESSOR JOHN DRANE

This webinar is designed to inspire new ideas of what a post-pandemic Christian presence might be like. It will not be the last word on the topic, but we have to start somewhere, and identifying the right questions will be the first step.

John Drane and Olive Fleming Drane have presented many webinars during Covid-19, working with Christian leaders around the world and in many different cultures. They have extensive experience of working alongside local congregations of many denominations, and currently are teaching practical theology together for Fuller Seminary, the University of Glasgow, and pioneer training courses with the Church Mission Society.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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God Has no Phone, but
I talk to him.
He has no
Facebook,
but he is still
my friend.
He does not
have a twitter,
but I still follow him.

A yellow Minion character with one eye and overalls, standing next to the text.



**The Congregational Church
And Carlisle Institute 1908**



The future of the church

At the August Church Meeting Alison shared the results of the Survey we had undertaken about the future role of the Church at Western Road. A group was formed to look at the ideas and to take them forward. This group has now met twice.

We have spent time together in prayer, talked and made plans. You must understand these plans are in their infancy, but we felt it was right to share each step with you as we go along.

Many responses to the survey said we needed to address the visual impact of the building and the usefulness and accessibility of it. In a moment I will show you the first draft of the plans.

But there is no point in just changing a building. We need to know why we are doing it. To be able to answer the question "What for?" We will have to answer that question to Synod and Area before we can access any support.

So, we have created a vision statement:

Called to be God's people.

Sharing the Love of Christ in action.

Making a difference in our community and beyond.

There are two parts to the project.

Front space for café/ meetings/ social gatherings/ craft/ kids work/ drop in/ counselling/ U3A/ social services/ etc

Worship space with flattened floor, moveable chairs, and tables up to date sound and vision systems.

From front to back all on one level

This could be all very exciting but actually that is up to you.

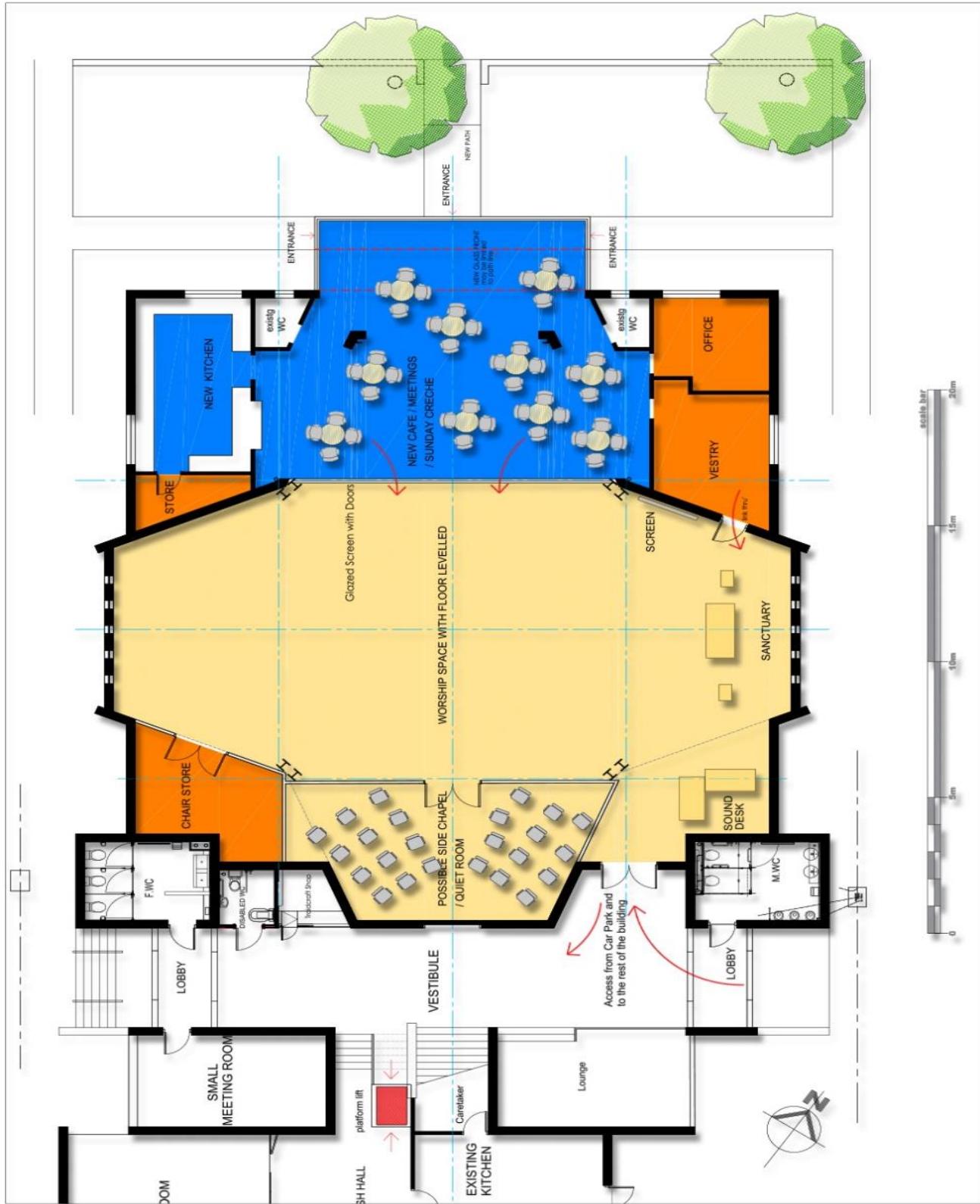
You can take one of two positions. You can be like Eeyore. You can say it won't work, we've thought about it before, it's too much, we should do one wall at a time, nobody will come.

Or you can be like Tigger. You can smile, you can pray, you can hope, you can embark on a new adventure with your friends, make new friends along the way, you can believe in a God in whom all things are possible.

The choice is yours. This is not an exercise to get bums on seats. This is a vision to serve the community in Jesus' name in and through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that The Father may be glorified. It may be that when they see the love, we have for one another and for them with no strings attached they will want to come in and find out more. That would be fabulous, but it is not the prime aim.

Fiona







Still more progress

I have been thinking recently of the advances made in technology in my lifetime and of the tremendous advance is in photography. My father worked for some time in the film industry, I remember him telling me how they use cotton wool for snow and boiling porridge for a volcano in the early days of black and white films.

He always wanted a Leica camera and got his wish in the early 1960's. it cost him a week's wages! He always had the camera on our holidays, and I became interested. My first serious expedition into this world was as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme taking a photograph of the Duke when he came to our school to inspect what the young people of the area had been doing for his award scheme.

This was in the days before digital photography when we used film which had to be exposed and later developed in a lengthy wet process. The Duke's visit was of little more than an hour but to secure the completion of the interest section I wanted to give him a photograph of him arriving before he left our school.

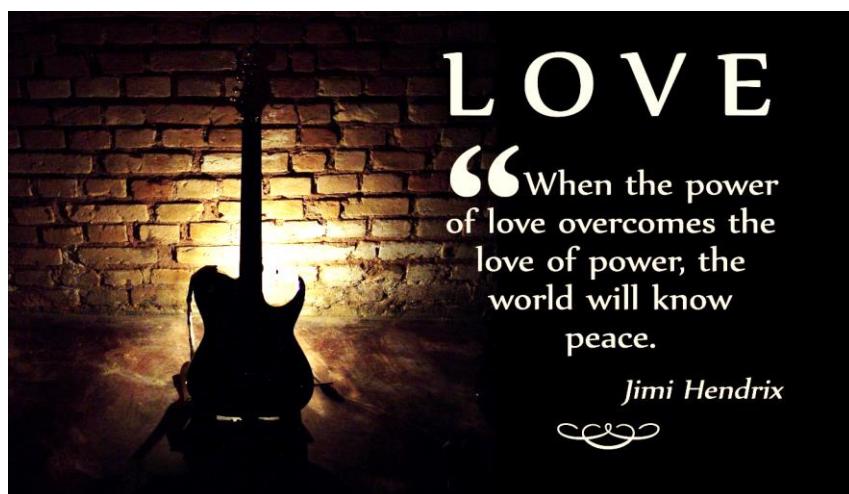
My camera was a Japanese Halina 35mm with a separate electric flash unit. You had to set the exposure manually!

We were not allowed to approach the Duke but took his photograph and run up to the photograph studio to take the film out of the camera and load into a developing tank, develop and wash and dry the negative film, you had to be careful in drying the film it had to be done naturally we could not use cloth and to leave water marks would spoil the subsequent end print. We did it and handed the Duke the photograph as he left, a considerable feat for me.,

Now with digital photography we can see the results instantly and print a copy within seconds and store them easily too. Still, it was much more fun playing with chemicals and never knowing what the end picture would look like until you finally developed and washed the end print.



Editor



If we're honest, compassion does not come easy to us, God.
We see others who struggle.
those without homes, or food.
those dying from curable diseases, simply because
they can't get access to the medicine they need.
those who have lost loved ones through death or circumstance,
and long for human companionship.
those who are persecuted and judged because of their difference.
those who are facing the awful consequences
of bad choices they have made.
and those who must live with the consequences
of choices that others make that impact their lives.
It all just feels like it's too much, and there's nothing we can do.

But we know that's not true – we know that compassion is enough.
that when we allow ourselves to feel,
compassion will lead us to do what we can,
and that this will make a difference.

And so, we pray first for ourselves:
that you would soften our hearts,
and still our fears,
and lead us into those acts of compassion
that we are capable of doing.

And then we pray for all of these others
whose lives can be changed
through small, simple acts of care.
that you would disturb us, and others like us,
until we finally step up and play our part
in the saving of your world.
and that enough of us would answer your call,
that the needs of the hurting ones
may be met.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen.

Fiona

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