July
2026

Trinity
United Reformed
Church

The Messenger

Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

Across the pastorate, there have been a number of new members welcomed into our congregations over the last couple of months. It's certainly a cause for great celebration, and demonstrates that there is power in that Growth Prayer that we've been using for the last year or so. But I think there is something even deeper and more profound that this recent uptick in membership can remind us of.

Welcoming a new member into any of our local churches involves an exchange of promises. In the URC, the new member promises to accept the costs and joys of church membership through regular attendance and involvement the wider life of the church. The congregation, in turn, promise the new member their friendship and support.

What always strikes me about these pledges is that, apart from the public confession of faith made by the candidate, there are not any conditions placed on those pledges. There is not a question about how either the new member or the congregation align themselves on the important contextual theological controversies of the day: how do we understand difficult issues like interfaith relations, sexuality, immigration, and Christian Nationalism.

In many settings, one's opinion on these matters might be exclusionary if they stood at odds with someone else. I give thanks that the URC is a church that allows for those differences of opinion to stand and not interfere with the work that Christ has called us to do. Yes, we should talk about controversial issues through the lens of our faith, but as a denomination, we understand that there will be differences of opinion on just about any subject.

Part of the new member liturgy is the recitation of the "Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the URC." In that statement of faith, we acknowledge that we don't know everything, and that from time to time, we may be called on to change our statement of faith to acknowledge the influence of our still-speaking God.

We may not all come to church on a given Sunday in total agreement on everything that

is happening in our world. But (I hope) we are encouraged and challenged to continually evaluate and examine the ways that our faith influences the way that we see the world around us.

After all, no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Summer blessings,
Brian

Growth Prayer

God of Mission
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give:
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship,
and power to our witness.

Help our Church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Dates for your Diary

Church Meeting
Sunday 5th July 2026 - Church Meeting – After worship, Rev Brian Buschkill to chair.

Evening Communion
Wednesday 8th July - 5.30pm at Nelmes URC. Everyone is welcome.

Craft Sale and Coffee Morning
Saturday 11th July- 10am to 12pm – proceeds to S.M.I.L.E, our charity for the year.

Open Church
Saturday 11th July - 10:30am to 11:30am - including a short time of prayer at 11am. All are welcome to come and look round the church and meet the Elders and join us to light candles for anyone they would like to offer prayers for.

Cuppa with the Minister
Thursday 23rd July - 9.30am to 11am - Costa (opposite Trinity)

If you have any news or something interesting to share, email an article to handhurc@gmail.com

Prayers for June

Jinja
Inclusive Church
Safe summer holidays.

Food Bank

We continue to support the Harold Hill Foodbank and the box for donations remains in the South Porch. All donations gratefully received. All money collected in the honesty box in the Link area also goes to the Food Bank.

We are also collecting stamps in aid of the British Heart Foundation and the collection box can be found in the South Porch.

Donation Request

The emergency removal of pigeons from the church loft ventilation space, clearance of nests and detritus, repair of the stonework around the hatch and new wire covers has totalled around £5000. If anyone wishes to donate towards this unexpected cost please speak to an Elder or Mick Hewitt (Elder & Treasurer).

Are you in need of some

TLC

Trinity Leisure Club

Join us for tea, biscuits and indoor games.

£1 per session

Find us in the Roope Hall
Trinity Church, Upminster

1- 3 pm

Every Thursday

Trinity Leisure Club (affectionately known as TLC) meets every Thursday from 1pm until 3pm in the Roope Hall and everyone is welcome.

We play board and card games and enjoy a chat over a hot drink and biscuits or sometimes even cake! Some people bring their knitting but, whatever your preference, it's a fun afternoon in pleasant company. At only £1 per session (proceeds to the church and charity) it's an inexpensive afternoon out.

Why not give us a try or bring some friends and get some TLC!

Lavish is the Word!

On a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon in June Sonia hosted a lavish afternoon tea with delicious sandwiches, scrumptious sausage rolls, delightful scones with jam and clotted cream, various cake, strawberries and not forgetting lashings of steaming hot tea all served on the best china.

About 20 people attended and everyone agreed it was a lovely occasion and so we must thank not only Sonia but her whole team of Katherine, Terry, Brenda, Pam and Sue who all worked so tirelessly to produce such a magnificent spread.

This was a charity event and raised a magnificent sum of £266 through ticket sales and the raffle for S.M.I.L.E.

Pigeons in the Roof Space

About six weeks ago, pigeons were noticed in the roof space high above the sanctuary. At first, this may have seemed a relatively small matter, but pigeons can cause considerable damage to the fabric of a building, and noxious debris had begun to find its way down into the sanctuary itself. The Elders therefore agreed that the problem needed to be dealt with promptly and safely.

A local firm, Leading Pest Solutions, was engaged to resolve the issue. To reach the affected area, scaffolding was erected inside the sanctuary, giving access to a small opening around 35 feet above floor level. Once the roof space could be inspected properly, it became clear that the birds had not arrived recently but had been making use of the space for some years.

The pigeons were carefully encouraged to leave, and the accumulated mess was then cleared away. This was not a simple or pleasant task, but it was an important one for the protection of the building and for the cleanliness and safety of the sanctuary.

The pigeons were getting in through the decayed mesh covering a vent high up on the West side of the building. As the stonework around the vent was badly eroded, a North London firm, Paulin Stonemasons, highly rated on Checkatrade, were employed to fix the stonework and fit a rigid mesh for long lasting protection.

Until the internal scaffolding could be removed, the sanctuary could not be used for a couple of weeks, and our services took place in the newly decorated Roope Hall.

The unexpected cost of £5,000 was not eligible for a Synod grant. We are therefore especially grateful to members of the congregation who have generously donated almost £2,000 towards the expense.

The following pictures show the problem and work to resolve it.

Guest Entrance!

Internal Scaffolding

Debris in the roof space.

External Scaffolding

Repaired Vent

Mary Frost

While visiting my brother, we went to a play by the Her Theatre Company whose work explores the lives of women through history and today through an engaging theatre experience.

The play was hosted by brother's church - Holy Trinity Church, Horefield, Bristol and was about Mary Frost, the wife of John Frost who are both buried in his church's graveyard.

Before the play I knew nothing about John and Mary Frost, who are famous in South Wales. John Frost was a leading member of the British Chartist movement that fought for democracy in Britain and was one of the leaders of the Newport Chartist Rising of 1839.

The play was inspired by the book: Mary Frost, Wife, Mother, Chartist by Sylvia Mason and 3 outstanding actors told us the captivating life story of Mary Frost, who supported her husband's work in the Chartist movement & the 1839 Newport Rising. The play showed the amazing resilience that Mary had and her love for her husband

Mary and John had ten children (two from her first marriage) and ran a drapers shop in Newport. While John was campaigning - organising events, speaking across the country, writing pamphlets and missing their daughter's wedding - Mary ran the business, brought up the children and strongly supported her husband.

On several occasions the family had to sell almost everything they had to pay libel bills. John Frost was imprisoned several times during his campaign and Mary still remained strong, carried on running the drapers shop and the family home. After the 1839 Newport Rising, John Frost with other leaders were brought to trial and sentenced to death, but following a national campaign this was commuted to transportation for life. In 1854 John was transported to Van Diemen's Land, Tasmania. While John was in Tasmania, Mary moved

from Newport to Bristol, where their son lived and worked. Mary and John wrote letters to each other during the 14 years they were apart. Mary, her family and their friends campaigned tirelessly for John's pardon. John received the pardon in 1856 and returned to Britain and was reunited with his devoted wife Mary. Sadly, Mary died a year after John returned to England. John died in 1877 aged 93.

Linda Legrand

Sunday Services

July		
5th	Communion	Rev Brian Buschkill
12th	All Age Worship	Rev Brian Buschkill
19th		Chris & Suzanne Pearson
26th		Pastor Dave Chuck

All services start at 9:30am unless otherwise stated.

Please send in all articles for the August issue of The Messenger to handhurc@gmail.com by **Wednesday 22nd July**. Any late articles will be kept for the following month. Thank you.