



**FOREST GROUP**  
of the United Reformed Church

[www.forestgroupurc.co.uk](http://www.forestgroupurc.co.uk)



# NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

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**OUR CHURCHES**

**Chingford URC**

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**MATERIAL FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER NEEDS TO BE WITH THE EDITOR BY SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2020**

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## PASTORAL LETTER

### “is there a spare Christian around?!”

...asked Rabbi David Hulbert at the latest Three Faiths Forum event, held at an Orthodox Synagogue in Ilford. It was one of their “Scriptural Reasoning” evenings which they do every now and then, where the attendees are asked to gather in groups of 7-10 to talk about 3 texts from the three gathered faiths (Judaism, Islam and Christianity), and in my group we needed one more Christian to come over and join us. It was a great evening, with deep, curious, respectful, challenging conversations around Who is God and How our faith must show in our ethics, our behaviour towards others. We also got a tour of the beautiful, very recently built Synagogue, with more conversation about prayer spaces and times. The equally long-and-grey-bearded orthodox Rabbi and the Imam who works for Scotland Yard in counter-terrorism exchanged thoughts about facing east for prayer, about what else we can do for peaceful community living, and then invitations. In case you’re intrigued: These meetings are open to anybody! Do come and join next time!

**“Is there a spare Christian around?!”** – It’s such a great question! In our secular society where not many people care about God and discovering His great works in this world; where God is put on the back burner (if at all), or kept imprisoned in family history (“my grandfather was a chorister...”); where people sometimes don’t know

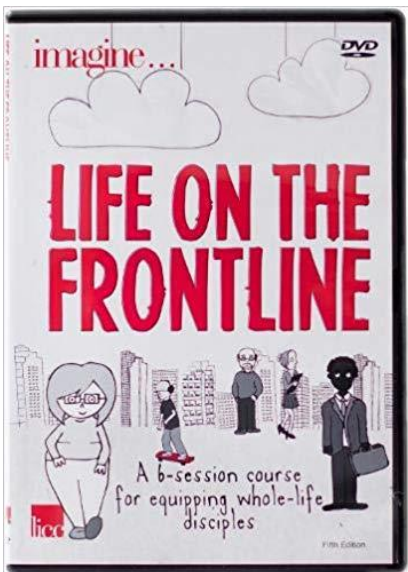
who to talk to when they'd actually like someone to pray for them or to tell them about the Christian faith.

Let's make sure we are noticeable Christians, and that there will always be "spare" ones around when needed! Come and join us for training to become better capable of using our skills where we are, on our "frontline."

So this year, we take this challenge ON, in Lent, learning about whole-life discipleship, instead of giving something UP.

Anyone want a spare copy of the booklet?

*Ulrike*



## **LENT STUDY COURSE**

**Tuesdays at St James. All welcome!**

March 3 **9.30am** – 11.00am,  
followed by Fairtrade Coffee  
Morning

March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7  
10.30am – 12.00noon

## **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

All services commence at 10:30am unless otherwise stated.

### **Chingford**

- 1 Mar      Holy Communion – Revd Claire Wilson (*monthly collection for Gift Day*)
- 8 Mar      Revd Ulrike Bell
- 15 Mar     Terry Silvey
- 22 Mar     Mothering Sunday All Age Worship and Parade Service – Revd Martin Wheadon
- 29 Mar     Revd Martin Legg
- 5 April     Holy Communion Palm Sunday – Revd Kevin Swaine (*monthly collection for Gift Day*)

### **St. James', Buckhurst Hill**

- 1 March    Holy Communion – Revd Ulrike Bell (*Sacramental offertory for the London Churches Refugee Fund*)
- 8 Mar      Gerald Lee
- 15 Mar     Trevor Cottrell (*followed by church meeting*)
- 22 Mar     Mothering Sunday Parade Service – Revd Ulrike Bell

29 Mar Revd Claire Wilson

5 April Holy Communion Palm Sunday – Revd June Colley  
(*Sacramental offertory for Camden Counselling Service*)

### **Woodford Green**

1 March Holy Communion – Revd Kevin Swaine

8 Mar Revd June Colley

15 Mar Revd Ulrike Bell

22 Mar Mothering Sunday - Elders

29 Mar Revd June Colley

5 April Holy Communion: Palm Sunday – Revd Ulrike Bell

## **EASTER SERVICES**

**Maundy Thursday** – Quiet Day 10.30-2.30 St. James’

**Good Friday** – Reflection and Walk of Witness 10.00 Chingford

Reflection with music and readings 10.30 Woodford

Meditation 11.00 St. James’

**Easter Day** – Breakfast 9.00 followed by worship at 10.30 Chingford

Morning Worship at 10.30 St. James’ and at Woodford

## CHURCH EVENTS

### March

- Sunday 1 **Forest Group Council** 1.30pm at Woodford Green
- Monday 2 **St. James'** 10.30am *Holy Habits* Group in church room  
**St. James'** 2.00pm Craft/ Prayer Group
- Tuesday 3 **Forest Group 9.30am** Lent Study Group at St. James'  
**St. James'** 10.30am Fair Trade Coffee Morning  
**Chingford** 1.30-3.00pm Drop in Club for under-5s and their carers  
**Woodford Grn** 7.30pm Elders meeting at the home of Kay Denby
- Wednesday 4 **Chingford** 11.00am Service at The Spinney Care home led by Revd Ulrike Bell
- Thursday 5 **St. James'** 10.30am *End of Life Matters* course led by Revd Ulrike Bell in the church room  
**St. James'** 7.30pm Elders' Meeting in Church Room
- Friday 6 **Chingford** 9.30-12noon Coffee and Chat  
Prayers and Bible Study 10.30-11.00am
- Tuesday 10 **Forest Group 10.30am** Lent Study Group at St. James'  
**Chingford** 1.30-3.00pm Drop in Club for under-5s and their carers
- Friday 13 **Chingford** 9.30-12noon Coffee and Chat  
Prayers and Bible Study 10.30-11.00am



- Tuesday 17 **Forest Group 10.30am** Lent Study Group at St. James'  
**Chingford** 1.30-3.00pm Drop in Club for under-5s and their carers
- Thursday 19 **Chingford** 8.00pm Elders Meeting
- Friday 20 **Chingford** 9.30-12noon Coffee and Chat  
Prayers and Bible Study 10.30-11.00am
- Tuesday 24 **Forest Group 10.30am** Lent Study Group at St. James'  
**Chingford** 1.30-3.00pm Drop in Club for under-5s and their carers
- Wed'sday 25 **Chingford** 12 noon Monthly Lunch Club
- Friday 27 **Chingford** 9.30-12noon Coffee and Chat  
Prayers and Bible Study 10.30-11.00am
- Sunday 29 **St. James** 12.15pm Shared lunch followed by talk on visit to Palestine by Rachel Williams
- Tuesday 31 **Forest Group 10.30am** Lent Study Group at St. James'  
**Chingford** 1.30-3.00pm Drop in Club for under-5s and their carers
- April
- Thursday 2 **St. James'** 7.30pm Elders Meeting
- Friday 3 **Chingford** 9.30-12noon Coffee and Chat  
Prayers and Bible Study 10.30-11.00am
- Saturday 4 **St. James'** 6.30pm Film Club
- Monday 6 **St. James'** 10.30am *Holy Habits* Group in church room

Tuesday 7 **St. James' 2.00pm** Craft/ Prayer Group  
**Forest Group 10.30am** Lent Study Group at St. James'  
**Woodford Green 7.30pm** Elders meeting at the home of Kay Denby

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This takes place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March and this year, has been prepared by women from Zimbabwe. The theme is, *Rise! Take Up Your Mat And Walk*, taken from the story of Jesus healing the man at the Pool of Bethesda in John 5:1-9. It is a call to act in love for peace and reconciliation, emphasising that steps are given by God for personal and social transformation.

A service will be held at 1.00pm at St. James' URC Buckhurst Hill on 6th March when Pastor Nguiza Mkandla from the Zimbabwean church who meet at Ray Lodge will be giving a talk.

There are also services at 2.15pm at Trinity Church, Hermon Hill and at 2.00pm at The Old Church (All Saints), Chingford Mount.



Please note: There will be no Tuesday coffee mornings at the manse in March or April.

## HOLY HABITS

*In March and April we move on to the next Holy Habit in our study series and the following is taken from the introduction to the holy habit of WORSHIP found in the series booklet.*

Worship features prominently in Luke's writings. He presents people praising God in response to experiencing God's loving help or saving grace. Praise and Worship flow from gratitude for who God is and what God has done.

There is a risk that we think of Worship only as something that happens when Christians gather for an hour or two. While gatherings are a habit to be encouraged, there is much more to Worship than this. Worship is a way of life, one encapsulated in the Jewish Shema: a prayer which is the centre piece of Jewish morning and evening prayer services. It includes these words from Deuteronomy 6 v 5:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Worship offered as grateful response involves all of our lives; our work, rest, enjoyment of creation, service, eating, giving – and, yes, our gatherings for the focused activity of services of Worship. Tending crops, forming an algorithm, building a house or serving a customer can all be done as acts of Worship to the glory of God, as can the singing of songs, the offering of dance, sculpture or art and the praying of prayers.

## **EXTERNAL EVENTS**

### **Westminster College, Cambridge**

*The Gathering – For All New Expressions of Church*

**Fri. 17<sup>th</sup> – Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> July**

**Mon. 12<sup>th</sup> – Tues. 13<sup>th</sup> August**

*Life Together – LEPs Today and Tomorrow*

**Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> June**

*with Professor David Ford*

To book a place email: [admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk)

or Tel: 01223 330632

## **ARTICLES**

### **REFLECTION:**

#### **HOLY HABITS : WORSHIP**

What is worship? I like to think of it as “worth-ship”, when we try to tell God his worth. When Jesus was talking with the Samaritan woman at the well, he said to her, “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24 It would seem that He was implying that the worship of the Jews and the Samaritans was a worldly kind of worship, a set of rituals and an external show, and that He was bringing about a new kind of worship that would be deeper and more heartfelt. Are we this

kind of worshipper, or do we sing hymns without really taking in the words or meaning them, and when we pray in church, do we really want what we are asking him for? I am not saying this to make anyone feel inadequate or guilty, but to be realistic about our worship. If our worship is less than it ought to be, maybe that is because we do not yet fully understand the extent of what the Lord Jesus has achieved for us. When we come together to worship in church, it is not just to honour God, but also to remind ourselves and each other just how much God has done for us.

The kind of worship that we take part in during our church services, however, is only part of the picture. Our whole lives are to be given over to him and to his service. The apostle Paul says in Romans 12:1 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”

Kevin Haigh

## **EAST LONDON THREE FAITHS FORUM**

The Three Faiths Forum meeting at 8pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February was held at the Ilford Federation Synagogue, which is near Gants Hill. The topic for the evening was, *God's Moral Law* and was a *Scriptural Reasoning* session, when we split up into groups, with at least two Jewish people, two Muslims and two Christians in each group.

In my group we first looked at a Jewish text from *Ethics of the Fathers*, sayings of Jewish sages who lived from 300BC - 200AD. It tells us to reflect on where we came from, where we are going and before whom we are destined to give an account of our lives. It also instructs us to respect those in authority and to pray for them, and if we sit and reflect on God's law we will receive a reward.

Next, we looked at a passage from the Christian scriptures, Luke 10:25-37, where Jesus tells the parable of *The Good Samaritan* in answer to the question, *Who is my neighbour?* Jesus here instructs us that it is more important to help someone in desperate need than to ignore them because we are too concerned with religious duties and obligations.

Then we looked at some verses from the Qur'an where Muslims are told to respect their parents in old age and to be kind to everyone, not just fellow Muslims. Orphans' rights must be protected and everyone should prepare for life after death, not committing adultery nor killing without good cause and worshipping only Allah.

It was interesting reading these texts from the three faiths and again to see how much we have in common.

Before the end of the meeting Rabbi Hulbert thanked Revd. Ian Tarrant from St. Mary's Church in South Woodford, who has been a leader of the Forum for ten years and soon will be moving to Gibraltar to take up a church leader's post there.

The meeting finished with refreshments and then Rabbi Singer, the leader of the synagogue invited us to go downstairs to see the worship area of the synagogue. It was a beautiful space with six stained glass windows on each side of the Ark, taken from an older synagogue in Ilford. It was good to see how special the place is to the Jewish congregation.

The next meeting of the Forum will be at 8pm on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, discussing *Environment or Extinction?* which should be interesting. The venue is yet to be announced.

Isabel Bala

## **CHINGFORD NEWS**

### **27th Chingford Scout Group**

The leaders of the 27th Chingford Group have made the decision that it is no longer viable for the 27th Chingford Scout Group to continue. The Beavers were closed in October. It has not been possible to find enough leaders for the Scout Troop and the number of Scouts has dropped below minimum standards. The Cubs are still

a successful unit but the leaders need more support with programme planning.

The leaders have therefore decided that Scouts will transfer to the 23rd Chingford Scout Troop, which meets on Thursdays and the Cubs will become a second Cub Pack meeting at the 23rd on a Monday night as the 23rd Cubs already meet on Tuesdays. Any members of the group who cannot attend meetings on the new nights will be assisted to find Cubs or Scouts which meet on their preferred night.

I am now consulting with members of the Group Executive and leaders on the disposal of the Group's money, equipment and other assets.

It is very sad that it has come to this after 94 years of existence, but we have to be realistic about what is best for the members of the Group and their Scouting progress.

We are not excluding the possibility that the Church may wish to revive the Scout group in the future if it can. We will be retaining the group records, honours book, photo albums and some basic start up information. We are discussing with the Guides their take-over of the management of the camping stores, where they already joint own some tents and cooking equipment.

*Malcolm Smith Group Scout Leader*



## **ST JAMES' NEWS**

### **CHURCH MEETING NOTES**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

Our Church Meeting was chaired by Margaret Minoletti and was attended by twelve people.

The series of Film Nights at St. James' will continue in 2020, but with a greater emphasis on mission. The next Film Evening will be on Saturday 4th April at 6.30 pm, when the film *Wonder* will be shown.

The *Prayer/ Listening Time* on Fridays in the Church Room between 1.00-2.00pm is still on-going with people turning up looking for a place to pray at other times of the week as well. A rota of church members has been drawn up when the person on duty will be supported by two others who will come to pray or stay at home to pray.

Lots of work needs to be done on the church premises, the small hall, the corridors and the ladies' toilets all need re-decoration. Work has recently been completed on the Hall Manager's flat.

There is some concern about the state of the manse and the letting agents, Edward Taub, are to be asked to deal with it.

We now have a very efficient lady cleaner who replaces our previous cleaners.

There are lots of events planned for the near future at St. James'. Our Fair Trade Coffee Morning will take place on Tuesday 3rd March at 10.30, with a Traidcraft stall being set up in the church entrance. Do come along if you can!

We are holding a World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 6th March at 1.00pm, with the service this year being put together by women from Zimbabwe. Anyone is welcome to attend, not just women!

There will be a Quiet Day on Maundy Thursday 9th April, from 10.30am -2.30pm and we will have a Hall Users Afternoon Tea on Saturday 11th July when there will be a speaker and some musical entertainment.

Several courses will be held at St. James' this spring. The *End of Life Matters* course will continue on Thursday mornings until 5th March and our Lent Studies will begin on a Tuesday Morning beginning on 3rd March, before our Coffee Morning. In May there will be a Marriage Preparation course run by Gerald and Mariana Lee.

So lots of things to look forward to – please try to come along to some of the events if you can.

Isabel Bala

## WOODFORD GREEN NEWS



### **Lent Lunches at St Thomas of Canterbury**

Lunches will start on Tuesday March 3rd and will end on April 7th, from 12.15pm until 1.30pm, and the cost is £3. Do come and enjoy delicious soup and good fellowship with other Christians from churches in Woodford Green.

## DIRECTORY

### CHINGFORD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Buxton Road, Chingford, E4 7DP

[www.chingfordurc.org.uk](http://www.chingfordurc.org.uk)

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<b>NEWSLETTER</b>		
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### REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month	
		Junior Family Church (from age 3) and Questers	Tel: 8524 2491
Tuesday	1.30–3.00 pm	Club for Under 5s and Carers (Term time only)	Tel: 8529 0071
	7.00–8.30 pm	27 <sup>th</sup> Chingford Cubs	Tel: 8524 2491
	7.00–8.30 pm	27 <sup>th</sup> Chingford Scouts	Tel: 8524 2491
Wednesday	12 noon	Lunch Club: £4.50 meal (last in month)	Tel: 8529 0441
Thursday	5.45–7.15 pm	5 <sup>th</sup> Chingford Brownies	Tel: 8529 1475
	7.30–9.00 pm	5 <sup>th</sup> Chingford Guides	Tel: 8529 4420
Friday	9.30–12 noon	Coffee and Chat	Tel: 8529 0441
	10.30–11.00 am	Prayer Group	Tel: 8524 2491

## **ST. JAMES' UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5NG

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Hall bookings: [bookstjames@outlook.com](mailto:bookstjames@outlook.com)

## **REGULAR EVENTS**

Sunday	10.30 am Morning Worship (with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month)	
Monday	2.00-3.30pm Craft/Prayer Group on the first Monday each month	
	5.30 pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Buckhurst Hill Brownies	8508 7546
	7.00 pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Buckhurst Hill Guides	8508 3480
Wednesday	7.00 pm Sing Emmanuel Choir	
Thursday	6.00-7.00 pm 28 <sup>th</sup> Epping Forest Beavers	07960309175
	6.30-8.00 pm 28 <sup>th</sup> Epping Forest Cubs	8504 5270
	7.30-9.00 pm 28 <sup>th</sup> Epping Forest Scouts	07896031718
Friday	1.00-2.00pm Prayer Space in the church room	

**WOODFORD GREEN**  
**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
High Elms, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0UP

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**Revd June Colley**

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[rev@jcolley.plus.com](mailto:rev@jcolley.plus.com)

**REGULAR EVENTS**

Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship and Junior Church (with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month)
Tuesday	6.00-7.30pm	14 <sup>th</sup> Woodford Brownie Pack (aged 7-10)
Thursday	7.00-9.00pm	14 <sup>th</sup> Woodford Guide Company (age 10-14)
Friday	9.00-10.30am	Play Café for toddlers and babies with their parents and carers
	6.00-7.30pm	PILOTS (a non-uniformed Christian group for children aged 4-11 years)

## **RAY LODGE SITE**

Ray Lodge Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 7NX

**Enquiries to Church Secretary at Woodford Green URC.**

**Caretaker**                      Mr. Peter Pitt                      07940 725344

## **REGULAR EVENTS**

Tuesday                      6.00 – 7.00 pm 7<sup>th</sup> Woodford Rainbow Unit  
(age 5 – 7)

Wednesday                      6.15 – 7.45 pm 16<sup>th</sup> Woodford Brownie Pack  
(age 7 – 10)

The premises are also used by the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Saturdays for Sabbath Worship and Wednesday evenings for Prayer Meetings, and by Faith Ministries (UK Churches) on Sunday mornings.

## AND FINALLY ...

The first of a series researched by Sheila Tanner about the origins of some of our favourite hymns.

### **O PERFECT LOVE**

*O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,  
Lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,  
That theirs may be the love which knows no ending,  
Whom thou forevermore dost join in one.*

Many years ago Dorothy Blomfield was wandering over the hills of Windermere thinking of her sister who was soon to be married. She thought of the happy days the couple would share and times of sadness they might face.

She sat down and prayed for them, and on returning home she decided to write down her prayers. Soon before her she had the words of 'O Perfect Love'. No bride could have had better words written for her.

*O perfect Life, be thou their full assurance,  
Of tender charity and steadfast faith,  
Of patient hope and quiet, brave endurance,  
With childlike trust that fears nor pain nor death.*

*Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow;  
Grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife,  
And to life's day the glorious unknown morrow  
That dawns upon eternal love and life.*