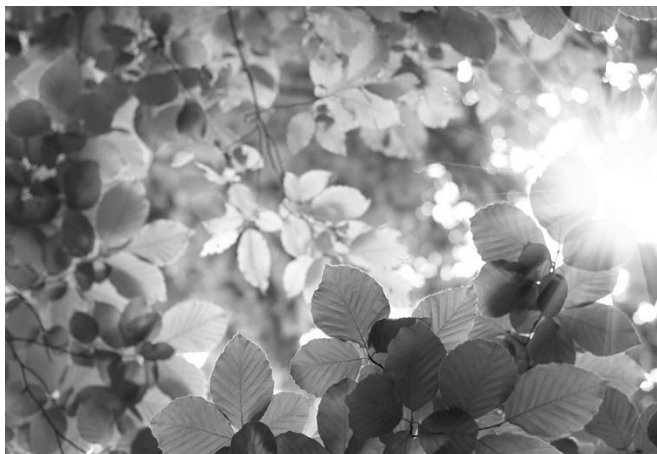




FOREST GROUP
of the United Reformed Church

www.forestgroupurc.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019

Find us on Facebook



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OUR CHURCHES

Chingford URC

Buxton Road, Chingford, E4 7DP

St James' URC

Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, IG9 5NG

Woodford Green URC

High Elms, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0UP

Newsletter Editor: Rev June Colley

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**MATERIAL FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER NEEDS TO BE WITH
THE EDITOR BY SUNDAY 19TH MAY**

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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

12th – 18th May, 2019

PASTORAL LETTER

As Ulrike is on a well-deserved post-Easter services break, there is no letter this month. However, let us take the opportunity to reflect on some writings which have been passed to me for inclusion in the newsletter.

God, give us eyes to see the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold your majesty in every living thing
And may we see in lacy leaves and every budding flower
The hand that rules the universe with gentleness and power
And may this Easter grandeur that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith lying dormant in our hearts
And give us ears to hear, dear God
The Springtime song of birds
With messages more meaningful
Than man's often empty words
Telling harried human beings who are lost in dark despair –
“Be like us and do not worry for God has in in his care”.



I asked for strength,
And God gave me difficulties to make me strong
I asked for wisdom,
And God gave me problems to learn to solve
I asked for prosperity,
And God gave me a brain and brawn to work.
I asked for courage,
And God gave me dangers to overcome
I asked for love,
And God gave me people to help.
I asked for favours,
And God gave me opportunities.
I received nothing I wanted.
I received everything I needed

Hazrat Inayat Khan

A LIFE THAT MATTERS

What will matter is not how many people you knew,
But how many will feel a lasting loss when you are gone.
What will matter is not your memories
But the memories that live in those who loved you.
What will matter is how long you will be remembered
By whom and for what.
Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.
It's not a matter of circumstances, but of choice.
Choose to live a life that matters

Anon

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

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

Chingford

- 5 May Holy Communion – Revd Kevin Swaine (*quarterly collection for Christian Aid*)
- 12 May All age worship – Revd Ulrike Bell on theme of Holy Habits: Biblical Teaching
- 19 May Terry Silvey
- 26 May Revd James Fields
- 2 June Holy Communion – Terry Silvey

St. James', Buckhurst Hill

- 5 May Holy Communion – Revd Ulrike Bell (*Sacramental offertory for the Leprosy Mission*)
- 12 May Grace Smith
- 19 May Revd Ulrike Bell
- 26 May Gerald Lee (*followed by church meeting*)
- 2 June Holy Communion – Gerald Lee (*Sacramental offertory for Epping Forest Food Bank*)

Woodford Green

- 5 May Holy Communion – Revd June Colley
- 12 May Revd Claire Wilson
 4.00pm Messy Church
- 19 May Trevor Cottrell
- 26 May Revd Ulrike Bell (*followed by Church Meeting*)
- 2 June Holy Communion – Revd Ulrike Bell

FOREST GROUP COFFEE MORNING



10.30 am in the Woodford Manse on
Tuesday 7th May

Discussion topic:
'Holy Habits – Biblical
Teaching'

CHURCH EVENTS

May

- Thursday 2 **St. James'** 7.30pm Elders Meeting in church room
- Friday 3 **Chingford** 11.00am Worship Group meeting
- Sunday 5 **Forest Group Holy Habits Review** 12.30pm at Woodford Green
- Forest Group Council** 2.00pm at Woodford Green
- Tuesday 7 **Forest Group** 10.30am Coffee morning at the manse
- Woodford Grn** 8.00pm Elders meeting at the manse
- Monday 13 **Chingford** 10.00am Board of Management **St. James'** 2.00-3.30pm Craft/Prayer Group in the church room
- Thursday 16 **Chingford** 8.00pm Elders
- Wednesday 29 **Chingford** 12.00noon Lunch Club
- Woodford Grn** 12.00 noon Church outing for lunch (venue to be arranged)

June

- Monday 3 **St. James'** 2.00-3.30pm Craft/Prayer Group in the church room
- Tuesday 4 **Forest Group** 10.30am Coffee morning at the manse
- Woodford Grn** 8.00pm Elders meeting at the manse
- Thursday 6 **St. James'** 7.30pm Elders Meeting in church room

Forward Notices for the month of June

- Saturday 15 Forest Group Joint Elders Meeting – 10.00am till 1.00pm at St. James', Buckhurst Hill**
- Sunday 16 Forest Group Annual Joint Service 10.30am at Chingford URC led by Revd Neil Thorogood, Principal of Westminster College, Cambridge.**

HOLY HABITS GROUPS

<p><u>Group 1</u> A new group is to be set up which will meet after worship one Sunday a month at Woodford Green Facilitator: Suzanne Corney 020 8531 9168 suzanne.corney@btinternet.com</p>	<p><u>Group 2</u> Tuesday 7th May 10.30am at the manse (joining Forest Group Coffee Morning) June Colley (Facilitator) 020 8529 5403 rev@jcolley.plus.com</p>
<p><u>Group 3</u> Wednesday 22nd May at 10.00am Audrey Mendham (Host) Jean Wyber (Facilitator) 020 8504 2447 jeanwyber@aol.com</p>	<p><u>Group 4</u> To be arranged Sandra Millan (Host & Facilitator) 020 8529 0071 sandramillan@virginmedia.com</p>
<p><u>Group 5</u> Tuesday 14th May 7.30pm Eileen & Geoff Packe (Host) 020 85049188 geoff.packe22@gmail.com Margaret Brown (Facilitator) 020 8524 5223 mptbrown@btinternet.com</p>	<p><u>Group 6</u> Monday 13th May 10.30 am Gerald & Mariana Lee (Host) St James URC, Buckhurst Hill geraldlee@ymail.com Isabel Bala (Facilitator) 020 8504 3543 isabelbala@hotmail.co.uk</p>
<p><u>Group 7</u> To be arranged Heather Nicholaou (Host & Facilitator) 020 8529 9280 heathernicholaou@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Group 8</u> 26th May at 5.00-6.30pm Helen and Kevin Haigh (Host & Facilitators) 0208 524 8003 hhaigh@gmail.com</p>

EXTERNAL EVENTS

Westminster College , Cambridge

Mission and Apologetics in Contemporary culture

17th - 21st June

To book a place email: admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk

or Tel: 01223 330632

London Inter Faith Centre, 125 Salusbury Road, NW6 6RG

Abrahamic Text Group

May 13th 10.15am - 12.30pm

Info: laurance.hille@londoninterfaith.org.uk

Cockfosters Centre for Spirituality, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood N144HE

Music evening with Rodney Newton

An illustrated talk about the use of music in Christian Worship from the earliest times to the present day.

1st May 7.00pm - 9.00pm

To book a place email: cockfosters@rcdow.org.uk

or telephone: 020 84496648

Christ Church URC, Enfield, Chase Side EN2 6NJ

An Evening with Garth Hewitt, with songs and stories of peace, poetry, prayer and protest.

18th May 7.30pm

ARTICLES

REFLECTION:

Biblical Teaching

In our Holy Habits home-groups, we are starting on the topic of Biblical Teaching. At the time of Acts 2, none of the New Testament books had been written, so they were being taught by the Apostles and this teaching was later written down in the pages of the New Testament.

Much of this teaching explained how the Old Testament was pointing to God's Messiah and how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies. Jesus himself read from Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth and claimed that He was the fulfillment of it (Luke 4:21). This would have been dynamite to the Jews. All through the gospels, you can see the excitement building with its climax in the Acts as people became convinced of Jesus's identity as God's promised Messiah, and the church spread like wildfire, despite ferocious opposition.

Why should we place so much importance on Biblical Teaching, rather than on church tradition and authority, on our own spiritual experiences, or on our own unassisted reasoning? It is because it tells people what they need, but do not want to hear. How many attempts have there been to discredit, twist or soften the words of the Bible, so as to avoid the conclusion that we each of us need the forgiveness of sins that only God can grant through the barbaric means of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross? Do we ourselves soften the teaching, because we are afraid of making ourselves unpopular or ridiculous? We would never have come up with teaching like that on our own.

The Bible is precious treasure, and we need to be on a lifelong quest to learn its secrets. It is how we come to know God and receive life from Him.

Kevin Haigh

ST JAMES' NEWS

CHURCH MEETING NOTES

MARCH 2019

Our March Church Meeting was chaired by Louise Woodcock and was attended by thirteen people. News of the church family was exchanged before moving on to other matters.

The Russell Road fence saga is on-going, but hopefully the matter will be settled soon. Our new Hall Manager, Gerald Lee, has now completed his three month probationary period and the Elders will confirm his appointment at their next meeting. Gerald now liaises with the uniformed organisations regarding parade services which is helpful.

As we are an eco-congregation, *Operation Noah's* challenge to ensure the church's investments are ethical will be considered by the Treasurer.

Holy Habits groups are continuing and the group which meets in the Church Room on the second Monday morning of the month is going well, as are the Lent Study Groups on Wednesday mornings and on Thursday evenings. The film *Risen* was shown in the Church Room

at 5.00pm on Saturday 30th March and was appreciated by those who attended.

Plans for the Mothering Sunday Parade Service were discussed, with members of the uniformed organisations being asked to help with readings and distribution of flowers.

Help is needed with the ecumenical pre-Easter commuter outreach at Buckhurst Hill Station which will take place in Holy Week, with donations for hot cross buns being welcome.

Volunteers are also needed for Christian Aid collecting at Buckhurst Hill station on Friday 17th May from 7.30 am – 8.30 am and again from 5.00pm – 6.30pm. With the station now having step-free access there are three exits /entrances, so we will have to spread ourselves around to do the collection.

A Thanksgiving Dinner for hall users and church members is to be held on Saturday 23rd November and our Hall Manager suggested we should advertise church events on sandwich boards at the end of the driveway in future. He also put forward the idea that part of the church entrance area could be used as a Prayer Space for passing visitors and the Church Room could be used more frequently as a place of prayer.

So, we have lots of challenges and ideas about engaging more with our local community, many of whom use our premises but as yet do not worship with us.

Isabel Bala

CLOSURE OF JIMMY’S CONTACT CENTRE

We had a training afternoon at St. James’ on Saturday 30th March and at the end of the meeting we made the decision to close the Contact Centre at the end of March 2020. This decision was then accepted by our Minister and Elders, who form the management Committee of Jimmy’s at the Elders’ meeting on 1st April.

We have offered almost 25 years of service to families who have split up, by providing them a safe place where the non-resident parent can meet their child/children. The Contact Centre was set up in July 1995 by Ros Mills, one of our Elders and a local magistrate, who recognised the need for such a centre and saw St. James’ as being an ideal place to have one, having good transport links and suitable premises.

At first we had lots of families attending with a long waiting list, and many referrals from solicitors, but now Legal Aid has been cut, the number of referrals has diminished, with only four families attending at present and no waiting list.

We have to belong to NACCC, the National Association of Child Contact Centres, which involves paying a considerable amount of money in membership fees and annual insurance cover. We have to be accredited by NACCC every three years and our current accreditation runs out in November 2020. Being re-accredited involves a great deal of work for the Co-ordinators who do not wish to go through the process again.

At present we have thirteen volunteers including the two co-ordinators, all getting older with two planning to move away. All these factors have, sadly, made us make the decision to close, but we

feel over the years we have made a valuable contribution to society and now is the right time to make plans for closure.

All the volunteers deserve thanks for their years of faithful service and commitment, some having served for over twenty years.

Isabel Bala

WOODFORD GREEN NEWS



EASTER EXPERIENCE

After the success of our Christmas Experience last December, we again invited two classes from the local Primary School to visit the church to engage in

an Easter experience. With the help of friends from St. James', and from Act4, five people hosted groups of children in various parts of the church building to explain the elements of the Easter story with stories and craft activities. Each child took home a paper carrier bag containing the things they had made and a bag of small Easter eggs! From conversations at the school gate the following day, the children had gone home and told their families all about it, showing them what they had made and telling them about the Easter story.

DIRECTORY

CHINGFORD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Buxton Road, Chingford, E4 7DP

www.chingfordurc.org.uk

CHURCH OFFICE		Tel: 8529 8888
SECRETARY	Malcolm Smith	Tel: 8524 2491 chingfordurc@gmail.com
ADMINISTRATOR	Malcolm Allard	Tel: 8524 1006 chingford.urc@btconnect.com
TREASURER	Eileen Wallace	Tel: 8524 2270
NEWSLETTER CONTACT	Pat Morris	Tel: 8529 6776

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: 8504 7518
Tuesday	1.30–3.00 pm	Club for Under 5s and Carers (Term time only)	Tel: 8529 0071
	7.00–8.30 pm	27 th Chingford Cubs	Tel: 8524 2491
	7.00–8.30 pm	27 th Chingford Scouts	Tel: 8524 2491
Wednesday	12 noon	Lunch Club: £4 meal (last in month)	Tel: 8529 0441
	4.30-6.00pm	Christian Youth + Club organised by Red Balloon	
Thursday	5.45–7.15 pm	5 th Chingford Brownies	Tel: 8529 1475
	7.30–9.00 pm	5 th Chingford Guides	Tel: 8529 4420
Friday	9.30–12 noon	Coffee and Chat	Tel: 8529 0441
	10.30-11.00 am	Prayer Group	

ST. JAMES' UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5NG

www.stjamesurc.org.uk

SECRETARY AND NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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O: roger.neville@alwynsllp.com

HALL MANAGER

Gerald Lee Tel: 8505 0300
geraldelee@ymail.com
Hall bookings: bookstjames@outlook.com

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday 10.30 am Morning Worship (with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month)

Monday 2-3.30pm Craft/Prayer Group on the first Monday each month

5.30 pm 2nd Buckhurst Hill Brownies 8508 7546

7.00 pm 2nd Buckhurst Hill Guides 8508 3480

Wednesday 7.00 pm Sing Emmanuel Choir

Thursday 6.00-7.00 pm 28th Epping Forest Beavers 07960309175

6.30-8.00 pm 28th Epping Forest Cubs 8504 5270

7.30-9.00 pm 28th Epping Forest Scouts 07896031718

Bible Studies also take place on Mondays at 10.30am and repeated at 8.00pm at certain times during the year. Please see calendar for details.

WOODFORD GREEN
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
High Elms, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0UP
www.wgufc.org.uk

SECRETARY
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TREASURER
Paul Corney

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paul.corney@btinternet.com

NEWSLETTER CONTACT
Revd June Colley

Tel: 8529 5403
rev@jcolley.plus.com

REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship and Junior Church (with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month)
	4.00pm	‘Messy Church’ second Sunday of every month
Monday	2.30pm	Jubilee Club (alternate weeks – see calendar for details)
Tuesday	6-7.30pm	14 th Woodford Brownie Pack (aged 7-10)
Thursday	7-9.00pm	14 th Woodford Guide Company (age 10-14)
Friday	9.00-10.30am	Play Café for toddlers and babies with their parents and carers
	6-7.30pm	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 7th Woodford Rainbow Unit
(age 5 – 7)

Wednesday 6.15 – 7.45 pm 16th 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.