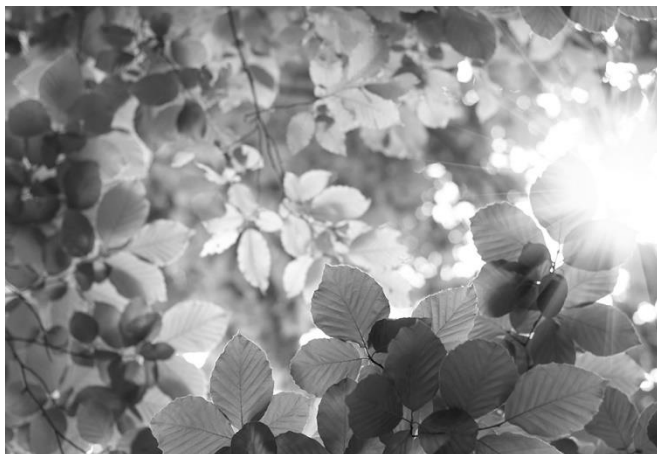




**FOREST GROUP**  
of the United Reformed Church

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



# NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019

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**OUR CHURCHES**

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**MATERIAL FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER NEEDS TO BE  
WITH THE EDITOR BY SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

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## PASTORAL LETTER



Dear friends,

As the news comes in that Parliament was unlawfully prorogued, I hear a great big thunder from above – a commentary from heaven on the unbelievable drama we’re being part of since Brexit all started? There is one good thing that came with the last months in this nation: people seem to have become more political. Demonstrating on the streets, signing petitions online. Maybe

we have come to learn that democracy lives from participation, otherwise it’s meaningless. Maybe we have come to learn that we have to put effort into creating the world we want it to be(come).

And there is more: Greta Thunberg held a strong speech at the United Nation’s Climate Summit, challenging the world leaders in their approach to the crisis of our planet. A determined prophethess, set on her course, not to be distracted, focussing on nothing less but saving the earth for future generations. She managed to mobilise millions of young students and adults world wide to demand change. Again, teaching us that we need to put personal effort into and fight for the world we want it to be(come).

With these signposts for more political and environmental action we go into the season of autumn, and into the second half of our Holy Habit “Sharing Resources”. We are called to find ways of joining our voices and our actions to be salt and light within our communities. We need to take an active part for the sake of God’s creation, and for the sake of God in creation (“see the lilies of the field...” Mt 7,28f.), for the sake of finding (again) an agreeable way of living together in this nation as well as with our next-door, over-channel and over-seas neighbours.

A song-line comes to my mind: “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me”. I’d like to add: “Let there be respect for mother-nature on earth, and let it begin with me.” “Let there be fair discourse on the earth, and let it begin with me.”

Have a blessed October,

Yours in Christ,

Ulrike

(Photos taken at the Extinction Rebellion Friday student protest in September at Walthamstow Market)



## **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

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

### **Chingford**

- 6 Oct        Holy Communion – Revd Ulrike Bell  
*(monthly collection for 1% of Salary appeal for Bangladesh Projects and Global Justice)*
- 13 Oct        All Age Worship - Revd Ulrike Bell
- 20 Oct        Revd Elizabeth Price
- 27 Oct        Kevin and Helen Haigh
- 3 Nov        Holy Communion – Revd John Steele *(monthly collection for 1% of Salary appeal for Bangladesh Projects and Global Justice)*

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

- 6 Oct        Holy Communion – Revd Kevin Swaine  
*(sacramental offertory for CEL/Green Christian)*  
12noon Letter writing for Amnesty International in Church Room
- 13 Oct        Gerald Lee
- 20 Oct        Revd Ulrike Bell *(Commitment for Life Collection)*
- 27 Oct        Keith White *(followed by Church Meeting)*
- 3 Nov        Holy Communion – Revd Ulrike Bell *(Sacramental offertory for Combat Stress)*

## Woodford Green

- 6 Oct      Holy Communion – Revd June Colley
- 13 Oct     9.30am Harvest breakfast  
              Harvest Festival – Revd June Colley
- 20 Oct     Kay Denby
- 27 Oct     All age service – Revd Ulrike Bell
- 3 Nov      Holy Communion – Revd June Colley

## FOREST GROUP COFFEE MORNING



*10.30 am in the Woodford Manse on  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October*

*Discussion topic:  
'Holy Habits - Sharing  
Resources*

## CHURCH EVENTS

### October

- Tuesday 1 **Forest Group** 10.30am Coffee morning at the manse  
**Chingford** 1.30-3.00pm Drop in Club for babies, toddlers and their carers  
**Woodford Grn** 8.00pm Elders meeting at the manse
- Thursday 3 **St. James'** 7.30pm Elders Meeting in church room
- Friday 4 **Chingford** 9.30-12noon Coffee and Chat  
Prayers and Bible Study 10.30-11.00
- Saturday 5 **St. James'** 2.00pm Tea Afternoon at the church (*by invitation only*)
- Monday 7 **St. James'** 2.00-3.30pm Craft/Prayer Group in the church room  
**Woodford Grn** 2.30pm Jubilee Club
- Tuesday 8 **Chingford** Tuesday Club for babies, toddlers and their carers Drop in 1.30-3pm
- Friday 4 **Chingford** 9.30-12noon Coffee and Chat  
Prayers and Bible Study 10.30-11.00  
**St. James'** 1.00-2.00pm Prayer Space in Church Room
- Friday 11 **Chingford** 9.30-12noon Coffee and Chat  
Prayers and Bible Study 10.30-11.00  
**St. James'** 1.00-2.00pm Prayer Space in Church Room
- Tuesday 15 **Chingford** Tuesday Club for babies, toddlers and their carers Drop in 1.30-3.00pm
- Wed'day 16 **Chingford** 10.30am Monthly service for residents at the Spinney led by the Minister
- Thursday 17 **Chingford** 8.00pm Elders meeting in hall



- Friday 18     **Chingford** 9.30-12noon Coffee and Chat  
Prayers and Bible Study 10.30-11.00  
**St. James'** 1.00-2.00pm Prayer Space in Church  
Room
- Monday 21    **Woodford Grn** 2.30pm Jubilee Club: North to  
Alaska with June Colley
- Friday 25     **Chingford** 9.30-12noon Coffee and Chat  
Prayers and Bible Study 10.30-11.00  
**St. James'** 1.00-2.00pm Prayer Space in Church  
Room
- Saturday 26  **St. James'** 6:30pm Film Evening at St. James':  
*'Hotel for Dogs' – a film for all the family*
- Tuesday 29   **Chingford** Tuesday Club for babies, toddlers and  
their carers Drop in 1.30-3pm
- Wed'day 30   **Chingford** 12 noon Lunch Club

### November

- Friday 1     **Chingford** 9.30-12noon Coffee and Chat  
Prayers and Bible Study 10.30-11.00  
**St. James'** 1.00-2.00pm Prayer Space in Church  
Room
- Sunday 3     **Forest Group Council** 2.00pm at Woodford Green
- Monday 4    **St. James'** 2.00-3.00pm Craft/Prayer Group in the  
church room  
**Woodford Grn** 2.30pm Jubilee Club

## **PRAYER SPACE AT ST. JAMES'**

Since our Church Room was refurbished earlier this year, we now have set aside a space for listening and prayer. Each Friday from 1.00-

2.00pm, someone from our congregation will be there for anyone who happens to pass by, who wants to talk or pray. This doesn't have to be a stranger - anyone from our church or the Forest Group, is welcome to come and pray or just sit quietly and enjoy the peace and quietness of that place. Maybe we will see you there!

Isabel Bala

## HOLY HABITS GROUPS

<u>Group 1</u> Meeting monthly after morning worship at Woodford Green URC Facilitator: Suzanne Corney	<u>Group 2</u> Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am June Colley (Host & Facilitator)
<u>Group 3</u> Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am Louise Woodcock (Host) Jean Wyber (Facilitator)	<u>Group 4</u> Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October at 3.00pm Sandra Millan (Host & Facilitator)
<u>Group 5</u> Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm Eileen & Geoff Packe (Host) Margaret Brown (Facilitator)	<u>Group 6</u> 7 <sup>th</sup> October 10.30am Gerald & Mariana Lee (Host) St James URC, Buckhurst Hill Isabel Bala (Facilitator)
<u>Group 7</u> Currently not meeting – members would be very welcome at other groups	<u>Group 8</u> Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 5.00-6.30pm Helen and Kevin Haigh (Host & Facilitators)

## LUNCHTIME PIANO RECITALS AT WOODFORD GREEN URC

We have been very fortunate in the recent donation of a wonderful grand piano and to take advantage of this gift, Sally Wigan, a local professional pianist has offered to perform in a series of monthly recitals. She recently played for the Friday Play Café and it was well received by adults and babies alike.



Sally was born in Chester and gained her Masters degree from the Royal College of Music in 2009 under Andrew Ball. She then studied with Kalman Drafi at the Franz Liszt

Academy, Budapest, as winner of the 2009 Joseph Weingarten Scholarship. Sally has performed across the UK, Switzerland and Hungary in such prestigious venues as Wigmore Hall, the Purcell Room, Symphony Hall Birmingham, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Kings Place Concert Hall and the Franz Liszt Concert Hall in Budapest and has been selected as a Park Lane Group Young Artist for the past three consecutive years, to great critical acclaim.

The inaugural recital will take place on **Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm in the church** and will consist of works by Bach, Debussy, Liszt and Gershwin. It will be a short recital of about 30 minutes and refreshments will be served after the concert. Future recitals are planned for 16<sup>th</sup> December and 20<sup>th</sup> January.

Please come if you can. These are free concerts although donations to cover costs would be appreciated.

## **EXTERNAL EVENTS**

### **Westminster College, Cambridge**

*Living With Dementia- Pastoral and Theological Responses*  
**2<sup>nd</sup> November**

To book a place email: [admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk)  
or Tel: 01223 330632

### **Cockfosters Centre for Spirituality, 29 Bramley Road, Oakwood N144HE**

*The Psalms in Life and Faith* with Revd. Alan Combes  
**9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> October 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

*Praying without words* with Kathryn Turner  
**16<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am - 4.00pm**

To book a place email: [cockfosters@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cockfosters@rcdow.org.uk)  
or telephone: 020 84496648

### **Inside Outside: A Synod Church & Society Network Event**

*An inter-cultural inter-generational event for adults and young people*

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October at Vine URC, Riches Road, Ilford**  
**10.00am- 4.00pm**

### **Thames North Learning Programme**

*Aspiring to More – Pastoral Worship Leading for Lay Preachers*  
**Wednesdays 7.00-9.00pm - November 20<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup>,  
January 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup> and a Study Day on  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 10.00am-4.00pm**  
**at High Cross URC, Tottenham**

For further details contact: [training@thamesnorthurc.org.uk](mailto:training@thamesnorthurc.org.uk)

## THE EAST LONDON THREE FAITHS FORUM

London Boroughs of Barking, Newham, Redbridge & Waltham  
Forest

**We wish all our Jewish members and friends a very happy New  
Year 5780 and well over the Fast**

Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Raheem

By the Grace of God

'v ,rzgC

*'There can be no peace between the nations without peace between  
the religions. There can be no peace between the religions without  
religious dialogue.'*

*Hans Küng*

## WELCOMING THE STRANGER

8.00 pm Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October

at the big al-Madina Mosque, Barking  
(right at the bottom of Ilford Lane, at the junction with  
Victoria Road IG11 8PY, not far from Barking Station)

Lead speakers:

Allama Sadiq Qureshi

Minhaj-ul-Quran

Rev. Tom Britt

Curate, Wanstead Parish Church

Rabbi Lisa Barratt

South-west Essex & Settlement

Reform Synagogue

The meeting will be followed, as usual, by light refreshments

All welcome

No charge

☪ ☩ ✨ ☪ ☩ ✨ ☪ ☩ ✨ ☪ ☩ ✨ ☪ ☩ ✨ ☪ ☩ ✨

**Next meeting:** Christmas / Chanukah / Prophet's Birthday Party

7-9 pm Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at Valentine's Mansion

(subject to confirmation)

## **ARTICLES**

### **REFLECTION:**

#### **Sharing Resources**

With each of the Holy Habits, I have found myself wanting to emphasise that the early Christians acted as they did as a natural response to the astonishing actions of Jesus, His teaching, His life, death and resurrection. Any attempt on our part to reproduce their behaviour must also derive its strength from the same source; otherwise it will be a mere parody.

I believe that the early Christians shared resources because they felt “they were all in the same boat”, set apart from the world by the extraordinarily privileges they had suddenly been granted; forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, a promise of eternal life, the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, and the chance to pass on the exciting news to others.

As the apostle Paul later pointed out, they (and we, if we are Christians) have been adopted as sons of God, into that most loving, intimate family we call the Holy Trinity. It was the action of our elder brother, the Lord Jesus, in dying on the cross that made such an adoption possible, and in this way enabled us to share the love of His Father. Given the way that humanity treated Him, the generosity of that sharing is utterly astounding.

Let us bow before Him in gratitude and adoration.

Kevin Haigh

## CHINGFORD NEWS

### A Review of Mission/ Outreach Proposals Church meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September

- The Minister has been conducting monthly services for residents in The Spinney residential home every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 10:30am. Our relationship with the care home has been strengthened and residents are also attending our Friday coffee mornings. The next service is on 16<sup>th</sup> October
- At the September 15<sup>th</sup> Church Parade and Harvest Festival the Guides put on an excellent display on the theme “harvest of achievements” and encouraged Brownies to attend by holding a badge workshop after the service. Scouts and Cubs did not come as their meetings did not start until September 17<sup>th</sup>. Scouts and Cubs will be invited to do their display at the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 Church Parade
- We have a Church Anniversary service with a service of rededication and commitment to Holy Habits on November 17<sup>th</sup>
- We are Extending our Church Fair on December 7<sup>th</sup> to include free stalls for users of premises for sales and publicity. Admission will be £1 including a raffle ticket on main door.
- We will arrange to have a publicity stall with messy church activities at the Chingford Village Festival on June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Messy Church may be moved to Chingford, but before making a decision on this questionnaires are being issued to Cubs, Brownies, Tumbletons and Toddlers club to gauge likely take up. If this is not successful consideration will be given to a 9am Sunday Café Style service for children and their families as an alternative.
- A Bereavement/ Memorial service for the local community is being considered for a Saturday afternoon in January/ February (date to be arranged)

- A Pet Service is being considered for the Church Parade service on 14<sup>th</sup> June, which is also traditionally the Church Picnic.

## **ST JAMES' NEWS**

### Church Meeting Notes

September 2019

Our September Church Meeting was chaired by Revd. Ulrike Bell and was attended by fifteen people in the newly refurbished Church Room, with a recently donated carpet on the floor. At the end of the meeting Ulrike led us in a prayer of dedication, asking that the room would be put to good use for God's purposes in our neighbourhood. News of the church family was exchanged at the beginning of the meeting before moving on to other matters.

Copies of the church accounts for 2018 had been distributed. They were approved and then signed by the Minister. Our new advertising boards, are now being used to advertise church events, such as morning services, film evenings and the Friday Prayer Space. The permanent notice boards on Russell Road are all to be replaced, as they have seen better days.

Our Harvest Festival Parade Service had gone well, with amazing Harvest decorations done by Mariana Lee and Eileen Packe. A good amount of gifts of food and toiletries had been donated during the service for Epping Forest Food Bank. Their recent newsletter gave details of their work in our area and announced the opening of



*Fellowship 2000*, whereby supporters can make a regular donation to the foodbank by setting up a standing order from their bank.

Volunteers are needed to help the foodbank with distribution, fundraising, driving and cleaning. They have seen a 21% increase in use of the foodbank since December 2018, due to the introduction of Universal Credit in the Epping Forest District. A fundraising concert for their work is being held in St. Mary's Church in Loughton on Saturday 9th November, with *Rock Choir* performing.

The series of Film Nights at St. James' has been enjoyable, but could be better attended. Advertising the events on social media and the Forest Group website should help. The next Film Evening will be on 26th October at 6:30 pm, when *Hotel for Dogs* will be shown.

The *Prayer/ Listening Time* on Fridays in the Church Room between 1.00-2.00pm began on 23rd August, and those on duty have found it a useful time for private prayer and reflection, but no one else has turned up. Church members were encouraged to come along, if only for a short time to pray together. Strangers do turn up however, at random times during the week, asking for a place to pray and they are directed to the church room.

We are looking forward to the *Thanksgiving Dinner* for hall users and church members on Saturday 23rd November and the series of special Christmas services led by some of our church members. We will have a 6.00pm Christmas Eve service this year, followed by seasonal refreshments. Some of us will be Carol singing in Queen's Road on Friday 6th December and at Woodford Station on Thursday 19th December from 5.30 -6.30pm in aid of Redbridge Single Homeless Project.

May God be with us in all our planned events, as we pray that our mission can be fulfilled, here in Buckhurst Hill.

Isabel Bala

## **WOODFORD GREEN NEWS**

### **GLADYS EVANS**

#### **Our oldest member - RIP**

As with a lot of funeral addresses, we learned things about the deceased which we wished we had known and been able to talk to them about in their life with us.

Gladys died 12 days short of her 107<sup>th</sup> birthday and must have wanted her lifespan to be shorter as although her mind was active her physical body was incapacitated for a number of years. Ulrike had been able to visit and say prayers with her shortly before she died. The number of people who knew her and were able to attend her funeral was rather low, but Denise, Janet and I attended from the church which occupied so much of her later life until she became housebound. However, she maintained a keen interest in us – all magazines, Church meeting minutes, accounts etc. were taken or sent to her by Denise as requested.

Gladys was born in 1912 in Kent and moved to Woodford to work at the Wilfred Lawson Hotel before marrying in 1937 and being widowed in 1954 leaving her with four children under the age of 17. Her husband David Evans had owned a coach company and was active in local Conservative, Masonic and Rotary circles which led to

Gladys being a founder member of the local Inner Wheel. At the funeral tea at the Woodford Golf Club we exchanged memories with Jill Barton of the Inner Wheel of being hauled over the coals by Gladys for slips in procedure for our respective organisations.

Looking at the membership roll for the church, we found that although Gladys moved to Woodford in 1937, she did not become a member of the church until 1976 when she was in her sixties. Janet thinks she would have attended the Welsh church in Leytonstone with her husband and when widowed she came to Woodford Green United Free but remaining an adherent for a number of years before becoming a member. She gave the church well over 30 years of faithful service on the Women's Council and as the Church Housekeeper. Gladys was fierce but faithful and cared about our fellowship and has been the subject of lots of shared memories among our members.

## **VOLUNTEERING AT HAVEN HOUSE**

Since my retirement I have enjoyed volunteering for Haven House Children's Hospice in Woodford. The hospice is set in beautiful forest grounds under the control of the City Of London. Previously a care home, known as the White House, the land is designated for community use only.

Haven House cares for children from birth to 19 years of age, with life limiting or life threatening conditions. The hospice also believes in supporting their parents/carers, siblings and other family members

for as long as they need the services offered. The families are referred to Haven House by hospitals and other health professionals.

The children, unlike hospices for adults, live at home with their families and come to Haven House for a range of services which are all free of charge. Each family is allocated 12 days a year respite care, when their child can stay overnight at the hospice under the care of qualified nurses and trained support staff. This gives the parents and siblings time to go away or just spend time together. This is an important and valued part of the work of the hospice. Other services offered include:

- art, play and music therapy
- sensory play both indoors, in a room equipped with specialised computer software, and outdoors in the sensory garden
- play in the garden area with a swing suitable for wheelchair users, a sunken trampoline and a pirate ship
- Afterschool play
- toy loan
- hospice at home service
- end of life and bereavement services

The sibling group meet during school holidays and have fun days either at the hospice or going out for the day. It is important for these youngsters to be with other children with similar home challenges, who understand what life is like for them.

Hospices play a vital role in communities. In addition to the approximate 25% funding from the government, Haven House need

to raise £4 million a year to meet the needs of our families in north east London and parts of Essex, by providing these services. There is a large team of volunteers (although there is always room for more!) undertaking a wide range of roles which include assisting in one of the charity shops, fundraising (you may have seen me with a bucket outside the tube!), gardening to maintain the beautiful grounds, helping with the children in care and the sibling group, reception duties, organising your own fundraising event, assisting at major events such as the Summer Festival , Pumpkin Plod and Winter Festival

The hospice is a happy place. We aim to give the children with life limiting or life threatening conditions the best possible life with lots of fun and stimulation. I feel very privileged to be part of the team.

Frances Scott

***[Apologies to Steve Bell for not acknowledging his contribution about his breadmaking in the September edition! – Ed.]***

## **DIRECTORY**

### **CHINGFORD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

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## **RAY LODGE SITE**

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

**Caretaker**

Peter Pitt

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