

Palmers Green United Reformed Church

June Magazine – 2019

For all people who seek and share the Good News of Jesus Christ
Member of Churches Together in Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill



Our Morning Worship with Garth Hewitt!

See page 13

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WORSHIP SERVICES - JUNE 2019

Date	Time	Service	Worship Leader
Sunday, June 2nd	11am	Communion Service	Dr Paul Ashitey
Sunday, June 9th	11am	Parade Service Trinity / Fathers' Day	Mr Martin Wells
Sunday, June 16th	11am	Morning Worship	Revd Melanie Smith
Sunday, June 23rd	11am	Morning Worship	Mrs Michaela Lawrence
Sunday, June 30th	11am	Morning Worship	Revd Martin Legg

Morning Worship is held every Sunday, and includes Holy Communion on the first or second Sunday of each month. Arrangements for additional services are publicised in advance. Christian Education for young people takes place during morning worship.

BIBLE READINGS FOR JUNE 2019 SUNDAY SERVICES

2nd June	9th June	16th June
Acts 16.16-34 Psalm 97 Rev 22.12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17.20-26	Acts 2.1-21 Psalm 104.24-34, 35b Romans 8.14-17 John 14.8-17, (25-27)	John 16.12-15 Proverbs 8.1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5.1-5
23rd June Galatians 3.23-29 Isaiah 65.1-9 Psalm 22.19-28 Luke 8.26-39	30th June Galatians 5.1, 13-25 1 Kings 19.15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Luke 9.51-62	



CHURCH DIARY

Elders' Meetings 2019 – 7.30pm, Margaret Russell Room

- Wednesday 24th July
- Tuesday 8th October
- Wednesday 4th December

Church Meetings 2019 – 1pm, Burford Hall

- Sunday 9th June
- Sunday 8th September
- Sunday 24th November (Annual Forum)

'A Place for Coffee' is open every Saturday morning (10.30am - 12 noon)

Additional information about upcoming **Enfield URC** events can be found on pages 26 and 27 of this magazine. Please refer to the weekly **Bulletin**, available by email and at services each Sunday, and to **NewsShare** email messages, for more up-to-date information about events.



HALLS LETTING: Contact Mikayla Coote, Bookings Manager
Tel: 01366 348190 | email: pgurcbookings@outlook.com
Please visit our website for more details -
<http://www.palmersgreenurc.org.uk/halls.html>

The waiting is over...

We have been waiting, with the disciples, with the friends of Jesus; those who had seen him executed and witnessed in one way or another his re-appearances, having risen from the dead.

Some of them had been there when he ascended into heaven.

The day of Pentecost drew nearer and nearer, and the friends of Jesus wondered what exactly it was that they were waiting for.



“While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This,’ he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’” (Acts 1:4,5)

Luke records Jesus speaking about them being baptized with the Holy Spirit – but what did this mean? What does it mean for us today, living many years later?

Probably, very like us, the disciples were unsure as to what exactly was going to happen, what being baptized with the Holy Spirit was to mean, was to look like, what impact it might have on their lives.

For the moment, at least, they probably still felt uncertain and a little fearful of what was going on.

The experience of following Jesus over the last three years will have almost certainly been a challenge, whilst also being a delight to them.

How does their journey compare to our own? Do we find following Jesus to be a challenge, and a delight, or simply difficult, finding little room for delight?

One of the things that strikes me from reading through the account of the first day of Pentecost (see Acts chapter 2 for the details) is the rush, the excitement, the joy and delight that seems to pour out of the disciples' experience on that day.

Yes, there is the call for the people to repent, which, for some people, may be something that they find difficult to hear, but the call is accompanied by a promise:

“so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38)

Yes, there is a sense of awe about what was going on around them (Acts 2:43) and I am not quite sure what your feelings may or may not be about that, but, for me, there is an overriding sense of joy and delight coming out from the account of what happened that day... so much so that others seem to think that it looks like they are all drunk, intoxicated with new wine (Acts 2:13).

If we have received the Holy Spirit as those early disciples did, and I believe there is no reason that we should not have done so, or do so, then we should surely be expecting to see something of that joy and that excitement when we come together to worship God, shouldn't we?

If you feel that this is something that is still not quite there for you, if you feel that you may not have received the Holy Spirit then do please take some time as we approach Pentecost this year to go to God in prayer and ask that God might give you this gift.

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches find, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened... If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:9 – 13)

God will respond to children that cry out asking, searching and knocking – an answer will come. Wait and see.

Your ministers

Melanie and Mark

Visit from the Moderator

The Moderator of General Assembly, Revd. Nigel Uden, will be visiting Enfield on Saturday 29th June. You are invited to join him for lunch, worship, reflection and chat at Winchmore Hill URC from 12.00.

Forest Church

The 5th Southgate Scout Group have a fantastic facility in their field at the top of the Paulin Ground on Ford's Grove. We are aware of the need to protect this for current and future generations. With this in mind, we have been talking to the group about using it to establish 'Forest Church'. Forest Church, at its simplest is church, yet outdoors, although more informal and with more activities suitable for all ages, such as collecting stones for a cairn, listening for particular bird song, making things, interspersed with song and short reflections and chatting to the Creator we find through creation.

A small group will be meeting to plan and organise, with a view to our first Forest Church on Friday 30th August at 6.30pm. We will confirm details closer to the time.

Promoted to glory

Yes, I know that's not a phrase that we generally hear used much nowadays, but it takes me back to my early Christian adventures when I was a member of the Pentecostal church for a while – and it is wording that describes how I felt recently when, over the course of a weekend, two people who have been influential on me in my own personal spiritual journey, died.

First, there was **Rachel Held Evans**.

I encountered Rachel a little by chance when I picked up her first novel "*Evolving in Monkey Town*", (published in 2008) which explores her journey from religious certainty to a faith which accepts doubt and questioning. From reading that and beginning to find out more about her and following her activities on social media I have found myself over the years identifying strongly with many of her viewpoints and the things that she shared.

She had a very open approach to faith and was keen to encourage millennials in particular to find and explore faith in an open way, not

simply accepting without question the teachings and approach of the church (“Young people don’t simply want a better show” – one of her quotes).

Her subsequent books demonstrate that approach:

A Year of Biblical Womanhood: How a Liberated Woman Found Herself Sitting on Her Roof, Covering Her Head and Calling Her Husband Master

Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again Rachel was placed in a medically induced coma in April 2019 following an allergic reaction to medication for an infection. Her condition worsened due to “severe swelling of her brain” and she died, aged 37, on 4 May 2019. Secondly, a couple of days later the news came through of the death of **Jean Vanier**, at the age of 90.

Jean was a Canadian Catholic philosopher, theologian and humanitarian who, in 1964 founded L’Arche, an international federation of communities now spread over 37 countries for people with developmental disabilities.

Over the years he wrote 30 books on religion, disability, normality, success and tolerance and, on many occasions, I have found his words to be both inspiring and challenging.

Here’s a quick sample:

“We are not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love.”

“Many people are good at talking about what they are doing, but in fact do little. Others do a lot but don't talk about it; they are the ones who make a community live.”

“Every child, every person needs to know that they are a source of joy; every child, every person, needs to be celebrated. Only when all of our weaknesses are accepted as part of our humanity can our negative, broken self-images be transformed.”

As I said at the beginning, the only words I can use to describe these two people is that they have been promoted to glory.

I must admit to still being a little shell-shocked at the death of such people, following on, for me, so closely to the sudden death of someone who had also become an inspiration in a very short period of time for us in Enfield, Vicky Martin.

May all those we know and love retain a place in our hearts for ever.

Eco Tip

The Mission Council of the United Reformed Church has just agreed to withdraw any investments they hold nationally from companies whose main business is the extraction of fossil fuels. This follows Bush Hill Park URC's Easter Fossil Fuel Free declaration (but perhaps not the only reason)!

Why not consider switching to a supplier which only generates its electricity from renewable sources? There are many on the market now. Mark and Melanie have been with Ecotricity for years, but other providers are available, such as Bulb and Good Energy.

Mark (and Melanie)

P.S.: A little thanks to Wikipedia for some of the above information.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a group of different people looking for
and finding, strength and meaning in God's love.

You will always be welcomed gladly.

We worship and pray together.

We learn about God's love and forgiveness
through Jesus, the Bible and with the help of each other.

Together we will work to make Jesus present
by loving actions done, and by loving words spoken,
in this church and beyond these doors.

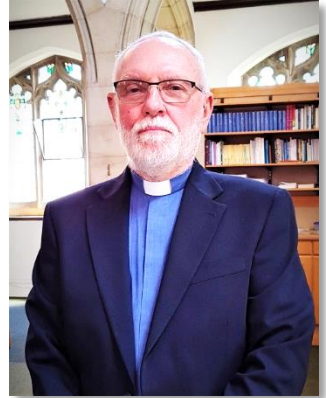
Christian Hope!

A sermon by Revd Derek Lindfield (pictured right), visiting worship leader at our church and retired minister living in Muswell Hill, delivered on Sunday 12th May 2019.

Bible Readings:

Psalm 40.1-5, 13-17

Thessalonians 5.4-11



Two men who would not see ‘fifty’ again were reminiscing one evening. One of them suddenly asked, “Have you ever realised any of your childhood hopes?” Pausing for a moment to think, his companion then responded, “Yes, when my mother used to brush and comb my hair, I often wished I didn’t have any”.

In his first letter to the Thessalonians Paul counsels his readers to have hope - hope not wishes - in the light of the uncertainty of human life. There is a very real sense in which we do not know what the future holds, so Paul tells us that we should have ‘the hope of salvation’ as a helmet.

Hope is difficult to have. Let’s be honest about it. Think about the times and situations you have given reign to despair. The dictionary definition of despair is spot on - loss, utter want of hope; thing that causes this, whether by badness or unapproachable excellence.

My heart has often gone out to young people at funeral services of their contemporaries. Their grief is compounded by despair and is so very intense. George Eliot in her novel *Adam Bede* perceptively wrote, ‘For there is no despair so absolute as that which comes from the first moments of our first great sorrow, when we have not yet known what it is to have suffered and be healed, to have despaired and to have recovered hope’.

But despair is not confined to the young experiencing grief and loss. My guess is that most of us at different times experience despair to a greater

or lesser degree. Jesus experienced it on the cross when he shouted out, ‘My God, why have you forsaken me?’ In a sense what he said sums up the psychological reality of despair. We feel alone, deserted by God, and left to our own devices anxiously trying to think of ways in which we can overcome our desperation.

The great Jewish writer Martin Buber argued that the experience of despair is a necessary one if we are to grow as human beings. He suggested that, ‘Before we can achieve greatness, we must descend to smallness, to a state of simplicity. Even in the deepest sinking there is a hidden purpose of an ultimate rising’. Hope, true hope, is not possible, unless we have first experienced despair. Jesus showed *that* on the cross. Having questioned why God had deserted him he was able to say, ‘Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit’. And *that* is a statement of ultimate faith and hope.

The psalmist writes in Psalm 40, ‘I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand’.

The psalmist remembers a time in his life when he was in the depths of despair. A time in his life when everything seemed hopeless. We don’t know what the pit, of which he spoke, was. But I rather imagine that it was not unlike the pits in which we sometimes find ourselves through illness, uncertainty, difficult relationships, work and money problems and family difficulties. Whatever it was, he tells us that it was like sloshing around in a wet and muddy pit. And the longer he stayed there the more horrible it became.

His experience is our experience. When we are in the pit of despair, it isn’t a static thing. Our despair plays with our minds and our spirits in such a way that we get more and more bogged down. It’s interesting that the word translated ‘slimy’ can also be rendered ‘desolate’, but literally the Hebrew word means ‘noisy’. That, I think, rings true. The pits in which we find ourselves in life are filled with noise that breaks us down and tears us up. It’s the noise of the world telling us, ‘you made a really big mistake’ or ‘you’ll never get over this’, or ‘you aren’t up to much’ or ‘no one loves and cares for you’. These ring in our ears. They dig into us. They gnaw away at us. And so, the noisy pit is often where we find ourselves, waiting and

calling out for help and salvation.

And then it happens. Psalm 40 reminds us that in God's timing, maybe slowly, maybe quickly, maybe not in the way we had planned it, the help and salvation comes. The fog clears away. But more than that, our inability to get any sort of foothold changes. It seems that we are on firmer ground.

This can be dramatic. An individual is saved from the despair of losing a loved one, or from the ravages of a disease like cancer, or from the trauma of marriage breakdown. It may be in smaller crises, which all of us have from time to time, and which at the time seem very big. It might be an argument with a loved one, or the car breaking down when we needed to be somewhere. Whatever it was, my guess is that we have had the experience of finding a 'firm place to stand'. And, perhaps, to our shame we have not recognised the hand of God in this.

Of all the things I do, marrying people and baptising babies gives me most pleasure. I can still remember my feelings upon hearing the news that one of the first couples I married was getting divorced. Wedding ceremonies in particular are so infused with hope. But these words, uttered by a young lady called Jane Lockett, make difficult reading: 'Hey, marriage types, wake up to the 21st century: nobody believes you can promise to love someone for ever and know for sure that you can keep that promise. There's the God stuff, I guess, but I can't relate to the kind of half-wits who go in for all that. Getting married consists of. speaking a load of words that are easy to say but impossible to stick to. You end up tearing each other to bits, like my folks, arguing the toss about pension rights. Or you stay together 'for the sake of the children', while your love cools, ices over and freezes solid – as with my friend's parents.'

William Barclay once said, 'The Christian hope is the hope which has seen everything and endured everything, and still has not despaired, because it believes in God. The Christian hope is not hope in the human spirit, in human goodness, in human endurance, in human achievement; the Christian hope is hope in the power of God.'

Jane Lockett is locked in a sort of despair about marriage. She freely admits that she can't relate half-wits like me who believe in God, which is a great pity, because it is only God who can rescue her from that despair.

Those of us who are believers in Jesus Christ have in him the object of our hope, whether we are at the highest level of personal joy or lowest depths of despair. He is faithful and will continue to be faithful, whether the outcome in this life is joyful or grim. We hold onto the fact that he is with us - as the hymn says - 'through all the changing scenes of life' and that nothing 'in all creation can separate us from his love'.

What are we called to do with this hope we have? What are we to do with it? In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul reminds us that we are children of light, and not the darkness. We have been claimed by Christ as his own and have been given the hope of eternal life with him. Paul tells us that we shouldn't get caught up in the noise of the darkness. We shouldn't let the hope we have in Christ be influenced by the doubt of the age in which we live, and which can put a question mark against all that we believe and cherish. We are called to live in the light of the knowledge that he has acted for us, and with hope, believe that no matter what happens to us he will be acting on our behalf and for our welfare and well-being. Paul, in Romans, asserts that Christ is always working for our good. That is our hope and belief.

Someone once wrote that 'hope is not closing of your eyes to the difficulty, the risk, or the failure. It is a trust that if I fail now, I shall not fail for ever; and if I am hurt, I shall be healed. It is a trust that life is good, and love is powerful.' It is believing that we are held in the hand of God.

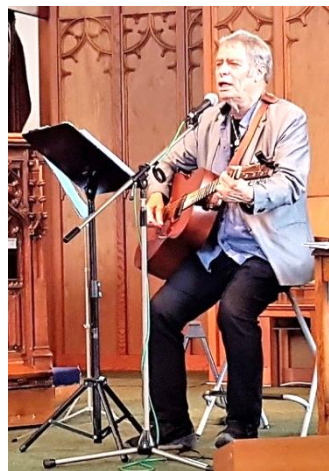
I don't know about you, but I can't handle my life on my own. When I attempt to do so, I am reduced to despair. I need the help of God through Jesus Christ. Consequently, I have a hope in the future that is certain because I know that I am encircled and empowered by the love of God. I know there will be times when I will need to be saved from myself, and my situation, and that Christ will be my saviour and will deliver me. So, Paul's words are ones that I must take to heart and I put on the helmet of 'the hope of salvation'.

Editor's Note: During Revd Lindfield's address on the 12th May 2019, he recalled an infant baptism he performed at our church of Jackson Samson Atkinson-Combe on Sunday 4th June 2017. Photos of this can be found in the PGURC July Magazine 2017, pages 1 & 2.

Garth Hewitt performs at PGURC Morning Worship (cover story)

On Sunday 19th May our service was led by our Minister Revd Melanie Smith and assisted by Revd Mark Meatcher on the theme 'Love One Another'. Bible readings were from Acts 11.1-18 and John 13.31-35.

We sang the hymns 'Great God, your love has called us here' and 'The Kingdom of God is justice and joy' and Melanie then introduced renowned gospel singer-songwriter **Garth Hewitt** (pictured right). Garth talked about his inspiring life's work as a campaigner for justice throughout the world, mentioning specifically his involvement in Nicaragua, Palestine, South Africa and India. He then led the congregation in singing some of his songs, including 'Love One Another' and 'Ten Measures of Beauty'.



Garth has produced over 50 albums of his music, beginning in 1973 with 'The Lion and the Lamb', to his latest 'Against the Grain' that accompanies his memoir of the same name. He has also published at least eight other books, including gospel song books for children. Garth also founded the human rights charity **Amos Trust** in 1985 and worked for 26 years as its Director, before then handing that role on to Chris Rose. For 25 years Garth was also one of the Directors/Board Members of the **Greenbelt Festival**. He was ordained in the

Church of England and began his ministerial work in 1973.

Garth is pictured left with Revd Melanie Smith, Garth's wife Gill and Revd Mark Meatcher.

More information can be found about this talented performer and celebrated campaigner for justice on his website at:

<http://www.garthhewitt.org>

Editor



A Tree for Loraine

By Jean Alderman

Recently Southgate Trefoil Guild planted a tree (right) in memory of Loraine Edwards at *Cherry Green Trees*, a Guide campsite in Colney Heath, Hertfordshire. The site, a large field alongside an Ancient Wood, was given to the Guides of Middlesex East in 1926.

Loraine (pictured below) was a member of this church, and died last year at the age of 95. We all have different memories of her accumulated over the years of her long life.



In addition to her main occupation as Deputy Head Teacher of St. Michael's School, Wood Green, she was Guide Captain for 5th Palmers Green Guides (at St George's Presbyterian Church, Fox Lane), later starting a Cadet Company and becoming a County Trainer. She was also a member of the Heraldry Group, and a loyal member of Southgate Trefoil Guild, along with Betty Vokins and Rene Wilkinson.

Many of you came to Loraine's Thanksgiving Service last August, so I would just like to share with you a few of my memories of camping at 'Cherry' in the early fifties as a guide with Loraine as QM. Cherry was very different then - this was before any of us had television or mobile phones!

We arrived at Cherry in the back of a removal lorry, sitting on our kit bags, singing and waving to all the passing motorists. The lorry driver refused to drive up the lane, so we had to make a chain and pass all the camping equipment and the food along hand to hand until it reached the field.

During the war the field was taken over by the *War Agricultural Committee* and crops were grown for the war effort. When we first

camped here, we had to pitch our tents on the remains of these ploughed furrows and the grass was over two feet high. We soon wore paths across the field and flattened the grass around our tents. Not the smooth field of today, turf was removed to make a cooking area for the wood fire to cook our meals, the turf being carefully kept watered and put back at the end of the week.

After helping with preparing and cooking the meals, my favourite 'patrol duty' was collecting wood. We were shown how to throw ropes over dead branches and pull them down to be used as fuel to cook our meals and keep the fire going to heat water.

Personal washing took place in wash tents in the form of hessian cubicles. Hot water was available from a metal dustbin heated over the fire. Lorraine told us to 'wash up as far as possible, wash down as far as possible and then wash possible'.

The 'lats' were in sheds in the woods - very spooky at night. You needed a companion to make this trip. By the time you had asked a friend to go with you, climbed over the sleeping bodies, struggled into your wellingtons and found your torch, the whole patrol seemed to be awake and joined the trip, even worse if it was raining. I wonder, did we really need to go to the loo in the middle of the night when we were at home?

On wet days, we were allowed to take our meals into the Nissen hut. We sat crossed-legged on the wooden floor - shelves stacked high with camping equipment all around us. It was very dark with only very small windows. We waited for billy cans of hot food to be brought in by the cook patrol; a dollop of stew or maybe cheese fritters on an enamelled plate.

De Havilland airfield at Hatfield was close by and at one camp they were testing the new Vulcan jet aircraft. These would suddenly burst very low over the woods with no warning of their approach. It was like an explosion and we saw these shiny metal triangular aircraft, just above our heads, disturbing the peace.

During our camping there was a visiting afternoon for parents, who managed to smuggle food in for our midnight feast without captain knowing - I wonder!

On the last evening we had a Fancy-Dress Camp Fire. Jessie Lowden, our other Guide Leader, made her daughter Jill, then about five, a hoola-hoola skirt from the long grass around us.

Everyone who loves Cherry, like Loraine, has worked tirelessly over the years fund-raising and maintaining the site so that girls of all ages can come and enjoy the great outdoors.

Cherry Lodge has replaced the old Nissen hut. There is storage for camping equipment, a modern kitchen, dormitories for Brownie Pack Holidays, flush loos, showers, a tuck shop where you can buy souvenirs of your stay, space for activities all the year round and beautifully maintained woodlands to explore and enjoy. I learnt so much about the trees, birds, wildflowers and stars - thanks to Loraine.

The tree we planted is a sweet chestnut, which started its life in Yorkshire, so we all hope it has now found a happy home. While the ceremony was taking place, a Red Kite was soaring over the field. A thank-you to Mike Worms (our Woodland Consultant) for his advice, and for preparing the site to plant the tree.



Geraldine Orfeur, a friend of Loraine, read the following poem:

Trees by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.



Pam Knight, from Southgate Trefoil Guild, read the following two poems:

Advice from a Tree

Stand tall and proud
Sink your roots into the earth
Be content with your natural beauty
Go out on a limb
Drink plenty of water
Remember your roots
Enjoy the view!

Cherry

A beautiful campsite, not far from home,
Plenty of tent space and woods we can roam.
Good accommodation, a roof over our heads,
Plenty of comfort, and plenty of beds.
But what is more important, people are here,
The sound of laughter, bringing such cheer.
God must have chosen this beautiful site,
To be with us here, all day and all night.

Jean

The Winter Night Shelter, 7th January – 8th April 2019

By Estelle Müller

Background Information:

Again, this year, I volunteered for the Winter Night Shelter at St John's Parish, which can accommodate up to 14 guests, and this year the guests ranged from 8 to 14 in number from week to week. The Night Shelter is, as usual, organised by the charity '**All People All Places**' (**APAP**), which is an Overnight Respite for Enfield and Haringey Homeless Respite Service.



This year Tom Smith took over the running of the Respite at St. John's, from Nick Burch with whom I had previously liaised. Tom had a meeting with potential volunteers last October and we were sent emails with attached information that we were expected to follow. These were:

- **Volunteer Handbook**
- **Completed Volunteer Rota** (Organised in three shifts: Evening, Night and Morning)
- **Checklists of the roles**
- **Information about a Support Service** available (to allow volunteers to talk through experiences with others in a safe and confidential space and get support, if required).

The **APAP** office in Haringey receives all the recommended guest applications from other agencies. These applications are processed, and those individuals accepted are then included in the scheme. They then spend each night of the week in a different church, or venue (each venue operates only one night a week), while the scheme is operating, namely between the months of January and April. Not all churches can offer shower facilities but there are washing facilities at all venues. The guests shower when showers are available at their venue. This charitable organisation also helps guests to find permanent accommodation, work (in some cases), and financial support (if necessary).

The Venue - St John's Parish:

The St John's venue operated only on Monday nights this year. The venue included a large hall, where the male guests slept and ate their meals, and where a table was set up (see photo below).



There was also a small side room (below middle) where the women slept, and the night shift slept in the church. There was a kitchen for preparing breakfast and dinner; three toilets with sinks for washing; a cupboard (below right) that the Night Shelter uses to store bedding, toiletries, food and crockery; and access to another cupboard with cleaning materials.

A table (below left) was always set up in the foyer area with tea and coffee facilities for the guests and volunteers to help themselves. Volunteers were encouraged to sit and eat with the guests.



The Guests:

The guests were all quite young this year, ranging from about late twenties to late forties. They were mainly men, but a few women stayed a short time, and one couple attended for the entire period. A few guests would engage in light conversations with the volunteers but generally they were more subdued this year. Personally, I didn't develop a rapport with any of the guests this year as I had done in previous years. Although there wasn't much talk, there were several guests who helped to strip the beds and fold them up, ready to be wheeled behind the reredos in the church. All guests had access to towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other toiletries. Clothing was also available if needed.

Apart from that, volunteers donated cooked food for the evening meal and Greggs donated sandwiches and cakes (pictured above) left over from their commercial day. The guests would help themselves to the



sandwiches and take them away before leaving on Tuesday mornings, which is the shift that I did. Most guests this year seemed to be in work so a few had to leave very early and required an early breakfast (pictured left). I sometimes cooked

breakfast, although I didn't normally work in the kitchen.

The Volunteers:

Tom Smith had informed us that this year we had more volunteers than in previous years, which is obviously a positive thing. Therefore, the rota was organised in three shifts to have six volunteers on any shift with one person being the shift leader. Being a morning volunteer, I was more

acquainted with the tasks allocated to that shift. The shift leader would organise the team to do the following tasks:

- **Beds** – Stripping beds and placing bedding in bags for washing together with towels and tea towels.
- **Folding beds** and replacing them in the reredos in the church.
- **Storage Cupboards** – tidying and re-stacking neatly.
- **Cleaning** – Sweep the floors and mop where required, not just the sleeping areas, but the whole area that was occupied by the night shelter, including the toilets.
- **Kitchen** – Taking guests' orders, and cooking and serving the breakfast. Putting out the trays of Greggs sandwiches, plus setting up the tea and coffee area.
- **Taking the dirty linen to the local launderette.**
- **Emptying the rubbish.**
- **Returning the trays to Greggs**
- **Locking up**

Conclusion:

I would just like to say that I thoroughly enjoy working at the St. John's Night Shelter. I love meeting the guests, getting to know them a little and talking to them in their own language which I am fortunate enough to be skilled in. For me it's a very good way of breaking down barriers both at the shelter and elsewhere!! Apart from the guests, it was also interesting



meeting, talking to and working with the other volunteers (see a few pictured in the Kitchen on p.21). The shelter scheme is a very good idea in helping some of the homeless to get a good night sleep and a hot meal. These people come with different problems and worries; we the volunteers are happy to take away some of that if only for a short while with a smile and a kind word. I look forward to continuing my work with other guests and volunteers in future years.

Estelle Müller

Elder at PGURC and Night Shelter Volunteer

May 2019

Editor’s Note: More information about **All People All Places** can be found on their website at: <http://allpeopleallplaces.org/> .

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Easter Sunday Fun!

By Nathalie Müller

Easter Sunday is always guaranteed to be a fun day for Junior Church and this year the weather made it an extra special ‘Sun-day’. We were so happy to be joined by seven children, some familiar faces (Megan, Tia, Mia, Nathan, Maya and Alex) and some new to our church (welcome Aaryan and Anya).



We started our activities with a bit of Easter Bingo (pictured left). Everyone was a winner and the children were keen to eat their mini eggs straight away!



Then we all headed outside for our annual Easter hunt in the gardens. The children had to search for 47 Easter figures hidden in the trees and bushes. It took quite some time...

Thankfully 46 were recovered and only one is still out there... somewhere!



It really was a Happy Easter in Junior Church!

Nathalie

Photos by Nathalie Müller

Guides help with Palmers Green Spring Clean

By Claire Keene

On Saturday 11th May 2019, some intrepid guides (pictured below) set off from church to help with Spring Clean Palmers Green.

Our task was to plant up the area just outside the Job Centre. Luckily the earth had already been dug over and prepared for us, so we had the fun job of planting it up.



After a quick gardening lesson, the Guides got to work and soon had the shrubs planted, followed by some marigolds that would give it a splash of colour. Next came the hard bit, transporting buckets of water down from the Starfish cafe, two blocks away, to water them all in. After a lot of walking with full buckets our job was finally done.

We then took the opportunity to walk round to Green Lanes and see what other jobs had been done by the other volunteers. We were also treated to a slice of free pizza from Papa John's and free ice cream from Swirliz before returning to the church.

Well done Guides, on helping to make a difference in our local area. I hope everyone will take a moment to look at and enjoy the planting on their way down Aldermans Hill.

Claire

Photo courtesy of Palmers Green Action Team and London Borough of Enfield.

If Parables Mean Nothing

By Lucy Berry

If parables mean nothing
then we could go ahead,
and pass by; offering no room,
no medicine, no bed.

If Bible now means nothing,
tell Joseph to go home
and tell the pregnant Mary
she never should have come.

If all of it all means nothing
then we can close the door
on ancient ways of welcome
that we believed before,
and write to Abram and his wife
and tell them of the danger,
the foolishness, the silliness,
of welcoming the stranger;
and email Jesus right away
and, gently, tell him how
the hungry and the naked
just aren't our business now.

If what He said means nothing,
just throw away the Book,
for it has no authority
and we are off the hook.

But if the things He told us
still mean good news to you,
then open up your hearts, minds, arms -
for there is *loads* to do!

© Lucy Berry, 2019



Permission is given for non-profit reuse. For more about this poem, and the issues that it raises, visit www.jointpublicissues.org.uk . More of Lucy's poems can also be found on her website at: <https://www.lucyberry.com> .

NOTICE BOARD

NewsShare from URC Enfield North Pastorate:

Upcoming Events

June

Wednesday 26th Climate Change Lobby

Saturday 29th Nigel Uden at Winchmore hill URC

Regular Events

Sunday Worship

10.30am Bush Hill Park, Ponders End, Trinity, Winchmore Hill

11.00am Christ Church, Lancaster Road, Palmers Green

6.30pm Lancaster Road (Café Church 1st Sunday), Trinity

Mondays

2.15pm Friendship Club at Christ Church (3rd Monday each month)

8.00pm Book Club at Bush Hill Park (1st Monday each month)

Tuesdays

10.30am Coffee Morning at Ponders End

8.00pm Bible Study at Bush Hill Park (2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month)

8.30pm Bible Study at Lancaster Road (2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month)

Wednesdays

9.30am Toddlers at Bush Hill Park

9.45am Bible Study at Lancaster Road (fortnightly)

8.00pm New Songs at Bush Hill Park (1st Wednesday each month)

Fridays

9.30am Prayers at Bush Hill Park

9.45am Toddlers at Bush Hill Park

10.00am Shoppers Coffee Morning at Lancaster Road

Saturdays

9.00am Breakfast Club at Christ Church (1st & 3rd Saturdays)

10.30am A Place for Coffee at Palmers Green

10.30am Coffee Morning at Trinity

11.00am Lunchtime at Christ Church (3rd Saturday each month)

3.00pm Family Film Feast at Bush Hill Park (1st Saturday each month)

Please visit our church websites to read our latest newsletters.

Our churches offer a wide range of uniformed organisations for children and young people - please visit individual websites for more information.

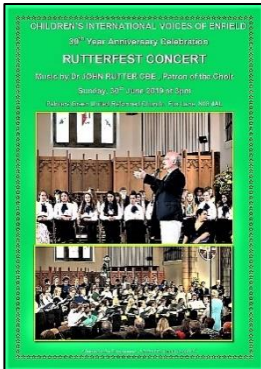
**Bush Hill Park
Ponders End**

**Christ Church
Trinity Methodist/URC**

**Lancaster Road
Winchmore Hill**

**Palmers Green
Winchmore Hill**

Don't forget! You can be kept up to date with all the news from our Enfield United Reformed Churches by subscribing to our occasional email at <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH> , and on Enfield URC Facebook Page.



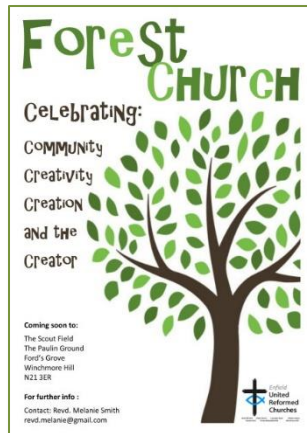
**CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL VOICES OF ENFIELD
30th Year Anniversary Celebration
RUTTERFEST CONCERT**

**Music by Dr JOHN RUTTER CBE
Patron of the Choir**

Sunday, 30th June 2019 at 3pm

**Palmers Green United Reformed Church
Fox Lane, N13 4AL**

Admission by Programme Adults £12 Young People £5



Coming next month in the July issue:



The Mayans of the Yucatan Peninsula

by Clem Müller, and

The Basilica de Guadalupe in Mexico City

by Estelle Müller



Look out for these two very interesting articles!

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

WE SHARE OUR PASTORATE WITH THE PONDERS END and WINCHMORE HILL URCs. Listed below are contact details for their Church Secretaries:

Ponders End Church Secretary: Mrs Pat Lewis
[pat@rapandsoulmailorder.com]

Winchmore Hill Church Secretary: Vacant



We are part of the Thames North Synod in which there are 157 United Reformed churches in six Areas, headed by a Synod Moderator. The United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom has approx. 1,655 local Churches, 13 Synods and 79,000 members. It meets every two years in General Assembly and has its central offices at 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1 9RT. Through our membership of the Council for World Mission we belong to the world-wide Church of Jesus Christ. This is a Reformed and Congregational body for international exchange in Mission. The United Reformed Church is one of 30 member Churches.

We are a member of Churches Together in Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Grange Park (CTPGWHGP). In partnership with Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Baptist churches in our neighbourhood, we aim to explore the Christian faith together, and witness to the Gospel.

Minister – Revd Melanie Smith

e-mail: revd.melanie@gmail.com

Secretary - Mr Martin van Staveren

e-mail: pgurc_secy@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer - Mr Brian Ball

e-mail: Jeremybrianball@gmail.com

Palmers Green United Reformed Church is at the corner of Fox Lane and Burford Gardens, London N13 4AL and online at both www.palmersgreenurc.org.uk and www.facebook.com/PGURC/. Our magazine is published monthly and is printed by 'Office Interiors' in Palmers Green using approx. 85% recycled paper.

MAGAZINE COPY DATES FOR JULY 2019 ISSUE

Publication is scheduled on or before **Saturday 29th June 2019.**

All copy, including Church Diary information, to be sent to **Harry Goforth** (preferably by email to: hbg@goforth.myzen.co.uk) by **Friday morning 14th June 2019.**