

# Palmers Green United Reformed Church

## October Magazine 2020

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



**Morning Worship on 13<sup>th</sup> September**  
See page 16

### In this issue

Worship Services and Church Diary – October 2020	p.3
Pastoral Letter – Melanie and Mark	p.5
Feeding the Spirit – Melanie	p.9
Our Mission Statement	p.13
News of People and Events	p.14
Reflections on the Pandemic – John Campbell	p.18
Provoking Poems – Evelyn Hart	p.22
Letters	p.23
Notices	p.25

## EMMA BROWN CELEBRATES 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to Emma from all of us on her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 27 August.

Here are some wonderful photos of the event shared with us by her daughter, Tina Ashitey.



## WORSHIP SERVICES - OCTOBER 2020

Date	Time	Service	Worship Leader
Sunday, Oct 4th	11:00am	Morning Worship	Revd Jonathan Hyde
Sunday, Oct 11th	11:00am	Morning Worship	Mr Joseph Dankwa
Sunday, Oct 18th	11:00am	Morning Worship	Revd Melanie Smith
Sunday, Oct 25th	11:00am	Morning Worship	Ms Kathleen Laing

## BIBLE READINGS FOR OCTOBER 2020 SUNDAY SERVICES

4th October	11th October	18th October
Philippians 3.4b-14 Isaiah 5.1-7 Psalm 80.7-15 Matthew 21.33-46	Philippians 3.4b-144.1-9 Isaiah 25.1-9 Psalm 23 Matthew 22.1-14	1 Thessalonians 1.1-10 Isaiah 45.1-7 Psalm 96.1-9, (10-13) Matthew 22.15-22
<b>25th October</b> 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8 Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18 Psalm 1 Matthew 22.34-46		



## CHURCH DIARY

### Elders' Meetings 2020 – (CURRENTLY ONLINE ONLY)

- Tuesday 6th October
- Wednesday 2nd December

### Church Meetings 2020

- Dates to be announced soon

### 'A Place for Coffee' – (Opening Date to be announced)

Please also refer to the weekly **Bulletin**, available by email and by post, 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](mailto:pgurcbookings@outlook.com)  
**Please visit our website for more details -**  
<http://www.palmersgreenurc.org.uk/halls.html>

### Does what you believe change your action?

*“faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2:17)*

Is what you believe important? How important? Does it affect how you live your life every day? Or is it simply something you bring out to show every Sunday when attending church, or at other times?

What elements of what you believe affect the decisions that you make?

It is probably quite easy for us to say that we are concerned about the plight of the poor in our society, the refugee, the homeless, and that we believe that all people are of equal importance to God and therefore of equal importance to us.

And, as evidence of those cares and concerns, we probably supply the foodbank regularly, support All People All Places in their work in this area, give financially to charities that are working with refugees and so on.

But how far does our faith take us?

A couple whom we know run an “Open House” – it is their own home, but it is always open to anyone who needs a bed for the night. Opening up their home in this way does occasionally cause them problems (how can you trust the stranger in your home?) and we suspect this may well be a step too far for most of us, but they want to respond in a welcoming and open way to all they meet (they’re part of the Catholic Worker Movement).

The apostle James writes strongly to the early church about how they should be living, and we wonder whether his words need to be thought about more deeply in our churches today.



James speaks about showing favouritism in church. Do the people that come into our churches who dress “properly” receive more attention from us than the “difficult” people that we know who come regularly (or maybe not)?

He speaks about what we do when we see another human being “naked” and “lacking daily food” and questions how we respond. Are we people who simply pray a blessing on others, or people who respond with actions to support the need we notice?

One of the areas that can be a good judge for us of how our faith is informing our actions lies in the way we use our money.

Most of us do not appreciate that **how** we use our money **can** have a dramatic effect on other people. As a simple starting guide if you are buying something cheap, or cheaper, then ask yourself the question “why?”

If something is cheaper, then the likelihood is that somewhere along the production line a human being has been exploited, and this could well be a child or children.

Do you believe that Jesus thinks it is okay for human beings to be exploited? If you don’t, then perhaps looking at where and how a product has been produced before purchasing it may be a good idea.

As an example of the sort of things you may discover by looking at this is that

- 31 out of 32 global fashion giants were unable to provide proof that they were paying a living wage;
- Of a £29 item of clothing, £17 goes to the retailer, and just 18p to the garment worker;
- Violations of workers’ rights to form unions, bargain, and strike increased by almost 12% between 2012 and 2015.

(Ethical Consumer Sept/Oct 2019 & Sept/Oct 2020)

And if we believe that climate change is an issue, that God created the world for us to look after, not to exploit, then again how we use our money can make a difference.

Where you hold your bank account could be changed to stop supporting those who are actively supporting fossil fuels, or are linked to multiple human rights abuses (Barclays, Lloyds, the NatWest group and Santander rate very poorly on the ethical scale – source Ethical Consumer Sept/Oct 2020).

Were you aware that you can invest in organisations that help provide homes for the homeless and get returns on your money greater than that in a lot of other savings schemes? Whilst there may be some risk in investing in this way, for those of us who may have significant savings might there be an opportunity for us setting aside at least part of our money to be used in this way?

The final thing to say when it comes to our beliefs and our practices is to ask what we believe about the church and how important or otherwise it is, what we think about ministry and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

A lot of the churches in the UK are facing a financial crisis because of the impact of Covid 19. If our personal finances are tight, is it better that we support our churches or other charitable causes?

Do your beliefs affect your responses? How important are they to you?

We pray that those who walk together with us as part of God's family in this locality will find that as they give, they will be blessed in all that they do.

Jesus himself encourages us to:

*“give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6:38)*

**Mark and Melanie**

## Eco-Tip

This month, why not catch up on David Attenborough's recent BBC programme "Extinction" that was broadcast on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 8 pm? It is an hour long and reflects further on last year's UN report that revealed that around one million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction.

## October Services

During October services will continue to be provided online and through mail distribution. Check the magazine elsewhere for details of our worship leaders at our 'live' services during October.

## Enfield Churches Debt Centre

We are pleased to confirm that Enfield Churches Debt Centre has now been registered by the Charity Commission with the Registered Charity Number 1191279.

We will now be proceeding to open a bank account so that we can begin to accept donations from the churches, and also from individuals who wish to support this project (watch this space for further details which will be available soon, we hope).

In November we are anticipating holding a launch evening at Enfield Baptist Church and streaming the event live (again please watch this space for further information).

The initial trustees of Enfield Churches Debt Centre are Mark and Melanie, Kate Bleasdale-Barr (from Enfield Town Community Church), Nick Chanda (from Revival Christian Church of Enfield), Peter Dufton (from Chase Family Church) and Hayley Harding (from Restore Community Church).

Please do keep praying for this initiative which we hope and pray will support those in Enfield who are likely to be in most need.

## Hot off the press...

The Launch Event will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm at Enfield Baptist Church...and you can make personal donations to the project now at <https://www.give.net/ecdc>

## October Events

### **Bible Study**

The ongoing bible study series looking at the parables being held on Zoom will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30 am. Please contact Mark for details if you wish to join this group.

### **Thames North Synod**

Thames North Synod is scheduled to meet virtually on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like to 'attend' then please do ask Mark or Melanie or your church's synod rep for details.

### **Elders and Church Leaders Training Day**

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October there will be an elders and church leaders training day led by Rev Sam White, the Principal at Westminster College, Cambridge, hopefully to be held at Hertford URC (this will be dependent on the Covid 19 situation at the time, so please look out for further details closer to the date). The day will last from 10 am to 4pm and is entitled 'Discipleship and our Personal Spirituality'. Please do bring your own lunch for the day.

### **Mark and Melanie**

## FEEDING THE SPIRIT

Originally published in September's *Reform* magazine, we re-print this article as it follows our theme of how our faith informs our practices this month.

## Fairtrade matters

*'If you do not buy Fairtrade, you are walking in the footsteps of slave traders.'*

Black lives matter, so does Fairtrade. In fact, if you say that Black Lives Matter, and yet buy tea, coffee, sugar, bananas, chocolate or even cotton or condoms which are not fairly traded, you are walking in the footsteps of slave traders and slave owners. You are continuing in the subjugation of people already disadvantaged by the legacies of slavery. You may as

well be worshipping at the foot of Colston's plinth. You may as well be flying a 'White Lives Matter' banner. Harsh? I don't think so.

The products I've mentioned are all grown in countries that were integral to the triangular slave trade. After that slave trade came to an end formally, it continued informally: workers had to remain on those farms or starve. Slave owners were compensated. Colonial enterprises continued to trade. We didn't stop eating sugar when the slave trade stopped. Sugar came from the same places, with the same winners and losers. That distinction remains today. Most of the products we consume from the Caribbean Islands, Africa and India are still produced by people who are living on or around the poverty line, with few labour rights and educational opportunities. Some of these products are made using child labour: slavery by any other name.

To put it simply, if you say Black Lives Matter, and yet Wispa, then please shut up. You are exposing yourself as a hypocrite. If you don't want to take a break from Kit Kat, as Nestlé, one of the most profitable food companies in the world, reneges on its already flimsy Fairtrade commitment, then take a walk away from #BLM. You have simply jumped on a bandwagon. If you put non-Fairtrade sugar in your non-Fairtrade tea, then you're full of bile. If you find this a little harsh, then thank you. As a Christian minister, I take my lead from the line of Hebrew prophets and Jesus in setting out the stark challenge of justice. Now is the time to change the way you live, or stand accused of double standards. This is gospel; this is good news for the poor.

You may be starting to make excuses. Is this an issue that hasn't occurred to you? It has now. Perhaps you haven't found a Fairtrade coffee blend you like? Try other brands. You know that you can adapt quickly when it comes to saving lives. Just look what you've achieved during the coronavirus pandemic. Worried that it will cost more? So it should – you are contributing to fair, not slave, wages. If Black Lives Matter, your shopping basket will look very different from now on. From your next shop. And then every shop.

Of course, not everyone is as privileged as me. Price is important when you yourself are on the breadline. You may have dietary requirements. Perhaps an autistic child insists on a certain cereal. Please, don't feel

bad. Do what you can, make changes where you can. But this is not aimed at you. This is aimed at those of us who leave our brains at the supermarket door and forget that as well as supporting BLM with our words, we must do so with our wallets. Otherwise, you are like a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. You don't love.

If you are buying tea, coffee, chocolate, bananas, sugar and can't find fairly traded ones, yet believe that black lives matter, go without. Many other products are Fairtrade -certified too, not least gold. Do you really want to wear a band signifying love 24/7, knowing that a miner's basic human rights were exploited to make it?

I rarely, if ever, ask people to share my own thoughts. But this is different. This has the power to transform lives all over the world. As individuals, it is almost impossible for us to know how we are to make recompense for the legacies of slavery. Fairtrade is probably the most direct way any of us can start to redress the injustices of the past. If we don't bother with Fairtrade, we are part of the problem. If we insist on Fairtrade, we will start an economic revolution; and that can start today, with you.

I say this knowing that I slip at times. I see something on a shelf that looks attractive and I can be seduced. I know I must do better. I recommit to Fairtrade. Will you?

**Melanie Smith**



## **Friends of Cathedral Relief Services, Kolkata report as follows: September 2020**

First of all, a big thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the Covid 19 and Cyclone Amphan appeal. In total, including gift aid recovered, the appeal raised nearly £17,000 from the time it was launched in April to the end of July. The money has made a huge difference to families which had been left in desperate straits.

While the initiative for the relief operation came from Bishop Paritosh and Rig David, who were both at the front with their teams delivering the aid, it would not have got off the ground without your support. Food and

medication was delivered to 11 CRS project areas, and 6 Cathedral parishes, reaching nearly 3,000 families.

In June, the Government of West Bengal began to distribute food in Kolkata and other districts in West Bengal and so distribution by CRS gradually ceased. To respond to the needs caused by the cyclone, CRS has acquired 400 tarpaulins and 400 sets of cooking utensils. Distribution has been delayed because of continuing lockdowns, but it started in August, and the intention is to deliver to a total of 11 CRS projects and Cathedral parishes.

Although hard information is difficult to come by, it is clear that cases of Covid in Kolkata continue to rise. One report describes Covid management in some areas as “close to collapse”. The Government response is confusing to people and it is of course the poorest who are being hit the hardest. CRS is keeping in regular contact with the project communities so that they know they are still supported.

Rig David comments as follows: “Despite the frequent lockdowns, the CRS Team continues to work on the frontline, ensuring that the children are catered for with health clinics and nutrition. In some of the education centres online education has commenced with a few children and their parents participating with great enthusiasm. The women’s groups are being encouraged and small numbers have started to attend the skill development courses.”

Government-aided and private schools have managed to establish online teaching, but the schools in the slums are mainly excluded from that because of lack of access to online equipment. CRS has proposed acquiring and distributing smart phones to teachers in CRS schools, and to those providing skills training to women’s groups.

The Trustees have given their support to this proposal, the details and implementation of which are being worked out. Nari Dana continues to operate with women being brought to the production centres at the Cathedral and in the Bishop’s House. They are concentrating on making masks, and have orders for these, as well as several orders for other products. It is hoped to produce another full newsletter before the end of

the year. In the meantime, news continues to be posted on Facebook and the website: <http://www.cathedralreliefservice.net/news/stories>

If you wish to donate to the Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service, the bank details are: CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code 40-52-40. Account No: 00096998. Account Name: Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service

Another easy way of donating is through our Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/calcutta-ccrs> Enquiries to: [secretary@friendsofcrs.co.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsofcrs.co.uk) . Thank you for your support.

## 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.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

From Martin van Staveren – Church Secretary

Dear Members and Friends,

As I hope you will have seen, we re-started weekly Sunday services in the Sanctuary on 13th September (see page 16). We all enjoyed seeing each other again - although things looked a little different.

The Elders had thought and planned carefully for this re-opening, as we had to take account of the Government restrictions due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We wanted to be sure that we could worship together safely.

I don't want the following points to seem like a list of restrictions and regulations, but if you join us at future services please read through carefully the following changes to how we are worshipping together:

- Please consider carefully whether you can safely attend worship at the moment, especially if you are over 70 or have a vulnerable health condition.
- Both outside and inside the Sanctuary, please keep at least 1 metre away from others not in your household, and 2 metres wherever possible. To comply with government guidance, you should wear a face covering if at all possible.
- When you arrive, the main entrance from Fox Lane will be open, and also the side entrance in Fox Lane where the ramp is. Please use both entrances to ease any congestion. And come early if you can!
- Use the hand sanitisers by the doors when you arrive and also when you leave.
- Welcoming stewards will make a list of those attending, so that we can contact you if needed.



- Chairs have been arranged in pairs with gaps between them. Please only sit with those in your own household, and don't move the chairs.
- Sunday Bulletins will be ready for you to collect from a table inside the Sanctuary. Please make sure to take your copy home with you.
- There can be no singing in our services at the moment, and so we will not be using hymnbooks.
- There will be a plate for your Free Will Offerings as you enter. If you have been saving up envelopes, please bring them in. No collection will be taken during the service.
- For now, we will not be serving tea or coffee after the service. We appreciate that you may want to talk to others after the service, but keep a safe distance, and don't stay too long!

**Martin**

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## **Pastoral Notes: 18 September 2020**

From Jean Alderman

Congratulations to **Iain Grant** who celebrated his 90th birthday on September 5<sup>th</sup>, and to Emma Brown who celebrated hers on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Good news that **Barbara Crock** is now home and on the road to recovery. Barbara would like to thank all those who have sent her good wishes by text, email or cards.

Those who knew her will be sad to hear that **June Keyte** died peacefully in hospital on 4 September. Please pray for Christopher and the family and the many young people who will remember her with gratitude and affection.

Our former minister **Cheryl Slusser** has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. She expects to be just fine after treatment and has every hope of a good outcome. She would love to know that the congregation is praying for her.

# Morning Worship on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September

By Harry Goforth

At Morning Worship on Sunday 15 March 2020, little did we know that it would be our last in the Sanctuary for the next 26 weeks! However, our next service there together, on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, was certainly worth the wait.



Upon arrival we all observed the necessary Covid-19 safety guidelines issued to members in advance, by donning our face coverings, sanitising our hands and cautiously entering the building. We collected our Bulletins, exchanged greetings with others and chose our seats well-separated by the prescribed distance. Before the service began, we were welcomed with the familiar image of the church logo projected on the screen over the pulpit, suggesting more wonderful things to come.



After announcements by Martin, our Church Secretary, Melanie, our Minister, then introduced the theme, 'Creation and Harvest'. After an opening prayer, this was followed by a video tribute to 'Essential Workers' with Aaron Copeland's '*Fanfare for the Common Man*' played by the Utah Symphony Orchestra, and a whimsical children's video from [www.primarysongs.co.uk](http://www.primarysongs.co.uk) accompanied by uplifting music to the words 'Give Thanks for All the Food We Eat'.

The Bible reading from **2 Corinthians 9.6-15** reminded us of the importance of sharing generously, by the grace of God, with those in



need and thanking God for enriching our lives with the awareness of what good things we may have done.

Melanie's sermon included the unveiling of a two-foot-long 'courgette' that she and Mark had grown in their garden from a small seedling they had bought at a local charity fair, emphasizing that whatever you give to others you get back much more in return. We prayed to God that we could fulfil this calling too.



Melanie also played a third piece of inspiring music entitled, "I Am" (Creation), the Overture from *Music Inspired by The Story*, by Nichole Nordeman and Bernie Herms.



There was no tea and coffee and afterwards, but we chatted briefly with friends and left our offerings in a plate at the back upon leaving.

Some left donations to Melanie and Mark's India Appeal in exchange for colourful designer face coverings (photo left) made and donated by Barbara Crock.

It was a service to be remembered.

**Harry**

## REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC

**Past Plagues and Pestilences:** two of three church newsletter articles from High Cross URC, Tottenham, by John Campbell. The third in the series will be included in a subsequent issue.

### **Past Plagues & Pestilences 1: *Last time around...***

There have been world-wide plagues and pestilences before – just not within in our memory.

Last time around – the influenza epidemic of 1918-20, wrongly called the Spanish Flu (it was first observed in an army camp in Kansas, USA – see the picture of an improvised ward in Camp Fuston, Kansas, USA) – circled the world in three or four waves whilst our now 104-year-old Auntie Ivy (a member of High Cross URC in Tottenham) was a little girl in British Guiana (now Guyana), but I don't imagine she remembers anything of it.



That last one was a big one. It probably killed more people worldwide than the combined death tolls of the First and Second World Wars. That's a lot of people.

And things were different then. They didn't even know for certain what caused it. There was a theory that it was caused by a bacterium, but hardly anyone thought it might be a virus. So, the science was vague and unhelpful. Some cities and countries banned mass gatherings and others didn't. Some places encouraged the wearing of face masks, others didn't.

It was only afterwards that studies showed that banning mass gatherings and wearing face masks could make a huge difference to the spread of the virus – especially if these measures were introduced early and not lifted prematurely.

And keeping in touch whilst isolating must have been much harder. There were daily newspapers, but few homes with telephones and no radio – Telephone boxes and radio broadcasting didn't even begin until the 1920s. And when the flu reached the UK the war was still raging so the authorities wanted to keep it quiet and not make a fuss.

And there was no National Health Service here or anywhere else. Many must have really struggled.

Just look at how much more prepared we are this time:

- We know what we are dealing with, we understand viruses; we know this one's genetic code
- We have developed epidemiological models to help understand spread and control
- We have multiple laboratories able to work on vaccines
- Authorities can impose sensible measures (handwashing; masks; self-isolating; lockdown, etc)
- We have (in the UK) the NHS
- We have telephones, TV, radio, internet, Zooming, etc etc to keep in touch

So, yes, these are strange times, but not unique and this time we are better placed to enable survival.

Stay safe! Grow strong!



## Past Plagues and Pestilences 2: *Back to the Broad Street Pump*



*The memorial pump in Broadwick St.*

Where does the advice about social distancing, face masks, self-isolating, etc. etc. come from?

It comes from a whole heap of scientists, but at the heart of that heap are scientists called **“Epidemiologists”** – people who study the spread and effects of disease.

Over many years they have built up a complex array of approaches to analyse what is happening when diseases spread and how their spread can be restricted. If we are to get the better of this Covid-19, then it is the Epidemiologists we need to listen to, not the politicians.

So how did it all begin?

The ‘Creation Story’ of Epidemiology is often said to be the story of Dr John Snow and the Broad Street Pump in the London ‘Golden Square’ Cholera Epidemic of 1854. Cholera was a shocking disease that raged through the cities and towns of the world in waves all through the 19<sup>th</sup> Century causing many deaths and a lot of panic. Part of the problem was no-one was quite certain what caused it and how it was spread. Some thought it was airborne – when it came, it seemed to be most prevalent in low-lying places with ‘bad air’. Some wondered if it was caused by something you ate or drank. John Snow thought cholera came in the water.

The Golden Square Cholera Epidemic in August 1854 saw around 500 people die in and around Soho in a little over a week. John Snow’s investigations revealed that the deaths could all be related to the drinking of water from one particular water pump in Broad Street (now renamed

Broadwick Street) between Piccadilly Circus and Oxford Street. People using water from other pumps were not affected. One lady, living in Hampstead, who liked the water from the Broad Street Pump so much that she got relatives to bring her the water also died. But the workers at the Brewery near the pump were all OK because the brewery had its own well and the brewing process made the beer safe. So, the handle was removed from the pump to stop people using it. There is a handle-less pump still in Broadwick Street as a memorial to this story.

Snow also did an interesting analysis of cholera deaths south of the Thames. There was an area where both the Lambeth and Southwark water companies had watermains under the streets and some houses used water from the one and some from the other. The Lambeth company took its water from further up the Thames than the Southwark company, where the water was less contaminated by sewage. Snow was able to show that he could predict cholera deaths by knowing which water company a particular household used. Because the two companies supplied the same area, this was a sort of randomised test that showed that water source was crucial to cholera risk.

As it became accepted that cholera spread through drinking water contaminated by sewage where someone else has already had cholera, towns and cities began to ensure safe water supplies, taking much more care to separate drinking water sources from sewage water, fitting water filters. Cholera epidemics became much less common in Europe as a result. But not everyone was sensible. Because of the way the City of Hamburg in Germany was governed, there was a 17-year long discussion about who should fit water filters to the main water supply that was still not resolved when the cholera returned in the 1890s and so hundreds died. It's not enough to know how a particular disease spreads. You have to act on what you know.

Snow's pamphlets and papers on Cholera outbreaks in London have long been taken to be the beginning of scientific approaches to the study of the spread of disease – epidemiology. The story is a little too simple. Others were working at such ideas too. Snow's work did not convince all his contemporaries, nor was it as neat and clear-cut as it appears. Yet, without such efforts to try to understand how cholera happened and all

the work that flowed from that we would not be in any position to understand and fight back against Covid-19. Thanks, Dr Snow!

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thanks to:

Christopher Hamlin (2009) *Cholera – the biography* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Richard J. Evans (2006) *Death in Hamburg: Society and Politics in the Cholera Years 1830-1910* Harmondsworth: Penguin books

**John Campbell**

## PROVOKING POEMS

### SEASON TICKET

By Evelyn Hart

August 2020

Some travellers, by fate's decree  
will never pay an agent's fees,  
but, anchored firmly in some urban sea  
spread sails with every favouring breeze.

Who, neath neat avenues of mountain ash  
see tropic flowers lushly bloom  
and, in the High Street, hear great breakers crash,  
and cross a desert – to the sitting-room.

Bricks and mortar may confine the flesh,  
but leave the roving spirit free  
for swift return from Marrakesh –  
to put the kettle on for tea.

**Editor's Note:** More poetry by Evelyn Hart can be read in the *PGURC June Magazine 2020*, page 36.

### URC MINISTRY & MISSION FUND

From: **Ian Hardie**, Treasurer of the United Reformed Church  
and **John Piper**, Deputy Treasurer

To: The members and friends of all our 1,400 URC congregations

**‘THANK YOU’ for your unique and vital contribution to the life of the United Reformed Church, and for the work of the kingdom which we are able to do together in God’s name.**

We are living through an extraordinary and challenging time – a very anxious time for everyone; a difficult time for many; and a time of suffering and loss for some. Yet, the main purpose of this letter is to say **‘thank you’** to each of you for all that you have done for the Church in the past; for all that you continue to do even in these difficult times; and for what you will do in the future.

As we are treasurers, you will not be surprised that the focus of this letter is on finance. But we recognise that finance is only a means to the end which is our doing of God’s work together.

**‘Thank you’ for your giving to your local church.** Financially, this giving is the lifeblood of your own church and of the whole United Reformed Church across England, Scotland and Wales. It is this personal giving that enables your local church treasurer to pay your church’s bills. Typically, the largest of those ‘bills’ is the contribution your local church pays to the URC Ministry and Mission Fund. This Fund meets the central costs of the United Reformed Church. The total budget is around £20 million and is approved each year by Mission Council. Over 80% of this money is spent on ministers and church related community workers – their training, stipends and pensions. But the other 20% also achieves an enormous amount on behalf of us all. General Assembly 2020 was severely constrained because of the Covid-19 lockdown, but the reports written for General Assembly are available on the URC website, and they paint

pictures of all the work that has been done in our name over the last two years and much of that work is ongoing.

**‘Thank you’ for your giving and the giving of your local church last year.** In 2019, over **£19.4 million was given by local churches and synods to the Ministry and Mission Fund.** The total contributions from local churches reduced very slightly but the average giving per member has, once again and remarkably, gone up by more than inflation.

**‘Thank you’ for your continued giving this year.** We fully understand that circumstances this year are difficult. Most local churches have been unable to meet for over five months. We have not had the usual opportunities to make our offerings for the work of the Church. But most of the costs of the local church and of the denomination have not reduced and some have increased as a consequence of the pandemic. We are also aware that some have lost income or work this year and are therefore in great financial difficulty. But there are others on fixed incomes who are actually better off than they might otherwise have been. **So, please continue to give what you can in whatever way you can – or save it up until you can hand it over.**

Any giving of ours is a response to the amazing generosity and love of God which we see in Jesus. Nevertheless, **it is important for us to say ‘thank you’ to each and all of you.**

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter then please speak to your church treasurer, who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,  
**Ian and John**



## NOTICEBOARD



Live Morning Worship is now taking place in our Sanctuary, but a different recorded version is still available every week online and includes Holy Communion on the first or second Sunday of each month. If you would like to access our online Sunday Worship for the first time, please contact our Minister so you can receive her email notifications each week.

If you do not have Internet access and cannot come to live services, there is still an alternative to the online worship services some of us have been using. Melanie and Mark are recording a short 7-minute message for each Sunday which you can listen to by ringing **020 3389 6021**. There will be a new message every Sunday. The cost of making the call is the standard local call rate, which is often free in most peoples' phone packages.


We will continue to send out copies of our weekly Sunday Bulletin and Monthly Magazine by email. If you don't currently get these, please ask Harry Goforth to add you to the mailing list. This will help us all to keep in touch with news of our Church Family and maintain our Church community life. Items to include in the Bulletin or Magazine can be sent to Jean and Harry, respectively.

We know that some of you already use the National URC Daily Devotions which are sent out by email from URC Headquarters. If you want to start receiving these, you can do so by going to: <https://devotions.urc.org.uk/> and following the link to the subscription form. This is a free service. This will help us during this crisis to continue in prayer to our Father God and his Son Jesus, and to do everything in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

If you subscribe, you will also receive a weekly Sunday service in URC style, which you can listen to online, like a radio service, or print off and read. This is a valuable resource – as we can all share in the same service together.



HAVE FUN



MEET PEOPLE

GIVE BACK

CARDS FOR GOOD


CAUSES

# Volunteers wanted

## at our Palmers Green URC pop-up shop

In 2019, Cards for Good Causes supported 25 Member charities as well as more than 200 local and national charities by selling a huge range of charity Christmas cards and gifts at more than 300 pop-up shops across the UK, supported by more than 5,000 amazing volunteers. These cards are sold as non-profit-making, with at least 70p in every £1 spent being given to the charity, with 30p being used to pay for warehousing and a small staff.

Due to Covid-19, the Coronavirus, our pool of volunteers is sadly depleted, due to many having to shield, and others feeling apprehensive about being around strangers in an enclosed space. We are assured by Cards for Good Causes that there will be the correct PPE provided eg visors, anti-viral wipes, anti-viral spray, hand sanitizer. Would you, given these assurances, be interested in helping us open the Christmas card shop this year, 2020, in spite of Covid, and to aid the various charities?



### What's involved?

- Taking care of customer queries
- Keeping the displays full, clean and tidy
- Helping unpack and process deliveries and new stock
- Being the face of Cards for Good Causes to the general public, championing what we do and the charities we support

### Interested?

Please contact Diana Goforth – [d.goforth@virgin.net](mailto:d.goforth@virgin.net) or  
telephone 020 8886 2871

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 249039



# Forest CHURCH

*Gather in our local  
'outdoor cathedral'*

Celebrating:

COMMUNITY

Creativity

Creation

and the

Creator

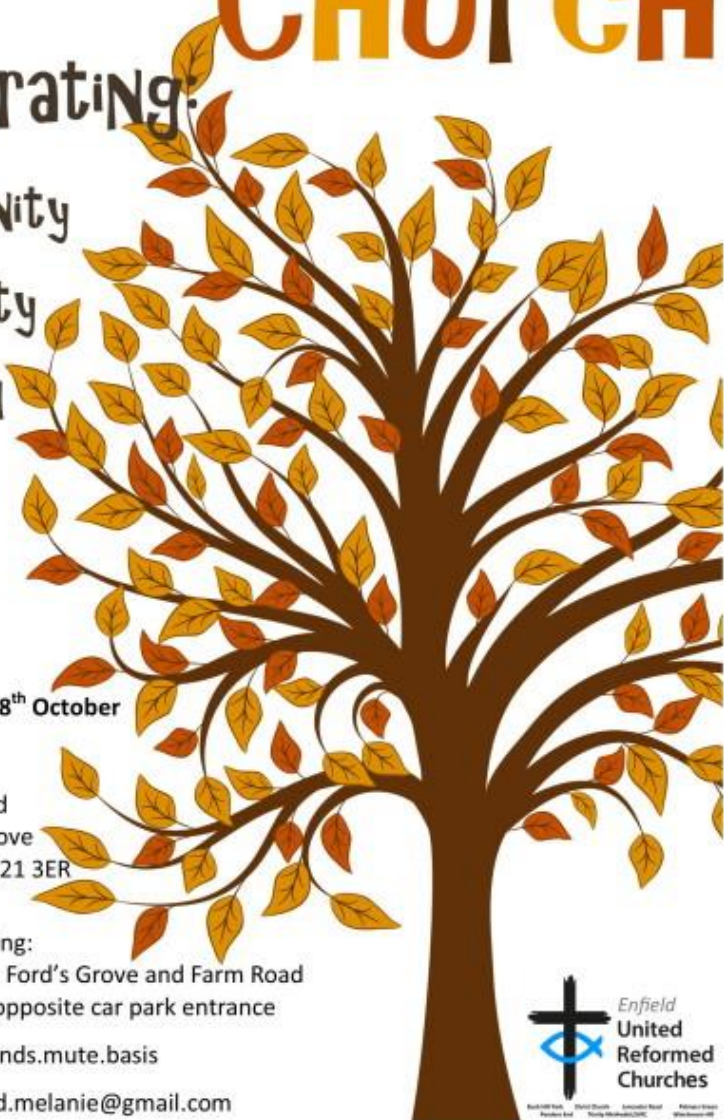
3.30pm Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October

The Scout Field  
The Paulin Ground  
(Top of) Ford's Grove  
Winchmore Hill N21 3ER

Free Sunday Parking:  
Car Park between Ford's Grove and Farm Road  
Entrance to field opposite car park entrance

what3words [///lands.mute.basis](https://www.what3words.com/lands.mute.basis)

Further info: [revd.melanie@gmail.com](mailto:revd.melanie@gmail.com)



## ABOUT OUR CHURCH

### WE SHARE OUR PASTORATE WITH THE PONDERS END and WINCHMORE HILL URCs.

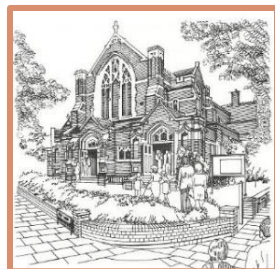
Listed below are contact

details for their Church Secretaries:

**Ponders End** Church Secretary: Mrs Pat Lewis

[[pat@rapandsoulmailorder.com](mailto:pat@rapandsoulmailorder.com)]

**Winchmore Hill** Church Secretary: Vacant



We are part of the Thames North Synod in which there are 122 United Reformed churches in six Areas, headed by a Synod Moderator. The United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom has approx. 1,354 local Churches, 13 Synods and 44,788 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 32 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: [minister@palmersgreenurc.org.uk](mailto:minister@palmersgreenurc.org.uk)

Telephone: 0208 374 0509

#### **Secretary - Mr Martin van Staveren**

e-mail: [secretary@palmersgreenurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@palmersgreenurc.org.uk)

#### **Treasurer (Interim) - Mr Brian Hosier**

e-mail: [brian@hosier.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:brian@hosier.eclipse.co.uk)

**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](http://www.palmersgreenurc.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com/PGURC/](https://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 NOVEMBER 2020 ISSUE**

Publication is scheduled on or before **Saturday 24th October 2020.**

All copy, including Church Diary information, to be sent to **Harry Goforth** (preferably by email to: [hbg@goforth.myzen.co.uk](mailto:hbg@goforth.myzen.co.uk)) by **Friday morning 16th October 2020.**