

Palmers Green United Reformed Church
April Magazine 2021

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



Will you worship with us at Easter?



I am the Resurrection

“Jesus said to her,
‘I am the Resurrection and the life...’” John 11:25

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Did you receive a Christmas gift from the children?

From Nathalie Müller

Back in December the children wanted to send a small token to members of the church as a gift. This was something to let our older members know that they were thinking of them even though we couldn't all see each other at the time.

Edith, Nathan, Ebby, Mia, Shanice and Maya all made some Christmas wreath decorations and sent them out in Christmas cards to



some members – did you receive one?

We hope you liked your gift, see you soon.

**Edith, Ebby,
Nathan, Shanice,
Mia and Maya**



Cover photo: by Harry Goforth of paintings by Paul Stevenson (see page 16).

WORSHIP SERVICES - APRIL 2021

Morning Worship is normally held every Sunday and includes Holy Communion on the first or second Sunday of each month. However, as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, there will be no in-person services at our church until Easter Day. See page 31 for details of that, and see below for details of the Enfield Easter Weekend online and Forest Church worship services.

Maundy Thursday 1 April 8.00pm Zoom Communion

Good Friday 2 April 2.30pm Zoom reflection

Saturday 3 April 12.00pm **Forest Church** at Winchmore Hill Scout Field

Easter Sunday 11.00am Easter Communion Service at PGURC and alternative online Zoom Communion (from 10.45am)

(Note that all of the Zoom services will use the usual weekly Sunday Service and Coffee Morning link.)

BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL 2021 WORSHIP SERVICES

4th April Easter Day	11th April	18th April
John 20.1-18 Acts 10.34-43 Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15.1-11	John 20.19-31 Acts 4.32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1.1-2.2	Luke 24. 36b-48 Acts 3.12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3.1-7
25th April John 10.11-18 Acts 4.5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3.16-24		



2021 CHURCH DIARY

Elders Meetings:

Wednesday 7th April at 7.30pm

Tuesday 25th May at 8pm

Wednesday 21st July at 7.30 pm

Tuesday 5th October at 8pm

Wednesday 1st December at 7.30pm

Church Meetings, at 1.15pm:

Sunday 6th June

Sunday 12th September

Sunday 14th November (Annual Forum)

'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

Please visit our website for more details -

<http://www.palmersgreenurc.org.uk/halls.html>

How will we think of Easter in 2021?

“... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1,2)



We come again to another Easter when we are unsure as to how exactly we are going to remember what happened that very first Easter. How will we, this year, think again of Palm Sunday, the crowds shouting and celebrating, cheering Jesus on in this procession through the streets of the city of Jerusalem:-

“Hosanna! (Save us)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (Mark 11:9 – 10)?

Will we receive a palm cross in memory of that day, or will we be reconsidering some of the re-enactments of Palm Sunday that we may have seen or been part of in years gone by? Will a donkey appear anywhere? And then, as we journey through Holy Week what will capture our imaginations?

If we follow Mark’s gospel, as we have been doing through the lectionary this year, what will we make of Jesus turning the tables over in the temple, challenging those who were exploiting the people? Will it give us the encouragement to protest against and about those who are exploiting others in our society and in other places around the world today?

Will we wonder again at the fig tree, withering away after being cursed by Jesus – what is that all about? Is it a symbol to say that Israel’s time has come, or is it a story about having faith? There were still the questions being raised, about paying taxes, about resurrection.

Jesus keeps going, heading onwards to a fate of death, death on the cross.

And, for us, there is always those few words we find in Mark 14 that keep challenging us, not just at Easter but every day; words recorded when Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane:-

“going a little farther...” (Mark 14:35)

Jesus always seems to go a little farther.

That’s what we always notice – do you?

Wherever we seem to get to, Jesus always seems to go that little bit farther.

We work hard, we spend time trying to listen to God and we begin to feel that perhaps we are getting there, are making it in our Christian journey and then, suddenly, we find that Jesus has gone on a little farther than we had been able to go.

Jesus stretches us. Jesus nudges us, sometimes gently, sometimes with a great big shove, but Jesus comes and wills us to move forward, to move ahead, to change our minds again, to change our approach, our attitude, what we are doing, what we are saying.

Jesus walks on farther than any of them – he goes to the cross, he goes to his death and he goes to a place where he is separated from them all, a place where none of those who followed him could go **at that time**.

Then we find ourselves perhaps standing with his friends and followers at the foot of the cross or maybe watching from some distance... and we don’t know quite how it is all going to work out.

Mark’s gospel ends suddenly, abruptly, like much of the story he gives, fast-moving, at pace and then... **it’s over to us!**

“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” (Mark 16:8)

So what is the story that we have to tell? How might we re-tell it this Easter, when the world is still struggling to cope with a pandemic, when we ourselves are perhaps struggling to cope with what has happened in our own lives, in our families over this past year?

The apostle, Paul, was later, after Easter happened, able to make the declaration that we still today need to make:-

“... in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died...” (1 Corinthians 15: 20)

Christ died so that we have no need to fear death. Christ lives so that we can live with Christ Jesus. Christ was raised from the dead so that we might know the hope of the fulness of life both now and in our own future.

So we, together with many from the past, can declare aloud the Easter anthem:-

Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!

Happy Easter!

Melanie and Mark

Green Tip:

As we clear our gardens after winter, please try and leave some undisturbed leaf litter, or at least pile it up in a quiet corner, as there may well be eggs, larvae and hibernating pollinating insects amongst it. Then, as dandelions start to show their sunshiny faces, please think what other sources of food you might have nearby for bees - if you don't have much, please leave the dandelions for a while. As the RHS say, “Dandelions may be considered a nuisance in parts of the garden, especially in weed-free lawns but have many herbal uses and are a good early source of nectar and pollen for insects so worth tolerating where possible.”

April Prayer Calendar

Here is our monthly prayer diary for April 2021, compiled by **Brian Ball**. If you would like to contribute and compile a list of prayers for May, please contact Melanie or one of the elders.



Thursday 1 Maundy Thursday. We remember Jesus eating his last meal with his disciples, which was the Passover meal of Jewish tradition. The festivals don't always coincide, but this year Jews are also celebrating Passover or Pesach this week, so we also think of them.

Friday 2 Good Friday Let us spend some time in meditating on the Cross, bringing to mind Jesus, those who were crucified with him, those who just had to watch at the foot of the cross: especially his mother Mary and "the disciple whom Jesus loved".

Saturday 3 Holy Saturday marks the day when Jesus descended into hell. It's called in different traditions: Holy and Great Saturday, The Great Sabbath, Black Saturday, Hallelujah Saturday (Portugal/Brazil), Easter Eve, Joyous Saturday or Saturday of Light (Coptic)

Sunday 4 Easter Day
Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting

Monday 5 On this **Bank Holiday Monday**, we give thanks for all our holidays, past and yet to come, and pray for some rest and relaxation for all those who are not able to take a holiday this year.

Tuesday 6 Tax Year starts. "The only two certainties in life are death and taxes" (source unknown). May we pay our taxes willingly, and may those who have the most wealth not seek to avoid paying their fair share.

Wednesday 7 **UN Day of Remembrance** for the victims of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. We pray for all who are still traumatised by their horrific memories and struggle to forgive or even come to terms with what happened.

Thursday 8 Think of something difficult that you have coming up this year: pray for God's strength and courage in facing it.

Friday 9 Is there someone you think you may have hurt recently by what you have said? Ask for God's forgiveness, and if appropriate then apologise to that person too.

Saturday 10 **National Siblings Day.** Our siblings are usually those with whom we have our longest relationship. We give thanks for our siblings, for all they have meant in the different stages of our life. If you don't have any siblings, then think of, and give thanks for, your longest friendship.

Sunday 11 Think of something good that has happened during lockdown and give thanks for it.

Monday 12 Think of something you have cut down on or managed to do without during lockdown and commit to continuing for the sake of your carbon footprint.

Tuesday 13 **Start of Ramadan** for Muslims. The lunar month of Ramadan is a time when Muslims fast during the daylight hours and spend more time in prayer to come closer to God. We bring to mind all that we can learn from people of other faiths.

Wednesday 14 **Vaisakhi** festival in the Sikh faith. This was originally a harvest festival in the Punjab region, then became the day when the Sikh religion was born. Let's give thanks for the richness, diversity and colour which all the different faiths bring to our culture.

Thursday 15 Pray for all those who feel trapped, through relationship breakdown, debt, mental health condition or any other reason: may they see light at end of the tunnel.

Friday 16 Bring to mind, or look up, Jesus resurrection appearances and meditate upon your favourite.

Saturday 17 Bat Appreciation Day. Find out a little bit about bats and their vital part in earth's eco-systems.

Sunday 18 Consider all the stars. If it happens to be clear, look out at the night sky. There are about 4,500 stars visible to the naked eye (each hemisphere) but of course many more beyond, plus the dark matter. God as creator is so much bigger!

Monday 19 Give thanks for your home and pray for all those who are homeless in London.

Tuesday 20 Baha'i: 1st Day of Ridwan. This festival marks the time when Baha'ullah announced his role as Baha'i prophet in 1863 in Baghdad. It is the day when local Baha'i groups elect their leaders. We remember all religious leaders across the faiths in their difficult job.

Wednesday 21 The Queen's Birthday. We pray for the Queen and all of the royal family as they face the challenges of ordinary family life but lived in the public glare.

Thursday 22 Earth Day. Think of one place on earth which is very special to you. Meditate on it, bringing to mind all your happy memories of it.

Friday 23 St George's Day. In case we think of today as a patriotic day for the English, St George was actually martyred in Palestine and is revered as a saint across Western and Eastern Orthodox churches, plus among Muslims too. Look up and pray for some of those other places where St George is the patron saint, including Ethiopia which is going through internal unrest and violence at the moment.



Saturday 24 Trevithick Day. Richard Trevithick was an inventor and mining engineer from Cornwall. He was one of the pioneers of the steam engine. Think of all the technology which we rely on so much and give thanks for God-given talents of inventors.

Sunday 25 World Malaria Day. United Nations and World Health Organisation programmes have reduced the effects of malaria, but

it is still a huge killer in large parts of the World. We confess that we in developed countries have lost focus on this by our obsession with Covid.

Monday 26 Pray for yourself, for something that you would like to happen this year.

Tuesday 27 **South Africa Freedom Day.** We celebrate with South Africans, giving thanks for their great leader Nelson Mandela, while at the same time confessing our part in the colonial systems.

Wednesday 28 Jesus said “Pray for those who persecute you”. Pray for those you find it difficult to get along with.

Thursday 29 Pray for our church that we may have learned positive things from the Covid pandemic.

Friday 30 **International Jazz Day.** Whether you’re into jazz or not, give thanks to God for the music you love. Pray for professional musicians who have suffered so much in the Covid pandemic.

Editor’s Note: The ‘*Praying Hands*’ image is a pen-and-ink drawing by the German printmaker, painter and theorist **Albrecht Dürer**.

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.

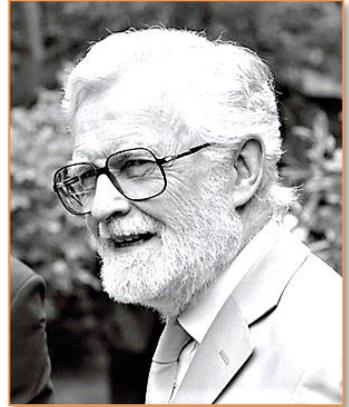
We worship and pray together.

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.

FAITH AND LIFE (Part 2)

An Evening Service written and delivered on 6 July 2003 by **Brian Smith** (pictured right) a distinguished Architect and well-loved life member of our church who passed away on 21 January 2021 at the age of 93. Part 1 of 'Faith and Life' was featured in the PGURC March Magazine 2021 page 11.



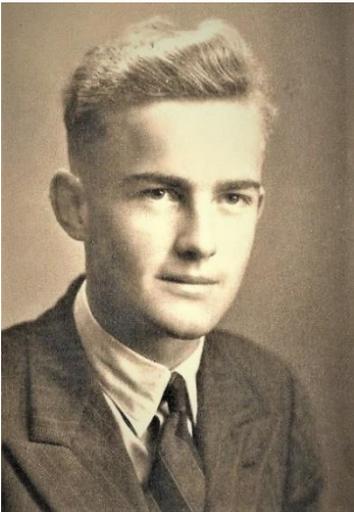
On leaving Minchenden in 1943 I went to the Northern Polytechnic in Holloway Road to study architecture. At the end of my third year there I joined the Royal Marines for my national service which lasted for just under two years. During that period, I qualified as a sniper and as a small arms instructor and shot for both the Plymouth Division of the Marines and for the Corps at national rifle meetings. I do not recall having any concerns or pacifist leanings despite the heartaches that war had caused the country and the family.

I returned to the Polytechnic for a further two years' study and qualified in 1950. That same Mies van der Rohe also said in 1938, "If teaching has any purpose it is to implant true insight and responsibility. Education must lead us from irresponsible opinion to true responsible judgement. It must lead from chance and arbitrariness to rational clarity and intellectual order". The course at the Polytechnic I realised, but only some years after I left, measured up to Mies' statement. Tutors including Glynn Roberts, a practising architect who for two years was my Studio Master, and Cecil Stephenson who was responsible for teaching me how to draw are remembered with affection. Cecil Stephenson was an amazingly talented man who lived in the lower reaches of Hampstead with Henry Moore, the sculptor, Ben Nicolson, the painter, Barbara Hepworth, the sculptor, Naum Gabo, the sculptor and Herbert Read, the critic, as neighbours. Glynn Roberts introduced me to the work not only of Mies and Frank Lloyd

Wright in America but also to that of Le Corbusier in France and Marcel Breuer, Serge Chermayeff and Berthold Lubetkin in this country.

During my first period at the Polytechnic I met Paul Stevenson - no relation to Cecil - a staunch Roman Catholic. We remain close friends and when our children were young we took family holidays together both in this country and abroad. Paul's contribution to these church buildings is the painting in the Foyer (see front cover) symbolising the joining together of the three churches that formed the URC here. His written exposition of the painting is included on the screens at the entrance to the Sanctuary. During my second period at the Polytechnic I spent most lunchtimes talking while walking the area of Aberdeen Park with Bill Apps, Ron Williams and Tony Good. Tony became an Anglican Vicar. Ron, who died at a relatively early age, lived opposite and was a member of the Round Chapel in Hackney. Bill moved from the Methodists to the Anglicans and then to the Quakers and after a distinguished career, resigned his job as deputy County Architect of Essex to take on, with his wife Dora, the job of looking after the buildings at Hengrave Hall which is known to those of you who have joined church holidays there. Dora and Bill were, and Dora continues

to be, a shining example of parents dedicated to caring for their children who were born one with considerable mental, and the other with physical, disadvantages.



Brian as a young architect in the 1950s

Although I have concentrated on living architects, painters, musicians and actors you should not assume that those of previous ages did not appear during the course of my studies, for they did. I do not however underestimate what I gained in all sorts of ways from my Tutors and fellow students – apart from my studies I was introduced to the theatre, ballet and opera. Education broadens experience.

After qualifying, I joined Edward Armstrong and Frederick MacManus Chartered Architects as an assistant architect. Two other assistant architects, Richard Wackerbarth, a gentle humanist, and Francis Goodall, another staunch Catholic, and I became Associates in the partnership in 1954 and Partners in 1965. Freddie was an Irishman who had been at the front of the Modern Movement in Architecture before World War 2. He had worked for Clough Williams Ellis of Portmerion and had been a personal assistant to Thomas Tait, particularly on Silver End near Braintree, a housing scheme for Crittall Windows' employees. His wife Nora had worked in Dame Henrietta Barnett's office in Hampstead Garden Suburb and they lived in a house, designed by Freddie, on the edge of the Suburb. Nora and Freddie made friends wherever they went despite some fairly strongly held views - strongly expressed - on every subject. Freddie freely admitted that he could talk around a table with a few people but large Committees were not his scene and there were many large Committees. Quite naturally he kept a firm guiding hand on what the office produced but over the years and as the amount of work increased he gradually relinquished day-to-day control over everything that left the office. He once said, "Responsibility is taken not given". Nineteen years of working with him was some experience. It never occurred to me that I should leave and go elsewhere; neither was it indicated that it might be a good idea if I did.

Another of Freddie's views was that those joining the office should be younger than the last who had joined. There were therefore many young architects who spent the earliest part of their careers in the office and they, with my Partners, certainly contributed to my understanding of the need for rational clarity and intellectual order. Our clients were many and varied. Our records show that the office has had over 750 jobs in 50 years. This continuity of work gave us stability and an immense opportunity to affect, and we hope, enrich people's lives.

Within a year of starting work Ruth and I were married, and we moved to Bush Hill. Our parents were exceedingly generous to us in that they made it possible for us to buy a house. By 1955 we had three children, Elizabeth and the twins Matthew and Andrew, two double prams, two

single pushchairs, two playpens and a grand piano, so we moved to a much larger house in Southgate in 1956.

Ruth's parents had moved to Southgate from Tottenham, where they had been active members of Woodberry Avenue Baptist Church, and joined the Church here in the early 1940's. Pompey, as he was known by the children, was certainly Leader of the Intermediate Department of the Sunday School in 1943, a Deacon a few years later and within a few more years Church Secretary. It was a very great sadness to me and to all who knew her when Ruth died from a brain tumour in 1980. She and her family were much loved and a great example to us all.

In 1984 I was asked to become a Governor of Palmers Green High School where I was very fortunate to meet Elizabeth, the then Deputy Chairman, and later Chairman, of the Governors. We were married in 1985 at Inigo Jones' St Paul's Church in Covent Garden with a reception at the Royal National Theatre, very suitable locations for me, an architect, and for Elizabeth, a theatre lover. Elizabeth was an only child - her wider family is in Scotland - but there were my children, two homes and two sets of friends to bring together. Most of my friends were married with children, most of hers were single. I soon found out that many of her friends were 'gay' which required me to come to terms with situations which had never touched me before. The problems in the URC and more recently in the Church of England have given a fascinating insight into how theologians think. I cannot begin to convey the tremendous contribution to my life that Elizabeth and my new friends have made.

Life has been and continues to be full. I have had good examples to follow, mentors to guide me, a continuity that has smoothed my way, stability that has strengthened and eased that way, and opportunities that have allowed me to contribute to other peoples' lives. I have been immensely privileged.

Enough of the background to my life, but what of that life? This architect has no easy answers to difficulty, disappointment, discouragement, disaster, doubt, discord except a nagging feeling that by applying one's mind to them answers can and will be found. Lateral thinking is not the prerogative of the architect, but his training and job

may assist him in dealing with some of those 'D's. John Mortimer, the playwright, has said that he cannot believe in a God that allows disasters, especially personal ones, to happen. But that, for me, is not a reason for disbelief. By looking at difficult situations from every point of view and sometimes for a considerable time the point of them may be perceived. Prolonged illness and untimely death are tough. Lack of stability and security must be equally difficult and I am fortunate that so far only the untimely death, for me, of those I loved has affected me. It is however important that I think about all of the 'D's because by so doing I may be able to help others.

Editor's Note: Part 3 of Brian's interesting and moving service will be featured in a subsequent issue of the magazine. A Celebration Service of Brian's life, for family members and invited friends, was held at the church at 12:30pm on Monday 8 March 2021. An account of the service and tributes to him can also be found in this issue, as well as Brian's detailed description, quoted below, of Paul Stevenson's painting in the Foyer shown on the front cover.

'I AM THE RESURRECTION' (Cover photo)

This painting by Paul Stevenson (1926-2009) was given to the church by him in memory of Ruth Smith in 1980 on the completion of the building of the Foyer linking the Church and Halls Buildings. It marks the coming together in 1972 of the congregations that had made the United Reformed Church in

Palmers Green. The artist wrote at that time that he did not consider that a rectangular painting would work. He was fascinated by the idea of parts of paintings that were cut out of material and then fitted together. He described 12th Century Danish crucifixes where arms were separate pieces of wood tenoned into the torso – a visual comment on the cruelty of the crucifixion. He also acknowledged the influence of Cubism in this work with its split images, slipping planes and shifting viewpoint. The solution was to liberate the figure from its frame and this can be read as Christ liberated from the tomb. The torso is simple and serene after the passion



of the left arm breaking free and reaching out over the door to the Sanctuary, visually pointing to and linking with the text ‘**I am the Resurrection**’.

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‘Mrs Emily’ in Zimbabwe

By Joan Bayliss



Here is the story so far, of an amazing and courageous adventure embarked upon by a Winchmore Hill couple. Emily (pictured right) and Nicholas have responded to a deeply felt call to move to Zimbabwe to serve as missionaries. They have given me their permission to share some of their experiences and I do so, mostly in their own words, using extracts from their emails and blogs, from which I quote below:



For those who don’t know me personally, let me introduce myself. My name is **Emily Manyumbu**, married to Nicholas for 28 years. I have worked as a peripatetic music teacher for 25 plus years, then my journey with BSL and the Deaf community began. Having started to learn British Sign Language I then started working in Deaf support departments within mainstream schools. Throughout my career I have been known as ‘Mrs Emily’. Recent years have found us visiting Zimbabwe more frequently until eventually we decided to make the leap and emigrate to this beautiful land. Naturally, of course, I started to learn Zimbabwean sign language to connect with Deaf community here.

In her blog, Emily states,

I have a passion to reach out to those, in the community, most at risk from isolation and abuse; support the promotion of sign language and assist with access to education.

‘Mr Mann’, aka Nicholas (pictured below) is the other half of this dynamic duo... he has many interests and has a huge sense of adventure as well as great sense of humour that often has Mrs Emily laughing when she feels like crying. He is often the one behind the camera, tree, rock, drone, handlebars, steering wheel and desktop.



Mrs Emily expects to be getting involved within the Deaf Community and to volunteer at Morgenster’s School for the Deaf (alongside Rev Mary). Mr Mann is hoping to offer support to the inmates in the local prison, particularly those who are deaf.

Emily comments,

I do not know what this move will entail, what challenges may lie ahead or exactly how things will pan out. We are currently settling in at Selah Lodge - Glenlivet, Masvingo, Zimbabwe. This is the property that we felt God provided for us as not only a place to live, but also a place of prayer. We invite all our Christian friends to stand with us as we respond to God’s leading and guidance.

It was a very special day in December 2020 when I finally had the opportunity to visit Henry Murray School for the Deaf (photo below) and to meet Rev Mary Chipoka (school chaplain). Henry Murray School has a capacity for 250 students but is currently



Henry Murray School for the Deaf



George VI School in Bulawayo

nowhere near full capacity. I was able to enjoy a tour visiting each of the classrooms meeting all the teachers and students. With Rev Mary at my side to translate (BSL is very different from ZSL), I enjoyed interactions with the students and their curiosity about who I was and where I was from.

I have been able to carry on communications with Rev Mary and am looking forward to schools opening again, now that lockdown has been lifted. Schools now hope to open on the 15th March.

Two weeks ago, I visited George VI School in Bulawayo (pictured on previous page). Still no students, but I met with the Head Teacher who kindly showed me around and shared with me a little about the school. The school was introduced to me as a school for the disabled. I realised that actually, there was a 'Deaf unit' pretty much operating in the school as one might find in a mainstream school in UK. However, the Deaf students numbered a third of the school capacity and some had physical disabilities too. What thrilled me the most though, was the 'reverse inclusion' policy, which was recently piloted by the Head Teacher, bringing hearing, able-bodied students into the school to benefit from the excellent resources and education provided there.



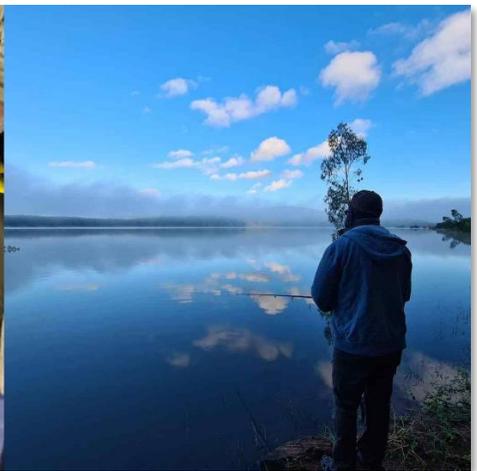
Water level rising in the rainy season

Roads, rains and rivers... the three 'r's of Zimbabwe... or so it would seem at this time. Ever since we have arrived in Zimbabwe the rains have barely stopped. Some days drizzle, some days heavy downpours for hours on end and... sometimes thunderous storms, lightening and torrential rains. There have also been some glorious days of sunshine when temperatures have soared. These rains have been desperately needed and longed for after 3 years of drought and water shortages. The land is now springing up with new life, greenery and colours. Dry rivers are starting to swell and the level of the Mutirikwi Dam is rising daily... its thirsty shores are now lapping up the fresh water. It has been so low for such a long time. However, the rains are also causing problems eroding the roads. Pathways and roads are turning into rivers and fields are transforming into lakes and streams. Turbulent waters drag along the sand, soil and stones as they sweep through the streets. Still, children enjoy this refreshing rain jumping in and out of puddles and streams. There is a lightness in the air. Three years of drought has finally been broken.

One of the many benefits of living at Selah Lodge, Glenlivet is the limitless access to Lake Mutirikwi which is brimming with fish. In the lake you can find bream, bass, bottle-nose fish and catfish to



Wide-mouth bass



Early morning fishing

name just a few. There are also crabs, frogs and larger animals including crocodiles and hippos. Most local folk fish for bream (with hook and a worm). However, since settling here in Glenlivet we have enjoyed fishing with a lure so we have been catching wide-mouthed bass. It has been most satisfying to walk down from the lodge to the water's edge and cast the rod, catching most days at least one fish. The cat is very happy about this. She is quite spoilt.

Fishing early in the morning is particularly enjoyable. The air is so fresh, and the sun has not quite crept over the mountains behind us. It is a perfect time to think, meditate and pray. Yet often now this peace is disrupted by the chugging of the mills grinding the rocks to extract the gold. Zimbabwe is a land rich in resources (gold, tin, platinum, coal, diamonds) and the soil generates such beauty as plants and trees grow so prolifically. This is to say nothing of the magnificent wildlife. The Problem comes with the madness of greed that such resources brings. Landscapes are destroyed and wildlife evicted when mines are constructed.

Whilst it is fascinating to think there is gold and other precious resources, I think I prefer to fish for fish.



Elephant plant

Turkeys and a chungololo

This unassuming little creature (the chungololo) is a harmless little fellow. It is a type of millipede. For turkeys it is a delightful protein snack (although I fail to see the pleasure in eating such a thing) and they fight to enjoy this delicacy... For me, however I don't mind seeing them around (and there are plenty, being rainy season) but only for one thing. Please Mr Chungololo, stop hiding under my rug. This doesn't work well for you or for me. The crunching sound is not a good one and I really don't want to see you go this way.



I look forward very much to seeing and hearing the next episode of Emily and Nicholas's experiences as the pandemic subsides and life in Glenlivet continues to unfold for them.

Emily's blog can be found on:

<https://mrsemilyinzimbabwe.wordpress.com/>

Joan Bayliss

BRIAN SMITH (1927-2021)

On Monday 8 March 2021 at the church our Minister Revd Melanie Smith led a wonderful and moving Service of Thanksgiving and Praise to God for Brian's life, attended, due to Coronavirus restrictions, by only a few family members and invited friends.

It began with a recording of Gabriel Fauré's *'Cantique de Jean Racine'* sung by New College Choir, with the Capricorn Orchestra. This was followed by a Welcome, a prayer, and a recording of the hymn *'Christ is made the sure foundation'* by Henry Purcell sung by Westminster Abbey Choir.



Brian with two of his great grandchildren, Jenson and Archie

A wonderful tribute to Brian, entitled *'Memories of a Friendship'* (see next page) was then read by David Orfeur. This was followed by a prayer and Shirley Murray's hymn *'Give thanks for life'* to the tune *'Sine Nomine'* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, beautifully sung by Caroline James with organ accompaniment by Robert Evans.

The *'Lesson'* from **Luke 14.28-30** was read by Brian's grandson, Martin Smith. Melanie then spoke at length about Brian's resilience in the face of frustration, his dedication to his profession as an architect, his loyalty to his family and faith, and his civic mindedness towards everyone. She also enumerated the talents and skills he had as a father, husband and mentor for young architects. She paid tribute to his devotion as a church member, elder and designer and finished by praising his life well-lived, his life of faith, his life of dedication and his life of love. "For that", she said, "we do give thanks." Caroline James then sang the Scottish hymn *'Lord, you have always been our home'*, with words based on Psalm 90,

accompanied by Robert Evans.

The service concluded with the Blessing followed by a recording of 'Go forth upon thy journey' from *Dream of Gerontius* by Edward Elgar, performed by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Simon Rattle, with the CBSO Choir and soloists Janet Baker, John Mitchinson and John Shirley-Quirk.

Brian's family have asked that, if you would like to make a donation in his memory, please send it to Children's International Voices of Enfield. Their web address is: <https://www.childrensinternationalvoices.org/donate-1> , and email: childrensinternationalvoices@gmail.com .



Flower arrangements shown above were by Jill Bysouth positioned on each side of the octagonal communion table and in front of the choir screen, both designed by Brian Smith

Memories of a Friendship

A tribute to Brian Smith written and read by David Orfeur during the service at the church on 8 March 2021

Brian has been a friend, consultant and confidant to me for over forty years, since 1975 when the two Churches, this one, and St. George's up the road, came together. As a Surveyor, I quickly found myself on the

Building Committee, of which, Brian took a prominent part as Architect. Some time after this union, Brian, in his inimitable way, imaginative and as a perfectionist, transformed this building into a practical, comfortable, and attractive place of worship. This included the conversion of the static oak pews into these lovely chairs, and the provision of this new screen, the new lobby and Crown of Thorns, all from the pew Oak. Also, the building of the connecting foyer between the Church and the halls. The amazing carpentry work was executed by Brian Hosier's brother. And much else in this Church including his artwork, all representing a fitting legacy to Brian to whom we are all so grateful.

I look back over all these years of friendship with Brian, many fascinating times, many fond memories which will never subside.

Brian's character was a blend of erudition and humility with an appealing sense of humour and infectious laugh, a loyal friend whose helpful and friendly personality will be sorely missed by myself and so many. He possessed a deep, broad, analytical and enquiring mind, all of which were reflected in his sound Faith.

His pride in his Architectural profession and of his many achievements in that field, was clearly strong and was the subject of many fascinating conversations that we had. His knowledge of great and inspirational buildings, and their designers and creators was clearly deep and international.

Brian had a profound love and appreciation of music. A singer, a pianist and an organist. I remember with great pleasure the many concerts that we attended together, both locally and in London, sometimes he taking Geraldine and myself, sometimes vice versa. Concerts in the Hall by the canal, the King's Place, sometimes with Elizabeth too. Talking about Edward Elgar and the *Dream of Gerontius*, Benjamin Britten and *Peter Grimes*, the Suffolk fisherman. He missed very few of the concerts given by Geraldine's choir, the Enfield Choral, in which he always showed an interest and appreciation. After the concerts we spoke about the music that we had heard, and the standard of the playing and musicianship and of the soloists and orchestras. I was always somewhat envious that he and Liz had

regularly attended the unique 'Seasons at the Maltings' in Aldborough where Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears were the founders and soloists, and organizers. The Festival attracted some of the greatest names in the world of music. What an atmosphere there must have been there in the presence of these masters by the grey Suffolk sea and the shingle!

Another period of working closely with Brian was when I was invited by Liz, as Chairman, to become a Governor of Palmers Green High School, and again, I was quickly recruited on to the Building Committee, shortly as Chairman. Brian was on the Committee as Architect and there began a long association during which time, with Brian's designing expertise and imagination, we saw the building of the fine Elizabeth Smith Hall with residential flats above, the provision of new kitchens, offices and reception area, and, importantly, the conversion of a closed chapel in Wellington Road into a fine purpose designed nursery which is still a very relevant part of the School. There were many committee meetings associated with the School and a vast amount of correspondence between us, where I became acquainted with Brian's distinctive handwriting, an art form in itself. It was fascinating and rewarding work and great fun too. We have both continued to have a deep pride in PGHS.

And then there was the Burford Society which ran for over twenty years, I like to think to the benefit of the neighbourhood, with its contribution of culture, music of all types, entertainment, and great array of interests. Liz was a strong, extremely amusing, and hugely valuable member of the committee, and Brian was a loyal supporter. I think back with a smile to the hilarious committee meetings, sitting around the dining table, behind the grand piano, at 23 Langside Crescent. Brian would retreat to his office just off the sitting room, after welcoming us, only to emerge later during the meeting with a tray of teas and one of Liz's freshly baked cakes from the kitchen. There was so much laughter at those meetings! He always seemed to know what had been discussed!

In 1997, Geraldine and I were delighted when Brian and Liz helped us to celebrate our 30th anniversary with twenty friends from this Church,

staying in our house in Ireland, and what fun we had during that weekend. They travelled on to Kerry afterwards, and he produced some wonderful images with his considerable photographic skills, some of which he gave to us subsequently. We recall his lovely cards for special occasions and artwork too. He was a serious, enthusiastic, and accomplished member of the Southgate Photographic Society and we attended many of their periodic exhibitions, which were mainly digital, apart from Brian until much later. He also became very proficient with the use of his computer.

The last time that we were legally able to visit Brian, upon his invitation, was last March 2020, when we enjoyed a carefully prepared trolley afternoon tea, and he was in great form with plenty of chat, making it a fine and lasting memory.

So, indeed, it has been a wonderful and a fruitful friendship with Brian's quiet modesty, genuine friendliness, and his willingness to share his professional expertise and scholarship.

Farewell Brian. And thank you.

Other Tributes to Brian shared by his family

From Geraldine and David Orfeur

We have lost a great and dear friend after nearly fifty years. We will miss Brian terribly. We will not forget him for we had some marvellous times together, and these are now just very happy memories. We do pass to you, and your family our deepest sympathy. I would imagine that, in all the circumstances, his passing is a relief for Brian, with his particular character and intellect the last period, particularly not being able to see family or friends, must have been so frustrating for him. We remember our last meeting in March 2020 when he entertained us to a lovely afternoon tea in his sitting room.

From Sir Jeremy Dixon

I am very sorry that such a special and brave person is no longer with us. The last few years have not been easy for him, but he always seemed to retain his personal kind of quiet strength. He was, in his own way, a distinguished architect and I regard it as a privilege to have

been a young architect in his practice. He took a generous interest in us as a band of 'young Turks' and gave us every support and encouragement; he had a kindness for which I will always be grateful.

From Janet Miles

I had only known Brian for about 20 years - since Liz became Chairman of Southgate Abbeyfield where I was Secretary and they both joined Southgate Photographic Society - and since he gave up coming to the photographic club, I only saw him very occasionally, usually at the Poulters when Shirley had a small tea party. We always enjoyed his company - he was a very kind and generous man. I know that all who knew him will miss him very much.

From Dermot Lewis

Brian gave so much time, energy, and expertise to PGHS over many years. His dedication to the School will be remembered for a long time.

From Barbara Crock

Brian always sent such wonderful cards not just at Christmas, but my birthday card was always a joy to receive - usually a photo taken by him gleaned from the natural world! Such a shame he had to leave the home he loved but know the last time, speaking to him on the phone, he was finding it more difficult to manage, so the Beaumont was a good option. Such a difficult decision for the three of you to make but the best one. Brian and your Mum, Ruth, were so kind to Cliff and me when, newly married, we arrived in Palmers Green in 1964 and that friendship lasted through the years and beyond the loss of Ruth. Finding love again with Liz was an unexpected joy for them both until, soon after Cliff died, Liz died too. Although a private person, your Dad made an impression on so many members of our church. His contribution to the fabric and function of it was always carried out with thoughtfulness, respect and courtesy. His plan and achievement for the modernisation of our church was so accomplished it moved me then and does now. It was a privilege to be his friend with a host of special memories. Did you know when he became a great-grandfather, he was more startled, not by the birth, but that he had a son who was old enough to be a grandfather!

From Harry and Diana Goforth

Brian was a very valuable part of my life and an invaluable mentor, as both of us were architects during our working years. PGURC would not be the same without him, and neither would I. He contributed so much to the church as an entity, and to many of the members personally. We are saddened too, but felt that Brian has been ready to leave us for some time. He lived a long and fruitful life in many ways and we were extremely fond of him. He was also certainly at peace with the world and you should all feel comforted that you did all you could to support him.

From Ray Adams

Brian was a very private person who valued his independence greatly. That apart, I was minister at PGURC for 8 years prior to my retirement in 2017 and remember both your father's kindness to us (in supervising maintenance at the manse) and his generosity in taking us to concerts at the Barbican and King's Place, as he had a shared love of classical music. We will always remember him with great affection and gratitude.

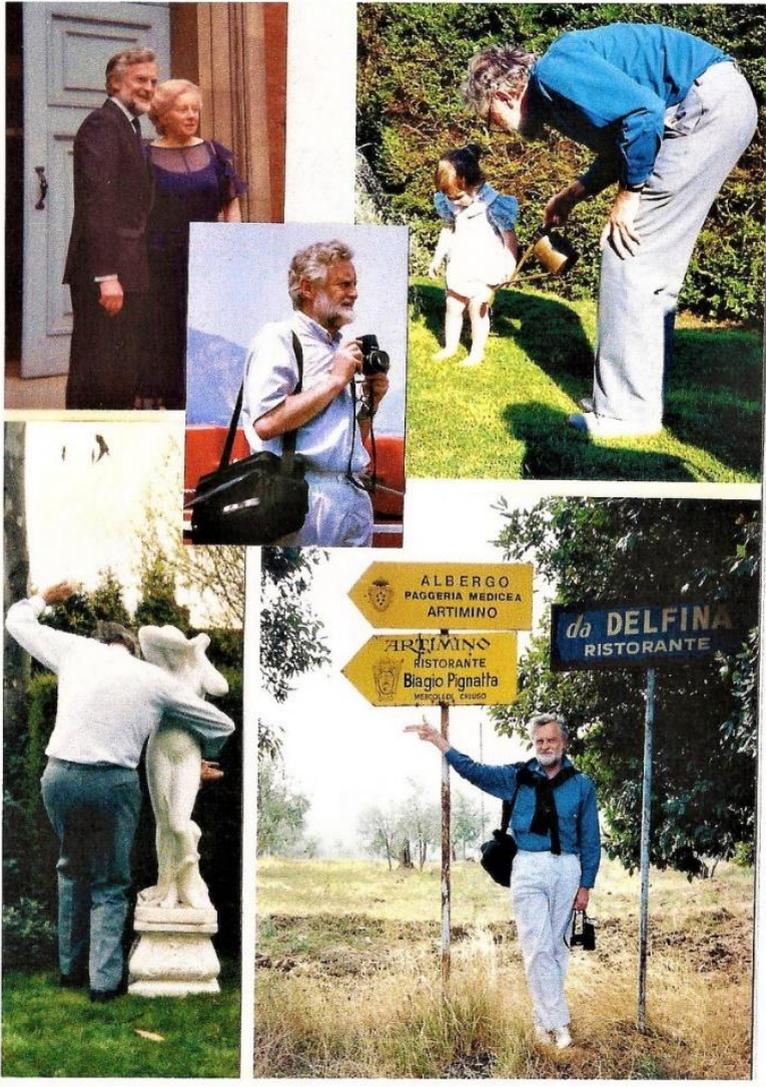
From Christopher Keyte (Associate Director and Treasurer – Children's International Voices of Enfield)

June and I knew Brian from being in the audience at our concerts and especially one in 2018 when he wrote a lovely review of the world premiere of our commission London Town by John Rutter which was published in the Palmer's Green URC magazine. Your suggestion of donations to CIVE in memory of your father is a wonderful idea and we are happy and grateful to accept this kind gesture. I would like to suggest that we remember Brian in our next concert by singing a special piece in his memory. We do hope that we will be able to sing a concert in Fox Lane before too long. Parents, choristers, staff and Trustees are most grateful for your kind thought and send much sympathy in your sad loss.

From Wendy Kempster (Headmistress, Palmers Green High School)

I had the pleasure of meeting Brian several times at School events during the 4 years that I have been Head of PGHS. I will always remember him as a real gentleman with a genuine interest in all that

the School was doing and achieving. He is held in high esteem by many colleagues and Governors who had the good fortune to know him better than me. I really love presenting the Prize for Precision that he left to the School. It is such a beautiful glass construction that the girls are delighted to own for the year and we are always pleased to see it return knowing the pleasure it has given and will give for many years to come.



A few photos of Brian from his family's collection above

PLANS FOR FUTURE IN-PERSON SERVICES AT PGURC

By PGURC Church Secretary

The Elders have now agreed that our Easter Day service will be held **INSIDE** the Sanctuary at 11 am on Sunday 4th April, led by Dr Paul Ashitey.

Due to the continuing need for social distancing, those attending will need to leave the building **immediately** after the service, without the opportunity for socialising.

The Elders will meet again immediately after Easter, to decide on plans for future in-person services.



MARTIN VAN STAVEREN

+++++

News of Church Family

From Barbara Crock

William Evans is now in the Gate House Care Centre in Ware for rehabilitation.

Latasha Croft had successful surgery on the 6th March.

Lewis Croft commenced his army training on 7th March in Winchester.

Lucy Jenkins has now started her new job with the Environment Agency in Wokingham.

Congratulations to the **Ray family**. Jill is now a great grandmother, Diana and Chris grandparents after the safe arrival of son Arlo to Aliye and Adam on the 12th March.



It will be a year since our friends **Clem Gittens** died (7th April) and **Peter Owen** died (10th April). Please remember them in your hearts and pray for Karen and her family and Jo and her family at this poignant time.

We wish them all well.

Lockdown Therapy

From Heather and Derek Wilcox

One of the things that has helped keep us both sane during this lockdown period is the acquisition of an allotment. We moved to Hertfordshire in May 2019 and whilst walking around our new neighbourhood we were delighted to discover some allotment plots just 5 minutes walk from our house. We put our names on the waiting list fully expecting a long wait but were excited to hear within a couple of weeks that one was available! So in November 2019 we became the proud owners of a 5-pole plot!



Newly acquired allotment in 2019



Fruit and veg beginning to grow

We had great fun planning the plot out and spent many hours digging it over and preparing it for planting. Thankfully we managed to obtain some seeds before the lockdown began so we had plenty to keep us occupied whilst isolating at home. It has been very therapeutic to get out of the house and tend the plants and also get tips off other allotment holders whilst of course socially distancing.

We were very pleased with the fruit and vegetables we produced and most grew well including kale, beans, spinach, carrots, onions,

courgettes, parsnips, beetroot, rhubarb, strawberries, blackcurrants and raspberries to name but a few. Some things didn't flourish quite so well such as tomatoes, gooseberries and some brassicas but we will try harder next year.

You would be surprised at the number of different recipes we found for using up surplus courgettes! It was a shock to have to start buying supermarket veg at the end of the season! We are now



Weeding



A small parsnip



Fruits of our labours

starting the process all over again and look forward to producing even bigger and better crops – don't think we will be entering any horticultural exhibitions just yet though!!

Derek & Heather

Recycling and looking after Brown Bear

From Keith Morten



Ever since the first lockdown in March 2020, I have visited the Church every Sunday (except Remembrance Day, when I was laying a wreath at a 'forgotten' Enfield war memorial) to check out the grounds for recycling stuff. It is amazing how many old cans and bottles that I have found once the shrubbery lost its leaves.

In the early days I was looking after Brown Bear* (BB), and during the spring and summer months I sat and spoke to folks who maybe were sitting on one of the benches. I

planted some cosmos plants in a pot but they only flowered in November whence the cold weather did for them.

More recently I noticed that a resident from Cranley Gardens had put their rubbish in our bin (they left their address on a discarded Amazon package). I just sent a note to say that we were keen re-cyclers and if they were to do it again, to put the cardboard in the recycle bags! There was a possibility of the Council letting us have a recycle bin, but nothing has appeared yet.

KM



***Editor's Note:** Keith explains that, "BB was a knitted bear the size of a three-year-old child found on one of the Church benches. It was a time when there was comment of animal emergence into towns etc following low human activity because of lockdown. It was with us for about three months, then disappeared and I claimed it had been kidnapped!"

What's Going on Here?

Live Morning Worship in our Sanctuary is currently suspended until Easter Day (see page 31), due to the current lockdown, but a 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, there is still an alternative that 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.

Eco Church – 'Churches Count On Nature'

From **5-13 June 2021**, in partnership with Caring for God's Acre and the Church of England Environment programme, A Rocha (Eco Church) is asking churches to run a **wildlife-count** in their churchyards or nearby land.

A Rocha hopes that this project will facilitate churches taking action for nature where they are.

For more information about this initiative and about Eco Church, look on these websites:



<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/expression-of-interest-in-churches-count-on-nature-2021/churches-count-on-nature-faqs/>

and

<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/> .

North Enfield Food Bank

The North Enfield Foodbank's **AdLent Calendar Collection** is the perfect way to give to those in need, this Easter. Since, our last Reverse Advent Calendar Campaign at Christmas, most of us are familiar with how this works, where you get to *give* something each day and we let you know what we need. We know that Lent usually is a time many people *give up* things; however with AdLent you can also make it a time to *give*!



This idea has been inspired by the Trussell Trust, enabling local communities to give to those most in need, in the run up to Easter. To take part in our AdLent Calendar Collection all you have to do is use the poster on our website, to collect and donate our 40 most needed items, starting on **Wednesday 17th of February** and running until **Saturday 3rd April**.

If you are unable to get any of the items, you can simply replace anything you can't get hold of with an item of your choice. The 40 items that you are able to donate, will then become part of food parcels for those in crisis in Enfield.

On **Saturday 3rd of April** our team will be at our foodbank centre ready to receive these donations, but you can also donate these items, by placing them in the donation bins at any of our supermarket collection points. We can also accept these items any time before this date – so feel free to donate earlier if you can! If you want to bring them the week after that is also great!

We're so grateful to the Enfield community for the continued support of our Foodbank. Without our local community we wouldn't have been able to feed the 2705+ people that have already needed our help this

year. For more information about this collection or anything else please visit our website at: <https://northyfield.foodbank.org.uk/> .

London
Churches
Refugee Fund

Charity Number
1121106

London Churches Refugee Fund 2021 Easter Appeal



'As long as I breathe, I won't give up, because I am the image of God. He didn't put me in this world to suffer, but to live my better life. One day all things will be good and the sun will shine for me.'

By a refugee client of the Jesus Centre Trust, a project supported by LCRF

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Can you help make this promise come true for refugees and asylum seekers in London?

Last year, LCRF supported 29 frontline charities with grants of over £36,000, helping an estimated 1,200 vulnerable people. Typically our grants are spent food, travel cards, phone top-ups, nappies or baby milk. The needs remain very great so **please help if you can with a one-off donation or by becoming a Foundation Donor with a monthly contribution of at least £10.**

Go to: www.lcrf.org.uk/donate

Or send a cheque payable to "London Churches Refugee Fund"

to Dave Bond (Treasurer), 144 Ladywell Road, London SE13 7HU

Easter Forest

*Gather in our local
'outdoor cathedral'*

Celebrating: CHURCH

COMMUNITY

Creativity

Creation

and the

Creator



12.00pm Saturday 3rd April

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

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

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

Further info: revd.melanie@gmail.com

Be part of the transformation...

India Appeal 2021

Church of North India, West Bengal

We're appealing for £10,000 to continue life-transforming work including purchasing a new digital facility for an existing X-Ray machine, enabling remote assessment by qualified radiologists. Visit: give.net/IndiaAppeal2021

Your donations are transforming healthcare at the KSN Hospital in rural West Bengal, providing safe accommodation to children at risk, and training vulnerable women in Kolkata.



Cathedral Relief Service
Kolkata, India



Enfield
United
Reformed
Churches

Quiz Boom

7.30pm Saturday 1st May

Please contact revd.meatcher@gmail.com for link

Entry Donations

give.net/IndiaAppeal2021

India Appeal 2021

Church of North India, West Bengal



Cathedral Relief Service
Kolkata, India



The
United
Reformed
Church

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

WE SHARE OUR PASTORATE WITH THE PONDERERS END and WINCHMORE HILL URCS. Listed below are their main contacts:

Ponders End Church Secretary: Mrs Pat Lewis

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

Telephone: 0208 374 0509

Secretary - Mr Martin van Staveren

e-mail: secretary@palmersgreenurc.org.uk

Treasurer (Interim) - Mr Brian Hosier

e-mail: 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 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 MAY 2021 ISSUE

Publication is scheduled on or before **Saturday 24th April 2021.**

All copy, including Church Diary information, to be sent to **Harry Goforth** (preferably by email to: hbg@goforth.myzen.co.uk) by **Friday morning 16th April 2021.**