

ENFIELD'S BIG GREEN CLIMATE FESTIVAL

**IF NOT NOW
THEN WHEN?**



**IF NOT US
THEN WHO?**



We support it! Events 18-26 Sept - See inside.

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ENFIELD'S BIG GREEN CLIMATE FESTIVAL



BIG GREEN FAIR



SATURDAY 25TH SEPT
10.00AM - 4.00PM
CHRIST CHURCH URC
CHASE SIDE EN2 6NJ

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Bring family and friends to Enfield's Big Green Fair.
Join our mission to highlight the climate emergency.

Activities & Performances include:

- 10AM Enfield Poets
- 11AM Media Debate
- 12PM SOUP Ukulele Band
- 1PM If Not Now Then When? Enfield People's Theatre
- 2PM Creative Writing Workshop
- 3PM 'For Hope' a cantata *excerpts*



Stalls include:

- BLM Incinerator Campaign
- Book Swap
- EnCaf Waste Group
- Energyyst Consulting
- Enfield Covid-19 Memorial
- Enfield Extinction Rebellion
- Enfield Help the Climate
- Enfield Society
- Ethical Consumer
- Field Dames (WI)
- Friends of Trent Country Park
- Tree House Friends
- Traidcraft Fairtrade
- Utility Warehouse
- Wildlife Trust
- Woodland Trust
- ...and much, much more ...



FREE ENTRANCE

view full programme here
www.encaf.org/festival-calendar

WORSHIP SERVICES - SEPTEMBER 2021

Date	Tim	Service	Worship Leader
Sunday, 5 September	11am	Communion Service	Revd Ann Jack
Sunday, 12 September	11am	Morning Worship	Revd Melanie Smith
Sunday, 19 September	11am	Morning Worship	Revd John Mackerness
Sunday, 26 September	11am	Morning Worship	Revd Dr Elizabeth Welch

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

BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021 WORSHIP SERVICES

5 September	12 September	19 September
Mark 7.24-37 Isaiah 35.4-7a Psalm 146 James 2.1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 8.27-38 Isaiah 50.4-9a Psalm 116.1-9 James 3.1-12	Mark 9.30-37 Jeremiah 11.18-20 Psalm 54 James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a
26 September Mark 9.38-50 Numbers 11.4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Psalm 19.7-14 James 5.13-20		



2021 CHURCH DIARY

Elders Meetings:

Tuesday 5th October at 8pm

Wednesday 1st December at 7.30pm

Church Meetings: (see weekly Bulletin for time and place)

Sunday 12th September

Sunday 14th November (Annual Forum)

Place for Coffee - We are planning to re-open Saturday morning coffee in the church on September 11th. Please will anyone willing to help contact **Jean Alderman** 020 8360 7382, or j.alderman984@btinternet.com

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: 01553 278949, email: pgurcbookings@outlook.com
Please visit our website for more details -
<http://www.palmersgreenurc.org.uk/halls.html>



Protest!

In Germany,
They came first for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up
because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up
because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I didn't speak up
because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up
because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me,
and by that time no one was left
to speak up for me.

Martin Niemöller*

Two years ago now, in September 2019, we joined a protest at the ExCeL Centre about the Arms Fair that was being set up there. We were part of a network called **No Faith in War** who joined together

on one particular day to show our displeasure that the UK was hosting an event where people from all over the world could come and buy weapons of warfare.

Did our protest achieve anything?

It disrupted a few people for a few hours, it resulted in several arrests (although many of these charges have now been dropped), but the Arms Fair will still return to the ExCeL Centre again this month and bombs and weapons of war are still being traded.

Did anybody really take any notice of our protest?

This month, we will be participating together in Enfield Big Green Climate Festival trying to draw attention to the climate emergency that we find ourselves facing and where the UK is hosting a major world conference in Glasgow in November.

How will we try and “speak” to the people of Enfield about all that is going on in our world, and will they listen? Has anyone noticed the fires, the heatwaves, the flooding, the earthquakes that have been occurring of late?



How does this all fit in with our calling to be disciples of Jesus Christ in the 21st century?

We believe that God has given us a planet and people to look after, not to exploit and we believe that God calls us to speak to people to recognise the damage that we are doing to the planet and to the population... that exploitation is nothing new, it has been going on for years, but might we be living in a special time, a little like Esther experienced:

“if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise... from another quarter... Perhaps you have come... for such a time as this.”
(Esther 4:14)

What concerns will you voice to your family, your friends and your community in the weeks and months ahead? Will you speak up and speak out for the things that are on your heart... or will you keep silence. We pray that we will have the courage of our convictions and share what we believe God wants us to say.

Melanie and Mark



Enfield's Big Green Climate Festival

Enfield United Reformed Churches, as part of our commitment to God's Creation, are supporting the Climate Coalition's nationwide Festival to highlight the climate emergency we are in and put further pressure on world leaders to act.

The Festival, organised by Enfield Climate Action (EnCaf), takes place across the Borough from 18th - 26th September, and we have three events that need your support and prayers:

- **Forest Church** Sunday 19th 3.00pm @ Winchmore Hill Scout Field
- **Fairtrade Wine and Chocolate Evening** Friday 24th 8.00pm @ Bush Hill Park URC (over 18s only Tickets £16 in advance)
- **Big Green Fair** Saturday 25th 10.00am- 4.00pm @ Christ Church URC...

...and the **Big Green Fair** is the big one!

Big Green Fair - Saturday 25th September

We need you!

We especially need help at the Big Green Fair at Christ Church URC on Saturday 25th September from 10.00am - 4.00pm (set up from 8.00am). Can you help with any of these, please?

- Loan of gazebos (in case of wet weather or restricted number inside hall)
- Set up of tables and decorations
- Loan of fabric bunting
- Plants and/or planters for floral decorations
- Stewarding (1 hour time slots from 9.00am)
- Hot drink serving (1 hour time slots from 10.00am)

Please respond to Melanie (revd.melanie@gmail.com).

The programme so far:

10.00 Climate Change Poetry

11.00 Media Debate

12.00 S.O.U.P. Ukulele Band

1.00 IF NOT NOW THEN WHEN? Enfield Peoples' Theatre

2.00 Creative Climate Circle (creative writing and art)

3.00 Excerpts of **'For Hope'** a cantata by John Strange and Ruth McCabe - saving the planet and living creatures from mass extinction, influenced by Attenborough and Thunberg etc.

Stall holders include:

BLM Incinerator Campaign // Cult Cake // EnCaf Waste Group // Energyst Consulting // Enfield Covid-19 Memorial // Enfield Extinction Rebellion // Enfield Help the Climate // Enfield Society // Ethical Consumer // Field Dames (WI) // Friends of Trent Country Park & Tree House Friends // Grizzly Vegan // Traidcraft Fairtrade // Wildlife Trust // Woodland Trust

We also hope to have children's and youth activities in the garden and a display all about clothes and their carbon footprints - so a lot to interest and a lot to organise... Please do let us know if you can help. The hosting of this event will contribute to our Church's Eco Church Award!

Melanie

***Editor's Note:** More information about Martin Niemöller and the 1946 post-war confessional he wrote can be found at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Niemöller and
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_they_came_...

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.

SEPTEMBER 2021 PRAYER DIARY

By Estelle Müller

1st Sept – In 1923, on this day, a great earthquake struck the Tokyo – Yokohama Metropolitan area, killing thousands. Recently, there was another earthquake in Haiti after the devastating effect the 2010 earthquake had on the country. **Please pray** for the people of this country, Haiti. They seem to have had a ‘raw deal’ with natural disasters over recent years.



2nd Sept. – **Please pray** for all the people of Afghanistan who are presently undergoing loss of lives and trauma due to the devastating actions of the Taliban over there.

3rd Sept. – The women and children of Afghanistan are being presently persecuted with their human rights being taken away by the Taliban: no schools, no education and women not being allowed to work. The Taliban seem to think that the role of women is only for producing babies. **Please pray** that the governments of the world will be able to help the women and children of Afghanistan achieve a better life in future.

4th Sept. – **Please pray** for the UK people to show some humanity towards those our government decide to support here in the UK and welcome them!!

5th Sept. - **Please pray** for the UK government and that of the USA, to do the right thing by the people of Afghanistan.

6th Sept. – **Please pray** for those Afghans who have been fortunate enough to have been rescued but who still fear for their lives, even whilst in the UK and elsewhere.

7th Sept. - At home, **please pray** for all the school children who will be tested for Covid-19 several times before returning to learning at the start of the new term.

8th Sept. – **Please pray** for all our children, both Primary and Secondary pupils to start the new academic year with a more solid and focused base for learning and pray that it will not be interrupted with Covid isolation spells. Our children need stability and consistency.

9th Sept. – **Please pray** for our Teachers and Teaching Assistants as they teach our children and that they hopefully remain Covid free.

10th Sept. – **Please pray** for our GCE and GCSE students who received their examination results recently. Well done to them all given the difficult conditions during which they underwent their studies.

11th Sept. – **Please pray** for those students undertaking University courses or starting new careers.

12th Sept. – **Please pray** for those youngsters who are still trying to find a way forward with their lives.

13th Sept – Given the many Lockdowns we have undergone over the past year and a half, many of our young people have developed poor mental health. **Please pray** for them all to be strong enough to overcome their illnesses.

14th Sept. – **Please pray** for Carers, those who work in Care Homes and, also those in many private homes, as they continue to do their best to look after their patients and family members respectively.

15th Sept. – **Please pray** for the ladies at the Homeless Shelter in Crouch End, and other shelters around the UK, that they are tolerant of living with each other in shelters with a view to hopefully getting appropriate accommodation as soon as is available.

16th Sept. – **Please pray** for the Shelter Leaders who are presently beginning to plan and coordinate the work of the Winter Night Shelters around the UK. We have so many homeless individuals who rely on these workers to provide a bed for the night for them.

17th Sept. – **Please pray** for the Coordinators, Shelter Volunteers and Volunteer Cooks who work to provide hot meals, conversations and clean beds for the night, for every homeless guest that crosses their path.

18th Sept. – **Please pray** for the doctors, nurses and medical staff who have looked after Covid patients and are still now looking after many who are affected by the Delta variant.

19th Sept. – **Please pray** for Leaders / Heads of States as they work through the various strategies to protect their people against Covid-19, the Delta variant and others to come.

20th Sept. – **Please pray** for our Scientists who are working on unknown diseases to make sure that our population stays safe.

21st Sept.- New Zealand, some parts of Australia, India, South Africa, parts of Russia, Martinique and Guadeloupe and Bangladesh to mention a few have recently returned to Lockdown, as the Delta variant becomes rife in their countries. **Please pray** for those countries as they fight this Coronavirus variant.

22nd Sept. – Wildfires, Floods, Earthquakes, Volcano Eruptions, Heatwaves, etc. have all become prominent across the world and are affecting Climate Change. **Please pray** that our communities take heed and act immediately to address this issue.

23rd Sept. – **Please pray** for the members of Palmers Green United Reformed Church who are seriously ill. **Pray** that they soon find a way to recovery.

24th Sept. – **Please pray** for all members of Palmers Green United Reformed Church so that our Faith is continuously strengthened and that we can support each other.

25th Sept. – **Please pray** for our Ministers, Lay Preachers, Church Secretaries and Elders as they work to bring their congregations the Word of God.

26th Sept. – **Please pray** for all those countries who are at war with each other. **Pray** that they find resolutions very soon so that human lives are saved.

27th Sept. – **Please pray** for Medical Charities working in remote areas of the world bringing medicines and care to those who can't access it.

28th Sept. – Please pray for International Journalists who go out into dangerous zones to bring us factual news occurring around the world.

29th Sept. – Please pray for those in the transport infrastructure who ensure that passengers can move around the towns/countries safely.

30th Sept. – Please pray for Supermarket Staff who have worked hard and continue to do so during these trying times. They ensure the shelves are kept well stocked for us all.

Editor's Note: The 'Praying Hands' image is a pen-and-ink drawing by the German printmaker, painter and theorist **Albrecht Dürer**. If you would like to contribute and compile a list of prayers for October, please contact Joan Bayliss.

NEWS OF PEOPLE & EVENTS



News of Church Family

From **Barbara Crock**

Please pray for **Adrian and Gillian West**, from Winchmore Hill URC, as Adrian returns to Azalea Court from North Middlesex Hospital.

Please remember **Pauline Westwood** in The Hollies, Fox Lane.

Covid-19 'Living Memorial' in Enfield - written by Joe Robinson and reprinted in part from *Enfield Dispatch* July 2021; submitted by Jean Alderman

“Community partners led by the Soroptimist Club of Enfield are planning a memorial for all those who died from or during the Covid-19 pandemic. Called the ‘Enfield Living Memorial’, the project aims to create a space for the collective bereavement of the people of Enfield and will see 30 trees planted in the shape of a heart. Find out more about this project and donate to the cause by visiting www.sigbi.org/enfield/tree-planting-project .”

Penry Greenaway

29 September 1925 to 20 July 2021

by Sarah Brandi

Pen became involved in the Scout Group at St Georges Church when Michael, his eldest son, joined the Cub Pack in 1965

It was not long before he was involved with helping the Group especially with the negotiations in early 1970's when the two Fox Lane Church Scout Groups had to amalgamate following a Scout Association rationalisation of Group Boundaries (a bit like the Government redrawing Constituency Boundaries)

In 1973 the 8th Southgate Scout Group at St Georges Presbyterian Church finally amalgamated with the 2nd Southgate Scout Group at the Congregational Church to form the 23rd Southgate Scout Group. A few years later the two Churches also amalgamated to meet on the Congregational Church site and dispose of the St. Georges Presbyterian Church. The Scout Group was now truly one entity and, once again, Pen saw us through all the hitches and difficulties and negotiations of premises/storage space etc. on our move from St Georges into the now United Reformed Church premises

Pen was The Venture Scout Leader in the 1970's and by 1979 he was the Group Scout Leader. At this time, he was lucky enough to have a large number of Scout Sectional Leaders to run a healthy Group.



Pen the Archer



Pen with his Leaders outside the Church in 1982
 (Back Row Standing) Wilson Boyd, John Clark, David Jagger, Adrian Bailey, Bryan Howell, Alistair Camp, Geoff 'Skip' Lipscomb and Ray Moss. (Middle Row Standing) John Bysouth, Philip Somner, Chris Bicknell, Nigel Brander and Derek Lane. (Front Row Seated) Sarah Brandi, Sheila Ridley, Pen Greenaway, Nicola Ridley and Margaret Scott.

Pen along with his wife Lorna were always heavily involved with the Jumble Sales. He was a regular at the Scout Summer Camps when asked by Skip to 'help dear boy' and was happy to drive the minibus and help out when Pat Rogers took the Rangers to Camp.

He carried on as Group Scout Leader until the late 1990's when he retired and passed on the baton to me. After retirement he would regularly pop into Cubs to see how we were doing and come along if asked when we were running a programme that he had some expertise in. The Cubs were always pleased to see him.

Pen first came on my radar in 1977 when my son joined the Cubs in 1976. I was soon 'seconded' to help with the Cub Pack. I was his Assistant Group Scout Leader for many years before he retired, and this helped cement our friendship of over 40 years.

I will sorely miss my kindly Scouting Friend who has been part of my life for such a long time.

Rest in peace dear friend.

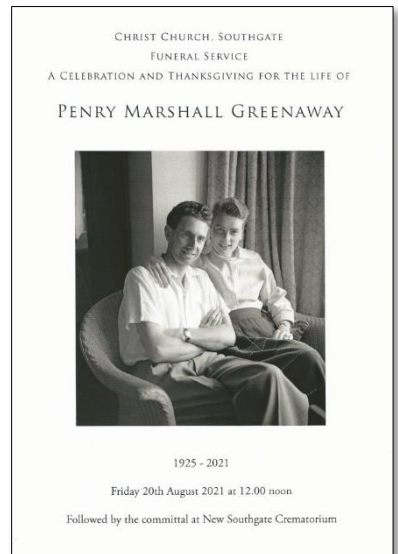
Sarah

A Celebration and Thanksgiving

Beginning with a Welcome and Bidding Prayer by The Reverend Hazel Miall, Assistant Priest, the well-attended Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Life of **Penry Marshall Greenaway** was held at Christ Church Southgate CoE at 12.00 noon on Friday 20 August 2021.

The first hymn 'Abide With Me' (Eventide), by W.H. Monk and H.F. Lyte, was followed by 'Memories of Pen' read by his son Richard Greenaway and two grandsons David and Christopher Greenaway. Steve Smith, District Commissioner for Southgate Scout District read a 'Scouting Tribute', some of which included Sarah Brandi's memories, above.

We then sang the hymn from Psalm 23, 'The Lord's My Shepherd' (Crimond) by Jessie Irvine/David Grant and William Whittingham, and heard Bible readings from 1 Corinthians 15.50-57 and Psalm 103 13-17 by Carolyn Greenaway. Revd Miall gave a moving 'Homily' and 'The Prayers', concluding with 'The Lord's Prayer' spoken by all present. The final hymn 'I Will Sing The Wonderous Story' (Hyfrydol) by R.H. Pritchard and F.H. Rowley led to The Commendation, Final Prayers, Blessing and an uplifting recorded BGT performance of 'The White Cliffs of Dover' (by Walter Kent and Nat Burton) sung by 'The D-Day Darlings'. After the



family committal at New Southgate Crematorium, those attending celebrated Pen's life with refreshments at The Walker Ground on Waterfall Road. One can view photos from his life and add a tribute on the website www.penry-greenaway.muchloved.com. Donations can also be made there in his memory, to either **North London Hospice** or **The Royal British Legion**.

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A Very Special Garden Party on Sunday 25 July 2021

Unbeknownst to some, this was the 80th Birthday Celebration of our beloved **Mrs Barbara Crock** who is the church's Pastoral Coordinator and Membership Secretary. She also writes the News of Church Family column for this magazine. We want to wish her another very belated Happy Birthday.



Here are some photos of the event, taken by a hidden camera, we are told.



Magnetic pull

A sermon by Revd Maggie Hindley (pictured right), visiting worship leader at our church, delivered at our Morning Worship on Sunday 8 August 2021.

Bible Readings:

Ephesians 4.31-5.2

John 6.35, 41-48

“No-one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me.”

I love this saying of Jesus. We are not *driven* by God, not *pushed*; we come to God drawn by the power of *attraction*.

I sent for the two magnets I have here specially to illustrate how I believe this works. Put them face to face with each other and they lock together – clunk! It takes effort to pull them apart. That’s how strong the love of God is for us. You can resist. If you face away from God, nothing happens. But the moment you turn around, there you are! Stuck together.

God does not force us, bully us, manipulate us or coerce us in any way. God attracts us with God’s beauty; God calls us, gently; we may find that there is a persistent tug from the Holy Spirit that eventually finds an answering longing in the depths of our own being. Another word for that consistent patient loving whisper is *grace*.

We see it throughout the bible. We didn’t have an Old Testament portion read today – too long - but it’s part of the story of King David (found in **2 Samuel**). His rather ne’er-do-well son Absalom has led a rebellion against him and he sends his men to sort it out. *“Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom”*, he begs them. But the hot-headed Joab catches



him (Absalom's head caught fast in the branches as he tries to ride under a great oak) and kills him. David is distraught – “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead if you, O Absalom my son, my son!”

If you worked with the lectionary last week you would have heard David lamenting another child; the new-born son of his adulterous liaison with Bathsheba, a baby that David adores, and pleads with God to save. David is far from perfect, but he loves his children passionately, even when they turn against him. Isn't that a parable for God's love for us, passionate and consistent and wanting us to be near him, even when we deny or disown or try to replace him with our own egocentric selves? Grace. A heartfelt cry out to us. The magnetism of an overflowing heart.

And we have it in the story in **John** that precedes the discourse we heard a little of just now. The people have come out to hear Jesus' wonderful teaching; they've travelled but stayed longer than they thought they would, and they are HUNGRY and there's nothing to eat. So, Jesus feeds them. It's a miracle, but it's also a beautiful act of love and grace and understanding towards those who are hungry, not just for bread, but also for meaning and for love and for the sort of connection with God that they don't find through the conventional religious leaders, who make impossible ritual demands of the faithful, who judge, who elevate themselves above the ordinary people. The crowd won't go away! With full bellies, they follow Jesus, looking for more; and here Jesus is inviting them to look a little deeper, to hear God's whisper, to come into relationship both with him and with the Father. Many of them do. Wouldn't you?

We are drawn, as if by a magnet. We can resist! You know how tightly a snail sticks to the surface it's crawling on – wall or paving stone – or, in the case of the snails in our children's story, a great big smooth black rock on the seashore. What stops us from being drawn by God into the wonderful adventure of the life of faith? I think, for most of us, it's anxiety; our default mode is worry, not wonder. And it may be the nasties that grow out of worry, envy, or uninvited anger; the need to prove to ourselves and others that we are better than them, being judgemental.

Self-stuff. The stuff Jesus is calling people out of, like the returning snail calling to her companions on the rock.

Can we hear that call? Can we do what no-one can do for us; turn and be changed; turn our inner magnet around so that we attach – clunk! - firmly to God? That's what our prayer life is about, and why we need one. That's what worship together is for, to open ourselves regularly to God's beauty and power and His desire to have us for friends. That's what many of the psalms are all about, and why they remain relevant prayers for us three millennia on.

Wonderful, innit?

And it changes us. The grumbling snails find they set out on their journey singing! I'd like that, wouldn't you? More singing, less self-pity and resentment? Paul, in **Ephesians**, gives us a picture of what life attached to God looks like. We heard some of it in the call to worship. We become *imitators of God, as beloved children*. We become good news for each other; *tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven us*. And, from the preceding verses, *we speak the truth*. We do not let the sun go down on our anger; we work honestly and hard and share what we earn; we are careful and gracious with our tongues, building one another up.

So, I offer you the image of the magnet for the week that lies ahead for you, whatever it may hold. Here, in this place, we can consciously will our side of the connection with God that God longs for; we can renew that daily, as we begin and end each day; and we can remember, in the busy or complicated or difficult or painful moments, that nothing can take away that connection.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Nothing can stop us from sharing that love with the people around us and all living beings.

I wish you joy as you step out singing into the next week of your adventure with God.

“Ask for whatever you want me to give you”: What is your priority?

A sermon by Revd Edward Sanniez (pictured right with his wife Ernestina), a retired URC Minister and visiting worship leader at our church, delivered at our Morning Worship on Sunday 15 August 2021.

Bible Readings:

1 Kings 3.4-14

Ephesians 5.15-20

Our **1 Kings** reading tells us of an encounter between Solomon and God. The story says Solomon travelled to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place. Worship at these local shrines often included making sacrifices, burning incense and holding feasts or festivals involving worshipping of idols.

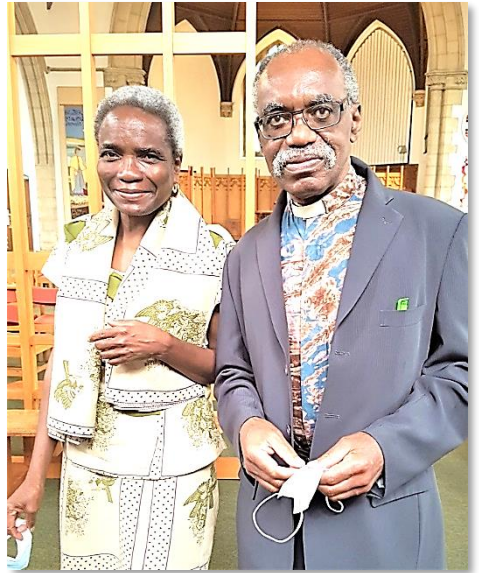
1 Kings 3.3 says Solomon “showed his love for the LORD by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places”. It is a bit baffling why God chose to reveal Himself to Solomon at such a place which was not necessarily built solely for the worship of the Jewish God. This might be an indication of God’s grace. It was at this worship centre that the Lord gave Solomon a blank cheque –

“Ask for whatever you want me to give you.” (1 Kings 3.5)

I wonder if God has ever appeared to any of us in this building with such a blank cheque. In case it happens this morning, what would be in your begging bowl?

Before answering God, Solomon’s thoughts were:

- Will I have the same favour as my late dad enjoyed?
- Can I be as faithful, righteous and upright in heart like my late dad?



- I wonder if my inexperience will hinder my readiness to govern such a great people, too numerous to count or number.
- Will I be a successful king?

If the Lord were to appear in our midst and put this same question, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you”, what are those issues on your mind which, as a church member or church leader, are clouding your thoughts which will influence your answer?

As a young man, Solomon could have requested long life, riches, power, and victory in battle, as the Lord commented; but surprisingly he asked for “a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong”.

Solomon did not ask for material gifts for himself but rather gifts of character. In other words, wisdom to govern God’s chosen people. This is a quality essential for good governance. Let us pray that our leaders shall be endowed with such gifts, especially to deal with the crisis being faced in our world - mass fires, various floodings, the covid pandemic saga, and economic hardship, to name but a few. As a church, what would we have asked for? As an individual, what would have been your number one priority?

Solomon was aware of his lack of preparation to fill his father’s big shoes, and might have been at this stage consumed with a desire to do right. His main objective at this initial stage of his reign was not to go for personal gain or material possessions, but for a listening heart, a discerning mind, and the wisdom to govern his people well. Wisdom is given, however, not just to kings, but to all who faithfully seek it.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,” (Proverbs 9.10) and “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Proverbs 1.7)

If wisdom is a characteristic Christians ought to possess, our **Ephesians 5** reading is encouraging us to live as wise people who make effective use of the time available. Paul in our **Ephesians** reading is partly emphasizing the contrast between the morals of the world and the morals of the church. To be “children of light”, rather than “children of disobedience”, needs God’s wisdom which Solomon was asking for.

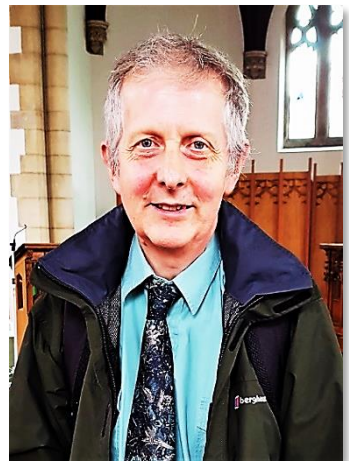
For us Christians, there is also another side of wisdom - Christ is the true wisdom of God, in contrast with the foolish wisdom of the world that did not recognize Christ for who he is (**1 Corinthians 1.18-31**). Speaking against the world's morals now-a-days in public places can land one on the wrong side of the law. Also, emphasis on social justice has resulted in making fuzzy the distinction between the church's and the world's standards. So, we need wisdom like Solomon's to navigate the issues we presently face.

Conclusion:

When God asks Solomon what he wants to be given, Solomon started by showing that he understands what the reasons for his father's successes were: *"he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness and in uprightness towards you."* When we look at our church building, what has been the success of our fore-leaders? I pray that the Lord gives us wisdom to pursue those same goals.

'Miracles' was the theme of our guest, Mr Martin Wells on Sunday 25 July

Based on readings from **2 Kings 4.42-44** and **John 6.1-25** by John Strange and Robert Evans, Mr Wells (right), an Accredited URC Lay Preacher from Palmers Green, began by reading part of **Psalms 19**, *"The heavens are telling the glory of God;..."*. We then sang our first hymn 'Morning has Broken' (Bunessan) with words by Eleanor Farjeon.



Then, illustrating how the Lord performed miracles by providing food for many people from very limited resources, Mr Wells compared the two readings above, one involving Elisha in Gilgal and the other involving Jesus and the disciples by the Sea of Galilee.

Our final hymn sung by all was 'Lord of the Years' by Michael Baughen and Timothy Dudley-Smith, led by John Strange. Following the Benediction, Robert Evans played a wonderful organ postlude voluntary to complete the service.

MEMORABLE HOLIDAYS

60th Birthday Trip to Lynton

By Brian Ball

It's just as well that I enjoy planning holidays, because this year's birthday trip involved so much planning and re-planning because of covid.

It was supposed to have happened last year when I was 60, but eventually did happen this year at the beginning of July. I was supposed to have 16 church friends join me in a large house in Lynton, north Devon. Unfortunately, the government decided to move back the date on which lockdown was further opened up. So, we were only allowed to have 6 of us staying at the house – those of us who did stay there had our choice of 10 bedrooms!

Fortunately, most of the rest of the party were able to stay either in Lynton or at least in Devon within reach. So, I did have a big birthday celebration with a lovely barbecue in the garden shown below.



We were very lucky with the weather on our 5-day trip, with only a few spots of rain. Several of us went on a beautiful morning boat trip along the coast from Lynmouth, with great views of all the birds nesting in the cliffs.



Setting off on the boat from Lynmouth

North Devon Coastline from the boat



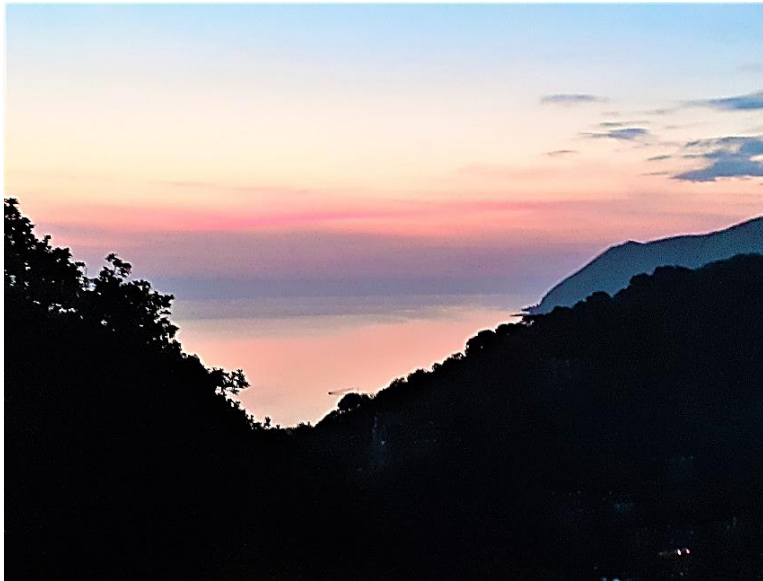


Birds nesting in the cliffs

Running between Lynton and Lynmouth is an historic cliff railway shown right. Dating from 1890, it's the world's highest and steepest fully water-powered railway and most of us took a trip on it (there is an alternative steep walking path!).



Lynton is very close to Exmoor and to the spectacular Valley of the Rocks, pictured below, which some of us visited.



We also just enjoyed staying around the beautiful house and garden, with its magnificent sea views.

Sunrise from my balcony pictured left.

The garden had a table tennis table, so we held a little tournament – which I won – well it was my birthday after all!

Brian

From Jane Hessami to Member of Parliament for Enfield North, Feryal Clark MP sent on 18 August 2021

Dear Feryal Clark,

The situation occurring in Afghanistan is deeply concerning. The UK Government must now show global leadership by offering safe haven for Afghans fleeing the Taliban. The recent announcement by the Government to settle Afghan refugees goes nowhere near far or fast enough. I am writing to ask that you call on the Government to:

1. Commit to resettle at least 20,000 Afghans over the next two years, especially women and girls as a priority for their safety and well-being. This must be in addition to those we've already committed to evacuating under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), and a long-term commitment to resettle 10,000 refugees a year globally under the current UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS).
2. Reunite families and bring those in Afghanistan with family in the UK here to safety. The UK's narrow refugee family reunion rules and the current ARAP scheme leave many British citizens and residents in the UK unable to help their family in Afghanistan reach safety. Without safe routes many of these family members will have no other option but to risk dangerous journeys to reach their family in the UK. The UK Government must expand the emergency relocation scheme to include Afghan relatives and close family of those present in Britain, reform the UK's family reunion rules and suspend the requirements for applications to go through embassies.
3. Offer welcome and protection to Afghans seeking asylum in the UK, no matter how they came to the UK. The Government must offer protection to Afghan people already seeking asylum in the UK and stop returns to Afghanistan. The Government must also scrap their inhumane and unworkable plans in the Nationality and Borders Bill to punish and criminalise Afghan refugees forced to travel to the UK via a dangerous journey. Some refugees will have no choice but to cross

borders without visas or documentation, travel in the back of lorries or risk crossing the sea in dinghies to reach safety. The UK must offer welcome and compassion to those forced to seek sanctuary in this way.

Yours sincerely,
Jane Hessami

On 19 August 2021 Jane received a reply from Feryal Clark MP thanking her for the letter and promising to relay the points she has raised to her colleagues in the Shadow Cabinet. Hopefully, they will echo Jane's concerns when directly questioning Government Ministers in the House of Commons.

NOTICES

What's Going on Here?

We are still holding regular services in our Sanctuary at Palmers Green URC every Sunday at 11am, and started on 23 May 2021. We look forward to seeing everyone, as we share in worship together. If you would like to access our online 6pm 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. See next page for Magazine copy dates.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

WE SHARE OUR PASTORATE WITH THE PONDERS 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 120 United Reformed churches in six Areas, headed by a Synod Moderator. The United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom has approx. 1,330 local Churches, 13 Synods and 43,200 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 OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE

Publication is scheduled on or before **Saturday 25 September 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 17 September 2021.**



The
United
Reformed
Church



ENFIELD CLIMATE ACTION FORUM

ENFIELD'S BIG GREEN CLIMATE FESTIVAL

FAIRTRADE WINE & CHOCOLATE EVENING

8 PM // FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2021

The world's wealthiest people caused the climate crisis. But it's the communities which the Fairtrade movement supports who are facing the worst realities of climate change right now.

Increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather is forcing farmers and workers, often already on scandalously low incomes due to deeply unfair global trade, into serious hardship.

Find out more about how Fairtrade supports sustainable livelihoods and how you can be part of the movement for change.

BUSH HILL PARK URC
25 MAIN AVENUE, EN1 1DJ
CORNER OF MAIN & THIRD AVENUE

SELECTION OF FAIRTRADE WINES
CHOCOLATE & A BEER
SOFT DRINKS AVAILABLE
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OVER 18s ONLY
TICKETS ONLY EVENTBRITE:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairtrade-wine-chocolate-evening-tickets-167147481617>

TICKETS £16 View full Climate Festival programme here:
www.encaf.org/festival-calendar



Thanks for sharing
or recycling this flyer.



ENFIELD CLIMATE ACTION FORUM

ENFIELD'S BIG GREEN CLIMATE FESTIVAL



Forest CHURCH



3PM SUNDAY 19th SEPT

A time to be CREATIVE
contemplate the wonders of nature
and consider how to
tread more lightly on the earth

The Scout Field, Paulin Ground, Ford's Grove, Winchmore Hill N21 3ER
what3words ///lands.mute.basis Further info: revd.melanie@gmail.com



The
United
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Church

Forest Church is a contemporary movement, for those seeking to meet
with God in and through their connection with the natural world.
Please bring your own seats if required and weather appropriate clothing.

No toilets or bins on site.

Suitable for all ages.

Partially accessible for those with mobility difficulties,
due to uneven ground and woodland setting.



FREE ENTRANCE

view full programme here
www.encaf.org/festival-calendar