



HAMPTON HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

May 2021

Minister – Revd Stephen Lewis email: minister@hamptonhillurc.org.uk Phone 0208 87551 727 or 0739 532 7032

Dear Friends,

Pentecost is the promise that God is with us all the time, that the Holy Spirit gives life and strength day by day. Often the Spirit is pictured as a dove, a bird of peace, surrounded by the freedom of the air, breeze and sunshine. Long ago, in the Celtic church in northern Britain, there were not many doves around, but plenty of geese, and thereabouts, the goose in flight became a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Geese, when they fly together, are a model of co-operation. They take it in turns to lead the familiar formation of a v-shape, with one at the front. But the leader keeps swapping, so that no one individual gets exhausted as they take it in turns to set the pace. Also, the geese flying to right and left in the formation are helped by the slip stream from the geese in front. Many churches are opening up again at Pentecost, and there is a purpose to our journey. Geese fly towards a goal, and they fly together. There is the old saying that the journey is just as important as the destination. Faith gives us meaning and purpose and draws us together. Often we may want to go it alone, but together we are stronger. If pandemic has taught us something, perhaps this is one of the significant lessons, that the love of God is where life makes most sense.

Welcome back! Stephen

WELCOME BACK

Opening up from Pentecost 23rd May

We have been opening up the church on Sundays for limited worship, as we have been advised not to open up fully for services until Pentecost on 23rd May. We are delighted to announce that we are now opening up for full services on Sundays from 23rd. Covid restrictions as appropriate will still apply. All are welcome.

CR

DIARY FOR SERVICES AND PRAYER

MAY

Sun May 16th 10.30 Worship led by Louise Bland

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Wed 19th 14.00 - 16.00 Tea and chat, Bereavement Cafe

Thu 20th 19.30 - 21.30. 1st Community Choir - Sing for fun.

Sat 22nd 10.30 - 12.00 Open for Private Prayer

Sun 23rd May 10.30 Worship led by the Minister, Rev Stephen Lewis

Wed 26th 14.00 - 16.00 Tea and chat, Bereavement Cafe

Thu 27th 19.30 - 21.30 Community Choir

Sat 29th 10.30 - 12.00 Open House, Table Top sale

Sun 30th May 10.30 Worship led by Paul Murphy, Egham Utd Church

JUNE

Wed 2nd 14.00 - 16.00 Tea and chat, Bereavement Cafe

Thu 3rd 19.30 - 21.30 Community Choir

Sat 5th 10.30 - 12.00 Open House, Table Top sale.

Sun 6th June 10.30 Worship led by Rev. Antony Ball

Wed 9th 14.00 - 16.00 Tea and chat, Bereavement Cafe

Thu 10th 19.30 - 21.30 Community Choir

Sat 12th 10.30 - 12.00 Open House, Table Top sale

Sun 13th June 10.30 Worship led by the Minister, Rev S. Lewis

Wed 16th 14.00 - 16.00 Tea and chat, Bereavement Cafe

Thurs 17th 19.30 - 21.30 Community Choir

Sat 19th 10.30 - 12.00 Open House, Table Top sale

Sun 20th June 10.30 Worship led by Louise Bland

Wed 23rd 14.00 - 16.00 Tea and chat, Bereavement Cafe

Thu 24th 19.30 - 21.30 Community Choir

Sat 26th 10.30 - 12.00 Open House, Table Top sale

Sun 27th June 10.30 Worship led by the Minister, Rev SPI Lewis

Hampton Hill Community Choir – New Start

The choir once again will open its voices on Thursday May 20th in the evening. Please contact Fiz Markham, fizmarkham@gmail.com or 07711 059415 if you are interested in getting your rusty vocal cords going.

Easy, enjoyable songs are the order of the day. Every Thursday until mid-July. No auditions. The choir has a lovely social vibe in normal times. The only requirement is that you are willing to come and sing!

FM

Place to Play

We are hoping to restart Place to Play on Tuesday mornings again soon.

Using the current guidance following the pandemic, we will need to arrange things very differently. Only 15 adults and their children will be able to come each morning initially. We will also need to use a booking system.

We will publicise the date when we can open as soon as possible.

If you would like to help or want any further information please do get in touch, by calling Rachel Latham on 0794 968 6816

We are looking forward to welcoming people back. RL

Tea and chat

Tea & Chat will start from the 19th May 2pm to 4pm: company, refreshments and chat, with the chance to play Scrabble, but this is not compulsory! You can bring your knitting or a game you like to play. SL

Bereavement Café

It is being planned that the Bereavement café will also start on 19th alongside the Tea and Chat sessions.

Advance notice -150TH Anniversary weekend – 9th and 10TH October 2021

Preliminary planning is now underway for our Anniversary Weekend which was postponed from last June owing to the pandemic. This is now being programmed on the above dates which will coincide with our Harvest celebrations too.

On Saturday 9th October, the current plan is to have a Talents Exhibition during the day exhibiting skills and hobbies of church folk, other friends and user groups. In the evening, a Quiz Night is planned with a now traditional fish and chip supper. Perhaps you can start thinking about putting a team together for this special evening?

On Sunday 11th October, our Harvest Festival will also include thanksgiving for our 150 years of service in our community with the service being led by the Minister. This will be followed by a 'bring a dish' lunch which will be either in the Oak Room or the garden depending on the weather at that time.

Please make a diary note for this special weekend. Further details will follow in due course.

Support Group

A small group of us have met on zoom a few times to have a chat, share our thoughts and faith. We only meet for about an hour and have appreciated this time together especially during lockdown. If anyone would like to join us or be part of a small group please do get in touch.

Chrissie....0753 903 4887

Rachel.....0794 968 6816

Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May 2021

This year, CAW will again look a bit different with some creative thinking required to raise some much needed funds for those battling with disaster and poverty.

The famous envelope has been digitised to give a cashless yet personal way of giving by friends, family and our wider community. For further details, please see caweek.org.

For those who enjoy walking and getting fit, there is a challenge throughout May to walk 10,000 steps a day and further details on how to obtain sponsorship are on caweek.org/steps.

On another matter, you may be aware that the UK is hosting the UN climate talks in November and Christian Aid is at the forefront of lobbying for climate justice. For further information and to sign the online petition, the details may be found on caid.org.uk/climate. MG

User Groups

Many congratulations to all at Ivytree Nursery who have continued their activities throughout the pandemic. Other groups are now also returning. We now welcome back Brownies and Rainbows on Monday afternoons, a children's ballet group on Saturday mornings, Annie Deadman keep-fit classes and Dramacube who meet on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It is great that we are slowly returning to normality and new enquiries for the use of our accommodation are also being addressed. MG

Reform monthly magazine

If anyone would be interested in having a copy of Reform Magazine, please contact Stephen Lewis.

Thoughts on Pentecost

As a wide-eyed 6year old at Sunday School I always thought at Pentecost I would hear a loud rushing wind and tongues of fire would somehow appear on our shoulders, - even with the one or 2 kids who didn't seem quite so saintly.

As an adolescent I was amused that, whatever was going on, other people thought the disciples were drunk!

Years on I have a slightly different understanding. Those antics which people understood as drunkenness were actually because the disciples were literally fired up!! Importantly too the Spirit endowed them with the ability to be able to communicate. Even strangers from outside of Jerusalem heard them enthuse in a language they could understand - their own language. Would that we could do the same. But even if telling friends about Jesus seems a step too far maybe the one thing we can do is to try *together* to fan the flames of our faith. It was lovely to welcome Paul Murphy back the 2nd week of April. He said to me 'We all carry a light from the Lord'. It's up to us how we look after that light, how we use it and also who we share it with - but I hope you do! Great words Paul. Thank you. CW



Editor C Ryan 12/5/2021