



HAMPTON HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

April 2021

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

Dear Friends,

In the ancient world, patience was one of the virtues thought to be the mark of a wise person. This spring, our society is slowly opening up after what we hope is the worst of the pandemic in the United Kingdom, a year of frustration for many. Government and health experts remind us that we still need to be patient and careful. We had got used to lives where we could get everything we wanted on demand, and perhaps that is still the case for anyone who can shop online. But there are many people who are still vulnerable, and the pandemic is still striding across our world. Shop workers have reported the abuse they have suffered simply for asking that the laws are respected about face masks and social distancing. We will need patience. We will need to wait sometimes, and tread carefully, and treat others more thoughtfully. Also in church we will also need patience, as we slowly and circumspectly find ways we can offer services of worship and various social groups, for people in our community. There are some words of St. Paul from the *First Letter to the Corinthians* which may help us through these weeks and months:

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth.” *Stephen*

Opening for services and prayer.

Over the next few Sundays the church will be open at 10.30am for a simple service or guided prayer and reflection, of about half an hour. Singing in a large congregation is still not permitted, but a small choir can lead singing and we may use recorded music at times. The minister will lead alternate Sundays.

Our denomination recommends that churches aim to start back on Pentecost Sunday (Sunday 23rd May), but this is at the discretion of the local churches. So in the meantime we will aim to keep numbers in the church building low and ask that if you wish to come to church, to contact the minister so we are aware how many will be there.

Opening for private prayer on Wednesdays will recommence next week, (time to be confirmed), and Saturday private prayer continues from 10.30am to 11.30am. Volunteers from the church congregation will be there during these times in order to provide a welcome. SL

Please note that masks are still required to be worn in doors, social distancing will be in place, and there should be no mingling between households while in the church building.

Sunday services on Zoom

Hampton Hill URC is still sharing Zoom Services with Twickenham URC on Sundays from 10.30 till 11.30am. Please see the church website and email us if you would like printed scripts of the service if you find it difficult to access online services. These will be posted through your door. All are welcome to join.

When services start up again, they will be shorter so as to ensure people are not in an enclosed space together for too long.

Special Easter Sunday chick and bunny give away

On Easter Sunday morning the church was open for private prayer. A few of us were outside greeting passers by and giving away some Easter bunnies and chicks. These little tokens had been knitted and

crocheted by members of the church. It was a very happy occasion, lovely to offer an Easter gift on a beautiful Spring morning. During the time we were there, we spoke to many people and were also given some generous donations which have been contributed to the funds raised for The British Heart Foundation through Jo Taman's marathon in memory of Nigel Tunley.

Thank you to all the ladies that spent their time working on these little gifts, to give joy in these difficult times.

RL



A MARATHON FOR NIGEL

Jo's marathon is recorded in her own words below. Here, Mike sets out the event.

On Saturday 10th April, Jo Taman undertook a Towpath Marathon in memory of Nigel Tunley, our much-missed church organist, who sadly passed away at the beginning of this year.

The marathon began at 7am on a cool and cloudy day at the entrance to Bushy Park opposite the church with the route then going via Kingston, Teddington Lock, Richmond and Kew Pier before returning the same way, with church folk located along the way to cheer her on her way

She returned to her starting position after 3hrs and 42 minutes which was a personal best time for a marathon. She was greeted by loud applause from church members and friends to the theme tune to `Chariots of Fire` which was highly appropriate to end this memorable run. A special medal was presented to Jo which has an inscription `In memory of Nigel Tunley` which she wore with great pride.



The church had been decorated with bunting and balloons that morning which suitably marked such a memorable feat.

Jo has so far raised over £2,000 in sponsorship money for the British Heart Foundation, one of the charities that Nigel supported over the years and any further donations would be welcome.

We were astonished and delighted that Jo was able to make morning worship the following day to thank those who supported her. She mentioned that her next target will be the London Marathon!!
MG



Jo Taman's marathon experience

Dear Friends,

As you all know on Saturday 10th April I took on the challenge of a virtual marathon in aid of the British Heart Foundation, and in memory of our well loved friend: Nigel.

Training for this was far from easy! Many cold mornings, an average of 40+ miles a week since the start of 2021, plus coping with the stress of lockdown and remote teaching was at times incredibly challenging.

However, the thing that really kept me going and made me determined to do well in this virtual event was the reason behind it. Every time I found training tough, or wanted to stop, I thought to myself 'Nigel is looking down on me- I need to keep going!'

When we heard the awful news in January I was determined to run this marathon in his honour, and for the charity that seemed most appropriate which I know many of our HH family also hold dear having lost loved ones from heart failure.

I was completely overwhelmed by the amount of support I got for this! As soon as I set up the just giving page it was apparent that I needed to increase my target. Nigel truly was loved and

respected, and the generous donations from not only the URC family, but also from fellow singers of TCS, reflected this. I set out to raise about £500, but the current total is £1907, £2300 including gift aid, and I am still truly humbled by the fact everyone has donated so much- Thank You!

The just giving page is still open until 10th June, so any donations for this amazing charity are still appreciated.

I can't put into words just how grateful I am for the support I received on the day. Even now I get choked up by it when I think of how many of you stood out in the cold at such an early time in the morning when you could have been tucked up inside in the warm! I was so happy to see lots of smiling faces along the route and I am still overwhelmed at the fact that you managed to have someone at every cheer point! That really helped me get through it and I can't express my gratitude enough.

I am still in shock about my time and such a significant PB. I never expected to get anything like a 3hrs 42m (3:42:48) time for this marathon, but it goes to show what can happen when you have a reason to run and the support of friends on the side lines.

I knew that Nigel was looking down on me for this marathon, and when things were starting to get tough mentally I kept remembering why I was running, and also thought 'It's me and you Nigel- help me get through this!'

Thank you again for all of your support with this- Nigel would have been pleased. And a huge thank you to Caroline for pushing the fund raising. I look forward to a time when we can do a concert in Nigel's memory too.
Jo T

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.

Quizian Aid for those who enjoy quizzes will take place on **Saturday 8th May from 7pm** and to register follow the link to caweek.org/quizian.aid

On another matter, 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

Reform monthly magazine

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

Caroline Ryan April 2021