



HAMPTON HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

March 2021

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

Dear Friends,

Lent – the name of the season comes from the old English word for 'lengthen', as this is the time of year in our part of the Earth when daylight grows longer. Lent is really a time of hope, after the long gloom of winter, and for us in 2021, as we slowly emerge from the long confinement of Covid. As Christians, we look forward to the new life of Easter Day. Still, it is a thoughtful time, to consider how we live the faith. How are we doing? As we reflect on the way of Jesus, we may find it uncomfortable to face how we actually do think, feel, act, and relate to others. The gospel is not about making us feel guilty, but about widening our small and sometimes self-focused horizons and setting us free. Springtime can feel like being set free. That is what God does for us!

Stephen

Current closure of the church

We are still keeping our doors closed for the safety of everyone in our community. But we are still very much thinking of everyone affected by this awful situation and keenly looking ahead to the moment we can throw our doors open to everyone again. We are preparing for the moment when we can welcome everyone to use our premises again. We are keeping a keen eye on all government and Synod advice, and will open again only when we are sure it is safe to do so. Please see below our re-opening plans.

Sunday services on Zoom

Hampton Hill URC is currently 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.

Plans for services and church re-opening

Churches are permitted to open for worship, but we still need to be aware of the risks of spreading Covid19 and its variant.

Masks are still required indoors (unless exempt)

At present congregational singing is still not allowed.

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

Please let the minister know if you intend to come to a Sunday service.

email: minister@hamptonhillurc.org.uk

Phone number: 07395 327032

text only please, no phone calls.

We intend to open at HH as follows:

Church is to re-open on Saturday mornings for private prayer.

We hope to re-open additionally for private prayer during the week.

Palm Sunday 28th March – the church will open (10.30am) for private prayer with a reading of the Palm Sunday story. Palm crosses will be available to give to people passing by.

Easter Sunday 4th April – the church will open (10.30am) for prayer with readings and recorded music. We hope to offer small, wrapped chocolate mini eggs to people passing by.

"Low Sunday" – the Sunday after Easter 11th April. Our first service. This will be led by the minister. We are still are not supposed to sing but we will make sure there is music.

Sundays we aim to offer a simple service.

Spring Towpath Marathon in memory of Nigel Tunley Saturday 10th April.

Jo Taman writes:

Our dear friend Nigel passed on at the start of the year. This sad news hit me particularly hard as he was not only the first friend I met on moving to Hampton, but also being a fellow musician we have played and sung together in many concerts over the years.

I felt compelled to do something during the challenges of Covid times to honour the memory of such a wonderfully kind person and dear friend.

I am, therefore running a marathon on **Saturday 10th April** for the British Heart Foundation, as a heart attack is sadly how he was taken from us.

I have called this the "Spring Towpath Marathon" as the route is mainly an out and back between Hampton Court Bridge and Kew pier- this will be a solo, virtual marathon, so covid safe, but still plenty of cheer points!

The start/ finish line will be Hampton Hill Gate, by our church as this seemed the most apt given the cause I am running for.

Any sponsorship will help keep me motivated on the day, and remind me why I'm raising money for this particular cause.

Please donate as you can using the just giving link: [Spring Towath Marathon](#)

Easter Sunday 4th April Special Day

As mentioned above, we will be having a special opening when we will be offering special gifts for everyone. Please bring your children along as will there will be a few surprises for the,

Activate

The Wellbeing Journey course continues Thursday evenings at 8 pm on Zoom. It's based around seven



key areas of wellbeing, to help you to discover a balance in your life. It's not too late to join this course, so if you're interested then please email office@activatechurch.org.uk for more information and to register.

Revd Chris Kennedy is an Anglican sports minister based in Teddington

Lent

For Christians, Lent is traditionally a time of year to give up something for the period leading up to Easter. Whether this is chocolate, alcohol, a meal out or attending a sporting event (not that we can do either of the latter two at present) why not consider donating £1 per day to a favourite charity of yours with the money that has been saved? Most charities have been experiencing difficulties during the pandemic owing to the cancellation of various fundraising events and their shops being closed so all contributions will be gratefully received. Over the years at HHURC, we have donated to local, national and international charities during each year.

Walking towards Easter together

This is a resource pack from the denomination. It contains stories, recipes, things to make, stickers to trace our journey through Lent. We plan to put some of the pages of ideas in the church windows, as we are not opening up just yet. But please look, and ask, if you'd like more details. There's also some knitting going on and we hope to leave some gifts outside the church for anyone passing by to take.

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/quiztian.aid

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.

Table Tennis

The pandemic has meant that the vibrant U3A Table Tennis groups have had to halt their activities for the time being. The group has previously met on Mondays and Thursdays, often with four tables being used for

physical, mental and social benefits of this activity will recommence soon.

The more senior players of Hampton Hill Table Tennis Club have been meeting on Friday evenings until the lockdowns began and they too are looking forward to playing again soon. Their numbers are likely to increase with the return to the area of Tom Bell, who played for the club before going to Edinburgh University where he became captain of the University team. From Hampton Hill to playing matches alongside and against county and national players has been inspirational for everyone associated with the club. You may be interested to know that at one time we had three nationally ranked juniors before they all left for college and whilst with us they put in some great performances often against experienced players in the SW Middlesex League. The old and wrinklies now find it hard to compete with them but are delighted that they have continued to enjoy the sport and the friendships that have ensued.

Stepping Back Into The Community

This past year has been difficult for many but with the blessings of a vaccine and a gradual easing of the restrictions, hope that we can again serve the community is just around the corner.

We look forward to restarting some of the groups (Bereavement Café, Tea & Chat & Tuesday and Thursday Place to Play) as soon as possible although we are very aware that there will continue to be restrictions and guidelines that we will have to follow. To enable this, we need to build our volunteer base to ensure that we can provide the best service. If you are able to give a couple of hours a week please do contact me, the past success of these groups are due to the generosity of time and skill given by our volunteers.

We also invite suggestions from the community, so if you have ideas of what you would like to see at the Church (e.g., young people, parent & baby groups etc) again please let us know.

Clare Diller – Community support Manager

Please contact Clare at

community.support@hamptonhillurc.org.uk

Reform monthly magazine

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

Easter Surprise windows

Please keep an eye out in front of the church as we may have some surprises in store for everyone. Take a look in our windows.....

Food for thought!

A URC survey found that: 9 out of 10 Christian teenagers are concerned about climate change ... but ... only 1 out of 10 think that their church is doing enough.

C Ryan 20/3/2021

