



# HAMPTON HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

Minister – Revd Stephen Lewis

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Dear Friends,

St. Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Rome: “We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” (Romans 14. 7-8). I think this means we don’t do what suits just us. At the time, St. Paul was trying to settle all kinds of arguments – about vegetarianism versus eating meat, whether meat sacrificed to other gods was unclean and unfit to eat, and even disputes about keeping particular religious days as special. Well, some of those issues still reverberate today. Paul’s solution was this: “Let us therefore no longer pass judgement on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of another.” (Romans 14.13). As I write this, our Government has announced the relaxation of all the restrictions surrounding the pandemic – and yet urging us to be cautious. Caution and care is not just for ourselves, but is about concern and respect for others, who may be nervous, or vulnerable to illness. These are real considerations in all public spaces, in transport and buildings including churches. Life will continue to be complicated and rules and requests will vary in different places. We may well have to keep revising how we do things at our church. So please be patient, and understanding, and willing to help those who need more protection, wherever you are.

Stephen

## WORSHIP DIARY FOR SERVICES JULY AND AUGUST 2021

July 11<sup>th</sup> The Minister-Rev SPI Lewis, organist  
David Copper, Holy Communion

18<sup>th</sup> - Roy Wharton, King’s Church Staines,  
organist, Jane Gibson

25<sup>th</sup> - The Minister - Rev SPI Lewis, organist, Jane  
Gibson

August 1<sup>st</sup> - Chrissie Ward, pianist, Coleen Muriel

8<sup>th</sup> - The Minister - Rev SPI Lewis, organist, Jane  
Gibson, Holy Communion

15<sup>th</sup>, To be confirmed, organist, David Copper

22<sup>nd</sup> - The Minister - Rev SPI Lewis, organist, Jane  
Gibson

29<sup>th</sup>, Paul Hollingum, Sanderstead URC, pianist,  
Gareth George

## ACTIVITIES DIARY

Church open:

Saturday mornings 10.00am to 12.00am

Bereavement Café every Wednesday 2.00pm to  
4.00pm

Hampton Hill Community Choir – every Thursday  
evening from September

**The Bereavement Cafe** in partnership with The  
Princess Alice Hospice.

The Cafe is open every Wednesday from 2.00pm.  
to 4.00pm at the church. Recently we have  
welcomed up to seven guests. Some local  
doctors are considering what has been called  
‘social prescribing’. This recommends to patients  
the advantage of meeting people and sharing  
matters. A charity called RUILS works in our area  
and has begun recommending folk to come to us.  
This certainly has been taken up. We offer  
Scrabble and ‘tea & chat’ for those who would  
appreciate an activity, rather than possibly feel  
put on the spot. Sometimes a one-to-one  
conversation is appropriate. If you would like to  
help on a Wednesday afternoon do speak to Chris  
Evans please. One or two additional volunteers  
would be a genuine help. Do please include this  
work in your prayers. Thank you

## Hampton Hill Community Choir

Hampton Hill Community Choir’s enjoyable term  
meeting outdoors ended in mid-July. We are  
looking forward to rehearsals indoor again (at  
last!) in September on Thursday evenings. We are  
open to anyone who just wants to enjoy singing.  
There is no audition. Contact Fiz Markham on  
[fizmarkham@gmail.com](mailto:fizmarkham@gmail.com) or  
[johnolatham@gmail.com](mailto:johnolatham@gmail.com) if you would like to find  
out more. Our website is: [https://e-  
voice.org.uk/hhcc/](https://e-voice.org.uk/hhcc/) and our Facebook page is:  
[https://www.facebook.com/HamptonHillCommu  
nityChoir](https://www.facebook.com/HamptonHillCommunityChoir)

### Window displays

Passersby enjoy looking into the church through the large windows. Members have kept a regular change in the displays from Christmas scenes, Lent and Easter as well as Pentecost peace doves. One window has been designed to offer something interesting for young children; this too has been regularly replaced. What next? The Minister has suggested we explore ways to make visual displays of some of Jesus' parables - the lost sheep, the house built on sand or rock, the good Samaritan..... Do you have items that could help make an interesting and thought provoking display that we could leave in the window for about three weeks? Do you have an idea for a display that might intrigue youngsters? Do please talk to Rachel and Chris Evans who have been co-ordinating the window displays as we develop new ideas to tell the stories of Jesus' love, kindness and hope. JL

### Quiet Space

Quiet Space will commence again on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. The sanctuary will once again enjoy the ambience of soft reflective music and candle light for Private Prayer. PN

### ADVANCE NOTICE

#### 150<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary weekend – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>TH</sup> October 2021

QUIZ NIGHT - SATURDAY 9TH OCT AT 7-30PM

This will be a special celebratory Quiz Night with prizes and a fish and chip supper. Now would be a good time to start putting together a team of between 6 and 8 people.

There will also be a special prize for the most original and amusing quiz team name.

Who will be the 2021 HHURC Quiz Team Champions? Further details to follow. MG

**Place to Play. Tuesday mornings** from the beginning of the autumn term from 09.00am.

Plans are being developed to consider re-opening in September when the schools return. This is proving a real challenge as the requirements for toddler groups are still unclear. A small group of interested volunteers will be meeting during August to make detailed plans. Volunteers are urgently required. Families have been asking when we will restart as this was a popular weekly event.

Please speak to Rachel if you might like to be involved in any way; Thank you. RL

### User news

#### Dramacube Back on Stage!

Dramacube have been running classes, workshops and rehearsals for children aged 4-14 at URC for almost five years. Their 2020 production of *Annie Jr.* featuring 25 children from the local community was about to open in March last year when the curtain fell and their show was put on hold indefinitely. After 3 attempts to re-stage the show, the disappointment was finally over when *Annie* opened at Hampton Hill Theatre on 23<sup>rd</sup> June to a hugely appreciative audience. Next up is *Matilda the Musical Jr.* inspired by Roald Dahl's famous story *Matilda*. Visit [www.dramacube.co.uk](http://www.dramacube.co.uk) to find out more.

#### U3A Table Tennis Club

We are delighted to welcome the U3A Table Tennis Group back to our premises after some time away. The group will be meeting every Thursday afternoon from 22nd July from 2-4pm and will once again be a source of fun as well as physical and mental well-being for those attending. For further details, please contact the group leader Margaret Iles on 07891 243136. MG

#### Churches together around Hampton The Big Lunch, a neighbourhood picnic. August 22nd

The Big Lunch is our chance to celebrate community connections and get to know one another a little better. The Hampton date is Sunday 22nd August at St. Mary's School playing fields Oldfield Road.

The Big Lunch is the UK's biggest annual get-together for neighbours. It's a simple idea from the Eden Project: that as many people as possible across the UK have lunch with their neighbours annually in a simple act of community, friendship and fun. The churches in Hampton are inviting members and friends to bring our own picnics and enjoy meeting one another informally.

Please share this invitation and come to join with other local churches in our community over a meal together.

For further details please speak to John Latham.