



## HAMPTON HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

AUGUST 2021

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Dear Friends,  
Summer months, with warm days, sunshine and rain, flowers and first fruits, give us the chance to look around us, to take notice of the natural world, and to be thankful for beauty of the world. In the Gospels we read some words which Jesus said: 'Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows' (Matthew 10. 29-31).

We can wax lyrical about the world when all is going well, but it wasn't much fun for sparrows in a cage, sold, presumably (as there's not much meat on a sparrow) to be put into another cage as an amusement for human eyes. But Jesus promises us that God sees even a tiny sparrow when it falls to the ground. Our problems loom large for us, but most of the world is oblivious to what is going on in individual lives. God is with us, wherever we are in our lives. As we see the wonder of nature, we can also notice the needs of individual people, and be there for them.

Perhaps we can make an offer of practical help or something as simple as phone call to know that you are thinking about them and praying for someone.  
Stephen

### Family news:

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Caroline Ryan after her difficult battle with cancer. We hold her family close in our prayers and we mourn the loss of our close friend and elder of this church. The funeral will be at the church, midday 2nd September.

Congratulations to Chloe and Martin on the safe arrival of her lovely baby daughter, Rosie Summerfield 4th August.

Delighted for Sharon as she moves into her new home in Hampton.

### 150th. Anniversary - October 9th and 10th

A weekend to look forward to, the 150th Anniversary of our church, including a visit from the Moderator of our National Assembly.

Please put the two days in your diary as we look to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Hampton Hill URC - the church on the High street.

We would like to make a splash on Saturday, filling the sanctuary with displays of interest. We hope to present material from the several global and local charities we have supported for many years such as Christian Aid, Shooting Star Chase, Commitment for Life, Compassion, Save the Children, Maleaki Kids (orphanage) Shelter. Are there photos of church activities in your collection? If so please could we borrow them? At this planning stage all your ideas would be much appreciated as well as offers of help. Towards the end of August a detailed planning meeting is scheduled. Would you like to help? If you can spare some time please so speak to one of the elders.

**Saturday evening 9th October - Anniversary Quiz Night and Fish 'n Chip supper.** Would you be able to put together a team of six to fill one of the dozen or so tables available? This has all the signs of a fun evening, great company and a chance to have a good guess.

It is the season of our traditional Harvest festival - a time for giving thanks for what has been 'produced'. This fits well with the anniversary theme. Now things are 'restarting' it will be an opportunity to publicise our present service to the local community as a hub for activities plus our own groups.

Please do share your thoughts with any of the elders as plans are at an early stage. We hope this will be an interesting weekend, an occasion to invite your friends and neighbours to come and enjoy.

The Sunday service will be special **Harvest Festival, with Clare Downing, the Moderator of the National Assembly of the URC, preaching at our Anniversary service** led by our Minister Rev Stephen Lewis at 10.30. Present plans include a bring-a-dish harvest lunch after the service.

### VISIT BY REVS TERRY AND PAULINE SPARKS

On the last Sunday in July, it was a great delight to welcome our former Minister, Rev Terry Sparks and his wife Rev Pauline Sparks back to the church whilst they were over in the UK from South Africa. Interestingly, one of Terry's first questions was what had happened to the pews?!!

Terry and Pauline were very pleased to meet everyone at Hampton Hill and to view the improvements made to the church since they were

last here which they regarded as inspirational. They were especially impressed with our large stained glass window, kitchen area and the new gallery which did not exist when they were last here.

We enjoyed a buffet lunch after the morning service which was led by our current Minister, Rev Stephen Lewis. Terry and Pauline were in the UK to be with one of their daughters and her husband, who live in Central London, for the arrival of their latest grandchild. They will shortly be returning home, which is on the coast about an hour outside Cape



Town, having had an opportunity of catching up with a number of friends and family in different parts of England. It was good to see them again and to reminisce about the time they spent in our area.

### **A Marathon London Night Walk.**

Jo had a hip injury (hip bursitis) this summer, so had to pull out of the London Marathon. Rather than being miserable about not being able to run it, she has decided to walk 27 miles instead! It's a midnight walk starting from Waterloo and I should finish at HH bushy park gate at sunrise (around 7/8am). She is taking on this challenge this for Tommy's as it means so much to her family. Link details are here:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JoTaman>

### **Our local university.**

(Chrissie Ward did some study here). St Mary's University, Twickenham is a local Catholic university providing a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The University is amongst the highest ranked for student satisfaction. The University has a range of opportunities for postgraduate research study (PhD and professional doctorate), in fields which can be especially helpful in supporting your faith including: Christian spirituality, bio-ethics, Catholic social teaching, human trafficking, charity management, education and social justice, PGCE and Catholic school leadership. Most students starting a Master's programme have an undergraduate degree, but it is not always essential. To find out more information use the website –[stmarys.ac.uk](http://stmarys.ac.uk). Ask at [atstudent.recruitment@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:atstudent.recruitment@stmarys.ac.uk)

**London Ultra Low Emission Zone** expanding  
From 25 October 2021, the central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is expanding to create a single, larger zone up to the North Circular Road (A406) and South Circular Road (A205). The North and South Circular Roads themselves are not in the zone. The ULEZ will continue to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including weekends (except Christmas day), with a £12.50 daily charge for vehicles that do not meet the required emissions standards. Cars, motorcycles, and other specialist vehicles will need to meet the required ULEZ emissions standards when driving within and into the expanded zone, or pay a daily charge. Owners of older vehicles will need to take action.

**Call To Action:** Check your vehicle meets the ULEZ emissions standards and the interactive map of the zone. Visit [tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021](http://tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021)

### **Place to Play toddler group restarts this autumn**

Initial Ideas are being prepared. We would welcome anyone who can spare some time on a Tuesday morning or has a view on how to support young families through our Toddler group. Do come. With the advice on caution and a proper 'duty of care' for our neighbours we are wanting to restart safely on 14th September. 09.30 - 11.30 Please publicise this re-opening.

### **Weekly Wednesday Bereavement Cafe. 2 - 4 pm.**

This regular offer of support is proving successful with between five and seven guests joining us each Wednesday afternoon. In close partnership with The Princess Alice Hospice we are working to create an informal varied 'cafe' atmosphere; including tea & chat and Scrabble. Local GP practices are now offering 'social prescribing' and one of the activities is our Cafe. While there are always some new guests we are beginning to develop regular visitors. Many others in the partnership meet monthly so our experience is helping the wider group. Would you like to join the team one Wednesday afternoon? If so we are seeking to develop a rota of helpers. Please speak to Chris Evans if you would like to know more.

**Richmond Street Pastors seeking help.** This is a uniformed patrol on 'night time areas engaging with young people in difficulty or who want to talk. 07 806 430 466

### **Sunday services August & September.**

#### **August:**

29th Paul. Hollingum, Sanderstead URC  
Coleen Muriel, pianist

#### **September**

5th Paul Murphy, United Church Egham  
Jane Gibson organist.

12th The Minister Rev Stephen Lewis,  
Holy Communion.

Jane Gibson organist.

19th Tba  
Matthew Ratcliffe organist

26th The Minister Rev Stephen Lewis,  
Coleen Muriel pianist.

