

Unity

The Newsletter of Ealing Green Church

Ealing Green Church, The Green, Ealing, London W5 5QT



June 2021

Ealing Green Church (Methodist & United Reformed)

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open weekdays 10am ~ 3pm, apart from on Wednesdays,
when it is open 1pm ~ 6pm

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Contributions to Unity: unitymagazine@hotmail.com

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Unity Magazine	Lee Horwich	020 8567 2851
Unity Distributor	Helen Harper	
Ecumenical Officer	Position Vacant	
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~ Groups ~

Afternoon Bible Study: first Thursday monthly at 1.30pm

Monday Fellowship: 2nd & 4th Mondays monthly at 1.45pm

Choir Practice: before and after the service each Sunday

Luncheon Club: Thursdays 12 noon—1.15pm

Full details can be found in the weekly notice sheet

~ You are welcome to come to any meeting ~

June 2021

Welcome to June's Unity newsletter.

This month's contents are listed below. Thank-you all for your contributions.

**Closing date for contributions for July's issue is
Sunday 13th June, Thanks!**

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Lee Horwich

Front Picture –09/05/21

If you have a picture (in jpeg format) you would like to feature on the front of the newsletter, please let me know.

The plain working truth is that it is not only good for people to be shocked occasionally, but absolutely necessary to the progress of society that they should be shocked pretty often

George Bernard Shaw (1856 – 1950)

From Sue

Dear Friends

We have just celebrated Pentecost. Pentecost – sometimes called Whit-Sunday is the culmination of the Easter season. Jesus has undergone the passion and the crucifixion, been resurrected to new life, lived again on earth and appeared multiple times to people in the area in which he lived. He has ascended to heaven – opening the way for us to do the same, and with His Father sent the Holy Spirit – the New Counsellor who is ever present with us. The Holy Spirit dwells within our hearts, and if we are open guides us towards God, and the life He offers us.

Those of us who attended church at Pentecost wore Pentecost colours, and received Holy Communion. There was – despite the masks, social distancing, and hand sanitising, a small sense of normality – particularly when we walked into the street - at Kingsdown in sunshine, and an hour later at Ealing Green – in pouring rain, and sang “Walk in the Light” and “Spirit of the Living God”. Not that singing our final hymn in the street is actually our normality ... but you know what I mean!

There is a cautious sense of some normality returning as Government restrictions lessen, yet we also need to be aware of the threat of new strains of corona virus and to keep safe – following the guidelines given to us.

It is also rumoured (I dare not say more) that warmer days are approaching. There is much to hope for.

Hoping to see you all soon – or to hear from you.

With my love and prayers

Sue

News of the Church Family

Jean Rose continues to have persistent pain which became so severe last week that she was admitted to hospital for a short time. She is now back home but her ability to walk is very limited even with her frame. Jean even has difficulty getting out of her chair at the moment. For this reason her family have asked us not to ring Jean nor to visit her for the time being.

Jean is on a new medication which will take a while to take effect. We pray that this will help.

Despite all this, Jean is in good spirits and looking forward to celebrating her 90th birthday in June. Congratulations Jean and love from us all!

Barbara Hawkins is taking a while to fully recover from her fall over a month ago. We pray that at her hospital appointment next month the doctor is able to suggest medication or other help to relieve her pain which is affecting her mobility.

Fleur Hatherall has had a lot of pain in her hand, wrist and shoulder for a considerable time due to Carpal tunnel syndrome. We pray that a recent steroid injection will ease her pain. We need you to be able to continue to play the organ and piano for us, Fleur!

Augusta Quinn Jalloh has had a recurrence of her knee pain which has limited her mobility. Fortunately this has not prevented her from being able to work. We continue to support you with our prayers, Augusta.

We are delighted to welcome **Janette Pender** back to us after spending eight and a half months in Scotland. We have missed you!

Sadly Janette has just lost a close friend and another friend is poorly, having had a stroke. These three spent considerable time together, enjoying much fun and laughter. We support you with our prayers Janette at this difficult time.

I hope that the weather will improve very soon and that as lockdown restrictions are eased, we are all able to return to a more 'normal' way of life and possibly even have a holiday.!

We pray for any in our Church family who are struggling for any reason at the moment, that they will feel God's presence with them and be comforted.

Gill Hatherall

Recycle your Blisters - well, blister packs

We mentioned this last month and the response from around the country has been so much more than expected that there have been problems with too many blister packs being returned for recycling. The plant carrying out the processes has been inundated with used blister packs. There is a move on to get the pharmaceutical companies to stump up for the costs of upgrading the equipment to make sure that it can cope with the demand – and, after all, they are the ones who are contributing the most to the volume of the blister packs not being produced.

At any rate, Superdrug are still accepting 'donations', so I include Gill's note from last month for your information:

Are you hoping to be more green this year and recycle more?

Every Superdrug Pharmacy will have a collection box, so you can recycle your empty medicine blister packets.

For every blister packet collected, TerraCycle will donate points to Superdrug pharmacies, to be redeemed into financial donations towards the Marie Curie charity. The one in Ealing Broadway is at the Pharmacy section.

Alternatively, I have put a receptacle on the tea bar in the foyer and you could put your blister packs in there.

Start collecting now and start making a big impact.

Gill Hatherall

Half our mistakes in life arise from feeling where we ought to think, and thinking where we ought to feel.

*J. Churton Collins 1848 – 1908
English Author*

Unity

We are in the middle, or hopefully the second half, of a pandemic. I know it's affected our family and probably everyone who reads this piece, some more than others.

The picture on the front of this month's issue tells a story of how we have to socially distance ourselves from each other, limiting the numbers who can actually come to a service now that the church has 're-opened'. It's nice to be back, for those of us who can come in, although it would be even nicer if we could see and meet some of those who are still shielding due to their vulnerability. Think of it, no-one has been able to discuss the wonderful season the Bees have had with their oldest supporter. That's something I would have been happy to do, but it's not an option and not going to be one for some time yet.

The pandemic has, as you will appreciate, had financial implications for many aspects of society. We have heard about the service and entertainment 'professions', but how many have thought about the impact on the church – apart from the need to close virtually everything down for so long. Giving has been affected as the letter from the URC reports later in this issue. I have edited the letter a little to make it more digestible, but would be happy to forward the whole thing, as received, if anyone is interested. I am grateful to Jonathan and the rest of the Finance Team for passing it on.

And another thing, the Census, remember that? Well a few weeks ago my sister mentioned that they were looking for some people still, so out of interest I went on to the web site to see what she was talking about. I ended up applying and have been doing a part time job interviewing people, when they were willing to talk to me, to get some information to help validate/verify the actual Census returns. It's been quite interesting and a real eye-opener. More on page && of this issue.

And finally, enjoy the weather (that is supposed to be getting sunnier and warmer than when this was written) as we've only got a few weeks and then the days start becoming shorter again!

See you in church.

God bless you



Letters and emails

From Sue:

Dear All (but especially those who sponsored me)

I am pleased to say that during Christian Aid Week – which contrary to the previous rumours started by me, was a working week for me, not a holiday in Minehead (that is still to come) I managed to fit in walking 91,798 steps around my work, exceeding the 75 000 that I pledged to do.

If you have sponsored me, I would be delighted to receive your donation for Christian Aid. I will of course let you know the total I have raised when I have it all in.

There are several ways you can get it to me.

1. Give me cash at church in an envelope with your name on it, and CHRISTIAN AID
2. Place a cheque or cash in a marked envelope in the offering plate at EALING GREEN as well as your offering. If you are doing this you can make the cheque out to Ealing Green Church, who will then just give me the total raised.
3. If at Kingsdown or Pitshanger give me a cheque either written out to me, or to EALING GREEN CHURCH (I am doing this on behalf of all 3 churches, but EG have offered to act as a bank for us).
4. If you want to post, my address is 19 Queen Anne's Gardens. W5 5QD.

THANKYOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN SPONSORING ME.

Sue

The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good deed by stealth, and have it found out by accident.

*Charles Lamb 1775- 1834
English Essayist/Critic*

From Antonya and Louise:

Fundraising for laptops for Hambrough Primary School - Amazing Result!

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to our fundraising efforts for school laptops in March. We are delighted to let you know that we raised £1120 made up of contributions as well as a donation from the Church.

This will go towards buying WinBook 300e laptops for Hambrough Primary School in Southall, which at c£200 each will mean at least 5 new much needed devices.

A huge thank you to everyone for your support these devices will make a huge difference to the pupils at the school.

Thank you!

Antonya and Louise

Annual Letter to Local Churches from the URC

From: The United Reformed Church Finance Committee

To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships

It would be fair to describe the year-and-a-bit since March 2020 as having been “different”, wouldn't it? Lots of us have experienced loss of loved ones, loss of income and perhaps jobs. All have experienced periods of lockdown; periods without ‘non-essential’ shops; and continuous and extensive disruption to our ‘normal’ social interactions and relationships. The world we thought we understood and could take for granted has been utterly transformed. How many of us imagined at the start of 2020 that we could go months without a haircut or without people not in our ‘bubble’ entering our homes?

As members of United Reformed Church congregations ourselves, we understand much of what your church community has experienced since March 2020. The absence of what is now regularly labelled “in-person worship” for much (or all) of this time has compelled us to turn to other ways of being church. Buildings in which we used to praise God regularly have been shut, both to regular worshipers and others

who might have sought solace within their walls during these desperate and troubling times. It has been hard to maintain close fellowship with people we only meet over Zoom (or the like) – if we are digitally enabled.

Financially, things have been extremely tough too. Plate offerings have collapsed; some regular givers have had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God's work; and those churches which hire out their premises have seen income from that source disappear.

At denominational level, we feared that these financial troubles would spell disaster for the URC's Ministry and Mission ('M&M') fund through which the URC has always supported and developed our stipendiary ministers and Church Related Community Workers. It would have been all too easy for congregations to forget that for almost 49 years this fund (under various names) has provided stipends, pension contributions and training for all ministers throughout the three nations in which the URC operates: so that ministry reaches where synods judge it to be most needed and is paid for according to each congregation's ability to contribute (though the ways of determining that vary from synod to synod). It was all very well to remind ourselves that the M&M fund is meant to be the first call on every congregation's resources if the undertaking to financially support our ministers is to be honoured. We feared that drastically reduced income would make that impossible and that, because the need was less visible than the other calls on your diminished resources, payments to the M&M fund would have stopped first.

We are sorry if we ever doubted you.

It quickly became apparent that, although some congregations had to reduce their pledged giving to the M&M fund, many more of you were continuing to meet the 2020 commitments you had made during better times, despite the struggles that required. At the start of that year we had been expecting churches and synods to contribute around £18.5 million to the fund. By the year end, all but half-a-million pounds of that had been received. Since Church House staff and committees managed to reduce their budgeted expenditure by almost £1 million, your money enabled us to meet the full costs of our Ministries, Education & Learning, Children's and Youth Work and Mission departments in 2020 as well as covering amounts spent on safeguarding, denominational governance and communications.

What is perhaps even more amazing is that, collectively, you have pledged to give £17.3 million during 2021 despite the financial problems caused by the pandemic being fully apparent well before your offers for this year were made.

We are always grateful for the financial support given each year to the M&M fund by all of you; but this past year has been phenomenal.

Thank you to those of you who have been able to maintain or increase financial support for your church congregation through this difficult time. That has enabled those responsible for your congregation's finances to keep more money flowing to the M&M fund than we expected.

Thank you for all your previous financial support to those of you who, after prayerful consideration, have had to reduce or stop giving in response to your changed financial circumstances.

Thank you for the pledges your congregation has made about contributing to the M&M fund during 2021 even though you were by then aware of the impact the pandemic was having on your local congregation's finances.

Thank you in anticipation for what you agree to offer to the M&M fund during 2022 to enable the denomination to deliver ministry, education and learning, children's work and mission activity on God's (and your) behalf.

We are aware that synods have played a significant part in encouraging and supporting many congregations with their contributions to the M&M fund. We have separately written to Synod Treasurers to express our thanks to them and their colleagues too.

Of course, our giving for God's work is in response to the amazing generosity and love of God which we see in Jesus. Nonetheless, it is important for us to thank every one of you for what you do for God, your congregation and its and our denominational finances.

Thank you!

The Lord prefers common looking people. That is the reason He makes so many of them

Abraham Lincoln 1809 - 1865

Poetry Corner - This month's suggestion from Marian Martin:

My father-in-law, John, is 94 years old, a great sports enthusiast, having been a Brentford FC supporter for over 80 years, attending matches regularly, and a keen tennis player. Through his life he has been very active and seldom had any illness, not even a cold. He lives with his wife Bridget, who is 91 years old.

A couple of years ago he suffered a stroke, which has greatly reduced his physical activity. He also has Alzheimer's, and is easily confused by the names of his four great grandchildren. He asks every night where 'the boys' are and what time they will be in. 'The boys', his three sons, all left home over 40 years ago or more, He expects them in every night.

During Covid, Paul and I gave them support. We got all their grocery needs delivered to us and then delivered them on to them.

John was very confused by Covid restrictions and unable to work out why he couldn't go to football matches or why nobody other than us could visit. He did, however, one day start to say "What is this life If full of care " from Leisure by William Henry Davies. His response when I joined in reciting this verse brought a wonderful feeling in my heart as his whole face lit up and the sparkle in his eyes returned. It meant we could interact together.

What seems such a simple thing made me appreciate poetry a lot more. I thank God for John's life, a lovely man with whom I have had a fantastic relationship, being on the same wavelength as him and having lost my own Dad when he was so young.

We are so fortunate to have four generations of Martin males in this family!

Marian has asked for 'Warning' by Jenny Joseph. I have also included William Henry Davies' 'What is this life as it's such a lovely poem, and one for us all to think about.

Warning

Jenny Joseph

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired

And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things in
boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practice a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

What is this life if, full of care

William Henry Davies

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this is if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

Census 2021

“I already filled in the form on March 21st, so why are you asking me more questions now?” That is the most common question/response I have had since starting to work on the Census Coverage scheme a couple of weeks ago.

census2021

Apparently, and here I stand open for correction, these follow-ups help to validate and even improve the accuracy of the statistics the Office of National Statistics generates from the Census itself. They select a number of streets within each area surveyed and train up some people, me being one of them, to go around and interview people, using a standard questionnaire. All the information and the questionnaire is on the mobile phone that we are given for the duration and it's really quite straightforward. At least it would be if the people we were interviewing, or trying to interview, were as uniform.

But, as you may have guessed, they are not.

In the first postcode I was given, in West Ealing, there were 64 dwellings. The street is neatly divided into two types of houses, some terraced ones and some which are purpose built and owned by a Housing charity. I hope that's not enough for any of you to identify which street this is, as that is certainly not my intention

In the terraced ones I was fortunate enough to meet Chinese, Polish, Greek, Indian, Pakistani, Albanian, Syrian, Italian, Romanian, Arabian and people from other countries - oh, and two from the UK!

Both the Chinese were upset that, as they came from Hong Kong, that they still had to fit in to the class of being ethnically Chinese. They protested, “But people from Hong Kong are different.” The Albanian lady had an unpronounceable and very long name, so to avoid any unnecessary delay, she eventually took the phone from me and entered her name herself. She then entered and answered all the questions for the whole family and the housing situation they were in – at breakneck speed, her thumbs a blur on the Census phone. She is hoping to retake her qualifications in the UK as her Albanian ones aren't recognised here. I would employ her in a heartbeat, she was just so capable and in charge!

The other end of the street is inhabited, mostly by people living alone. Some didn't want to speak to me, but most wanted me to come in

and sit down, something that we are not supposed to do, and to have a chat. In these dwellings, run by the housing charity, the range was not much less although the Scotsmen didn't like being lumped in the same ethnic class as the Englishmen – and vice versa. It was all good natured - I think.

The interviews lasted mostly around 15 minutes and towards the end I realised I could ask the people seven or eight questions – and fill in the rest for many of the houses on the street, but I went through it as I should to make sure I didn't forget anything.

Subsequently I have been given other postcodes to follow up on. It's hard to have a conversation with someone who doesn't want to talk with you through a lousy microphone on a gatepost in front of a huge automatic gate, with busy traffic behind you. I'm not sure about the feelings and background of some of those I am presently having to try to interview, but it certainly is a challenge.

I've been pretty lucky so far in that I have not had too many 'Hard Refusals'. A hard refusal is when someone tells you or otherwise makes it clear, i.e. by tearing up the leaflet in front of you that you just left through their letter box, that they are not going to help you. It's a bit disconcerting, but we are told to just walk away and not to get involved.

All in all it's been an experience and not a bad one – and I've met some lovely people.

Lee

Did you know that 100 years ago this month:

- King George V opened Southwark Bridge;
- In the USA, Washington imposed a fine of \$25 on women smoking, followed by \$100 per cigarette;
- Rainfall ended a 100 day drought (seem familiar?);
- Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh was born;
- Lady Jennie Churchill (Winstons' mother) died;
- Unemployment in the UK reached 2.2 million ; and
- The worlds' largest airship, the R38 made its' maiden flight at Bedford.

Thanks to Helen for this

Collection Point

June 2021's Communion collection is for the Rehema organisation Kajulu Kenya

The Rehema Family Care Community Based Organization Kisumu City, Kenya wishes to thank Ealing Green Church and sponsors for the continued support we have been receiving from the Church.



Rehema is a Swahili word for Mercy. Rehema is a community Based Organisation in Kajulu Village of Kisumu City in Kenya in East Africa. Kisumu is the 3rd largest city after the Capital Nairobi and Mombasa.

The Rehema organization comprises:

- the Rehema Family Church Kajulu which provides both spiritual and psychological support to the children under our care and the Community at Large
- the Rehema School an Early Childhood Development Centre for the disadvantaged and orphaned Children
- the organization still provides shelter, education and support to orphans, vulnerable children under our Children Home Care

Other projects include youth and women empowerment programs. This includes training, mentorship and income generating activities programs e.g. the widows program run by mama Mary.



Rehema began over 20 years ago as a small project by bishop Ambros and Mama Mary Samo. The leadership is currently shared between

pastors leading church groups like pastors James and Alice who are leading our branch in Kisumu, pastor Vincent in the Bandani slums, pastor Nick of the Kajulu branch, pastor Tabitha of the Kibos branch, pastor Mark of the Nyahera



Branch, Mary Orende of Seme and Roy Samo who leads the organisation's development programs like the Children's work and Linnet who handles the schools.

The Rehema organisation has achieved tremendous results in both its spiritual programs developing large active church congregations, in supporting children and young people's schooling and training them. In some cases also housing and feeding them. There are numerous women's groups that have trained and then supported women into employment with a number of businesses being established, such as tailoring.

Thank you all for your continued support that has seen several children and young adults get quality education, economic activities training on life skills and spiritual support. We welcome more support for our different programmes.

Please continue to support our organisation.

Thanking you all.

Roy Samo

Director of Operations and Chairman

May 2021



Please give generously - Thank you and God bless you

The Back page:

June

Here we are heading for the half way point in the year and the sun and warmth that have so far eluded us. I have the feeling I've missed something important, in which case, my apologies.

1 st	World Milk Day (apparently). Go hug a cow is the motto for this auspicious occasion
5 th	World Environment Day
	It's also Sausage Roll Day , so what's not to like
8 th	World Oceans Day
12 th	Worldwide Knit in Public day – a knitting for charity event. - It's also the Queen's Birthday so why not knit a Union Flag?
15 th	National Bug Busting Day Event held three times a year to encourage co-ordinated bug busting to try to stamp out head lice. Even scarier than Halloween.
17 th	Cupcake Day Organised by the Alzheimer's Society to raise money and awareness.
20 th	Father's Day Celebration of fathers in the UK, the US, most of Europe and many other parts of the world.
21 st	World Giraffe Day Annual event to raise support, create awareness and shed light on the challenges giraffe face in the wild.
and	Make Music Day Celebrates music in all its forms and the impact it's had on the world and the human spirit.
and	Summer Begins
23 rd	International Women in Engineering Day An international awareness campaign to raise the profile of women in engineering. Something we should all support
28 th Jun to 11 th Jul	Wimbledon Fortnight

Have a good one. See you next month.