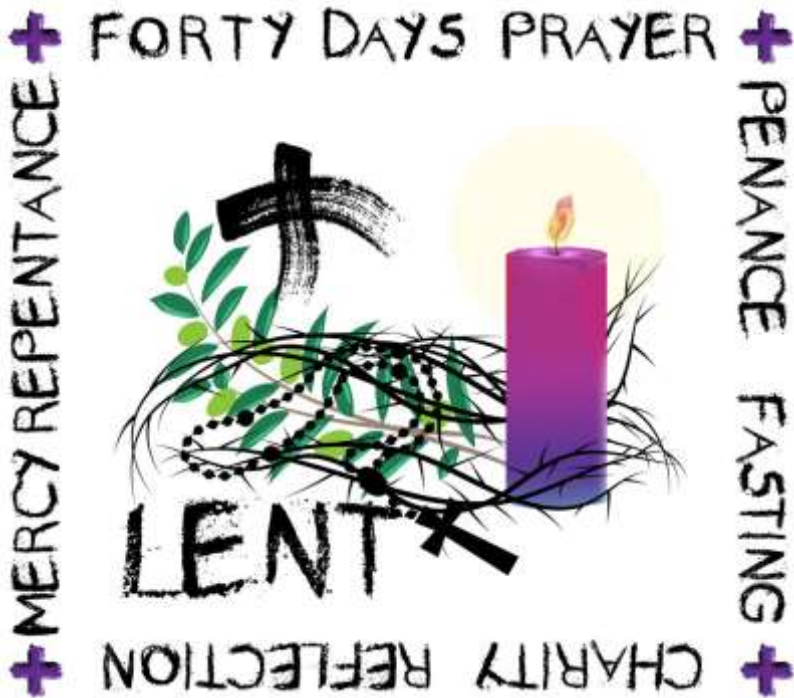


Courier

March 2021

Christ Church United Reformed
Church

(in Joint Pastorate with the United Church of Egham)



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SEGUIN Richard

SELLER Ann

.DATA PROTECTION ACT

In common with most other churches and organisations, the Christ Church United Reformed Church Windsor keeps pastoral records of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of regular worshippers and friends. The information is used for church purposes only, is never communicated to any other body and is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

Dear Friends,

We are currently in the season of Lent and, for some people, this can prove challenging - particularly when it comes to giving up something! This practice stems from the belief that in order to identify with Jesus' time in the wilderness, we should also make personal sacrifices - in other words, we should give something up, maybe chocolate or alcohol or whatever, or maybe we should sacrifice our time and take something on, maybe some form of service others. Whatever we do, it will only be a token effort, when compared with Jesus' experience.

The past 12 months have been a testing time for us all, as we have had to contend with the lockdown. Our lives have changed in many ways, and we have had to learn to adapt. Our Church life too has changed, not least because at present we are unable to meet in Church for worship. We have had to learn to do things differently. Having said that of course, there have been many positives to come out of this, and I am delighted to say that we are still able to worship together, albeit in different ways.

Jesus himself experienced a number of changes - what we might call a roller-coaster experience. When Jesus was 30 years old, the time had come for him to begin his earthly ministry, so he left his family home in Nazareth and made his way to the river Jordan. Jesus was baptised in the Jordan by his cousin, John the Baptist, a symbol of Jesus identifying himself with us. As Jesus came up from the waters, his Heavenly Father affirmed him. A voice proclaimed *'You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.'* Then straight after, Mark tells us that the Spirit led Jesus out into the wilderness, where he was tested for 40 days. What we learn from Jesus' experience is that his faith and trust sustained him and enabled him to resist the temptations that came his way. He came through his experience, renewed and ready to begin his Ministry. There is a powerful message for us during this time of lockdown. We must not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed, but rather to place our faith and trust in God. God is with us, as he was with Jesus.

The season of Lent is likened to a journey - a journey of discovery about us, and about our relationships with one another and with God. There have been some wonderful examples of people reaching out to others through these difficult times. One such example of course, is that of the late Captain Tom Moore, who at 100 years of age, was an inspiration to us all. His determination and his words brought comfort in a time of trouble, as he said, *"Tomorrow will be a good day. We will get through it"*. Those words

are almost prophetic. I recall Jesus teaching from the Sermon on the Mount - "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*" Whilst we continue to journey through Lent, I would like to conclude with a poem entitled aptly '*We haven't cancelled worship*' written by Thom M Shuman, a member of the Iona Community. It caught my attention, and I hope it might be helpful to us all at this time.

We haven't cancelled worship;
we've cancelled a religious service
at a specific time, in a specific place,
on a specific day, but folk will still
worship God when they are caring
for the grandchildren and walking their dogs;
worship as they serve beside Jesus at food banks
and pick up groceries for a neighbour;
worship when they share the Spirit's peace
by singing songs over the phone to a parent;
worship when they work from home;
worship when they endure extra shifts
in nursing homes and group homes;
worship when they e-mail someone far away
and wave to a stranger across the street;
worship when they take tins
to a homeless shelter
and volunteer at a vaccine facility.
We haven't cancelled worship,
just the 'official' part
that may be the smallest part
of it all.

Stay safe and well,

Your friend and Minister,
Alan

Lent Bible Study

The Lent Bible study entitled '*Walking with Jesus*' continues on Thursday afternoons through March at 2.30pm. The Zoom link will be sent out weekly. If you wish to join, you would be most welcome.

Dear All,

You are warmly invited to join us for this year's World Day of Prayer service, to be held at 7pm on Friday 5th March by zoom. Please use the following link to join the meeting:

Topic: World Day of Prayer service

Time: Mar 5, 2021 07:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76200011221?
pwd=NEVpK1B4WIFNc2psVS84Z0FHZGZPQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76200011221?pwd=NEVpK1B4WIFNc2psVS84Z0FHZGZPQT09)

Meeting ID: 762 0001 1221

Passcode: F0wFfM

World Day of Prayer (WDP) is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world. Women of the Republic of Vanuatu (located in the South Pacific Ocean) have prepared this year's service, entitled: Build on a strong foundation. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa, and prayer in native languages travels through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 39 hours later. For further information, please see the World Day of Prayer website at: wwdp.org.uk

Please bring a small stone to the service!

Donations for the service can be delivered to Jacoby Patterson (at 42 Springfield Road Windsor, SL4 3PQ), either as cash or as a cheque/postal order made payable to WDP. You can boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by World Day of Prayer from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a You can find out more about Vanuatu from [Introducing Vanuatu | World Day Of Prayer \(wwdp.org.uk\)](http://Introducing Vanuatu | World Day Of Prayer (wwdp.org.uk))

current UK tax payer. In order to Gift Aid your donation, please put the following information onto the envelope with your donation:

A statement saying "I want to gift aid my donation of £....." and your title, first name, surname, address, postcode, signature and date. This information will only be passed to WDP and HM Revenue and Customs to claim gift aid and will not be given or sold to any other body.

Alternatively, you can donate by text:

TEXT 2021WDP 5 TO 70085 TO DONATE £5

Any amount can be donated up to £40 just add the sum after 2021WDP and your text will cost the amount plus one standard rate message.

All are welcome

There will be a Church Meeting Sunday 28th March on Zoom following morning worship.

£100,000 needed for renovation of new WCA premises

We are really excited to confirm that WCA has secured accommodation which will be available for the use of all its projects. In the not-too distant future, we will be able to move into the Holy Trinity Parish Rooms in Alma Road, (until recently known as the Alma Road Social Club). The PCC of Holy Trinity Church have generously agreed to a long lease on the building, which will enable further improved communication and co-operation between Windsor Homeless Project, Street Angels, Foodshare and More than a Shelter, and mean we can expand the support we offer to our guests.

We are really very grateful for the support of Rev Canon Sally Lodge and team, who have enabled this to happen.

The building is currently being cleared of a lot of old furniture and equipment which we will not be using. A great deal of work will need to be done, in order to make it fit for purpose. Extensive repair work will be required. A new kitchen and a shower will be installed. In addition to this, the whole premises will need rewiring. Downstairs in the basement, there is enough space for a laundry. Upstairs there is an office where confidential counselling can take place. The main hall on the ground floor is big enough to accommodate the Night Shelter, and there is an additional room at the back next to the kitchen which can be used by Foodshare. There is also a bar area, which will be converted into a Community Café for the use of all our guests. As you can imagine, this will require substantial funds, and we are currently looking into different fundraising options. Approximately £100,000 is needed to complete the renovation. Any fundraising activities in aid of this renovation would be most appreciated! Once again, we would like to thank everyone who supports us in different ways for all that you do. Those who are vulnerable in our community need our help even more in these difficult times. We will be able to do so much more, and the four WCA projects will be able to work much more effectively together, once we have our new premises up and running!

Homeless Project helps several guests move in to permanent accommodation

We are currently welcoming an average of 17 guests per weekly session. A number of guests have been moving into permanent accommodation, having been accommodated in temporary accommodation by the council due to covid. As the flats on offer are completely unfurnished, we used social media to ask the community to donate furniture and white goods - and were really bowled over by the response! Several of our guests have now settled in and are sorted with all they need. We are so grateful to the generosity of the Windsor community.

In January, we hosted a Hepatitis C clinic, run by the outreach team of the Royal Surrey Hospital, for guests, staff and volunteers. Staff and volunteers were also offered covid vaccinations at Wexham Park, which will give them an extra layer of protection from the virus.

Foodshare provision expanding

The covid lockdown continues to challenge all aspects of the service. Due to increased demand, the quantity and quality of items have been rising. We are now giving out 5-7 days worth of food and cleaning products; and items now include fresh fruit and vegetables, cakes and eggs. The Foodshare centre at Kerith Church is slowly building, and is currently supporting an extra 12 families. The hours for collections have been extended, and deliveries have been increased where needed. Our goal for 2021 is

to continue to expand access to food for those in need in the Windsor area. Items most needed are UHT milk, rice, tinned fish, tea, biscuits and strong carrier bags. Items can be dropped off at Dedworth Green Baptist Church on Wednesday or Thursday, 9.30-3pm. Thank you!

CHINE MCDONALD



"YOURS IN THE UPRISING OF JESUS"

WES HOWARD-BROOK



SUN 21 3-8PM

MON 22 10AM 12-8-8PM



WILLIAM YOUNG

EASTER ONLINE FESTIVAL

RECOGNISING & RESISTING EMPIRE IN THE BIBLE & THE EARLY CHURCH
SUN 21 - MON 22 MARCH 2021

PROGRAMME

Sunday 21 March, 6.30-8pm

Recognising & resisting Empire in the Bible and the Early Church
Wes Howard-Brook

Monday 22 March, 10-11am

Recognising & resisting White privilege
Chine McDonald

11am-12pm

Resistance Music in Washington, Brazil and Palestine
William Young

6.30-8pm

Recognising & resisting Empire in the church today
Wes Howard-Brook

To add the daily meeting to your calendar:

<http://bit.ly/UprisingCalendar>

To join the Zoom Meeting

<http://bit.ly/UprisingLaunch>

Meeting ID: 952 8324 4787 Passcode: 784428

"You Must Believe in Spring"

music is by Michel Legrand and the words are by Jacques Demy

When lonely feelings chill
The meadows of your mind,
Just think if Winter comes,
Can Spring be far behind?

Beneath the deepest snows,
The secret of a rose
Is merely that it knows
You must believe in Spring!

Just as a tree is sure
Its leaves will reappear;
It knows its emptiness
Is just the time of year

The frozen mountain dreams
Of April's melting streams,
How crystal clear it seems,
You must believe in Spring!

You must believe in love
And trust it's on its way,
Just as the sleeping rose
Awaits the kiss of May

So in a world of snow,
Of things that come and go,
Where what you think you know,
You can't be certain of,
You must believe in Spring and love