

THE BRIDGE



March and April 2023

Winchmore Hill United Reformed Church

'GOD'S REPRIMAND'

Dear friends,

At morning prayer during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and drawing on reflections used universally, I commented on this difficult expression of God's Word in the prophecy of Isaiah.

When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?

Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations — I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood! Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed (*or correct the oppressors*). Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (1¹²⁻¹⁸ NIV)



Have you ever been caught out in your self-confidence by having to agree that someone else's way of doing something is more efficient than you own? A few weeks ago, it was explained to me that when my mother cut a cross in the bottom of a brussel sprout to speed up cooking it in the middle, the common variety sold in England was much bigger than we buy now. Mum's extra effort is no longer required, and

now, at last, I am prepared to admit that it is no longer important; right for her circumstances but not for mine.

How much of what we do in everyday life, and church life, is based on conditions, priorities and received wisdom all of which are different from current insights, cultural norms, and social and emotional dispositions? Isaiah reminds us that we may be too dyed in the wool for our own or God's good; in fact, the words from God which Isaiah proclaimed are that we can even be hypocritical in relation to our own core beliefs. If the term had been in circulation at the time, Isaiah might have

warned against what we call ‘unconscious bias’. Sadly, churches have been guilty of claiming a love for others, but really only extending a full welcome to those who are ‘like us’; over time, too many souls have experienced pain, rejection, abuse and exclusion within the Church – sometimes quite unintentionally but, we lament, sometimes intentionally.

Thankfully the Word in Isaiah looks further down the line from this warning with a graphic, optimistic promise about the difference it is possible for God to make to us, given a chance. We give God a break-through when, instead of offering empty worship we ‘learn to do right and seek justice’. (v17).

In Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill we are members of the Inclusive Churches Network; we heed the prophetic voice of warning but we are also optimistic. We are encouraged by this Scripture to remember that our way is not the only way and to acknowledge that learning to do good requires an openness to change.

A message for our time and possibly of particular relevance not only as we journey together through Lent to Easter but also as we find God’s way beyond our present period of ministerial vacancy.

Blessings,



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT



The Endangered Aisle

Did you know coffee, bananas and chocolate could soon be much more difficult to find on our shelves? Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

But here’s the good news.

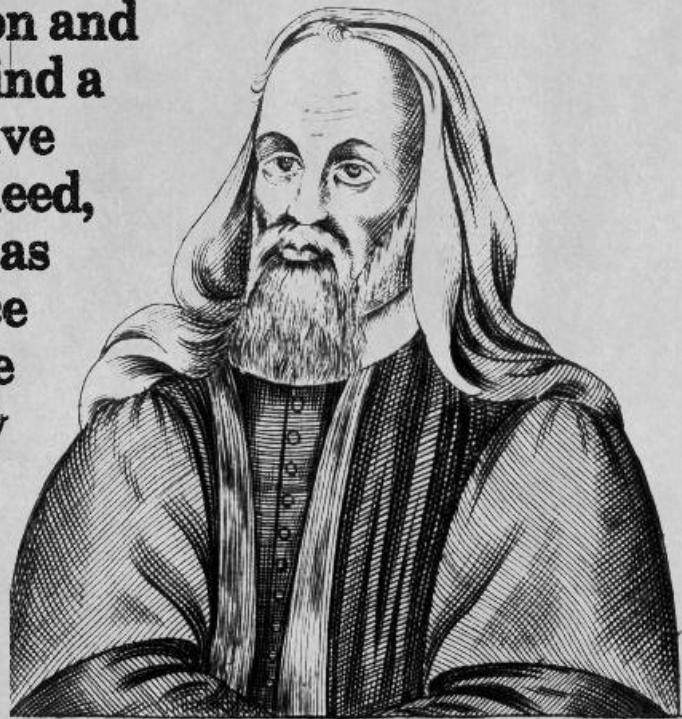
More of us choosing Fairtrade means extra income, power, and support for those communities. By making the small switch to Fairtrade, we can all support producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet.

Get rid of the rich person and you will not be able to find a poor one. Let no one have more than they really need, and everyone will have as much as they need, since the few who are rich are the reason for the many who are poor.

St. Pelagius.



CENTER FOR
PROPHETIC
IMAGINATION



PELAGIUS

*Accuse Pelagius with what false pretence
Durst thou excuse Mans foule Concupiscence :*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

I Have Heard About Your Faith : Friday 3rd March 2023

St Aldhelm's Church, Windmill Road, Edmonton, London, N18 1PA, London at 14:00



The World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement initiated and carried forward by Christian women in more than 180 countries and over 1000 languages.

Every year Christians of many traditions and all ages, celebrate a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March. Services are held all around the world, beginning in Tonga and New Zealand in the east and continuing throughout the day to Samoa and Alaska in the west.

We bring the needs of the world, and of the writing country in particular before Almighty God, this year it's Taiwan, knowing that God will hear and answer us, as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. God invites us to a prayer relationship, but God also expects us to have concerned relationships with our neighbours, throughout the world. Prayer must be accompanied by action, as God moves our hearts and directs our thoughts.



SUNDAY WORSHIP is at 10.30 a.m. followed by time to chat over light refreshments. You have heard of 'Messy Church'; we have introduced 'Cosy Church'!

We are meeting in the Parlour behind the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings from January to March to conserve energy required to heat the Church i.e. electrical and often also gas heating from late afternoon the previous day.

We use the door on the railway side; there is a T.V. screen and the clavino has been moved from the church to provide musical accompaniment. It is indeed cosy and friendly and we seem to sing more heartily.

Sunday 5th March Second Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion

Our friend Rev Prakash Thankachan, lately of the Church in South India and now in Stoke Newington, will lead worship.

Sunday 12th March Third Sunday in Lent

This service will be led by Tony Davies who now lives locally but is one of the leadership team at Tottenham High Cross URC.

Sunday 19th March Mothering Sunday

The service will be led by Lay Preacher Sandra Rose and will be followed by the Annual General Church Meeting.

Annual General Meeting

All of us who confirmed baptismal promises on becoming a member of the United Reformed Church are called on to be faithful in public worship and in maintaining the ministry and mission of our local church and of our denomination when possible. We fulfil the latter undertaking firstly by our participation in Church Meeting which is held quarterly.

The AGM is when Church Officers give an annual report and our conversation is likely to turn to how we go forward in the various sectors of our activity. This includes the election of Elders and by giving formal notice of the AGM here, we invite nominations for the Eldership, which the current Elders will be happy to discuss with anyone who is interested in this role.

Elders are ordained and so they are Elders within the URC for life but may be either serving or non-serving at any given time; there are eight currently serving Elders who are willing to continue to serve, subject to confirmation at the AGM:

Dawn Foyle, Jim Gascoigne, Fiona Henderson, Andrea Latter, David Latter, Gillian West, Clifford Woolley, Sally Woolley.

Friends who are not members are welcome to join in discussion but only members may vote. If we can start by 11.30, we should be finished by 12.30 – being in the Parlour we can have coffee as we move from worship into business.

Sunday 26th March Passion Sunday

A shared service for the three churches in our pastorate to meet a potential new minister, details of this special weekend are below.

PASTORAL CALL 25th and 26th March, and 2nd April.

The Pastoral Call Group of three representatives from each of the three churches in the pastorate, at Palmers Green, Ponders End and Winchmore Hill, moderated by Rev John Danso, will be pleased to introduce a Minister to us during the last weekend of March.

A short devotion with Bible reflection for about 30 minutes followed by tea and coffee and the opportunity to meet and mingle with members of the church family, choose which to attend.

Saturday 25th 10.30 at Ponders End to finish at 12.00

Saturday 25th 15.30 at Palmers Green to finish at 17.00

Morning service for all three Churches followed by light refreshments and conversations.

Sunday 26th 10.30 at Winchmore Hill

Members and friends of all three Churches meet to decide whether to issue a call to become our next Minister.

Sunday 2nd April 13.30 at Winchmore Hill

Church members will vote as separate memberships and the decision to issue a call will require 85% of those present and voting.

HOLY WEEK

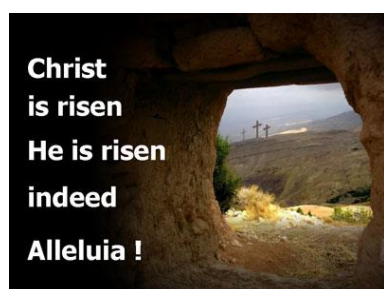
Sunday 2nd April Palm Sunday at **11.00 a.m.**, a shared service at **Palmers Green** which will be led by Rev Dr Elizabeth Welch who is now very actively retired; she was Moderator of West Midlands Synod and of General Assembly before her ministry of 11 years at Clapton Park and Dalston in Hackney.

Good Friday 7th April

At 10.15 with Palmers Green URC at Winchmore Hill Baptist Church, a time of reflection led by Revs Ebenezer Boakye and Jim Gascoigne.

At 11.30 the Walk of Witness leaves The Green; it can also be joined along The Broadway near to the Baptist Church. We will join the Palmers Green contingent at St Monica's for a short act of witness and light refreshment.

Sunday 9th April Easter Day when celebratory worship with Restore Community Church will be led by Dustin and our Elders.



Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

Atgyfododd Crist! Atgyfododd in wir!

مسیح برخاسته است! به راستی برخاسته است!

యేసు మేల్కొనెను! అతను నిజంగా లేచాడు!

Sa tucake tale na Karisito! Sa tucake vakaidina ko Koya.

Sunday 16th April 'Low' Sunday when the service will be led by Rev Dr Emmanuel Frimpong

Sunday 23rd April St George's Day when the service will be led by Rev Prakash Thankachan.

Sunday 30th April Fourth Sunday of Easter

We will be delighted to welcome the Rev Margaret Ali who is Minister at Islington URC (where Adrian served a decade as Local Leader) and Rectory Road URC in Hackney. Margaret is wife to Prakash and Irene's Mum.

Flowers in March and April will be given both in memory by some and in celebration by others: by Liz Brakspear for Alec and Meg Robb, by the Scouts for Martin Spooner, by Bryant Ambrose for Mother and Padre, by Dawn on her birthday and for Olivia and Brian.

Elders Meetings ...

... have been tabled for Thursdays 9th March and 13th April at either 14.00 or 19.00 in the Parlour, as required.



Our member **Rev Jonathan Hyde** was ordained in 1994 at Ponders End URC and has recently retired from serving as a chaplain with the Armed Forces. On 8th January, 2023 a number of us were delighted to attend his induction as the minister to the Forest Group of churches which is a partnership of St James' at Buckhurst Hill and Chingford. The service was well-attended and created a very positive atmosphere which, we hope, will be an encouragement to Jonathan and Julie who will support him. Here, Jonathan was responding to the charge given by Rev Francis Ackroyd.

Jonathan is the current last of five ministers who have entered the ministry from WH URC and by going to Chingford he cements a link between our churches: The first person to enter the ministry from Winchmore Hill, Rev Florence Frost-Mee, served with distinction at Chingford (1975-84). Jonathan, we wish you well in your new phase of ministry!

JOAN BAYLISS

Quite a few of us have known Joan for a long time and have been upset by the aggressive illness which assailed her during the past year and we were represented at her funeral on 21st February. Rightly, 'The Magazine' describes her as 'the cornerstone' of Palmers Green United Reformed Church. "Quiet determination indeed describes Joan; she could very easily move a mountain and get things moving in church – very quietly and without any fuss whatsoever!" Joan was also a talented musician, gifted teacher, immensely valued family member, clear-thinking and loyal. Latterly, she loved having visitors at home and whilst at the Beaumont Nursing Home.



We pray for Joan's sons Alan and Gary, her sister Muriel, and their families that they will be comforted. Joan was deservedly honoured at her funeral service led by Reverend Lucy Berry and the family would like to thank all those who were able to attend and have conveyed good wishes in many ways.

BULA (HELLO!) FROM FIJI!

Acknowledging the cost-of-living crisis in the UK, the cost-of-living problem in many Pacific Islands is more chronic than acute. During our ten months here as Partners in Mission through the Council for World Mission at the Pacific Theological College, my role as the Director of the Centre for Gender and Social Justice has made very obvious the difficulties that women in particular face.

With limited access to IT (cost barriers), families need to prioritise who can use the resources available to them. Those studying the Pacific Theological College (PTC) main programmes at degree level and above usually have the first call on any IT equipment.

Yet with its 'Whole of Life' approach to learning, PTC is committed to education for all, including the spouses of those studying on the College's main programmes. This education is often provided through the Centre for Gender and Social Justice. Although mostly delivered face-to-face, ideally course materials and assessments would be accessed online, which is tricky for those without appropriate IT. To address this on a small scale, I have started a Go Fund Me page, which I hope will enable you to help if you can. <https://gofund.me/4ce62e27>

Vinaka vakalevu (thank you very much!),

Melanie and Mark



Praying together for the churches and the needs of our area.
Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Grange Park

Normally first & third Tuesdays:
7th and 21st March then 4th and 18th April, 10.30-11.15 a.m.

Forum meeting at 19.30 on **Tuesday 28 March 2023**,
Everyone welcome.

Zoom Link for all meetings (Meeting ID: 746 8020 4904 Passcode: 8zq1F7)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74680204904?pwd=TjJhQnBIYVVuUzNRY3ZXQTJ6MHEzQT09>

PHOTO POSTED ON FACEBOOK

Any suggestions about a date? [When was Ingleby Court constructed?](#)



Winchmore Hill And Palmers Green Memories 2023



Following postponement of the original event owing to rail strikes, we have been working hard to find a new date to celebrate the URC's 50th. Finding a revised date which works for those leading the service and the availability of Methodist Central Hall has not been easy and hopes for 6th May were scuppered when the new King chose that date for his formal Coronation!

We're delighted to announce that the new date is **Saturday 15 April 2023**. In an ideal world, we would have opted for a longer gap after Easter, but we hope that as many members and friends of the URC will be able to join us for our delayed anniversary celebrations.

The Open Church House event at 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT, will also take place on April 15 from 10am-12 noon.

If you have a ticket and are able to come to the event on April 15, please do nothing - your ticket is still valid. Please bring it/them on the day. If you would like more tickets, please visit <https://bit.ly/urc50> and amend your order.

If you are no longer able to attend, please go to <https://bit.ly/urc50> and select Cancel Order. This will free up your tickets for others, or email 50@urc.org.uk and we can cancel the order for you.

Anniversary Choir

If you would like to sing in the Anniversary Choir, you can find out more details and the dates of the rehearsals by visiting <https://bit.ly/urc50-choir>

Stewards and enquiries

If you are able to volunteer as a Steward at the service, please email 50@urc.org.uk which is also the email address for any enquiries relating to the new date.



Church Secretary: All enquiries should be made either by telephone to the Vestry answering service on 020 8882 4776 or by e-mail to WHURC@btconnect.com

Lettings: Speak to Dave on 077 8061 6040 or e-mail: Lettings@winchmorehillurc.co.uk

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