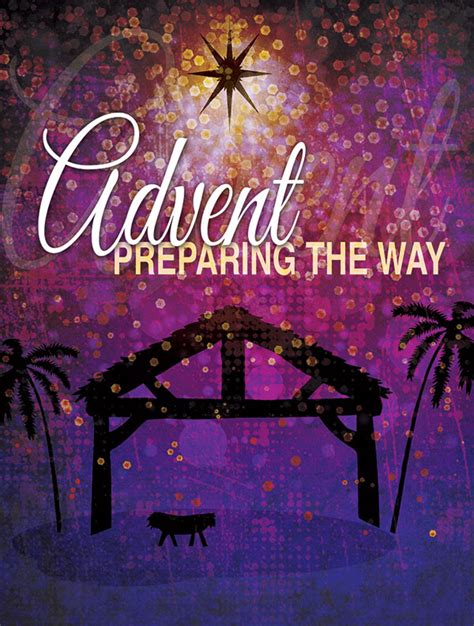
**THE** **BRIDGE**

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**November and December 2023**

**Winchmore Hill United Reformed Church**

**A MONTH FOR REMEMBERING**

*November is not just a month for remembering the Gunpowder Plot, there is much that it is important never to forget.*

The Archdeacon of West Ham, the Venerable Elwin Cockett, writes regularly for the Newham Recorder and his current article is deserving of wider circulation.

By way of introduction, a former music scholar, Elwin returned from time-to-time to Forest School in East London as guest of the Chaplain and has been a governor there since 2011. Musician, motor-cyclist, an ‘open’ evangelical, and for 20 years from 1992 to 2012 he was Chaplain to West Ham United F.C..

“Remember, remember, the fifth of November,” goes the rhyme that many of us learned as children. We were looking forward to Bonfire Night, to lighting fireworks and to having a lot of fun as we marked the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot to blow up Parliament.

Guy Fawkes is not the only person being remembered at this time of year, of course. As October turns to November and leaves fall from the trees, it is often helpful to echo the natural world by marking the cycle of life and death and keeping times of remembrance for those we have lost.

For Christians, 1st November is All Saints Day when we remember and give thanks for great men and women of faith, whether known or unknown. (Hallowe’en is rightly the night before All Saints Day *All hallows (holies) Eve* and not just the tacky commercial opportunitythat it seems to have become.) Then on 2nd November we have All Souls Day when we remember and give thanks for those we have known – often family members and friends – who have gone before us and who, in many cases, are still sorely missed. *(Sometimes in our ‘free’ churches we float this memorial to a Sunday, before or after.)*

Finally, on 11th November and the second Sunday in that month, we remember the fallen in two World Wars and later conflicts.

Remembering matters, as the crowds at war memorials around the country on Remembrance Sunday seem to show. As human beings, we do well to remember three things:

* The first is to remember people with thanksgiving for all that were and maybe still are to us. To show to ourselves and others that they matter.
* The second is to acknowledge the pain that we feel when we suffer loss.
* And the third is to commit ourselves to honouring those who have gone before us by working for a better future.

The world seems to be a dangerous place right now. Only by remembering the failures of the past and those we have lost as a result of those conflicts will we find paths of peace and the energy and commitment to pursue them.

Remember, remember …

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Joan Faulkner**

During August, we were saddened to learn of the loss of Andrea’s Mum, a friend to many who grew up in the neighbourhood and part of our wider Church family. At her funeral in September we heard a moving letter written by a daughter to her Mum, and we were reminded or learned of Joan’s strength of character, her talents, energy and the warmth of her personality. Writing of the job which Joan enjoyed most at the War Memorial Hospital on Chase Side, Andrea wrote. “You were a medical secretary, telephonist and receptionist all rolled into one! But for you, the most rewarding aspect, was trying to reassure patients that they were in safe hands and that everything would be all right. You had the most beautiful smile, which was sincere and warm … two of your many qualities.”

We send our love to Andrea and Dave and all who are missing Joan.

**Kenneth Perrin** passed away on 27th September in North Baddesley, Hampshire, aged 96.

Although Ken left the area in 1991, several of us remember him and Audrey well. We are glad that they were able, quite recently, to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.

Ken became a member of the church in 1963 and was a church elder and sidesman for many years. He was involved in the local Poppy Appeal and received great support from church members in this endeavour, and he was significantly involved in the restoration of the Waterhouse Hall after the fire in 1983. As a parent, Ken was actively engaged with the Scout group and, of course, Audrey is remembered as ‘Brown Owl’ Brownie Guider.

Our good wishes go to Audrey and all family members.

**Vic Russell**

Vic and Sue Russell, previously PA to the Moderator and Synod Clerk, came to us regularly to lead Sunday services. He was on the synod Executive for a number of years and former church secretary at Barnet URC (Wood Street) and administrator for the London District of the Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association, for many years. Vic and Sue moved to Clacton around 2019. He had been unwell during the summer, but his death on 11th September was sudden and unexpected - though peaceful.

We have sent greetings to Sue and the family at this sad time.



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**in Church at 10.30 a.m. followed by time to chat over light refreshments.**

**Sunday 5th November**

Led for us by Rev James Fields from Northwood, URC and he is currently convenor of the Synod Pastoral Committee. The service will include Holy Communion.

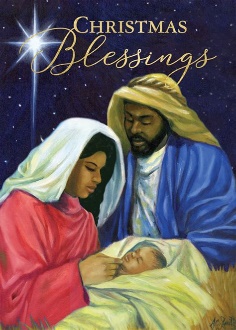
**Sunday 12th November Remembrance Sunday** and Scouts’ Parade

The service will be led byTony Davies.

**Sunday 19th November** Laura Marlow will lead worship.

**Sunday 26th November** **The Feast of Christ the King**

This service will be led by Martin Wells.

**Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday** beginsthe new Church year including Holy Communion and followed by Church Meeting (See below)

**Sunday 10th December Family service with Nativity Play by the Beaver Scouts**

**Sunday 17th December at 17.00** (There will not be a morning service)

**Carols by Candlelight** followed by sherry or soft drinks and mince pies

**Sunday 24th December at 10.30 Christmas** celebration

(There will not be a service on Christmas Day)

**Sunday 31st December New Year service at 10.30**

This special service will be shared with friends from Palmers Green URC.

**Flowers during November and December** willbe given by Fiona to remember friends; by Bryant Ambrose for those who died during war time, from this Church and the British Legion; in memory of Edgar Chaplin and for the Taylor family.

**CHANGE OF VENUE FOR SERVICES OF WORSHIP FROM JANUARY TO MARCH**

From 21st January after the pantomime performances, probably until Easter Day, 31st March, to conserve energy and keep warm, we will meet for worship in the Parlour again. To maintain security elsewhere, we will use the door on the railway side.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Elders Meetings** are planned for Thursday 9th November and 11th January at 19.00 in the Chaplin Parlour, if needed.

Our quarterly **Church Meetings** lapsed over the Summer but will resume after the service on Sunday 3rd December.

The **Local Area Group** Steering Committee will meet on Thursday 23rd November at 19.30 by Zoom. Nominated members vote (when necessary) but members of all the churches are welcome to attend and join in discussion.

**Churches Together**

**Praying together** for the churches and the needs of our area.

**Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Grange Park**

Normally first & third Tuesdays:

7th & 21st November, 5th & (tbc)19th December, 10.30-11.15

**Forum meeting** at 19.30 on **Tuesday** **14th November**

at WH Baptist Church. Everyone welcome.

**Zoom Link** for prayer together (Meeting ID: 746 8020 4904 Passcode: 8zq1F7)

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

**Copy deadline** for news to share in the New Year, please, by Christmas.





**Proceeds to the Alzheimer’s Society**



RSVP to help with house arrangements and snacks.

**NEWS**

**Mehdi**

Rev Melanie Smith writes:

19th Oct 2023 — After years of tension and waiting, not being able to work, being unsure if a boot would come through the door in the early hours, struggling to be settled, coping with mental health issues, not least because of his refugee journey and treatment by authorities, Mehdi is now safe and has been granted refugee status.

His family at Winchmore Hill United Reformed Church, his community in Enfield, and his friends around the world are so happy for Mehdi and Ian.

Thank you so much for all the support, we honestly don't think we'd have had this outcome without you - let's hope we can soon hear wedding bells!

*Ian with Mehdi holding his biometric residence permit.*

*Not many of us have one of these!*

**A registered Charity, established in 2010, it was set up to provide emergency accommodation and support to people facing homelessness in the London boroughs of Haringey and Enfield.**

APAP provided the operational framework for the Winter Night Shelter arrangements before Covid. It now seems that a ‘static’ shelter service from either a rented property and or hotel-based accommodation is needed to meet rigorous guidelines. The **APAP Autumn Newsletter** describes the work in the two Boroughs.

We haven't been in touch for a couple of months so we wanted to say, “Hi,” to everyone and to give you a little update about what APAP has been up to over the summer Our day centre has been extremely busy. From June to September we had over **80** new clients making a total of nearly **1000**visits by clients, averaging **18**clients a day. About **80%** of clients will have something to eat, a cup of tea or just use the space as somewhere welcoming and safe to be. Demand for our support continues to increase.

**How you can help!**

We have had a volunteer over the summer making sandwiches everyday but unfortunately for us he has gone back to university.

**Care packages - donations please**

These are some of the items that we put in our care packages for rough sleepers. Most of these items we receive are donated to us so if you have donated anything we want to thank you very much!

  
We are always on the lookout for ongoing donations and there are always things we need, if you were interested in supporting us but don't know how, here is a list of things that are really useful for clients:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Sleeping bags (as new or unused as possible) * Bedding including duvets and pillows * Mini shower gels and shampoos for our shower | * Pants and socks * Trainers and sturdy shoes * Clothing including t-shirts, tracksuit bottoms, jumper and hoodies * Hats and gloves |

When rough sleepers enter our service, we aim to provide them with a care package which gives them some essentials that we might take for granted like a clean pair of socks! We will also offer them a warm shower and a spare set of clothes while we wash the ones they have.

**If anyone is interested in supporting us with food provision as the months get colder, or to arrange donations, please contact us at** [**info@allpeopleallplaces.org**](mailto:info@allpeopleallplaces.org)

Moving   
**Stories**

Committed to supporting our global partners **ZIMBABWE**

Ways to use CFL resources

Each year, *Commitment for Life* spends a small amount of its income to produce resources.   
We give these away for free.   
They help promote *Commitment for Life* as reminders to pray, give, and learn about global justice issues throughout the year.

It is wonderful to hear how congregations are using the resources!

* Northgate, Darlington, are holding an Afternoon Tea in   
  aid of *Commitment for Life*
* A member from Worcester keeps a supply of CFL trolley tokens in the car. They hand them out as people search for a pound coin in the supermarket car park and say “Have a present from my church”!
* Worcester is also giving each family a collecting box, in the hope that any loose change will be dropped into it.

We would love to hear your stories of how you use the resources. Please email:

[**Suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk**](mailto:Suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk)

Prayer

Creator God, we thank you for the creative thoughts and talents you have given each one of us. Help us to use those gifts in ways that express your sadness over global justice issues which affect people in regions such as Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. May our hearts be so moved that our response is simply to love and support these people, as You would, in the best way we can through *Commitment for Life*. Amen.

**Improved livestock production, managing and marketing**

Photo: by Kevin Snyman, Goat in Mudzi District



In the Mudzi District of Zimbabwe, our *Commitment for Life* partners work to support improved livestock production, managing and marketing.

Livestock such as cattle, goats, chickens, ducks and guinea fowl are incredibly valuable resources for communal farmers. Yet these resources suffer the impacts of climate change most acutely. Thanks to the education, training, and support that you enable through your support, local farmers are taught risk reduction techniques and financial literacy.

“[Our training…] covered goat production and management aspects such as improved housing, nutrition, and disease management.

“We are grateful for the improved knowledge,”  
says communal farmer, Mr Never Kafura.

Watch this video for more on the work. [**www.bit.ly/45bYjnK**](file:///C:\Users\URC%20CFL\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\077T3WUG\www.bit.ly\45bYjnK)

**And a canine interest story …** about an addition to the household. After nudges from friends, I read about this dog rescued in Romania. Here is some of the text I read along with some photos.

Marcello is a 3-4 year old male Dachshund Cross. He was sadly found wandering the streets looking very sorry for himself after most likely being abandoned by his previous owner. After being rescued, he has never stopped smiling and is described as the happiest little guy by his foster family. Marcello is a very confident, energetic boy who loves nothing more than being with people and joining them in whatever they are doing.

Marcello would be a great companion to take on walks and adventures to keep him happy but then is equally content to just laze around afterwards and enjoy some fuss. He has been introduced to children and gets on well with them too. He is in a foster environment with many dogs of different ages, shapes and sizes and gets on with them all fine and has shown no issues at all.

He has a little mark on his nose which could be from a burn, sadly this is a tradition in some villages in Romania who believe it will ward off disease. This has however fully healed and will not cause him future issues.

Here he is when Beryl and I collected him from foster care in Littlehampton in Surrey, near Brighton, watching squirrels in my garden, meeting everyone at Church (thanks Ian) and settling down for a cuddle.

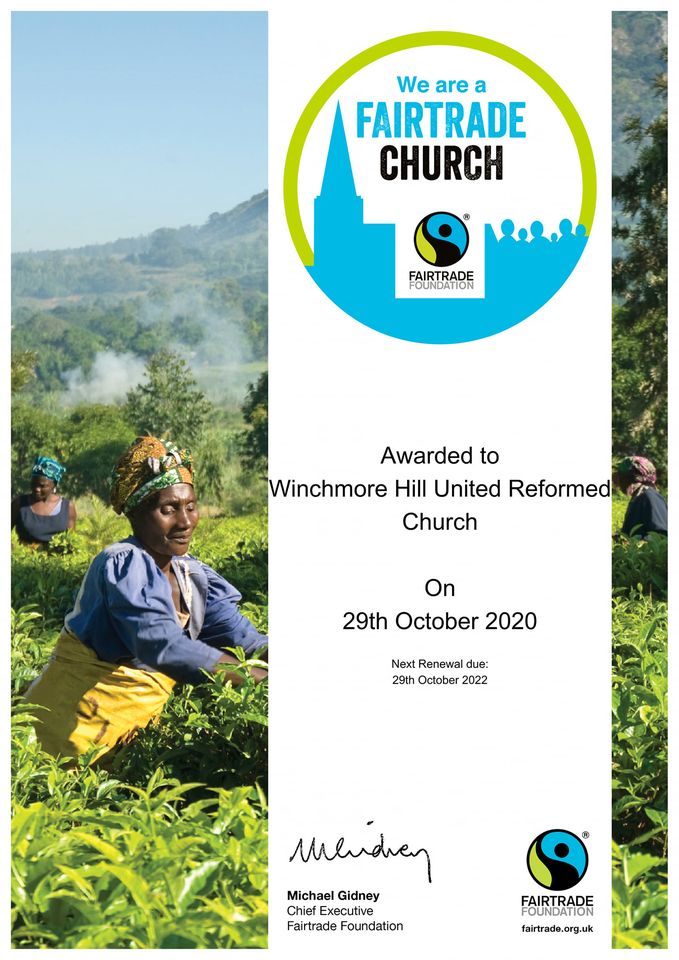


**Church Secretary:** All enquiries should be made either by telephone to the Vestry answering service on

020 8882 4776 or by e-mail to [WHURC@btconnect.com](mailto:WHURC@btconnect.com)

**Lettings:**Speak to Dave on 077 8061 6040 or e-mail: [Lettings@winchmorehillurc.co.uk](mailto:Lettings@winchmorehillurc.co.uk)

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**World Communion**

**of Reformed Churches**