

THE BRIDGE



Winchmore Hill United Reformed Church July to September 2025

Induction of Rev. Packiaraj (Packia) Asirvatham



On Saturday 14th June, at Palmers Green URC, Rev Packiaraj Asirvatham was inducted to the Enfield & East Hertfordshire Local Area Group with responsibility for Palmers Green, Ponders End and Winchmore Hill URC's (The South and East Enfield Pastorate). Here Packia is being greeted by the Synod Moderator, Rev George Watt.

Packia was ordained in the Church of South India and has been living in the UK since 2020. He did a placement at High Cross Church, Camberley a URC/Methodist Church. Revd Mike Thomason, the minister at High Cross preached at the service.

Welcome to Packia, his wife Hannah, and son Ivan.

Remembering Christ: An unending journey

Dear Friends, greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I am delighted to write my first pastoral letter to all members and friends of Winchmore Hill URC. I started my ministry in the South and East Enfield pastorate on 1st June, 2025 and it was good to see many of you at my induction service. Thank you for your presence and prayers.

I recently celebrated Holy Communion in our church; that was the first Sunday service which I led as a minister of South and East Enfield pastorate. Holy Communion serves as a great symbol of our union in Christ, reminding us that though we all are from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, with varied political and theological opinions, we are part of the one body of Christ which was sacrificed for all of us.

Obviously, Jesus is the greatest teacher and preacher. His commitment to preach and teach His followers effectively and simply is remarkable. He connected the greatest theological truth to a simple, regular act of eating. He arranged a supper to create a memory of His sacrifice to His followers and to the generations to come. Even if He had led a preaching service or conducted a prayer meeting, it wouldn't have impacted Christian communities across the world for generations like the sacrament of Holy Communion, because food is one of the basic needs, every day we eat. Overall, we are called to remember the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ whenever we eat, even though we celebrate Holy Communion occasionally!

More importantly, remembering the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifices is one of the greatest prayers of our life which will edify and transform us. "Do this in remembrance of me," is the ultimate call of Christ to us. Jesus calls us to remember Him and not to forget His sacrifices. Recently, one of my friends showed me their mobile phone and told me that how much it holds the memory of their loved one. It could be a simple mobile phone, but it is filled with lots of love and emotions of a person! So don't forget someone who loved you unconditionally. Meantime, don't forget the people who want you to remember them, for some people that's the only thing they expect from you, like Jesus! Remembering Jesus Christ in our everyday life is one of the valuable things our Lord expects from us. Whatever you do, wherever you are, remember our Lord Jesus Christ who gave all His life to save you and me.

To continue to keep the memories of Jesus Christ and to celebrate the love of God, churches exist all over the world. In that journey, I am here to serve the three churches in Enfield and help all to grow in His love. My sincere prayers and warm wishes to every one of you at Winchmore Hill URC. I look forward to serving you, to listening to your stories and to walking with you whatever circumstances you are in, on your faith journey.

Don't hesitate to contact me or any church leaders, any time on any ministry needs. May the Lord of love and compassion bless all of us.

Packia.

In loving memory of Clifford Arthur Woolley

7th April, 1946 – 28th April, 2025

There may be some friends who have not yet heard about Cliff's unexpected death. We are all still shocked and saddened. His nephew, Rev. Giles King-Smith, conducted services at New Southgate Crematorium and at the Church on 4th June. Along with family remembrance, Cliff's close friends, Brian and Tony, paid tribute to him. We are grateful to Brian for sharing what follows.

Clifford Arthur Woolley was born on the 7th April, 1946 to parents, Annie and Harold. They lived with Cliff's twin sisters in Sussex Way, Islington, in very poor, post-war housing which they soon left and moved to a flat in Brecknock Road, Islington.



As a young boy of 6, Harold introduced Cliff to football and horseracing, two sports he was to follow all his life. After leaving primary school he joined Acland Burghley secondary school and it was here he developed a love of drama and theatre. On leaving school Cliff took up a position in a quantity surveyor's office but this did not last and, after a brief period working in a betting shop, he joined the Civil Service. He spent most of his time working in the Treasury and finished his working life as Principal Finance Officer in the Treasury Solicitor's Department.

The love of drama and theatre grew from an active drama department at school and continued after he left as the teachers, not wanting to lose all the young talent, started a theatre company. Via mutually acquainted parents, a number of teenage girls from Camden Girls School joined the theatre group and among them was Sally.

Cliff continued to perform in various theatre groups and it was because of his reputation in performing he met Don Rayson via a work colleague at the Treasury. This meeting resulted in both Cliff and Sally; yes, the Sally from those teenage years, joining the Compton Players and then becoming members of the Church. Later as Elders, Cliff and Sally became Joint Church Treasurers, succeeding Ray Petts.

Cliff was also well-regarded amongst the local churches as a member of the Local Area Group Steering Committee, and ecumenically in the running of Winchmore Hill Community Care. His hallmarks of good humour and pragmatism were invaluable to the life of the churches. (Ed)

Cliff had a great love and knowledge of sport, football, cricket, golf and horseracing. He used to say if he could translate his level of knowledge of sport into playing sport, he would be good; he couldn't and he wasn't but he loved trying. It was following a conversation with Andrew Henderson in church one day that Cliff and Sally started to play bowls at Winchmore Hill Bowls Club, Sally gaining coaching qualifications and Cliff becoming Captain and President. Andrew was asked one day how good Sally was and he answered, "Good and should become very good." "And Cliff, what's he like?" The reply, "He is OK, he'll do." Not a bad epitaph.



SUNDAY WORSHIP
in Church at 10.30 a.m. followed by light refreshments and time to chat.

July:

6th A service led by Rev Packia Asirvatham will include Holy Communion.
[URC meets in General Assembly this weekend.](#)

13th Evodian Fonyanga from Tottenham High Cross URC

20th Rev Jim Gascoigne, anniversary of ordination.

27th Shared service at Palmers Green at 11.00; led by Dr Paul Ashitey.

August:

3rd Service includes Holy Communion

10th Rev Packia

17th 24th 31st (Tbc)

September: Season of Creation 1st September – 4th October

7th Worship led by Laura Marlow from Lancaster Road URC will include Holy Communion

14th Rev Packia Asirvatham

21st Harvest Festival with Scouts on parade (International Day of Peace) (Tbc)

FairTrade Fortnight 22nd September – 5th October

28th (Tbc)

October:

5th Church Anniversary (283 years) with Holy Communion led by Rev Packia Asirvatham

Flowers during July, August and September will be given by Bryant Ambrose for grandparents; by Dawn and Nick, and Sally for their wedding anniversaries; by Jim Gascoigne for his parents, Peggy and Aubrey; to remember Sue and Jean, Sheila Dumayne, Lorraine Shaw and her family; and by Dawn for Amie and Helena.

Moving Stories

Commitment for Life

Committed to supporting our global partners **ZIMBABWE**

Action for Fairer Tea – Brew it Fair

Do you enjoy a cuppa? How do you like it – with sugar? Strong? With milk?

Apart from water, tea is the world's most popular drink. However, it is more than a drink, it's a daily ritual, a comfort, enjoyed during a break or while catching up with loved ones. In Britain we drink over 100 million cups of tea every day!

However, behind every cuppa lies an untold story – the people who carefully pick the tea leaves and carry up to 30 kilograms on their backs at a time. They face poverty, unsafe working conditions and climate change, leaving them unable to plan for their future.

Fairtrade



FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION

Do it Fair: Campaigning for Change in the Tea Industry are asking the UK government to Brew it Fair. Act by signing their petition [Sign | Fairtrade Foundation](#) and calling on the government to take stronger action in the tea industry. In addition, why not purchase Fairtrade Tea?

When the family farm began struggling, Blessings' husband moved to the city to find work.

"Things were hard," remembers Blessings. "We were living hand-to-mouth and had to wait for provisions to be sent from my husband. I found life really tough – doing everything on my own, trying to get something out of the land in drought. When I managed to harvest something, I couldn't get decent prices."

Blessings tells how things changed for herself and the wider community with the coming of BRACT, a *Commitment for Life* sponsored project in Zimbabwe. "The project taught us about disaster risk management, and this helped us plan what we need to do in case of droughts and even price fluctuations. The 'climate smart' agriculture training made us realise we can use less fertilisers, farm without cattle



Photo credit: © Christian Aid

to help us plough and still get a harvest even when the rainfall is low. We can also grow feed for our livestock in our fields and make hay for the cattle and goats. This was all completely new to us."

Thank you to you for your wonderful support for BRACT through *Commitment for Life*. People all across Zimbabwe, like Blessings and her family, have had their lives transformed.

Will Sheldon – Administrator



We are delighted that our closer coöperation with Palmers Green URC has led to the appointment of Will, who will be supporting us administratively. His work should enable Elders to re-balance their workloads for church and help us to 'be Church' more effectively.

"I have lived in this area for 15 years with my wife and two daughters, working part-time locally as a church hall manager while the girls were in primary education. I am looking forward to working with URC and developing good relationships within the church community. Pop by the office to say, 'Hello!'"

Audrey Perrin

News has also reached us that Audrey died aged 95 in North Baddesley, Hampshire, on 19th April, surviving Ken by about 18 months. Received into Church membership with Ken on 30th May, 1963, Audrey was much involved in Church activities all her adult life. For many years she was "Brown Owl" of the Church Brownie Pack and memories abound of those days. She later became Borough Commissioner for the Girl Guides. At Sunday worship she was always elegantly attired and, with her tasteful choice of bright colours, she ensured everyone was cheered. Following her move to Hampshire she became a Home Communion Assistant and Steward at Romsey Abbey. Our love and good wishes are conveyed to Roger, together with other family and friends.

Dates for your diary



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

Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Grange Park

Normally first & third Tuesdays but a break in July:

29th July, 5th & 19th August, 2nd & 23rd September 10.30-11.15

Forum meeting at 19.30 on Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 7.30pm at Grange Park Methodist Church

Everyone welcome.

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

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

Elders Meetings

We reserve the evening of third Thursdays to meet, if necessary, in the Parlour at 19.00.
17th July, 21st August, 18th September.

On Saturday, 15th November, an Elders Day for all churches in the Local Area Group will be led at Broxbourne by Alison Gray, from Westminster College but known to us as Nancy Hands' daughter.

Church Meetings

Church Members meet together quarterly with the Annual General Meeting in March, then in June, September and November/December, after Sunday worship on dates to be advised.

Synod events diary

Online quiet day: attending to the presence of God on 26 July 2025 10:30 to 16:00.
Book at: https://urc-spirituality.org.uk/urcsp_event/quiet-day-3/#em-event-booking-form

Extreme Love in Extreme Times on Wednesday 6 August 2025 at 4pm (doors open at 3:30pm) at Seedbed Centre Renewal Programme, 395 High St North, Manor Park E12 6PG.

The NEW Church Leadership Programme (CLP) Taster Session on Wednesday 13th August 19:00-20:00 on Zoom. Email to register your interest – christine.hufton@lutherking.ac.uk

Aspiring to More Taster Sessions - Locally Recognised Worship Leader Training on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 19:30 to 21:30 via Zoom training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Youth Mental Health First Aid 22 September - 1 October www.bit.ly/youth-mhfa

Disability Awareness Sunday – 28 September 2025

Festival of Church Music in Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 11th October 2025

Annual Dr Williams Lecture on Wednesday 29 October, at Senate House, London University.

Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) 24-26 November 2025 at the Hayes Centre
training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

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

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