

Palmers Green United Reformed Church

May Magazine – 2019

For all people who seek and share the Good News of Jesus Christ
Member of Churches Together in Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill



We celebrated Easter decorating our cross!

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WORSHIP SERVICES - MAY 2019

Date	Time	Service	Worship Leader
Sunday, May 5th	11am	Communion Service	Mrs Fredwyn Hosier
Sunday, May 12th	11am	Morning Worship Christian Aid Week	Revd Derek Lindfield
Sunday, May 19th	11am	Morning Worship	Revd Melanie Smith
Sunday, May 26th	11am	Morning Worship	Mr Andrew Mills

Morning Worship is held every Sunday, and includes Holy Communion on the first or second Sunday of each month. Arrangements for additional services are publicised in advance. Christian Education for young people takes place during morning worship.

BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY 2019 SUNDAY SERVICES

5th May	12th May	19th May
John 21.1-19 Acts 9.1-6, (7-20) Psalm 30 Revelation 5.11-14	Acts 9.36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7.9-17 John 10.22-30	Acts 11.1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21.1-6 John 13.31-35
26th May Acts 16.9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21.10, 22-22.5 John 14.23-29		



CHURCH DIARY

Elders' Meetings 2019 – 7.30pm, Margaret Russell Room

- Tuesday 21st May
- Wednesday 24th July
- Tuesday 8th October
- Wednesday 4th December

Church Meetings 2019 – 1pm, Burford Hall

- Sunday 9th June
- Sunday 8th September
- Sunday 24th November (Annual Forum)

'A Place for Coffee' is open every Saturday morning (10.30am - 12 noon)

Additional information about upcoming **Enfield URC** events can be found on pages 23 to 26 of this magazine. Please refer to the weekly **Bulletin**, available by email and at services each Sunday, and to **NewsShare** email messages, for more up-to-date information about events.



HALLS LETTING: Contact Mikayla Coote, Bookings Manager
Tel: 01366 348190 | email: pgurcbookings@outlook.com
Please visit our website for more details -
<http://www.palmersgreenurc.org.uk/halls.html>

Wondering and waiting

“And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:29)

It is after Easter.

The disciples are waiting.

Wondering.

Probably wandering around in a daze still as well.

Questioning.

“What exactly was it that happened in Jerusalem these past few days?”

They had come to the city full of excitement, full of anticipation and the city, to begin with, had welcomed them, had welcomed him – Jesus the Saviour.

Jesus the Messiah.

Of the Jews.

“But not just the Jews...”

Jesus the Messiah, the Saviour of ALL.

The disciples had witnessed a complete change in the attitude of the people.

They had gone from being a crowd roaring out in celebration and praise to becoming a vicious mob. They were no longer party-goers celebrating the arrival of their hero – they were now a noisy gang seeking the opportunity to lynch someone.

And Christ had been ambushed, and crucified.



If that wasn't enough the disciples then began to get the word...

“He is alive...”

“He is alive”

“He is alive”

The miracle had happened and now they were in a waiting game.

Waiting.

Waiting.

Waiting.

This month we join them.

Waiting.

Your ministers

Mark and Melanie

Editor's Note: Photo of Melanie and Mark by Jim Holliday.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a group of different people looking for and finding, strength and meaning in God's love.

You will always be welcomed gladly.

We worship and pray together.

We learn about God's love and forgiveness through Jesus, the Bible and with the help of each other.

Together we will work to make Jesus present by loving actions done, and by loving words spoken, in this church and beyond these doors.



Churches Together in Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Grange Park Good Friday Walk of Witness

Churches Together held the annual **Good Friday Walk of Witness** on 19th April 2019. Starting at 11.30am at both **Palmers Green Station** car park and **Winchmore Hill Green**, we walked in silent witness behind the Cross as we remembered Jesus' Crucifixion. The two groups met at **Winchmore Hill Methodist Church**, Green Lanes at about 12 noon, for a short outdoor service followed by refreshments with hot cross buns. Below are some photographs of the event. Were you there?



From PG Station down Aldermans Hill towards The Triangle ...

along Green Lanes towards St John's at Bourne Hill / Hedge Lane to ...





The Bourne /
Hedge Lane
intersection ...



then, beside St
Monica's RC
Church on
Green Lanes ...



and past
Meadowcroft
Road towards
Winchmore Hill
Methodist.



The other group coming from WH Green approaching W H Methodist near Woodberry Avenue.

Melanie addresses the assembled congregation at WH Methodist Church, numbering well over a hundred.



Leaders from the various churches in our group give The Blessing.

A VISIT TO JORDAN

By Martin van Staveren

We usually think of the Holy Land as matching the modern borders of Israel/Palestine. But actually, there are many Bible locations in present-day Jordan, as Gill and I discovered when we spent a week there in March.



Our journey started at Gatwick Airport on a Saturday morning with a 5-hour flight to Aqaba, at the southern tip of Jordan, on the Red Sea. From our hotel that evening we could see Israel and Egypt across the water, and the border with Saudi Arabia was also only a few miles away. The following morning was spent relaxing in our hotel, and then in the afternoon we travelled three hours to Amman, the capital, where we were to stay for the next 3 nights. In New Testament times, Amman was known as Philadelphia, and was one of a group of cities known as the Decapolis.



The next day we visited another ancient city in the Decapolis, now known as Um Qais. This was a Greco-Roman hilltop town overlooking the Jordan valley and the Sea of Galilee,

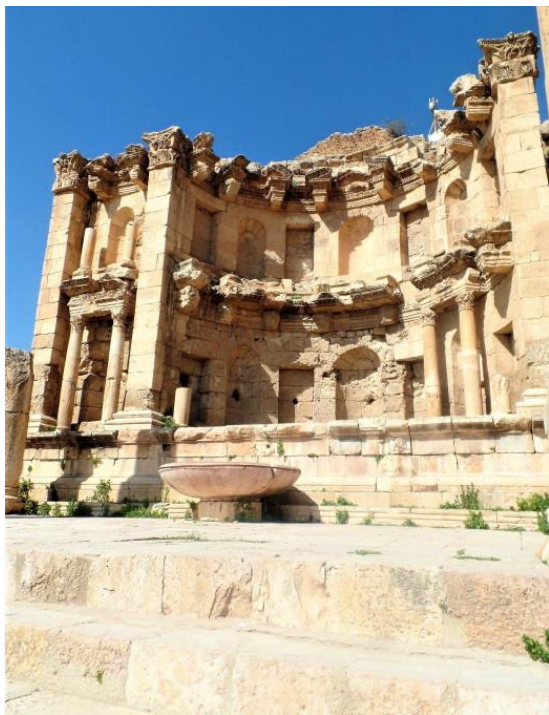
which in the New Testament is called Gadara, where Jesus cast out a "legion of devils" into a herd of pigs. The city has impressive remains, including an amphitheatre (shown above) ...

...and a long colonnaded street (shown below).



Our first visit on Tuesday was to another Decapolis town, Jerash, one of the best-preserved Roman cities outside of Italy. There was a very large area of remains to walk around, from the Greek and Roman periods, including an arched gateway (below) leading into the city, ...





another amphitheatre and the Nymphaeum, an ornamental fountain (shown left).

We then travelled south into the Jordan valley to the site of Jesus' baptism, at "Bethany beyond the Jordan" (shown below). This was a quiet, peaceful site, where remains of churches dating back to the 4th century AD have been found. Various evidence makes historians almost certain that this was the site of Jesus' baptism.



We finished our day at the Dead Sea, with a chance to try floating on the very salty waters of the lake, 400m below sea level.

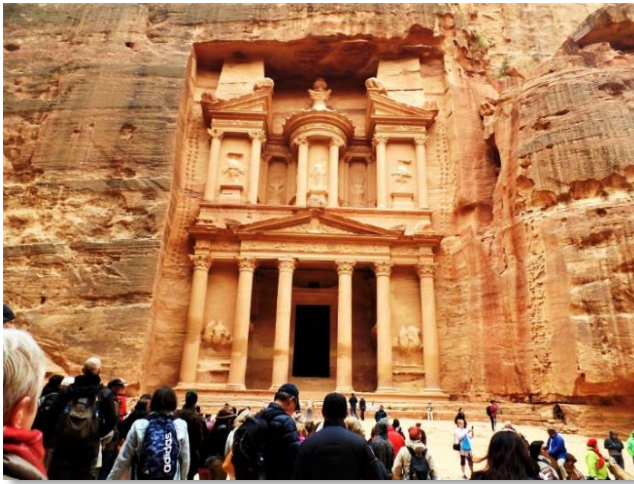


The next day we visited Madaba, and its sixth century mosaic map of the Holy Land, and then onto Mount Nebo (above), where Moses viewed the Promised Land before he died.

Next was Kerak, a magnificent 12th century Crusader castle, and finally we arrived in Petra for the night. We spent the whole of the next day at

Petra, another vast area of remains of a city built by the Nabateans, nomadic Arabs who established a trading centre there around 2000 years ago. It is approached along a mile-long ravine (right), which suddenly opens up to reveal ...





the "Treasury" (left).

Like most of the buildings, it was carved into the towering sandstone cliffs of the site. Petra was only "discovered" by Europeans at the start of the 19th century.

The buildings may be tombs, but historians are not certain.

We walked all around the site, to the Monastery, to a temple with a towering arched entrance (shown below right), ... past the royal tombs, and finally a steep climb up one of the cliffs led to viewpoints where we could first look down on a large amphitheatre, and later down to the Treasury where we had started the day.



Petra is listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the World which can be visited today. It's somewhere I'd always wanted to see, and it exceeded my expectations.



On our final full day in Jordan, we travelled to a desert area called Wadi Rum (right).

This was where Lawrence of Arabia gathered together the Bedouin tribes to fight for freedom from the Ottoman Empire during World War One. We had a jeep ride through the desert before watching the sunset, and then onto our desert camp for the night, with en-suite facilities!



The following morning, we were up early for a camel ride to watch sunrise, then onto Aqaba for a tour around the city, before returning to the airport for our flight home.

Jordan is a friendly and safe country, and we had a great guide, and good company in our coach group. It was certainly a most memorable holiday.

Martin

Garth Hewitt

Hopefully you will have spotted that Garth Hewitt is coming to Enfield in May. (see poster right)

If the ticket price (£11 and £8 concessions) is a little too much for you then please speak to Mark or Melanie as the planning team for the event are keen to ensure that price doesn't prevent anybody who wishes to attend from coming along and joining in on what is bound to be a thought provoking, challenging and incredible evening.



We are now also pleased to announce that Garth will be joined on the evening by Martin Wroe, a poet and writer. Martin Wroe has been a staff writer on *The Independent* and on *The Observer*, co-authored 'The Rough Guide to a Better World' and, recently, 'Lifelines, Notes on Life & Love, Faith & Doubt'. He is a volunteer vicar in his local parish, a contributor to 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4 when he can think of an idea and writes poems most days.

Garth has invited him along to chat about his writings and read us some of his poems. Garth will chat to him about some of the work with which Martin has been involved, including both Greenbelt Festival and the Amos Trust. Do you need any more encouragement to come out for an evening in Enfield?

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Christian Aid Week:

12-18 May 2019

Just a reminder that our church supports Christian Aid, and if you would like to learn more about how you can get involved there is plenty of information on their website at:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved-locally/london> .



The Enfield Community Singers and Bella Cora celebrate arrival of Spring at PGURC

On Friday 5th April 2019, in aid of **London's Air Ambulance Service**, the two very talented choirs performed a carefully selected romantic popular and classical repertoire of choral music from traditional English arrangements to musical theatre scores.



Bella Cora (pictured above), is a 20-member female vocal group, led by Musical Director **Rosamond Savournin** who is a musician, music educator and animateur, running workshops with major London orchestras, and devising school resources to make opera, orchestral music and choral music more accessible to young people. The concert began with Bella Cora singing a selection of eleven songs including 'Barcarolle' by Jacques Offenbach and 'It was a lover and his lass' by R. Vaughn Williams to text by William Shakespeare. They were accompanied on the piano by **Neil Hatton** who has written instrumental music for children's groups, several choral works, incidental music for plays and arrangements commissioned by the BBC.

The Enfield Community Singers, now in their eighth year, are led by Choral Director **Simon Gilbert** and Musical Director **Laurence Payne**. They sang a variety of romantic medleys from Rodgers & Hammerstein to Jerome Kern and George Gershwin, Judy Garland and Les Misérables. As highlighted in the concert programme, ‘they have had successful concerts at most venues in Enfield, as well as sell-out performances at The Dugdale Centre, Forty Hall and the Millfield Theatre...’.



The two choirs, pictured together above, completed the concert with four well-known songs: ‘All In The April Evening’ by Hugh Roberton, ‘Love’s Old Sweet Song’ by J. L. Molloy and G. Clifton Bingham, ‘April Love’ by Sammy Fain and Paul F. Webster, and ‘April Showers’ by Louis Silvers and B. G. DeSilva. All in all, it was a very enjoyable evening.

Pictured right are Simon Gilbert, Laurence Payne and Rosamond Savournin.



More information about the choirs and their leaders can be found at www.bellacora.co.uk , www.letthepeoplesing.co.uk and <http://www.laurencepayne.co.uk> .

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‘Best of British Choral Music’ performed by Rowantree Choir at PGURC

On Sunday evening the 7th April 2019 our church again hosted this wonderful choir’s well-attended performance conducted by **Jonathan Rathbone**, and featuring **Gregory Drott**, Organist.



Totalling approx. 72 singers, the choir comprised 32 sopranos, 22 altos, 6 tenors and 12 basses. Their programme covered periods from the 16th to the 20th centuries including works by G. F. Handel, Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons, Charles Wood, Charles Parry, R. V. Williams, Charles Stanford, Samuel C. Taylor, Herbert Howells, Gustav Holst, Ethel Smyth, Edward Elgar, John Ireland, Edgar Bainton, John Rutter and Benjamin Britten.

Ethel Smyth's composition 'March of the Women' was included to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of women being allowed to vote in Britain (Dec 1919). Only one piece by a living composer was included and this was 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You' by John Rutter. Organist Gregory Drott performed two solos: Prelude on the Welsh hymn tune 'Rhosymedre' by R. V. Williams, and 'Allegro from Organ Sonata' by Edward Elgar.

As expressed by Jonathan Rathbone (pictured right with choir member Pauline Martindale) in the programme sheet, "The pieces are, in many ways, an insider's view of the choral world. These are the motets and anthems requested by professional choral singers at their own weddings and funerals. These are the pieces that elicit a response of 'oh great', from choir members, both young and old, when they appear on the service sheet".



Without a doubt, the audience did enjoy them.

If you would like to learn more about the Rowantree Choir and the dates of their future performances, you can find this at www.rowantreechoir.org.uk.

The Easter Bake Sale

On Sunday 14th April we raised £107. The money will go to church outings and community events. Many thanks to all who supported this; baking, making Easter items and those who came to buy. See photos of the event below.

Nathalie



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What Junior Church did on Sunday 31st March: Mothers' Day

We made cakes and biscuits! Yummy!

Photo right by Keezia Obi-Ezekpazu with Jane Hessami, Nathan, Edith and Ebby.



How we celebrated Palm Sunday and Easter Day in 2019

(cover story by Harry Goforth)

Surprisingly, it all began in December 2018, when the idea arose to save our Christmas tree and somehow reuse it. What you see below is the result of some creative thinking and skill by members of our floral design team, namely Jean Alderman and Jill Bysouth.

The tree was denuded of its branches and transformed into our Easter Cross, first appearing on Palm Sunday with crown of thorns and purple shroud. Then one week later, on Easter Day, the congregation brought flowers which were attached to the cross to make it shine with joy as you can see below. This was reflected in the faces of all who saw it, and that joy still lives today.





Jesus-Under-The-Dirt

by Lucy Berry

There is a big man with no English
on the High Street
who begins to cry if you give him money.
He calls you “Mama” and wants to hug you,
and he is a horror to look at:
running nose and mucus on his sleeves
and an open sore on his lip and
the dirtiest wrists,
under his sweater where no shirt is.
Odd shoes.
And grey-grease-naked ankles like you’ve
never seen, under no socks.

I hate it when he hugs me;
and he hangs on a long time.
But if he is Jesus, under the dirt,
if he is raving, hungry Jesus, under the dirt,
then I must hug him.
Mustn’t I?

I haven’t got far with this contamination thing.
I have moved beyond
dogs and crumbs-under-the-table,
but not far.

Foxes have holes, birds have nests.
Sobbing, aching Jesus-Under-The-Dirt
has no place to lay his head.

©Lucy Berry, 2019

Permission is given for non-profit reuse. For more about this poem, and the issues that it raises, visit www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/welcoming-environment-poetry
More of Lucy's poems can also be found on her website at: <https://www.lucyberry.com> .

NOTICE BOARD

NewsShare from URC Enfield North Pastorate:

Upcoming Events

May

Friday 10th May Holiday at Home with Christ Church URC

Saturday 11th May Holiday at Home with Christ Church URC

Saturday 11th May 10.00am Palmers Green Community Clean Up

Saturday 11th May 2.30pm Scout Jumble Sale at Palmers Green URC

Sunday 12th - Saturday 18th May Christian Aid Week

Saturday 18th May 7.30pm An Evening with Garth Hewitt at Christ Church URC

Sunday 19th May 11.00am Worship with Garth Hewitt at Palmers Green URC

June

Wednesday 26th Climate Change Lobby

Saturday 29th Nigel Uden at Winchmore hill URC

Regular Events

Sunday Worship

10.30am Bush Hill Park, Ponders End, Trinity, Winchmore Hill

11.00am Christ Church, Lancaster Road, Palmers Green

6.30pm Lancaster Road (Café Church 1st Sunday), Trinity

Mondays

2.15pm Friendship Club at Christ Church (3rd Monday each month)

8.00pm Book Club at Bush Hill Park (1st Monday each month)

Tuesdays

10.30am Coffee Morning at Ponders End

8.00pm Bible Study at Bush Hill Park (2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month)

8.30pm Bible Study at Lancaster Road (2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month)

Wednesdays

9.30am Toddlers at Bush Hill Park

9.45am Bible Study at Lancaster Road (fortnightly)

8.00pm New Songs at Bush Hill Park (1st Wednesday each month)

Fridays

- 9.30am Prayers at Bush Hill Park
- 9.45am Toddlers at Bush Hill Park
- 10.00am Shoppers Coffee Morning at Lancaster Road

Saturdays

- 9.00am Breakfast Club at Christ Church (1st & 3rd Saturdays)
- 10.30am A Place for Coffee at Palmers Green
- 10.30am Coffee Morning at Trinity
- 11.00am Lunchtime at Christ Church (3rd Saturday each month)
- 3.00pm Family Film Feast at Bush Hill Park (1st Saturday each month)

Please visit our church websites to read our latest newsletters.

Our churches offer a wide range of uniformed organisations for children and young people - please visit individual websites for more information.

Bush Hill Park Christ Church Lancaster Road Palmers Green
Ponders End Trinity Methodist/URC Winchmore Hill

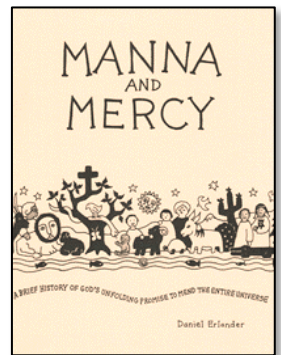
Don't forget! You can be kept up to date with all the news from our Enfield United Reformed Churches by subscribing to our occasional email: <http://eepurl.com/dHm8TH> . and on Enfield United Reformed Churches Facebook Page.

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Manna and Mercy

Beginning on **Saturday 4th May** at 9.30 am, the Breakfast Bible Study Group will be studying the bible using Daniel Erlander's book "**Manna and Mercy**".

Subtitled "A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe", Manna and Mercy is a 100-page paraphrase of the whole bible but is defined as "a graphic novel of sorts, written with imagination, clarity, humour, and cartoons. Built around the themes of justice, sharing and forgiveness, it helps us to look at scripture with new eyes and rediscover how it can become a means of life and grace rather than destruction and death."



The Breakfast Bible Studies are held at Christ Church URC on the 1st and 3rd Saturday mornings of each month and include sharing of a light breakfast with one another as well as delving into the bible and hopefully helping us to grow in our faith.

Why not come along and join us as we begin to look at a new book together?

Melanie

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Aspiring to more

Join our learning circle to enlarge your faith and understanding through shared study in 2019-20



Wednesdays, 7-9pm, from 1st May 2019

and some Saturdays from 10-4

at High Cross UR Church Tottenham N15 4BN

Want to know more about the Bible and faith?

Want skills in worship-leading, Bible study or preaching?

Want to qualify as a lay preacher?

Join us for one or two modules or the whole course

Join us just to explore or do assignments for a qualification

We'll follow the URC's learning programme – **'TLS LITE'**

with a mixture of home reading and shared study sessions

TLS LITE is a learning programme developed by the United Reformed Church. It's designed to help church people explore Bible and faith. It's possible to use the programme to obtain skills and qualifications to become recognised lay preachers. Or you can simply take all or part of the course to explore and develop faith and understanding with the help of its learning circle and course materials. No prior qualifications needed.

We're hoping to encourage groups to run the programme all across Thames North Synod. This leaflet is about the group based in High Cross

URC in Tottenham, close to Seven Sisters Station on the Victoria Line, but always on Wednesdays, with a few Saturday Study Days.

Here are our programme dates for 2019-20:

Worship module – ‘Leading Worship’ 5 Wednesdays @ 7pm 5 cell groups & 2 Saturdays 10-4

Group meets on Wed 1st May '19; cell groups in week of 6th-10th May
Then there's a first Study Day for the Worship module on Sat 18th May '19, 10-4

Group meets on Wed 22nd May '19; cell groups in week of 27th-31st May;

Group mtg Wed 5th June;

cell groups in week of 10th-14th June; Group mtg Wed 19th June;

Then there's a second Study Day for the Worship module on Sat 29th June '19, 10-4

cell groups in week of 1st-5th July Group meets on Wed 10th July '19

Preaching module – ‘God’s word for today’ 5 Wednesdays @ 7pm & a Saturday Study Day

Group meets on Wed 17th July '19; Wed 31st July; Wed 4th Sept; Wed 18th Sept; Wed 2nd Oct

Then there's a Study Day for the Preaching module on Sat 12th Oct '19, 10-4

Bible module – ‘Getting to grips with the Bible’ 5 Wednesdays @ 7pm & a Saturday Study Day

Group meets on Wed 17th Oct '19; Wed 30th Oct; Wed 13th Nov; Wed 27th Nov; Wed 11th Dec;

Then there's a Study Day for the Bible Module on Sat 11th Jan '20, 10-4

Theology module – ‘Talking about God’ 5 Wednesdays @ 7pm & a Saturday Study Day

Group meets on Wed 22nd Jan '20; Wed 29th Jan; Wed 12th Feb; Wed 26th Feb; Wed 11th March

Then there's a Study Day for the Theology module on Sat 22nd March '20, 10-4

Practical experience module – ‘Learning by doing’ this is a module you complete at your own pace, after the other modules. It expects you to reflect on five acts of worship you have led (or sermons you have preached) where at least two are in settings other than your own church.

Add this to the other modules so you can be acknowledged as a Synod-recognised Lay Preacher.

Contact: Anne Sardeson tel. 07979 520 308 or
email: training@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

Alternative contact: John Campbell tel. 07429 627 156 or
email: john.campbell@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mini-Memoirs: Received: 28 March 2019 from Alan Page

I am really glad to see that the Mini-Memoirs are still going and Daphne and I are particularly interested in Vinitha's article as she has always been a great friend of Daphne's.

Our series of Pen Pictures in 'The Messenger' is still going and is now interspersed with articles on people's 'Hobbies, Interests and Pastimes' and another series of their 'Red Letter Days'. We have had one or other of these every month of the seven years since the series started in May 2012. When the supply begins to run out, I plan to start a new series on 'Treasured Possessions' but that won't happen yet as I already have firm promises of articles in the other three categories up until March of next year.

Hope all is well with you and with PGURC and we send our best wishes.

Love to all from Daphne and Alan.

Green Tip: Received: 22 April 2019 from Revd Melanie Smith

Plastic bags, including bread bags, frozen food bags and other plastic which 'stretches' when pulled (including bubble wrap) can be recycled by taking back to the bins provided in many major supermarkets (Sainsbury's and Morrisons locally). Remember:

- All items should be clean and free of food
- Tear off sticky labels where possible
- As a general rule, if you can stretch the film then it can be recycled
- Compostable and biodegradable bags are not designed to be recycled and if they enter the recycling system can potentially cause quality issues in the recycled material.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

WE SHARE OUR PASTORATE WITH THE PONDERS END and WINCHMORE HILL URCS.

Listed below are contact

details for their Church Secretaries:

Ponders End Church Secretary: Mrs Pat Lewis

[pat@rapandsoulmailorder.com]

Winchmore Hill Church Secretary: Vacant



We are part of the Thames North Synod in which there are 157 United Reformed churches in six Areas, headed by a Synod Moderator. The United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom has approx. 1,655 local Churches, 13 Synods and 79,000 members. It meets every two years in General Assembly and has its central offices at 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1 9RT. Through our membership of the Council for World Mission we belong to the world-wide Church of Jesus Christ. This is a Reformed and Congregational body for international exchange in Mission. The United Reformed Church is one of 30 member Churches.

We are a member of Churches Together in Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Grange Park (CTPGWHGP). In partnership with Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Baptist churches in our neighbourhood, we aim to explore the Christian faith together, and witness to the Gospel.

Minister – Revd Melanie Smith

e-mail: revd.melanie@gmail.com

Secretary - Mr Martin van Staveren

e-mail: pgurc_secy@yahoo.co.uk

Treasurer - Mr Brian Ball

e-mail: Jeremybrianball@gmail.com

Palmers Green United Reformed Church is at the corner of Fox Lane and Burford Gardens, London N13 4AL and online at both www.palmersgreenurc.org.uk and www.facebook.com/PGURC/. Our magazine is published monthly and is printed by 'Office Interiors' in Palmers Green using approx. 85% recycled paper.

MAGAZINE COPY DATES FOR JUNE 2019 ISSUE

Publication is scheduled on or before **Saturday 25th May 2019.**

All copy, including Church Diary information, to be sent to **Harry Goforth** (preferably by e-mail to: hbg@goforth.myzen.co.uk) by **Friday morning 17th May 2019.**