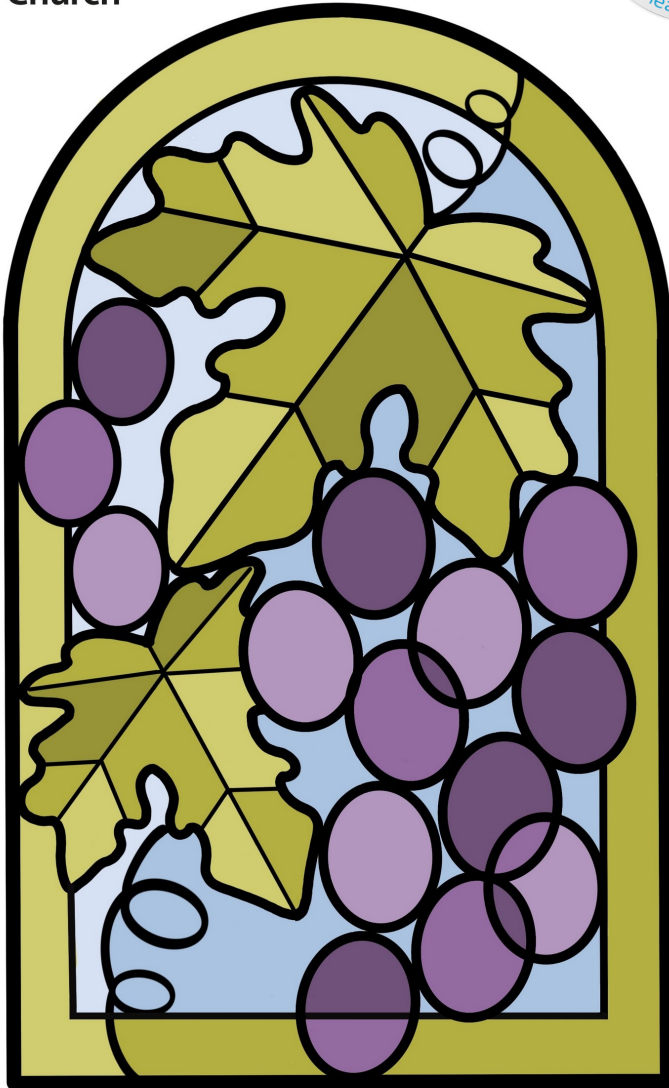




The
United
Reformed
Church

October
2023



Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church
25 Main Avenue, Enfield EN1 1DJ

www.bhpurc.org.uk



Who to contact

Minister

Ruth Dewis 07592 125 027

Serving Elders

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Andrew Caddies | 07775 697 255 | andrew.caddies@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Lynda Cook | 07949 033 869 | lynda.cook@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Martin Hamblin (Treasurer) | | martin.hamblin@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Diann Nicolaides | 07398 757 720 | diann.nicolaides@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Robin Ward (Secretary) | 07962 207 256 | secretary@bhpurc.org.uk |

Youth activities

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Boys Brigade | bb@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Girls Brigade | gb@bhpurc.org.uk |

Other activities

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Toddlers | toddlers@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Book Club | bookclub@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Weekly news sheet | link@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Newsletter | newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Hall & Room bookings | bookings@bhpurc.org.uk |
| Prayer requests | prayer@bhpurc.org.uk |



Safeguarding Statement

Bush Hill Park United Reformed Church believes that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable (children, young people and adults at risk).

We expect all of our leaders, volunteers and those who use our premises to share this commitment and value the support of those who worship here in achieving this. Park United Reformed Church believes that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all those who are vulnerable (children, young people and adults at risk).

Please visit <https://www.bhpurc.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding> for further information.



Hello North Enfield church family!

As I start writing this I am surrounded by boxes and the removal men are wrapping up my kitchen items. It's an odd feeling- I'm excited to be joining you all but admit I did have a cry as I said goodbye to our neighbour as he left for work early this morning- poor thing he didn't expect that reaction I'm sure! We've lived in Hampshire for the passed 27 years and it's where our children grew up and went to school; where Stu and I worked and we all attended church. At times like this we easily dwell on the memories made - good and bad. Change has a strange affect on us doesn't it?

Our reassurance is that God is a constant - a constant refuge, a constant presence and a constant guide. My Bible verse this morning set me up for the day ahead - especially this day of huge change and new beginnings,

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Psalms 121: 1-3

It's not by accident that we are encouraged to keep our eyes on Jesus. If we keep our focus on him we realise our worries and

concerns for the future are better in his hands because he is the Lord, the one who made heaven and earth. Our worries while overwhelmingly for us are not overwhelming for The Creator.

As rooms are emptied, the atmosphere in the house is changing. Things around us change all the time. We're on the cusp of Autumn so we'll see a change in the length of daylight, changing colours of leaves and changes in the temperature outside. Our young people will have had changes of teachers or even schools this last few weeks. We live in a changing

world, and for some of us it leaves us unsettled because we don't recognise the world we live in, it's not the world we knew. Thank goodness we can find our security in a constant God.

Watching the removal men is making me realise that our house is full of 'stuff' - apparently according to Stu it's mostly mine! Don't tell him but I think he's right. I'm slightly embarrassed that we have held onto enough 'stuff' that can fill a large lorry. I think of those who have lost everything because of natural disasters or war. I remember those who escape trials with only the things they can wear and can carry.

Jesus however led a simple non-materialistic life free from 'stuff' and instead modelled a life that was full of relationships and a deep love for all he met. It's who we are in Christ that matters not what we have.

As we enter this new chapter for our North Enfield URC family we will be in the hands of our faithful and loving God.

Relationship is at the heart of the Trinity and we have been invited to participate. As long as we keep lifting our eyes towards God and pray, faithfully listening to the Holy Spirit for direction, we will know we go ahead in his wisdom and strength.

I know Stuart and I both feel we are being blessed with a new loving church family. The family may be in three church buildings but we are one North Enfield URC family in Christ. I look forward to serving you and listening to what God has planned for us all and the communities we worship in.

May God bless you in this coming month.

Your servant in Christ,
Ruth



Smile Lines

Don't mention it!

As part of his annual talk to our local Town Council, our minister told some funny stories. Since he planned to use the same anecdotes at the forthcoming Harvest Dinner at church, he asked the young reporter covering the event not to include them in his report.

Reading the newspaper on the following morning, he noticed that the well-meaning reporter had ended his story on the banquet with the observation "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published."

Apples

Mother: "Martin, last night I put two apples in this cupboard and now there is only one. How do you explain that?"

Martin: "I expect it was so dark I couldn't see the other one."

Past & present

As half-term ended, the English teacher returned to teaching with a sigh. He felt nostalgic. He found the past perfect and the present tense.

Prove it

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.

Here is the News

Welcome Ruth

On Saturday 23rd September Revd Ruth Dewis became our new minister along with Christ Church URC and Lancaster Road URC. We look forward to working together and celebrate what is to come.

Solidarity expressed with refugees

On behalf of the URC, the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, General Assembly Moderator, joined nearly 300 civil society groups and charities in expressing solidarity with refugees as the government's controversial Illegal Migration Bill passed into in July. In a letter, the signatories accused the government of abandoning its legal and moral obligations towards refugees. Read the letter at <https://urc.org.uk/church-expresses-solidarity-with-refugees-as-illegal-migration-bill-passes/>

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal: Christian Aid thanks supporters

Eight months on from the devastating earthquakes that killed at least 58,000 people across southern Turkey and northwest Syria, Christian Aid has thanked the generosity of their supporters for raising over £3.4m to help “tens of thousands of people who lost their homes, livelihoods and loved ones.”

Since the deadly earthquakes on 6th February, the first of which struck in the early hours of the morning when many people were asleep and destroyed thousands of buildings, survivors have faced torrential rains and flooding and then the extreme summer heat affecting much of southern Europe.

In northwest Syria, working through local partners and with funding from several donors, Christian Aid has been able to reach more than 60,000 people badly impacted by the earthquake and another 5,000 people in Southern Turkey.



Provide food and shelter for wildlife, now and in preparation for next year. Clean all your bird feeders to avoid the spread of disease to winter migrants and put up a nest box well in advance of breeding season. A nest box could also prove a cosy spot for small birds to spend the night on particularly cold winter evenings ahead.

Bible Sunday (29th Oct) Ukrainians request more Bibles

The war in Ukraine has led to a dramatic rise in the demand for Bibles, as people ask existential questions about life and death.

The Ukrainian Bible Society reports that, in the last 15 months, some 700,000 Bibles have been distributed across the war-torn country. This is a five-fold increase on numbers handed out before the war. In 2020, some 136,767 Bibles were distributed in Ukraine.

Anatoliy Raychynets, deputy general secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society explains, “The experience of this time is that so many people are looking for Bibles and churches.

“We are doing everything possible to reach all the needs, but more Bibles are needed. With the help of the Word of God, we can bring the love of God to those who need it.”

Bibles are distributed around the country, including to soldiers and civilian communities on the front line, and to those in hospital. “Wherever the Bible is taken, it is very much appreciated,” said Anatoliy.



Committed to supporting our global partners in Bangladesh

Fast Fashion – a detrimental effect on the Environment

Bangladesh is the second largest garment exporter in the world, providing millions of garments to the UK market.

Large numbers of high street fashion brands in the UK are buying from factories in Bangladesh, according to one study 'Impact of Global Clothing Retailers' Unfair Practices on Bangladeshi Suppliers During COVID-19'.

Many factories are struggling to pay the Bangladeshi daily minimum wage of £2.30 due to rising costs and the burden of shareholder dividends.

The rise of fast fashion has a profoundly detrimental effect on the environment. One cotton shirt requires roughly 700 gallons of water overall. The fashion industry produces 5% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, or 2.1 billion tons of CO2 annually.

This is more than shipping and aviation combined! Next time you shop for clothes, think:

- Where is the garment made? Are working conditions safe? Do the workers get a living wage?
- Will I wear this garment a minimum of 30 times?
- Could I rather use a charity shop?
- Will I take the '30-wear' pledge'? <https://cariki.co.uk/blogs/the-green-road/what-is-the-30-wear-pledge>

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for your presence in our lives. We bless and praise you for the many gifts you pour so generously into our lives. May we be transformed by the infilling of your Holy Spirit to perfectly love you through our care and support for our neighbour in need. And, in so doing, may we increasingly come to resemble you. Amen

Diary

October

See also Prayer pages and back cover for regular activities

The full diary with regular activities is also online at
www.bhpurc.org.uk/whats-on

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---|
| Sun 1st | 10.30am | Communion with Revd Ruth Dewis |
| Mon 2nd | 10.30am | Book Club |
| Sun 8th | 10.30am | Enrolment Parade with Chris Hall |
| Thur 12th | 10.45am | Friends Group |
| Sun 15th | 10.30am | Worship with Lynda Cook |
| Sun 22nd | 10.30am | Worship with Anna Erikson |
| Thur 26th | 10.45am | Friends Group |
| Sun 29th | 10.30am | United worship with Revd Ruth Dewis. We will be joined by our friends from Christ Church URC and Lancaster Road URC |

**Next newsletter deadline:
Sunday 8th October**

All material for inclusion should be emailed to
newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk

Prayer Diary

OCTOBER 2023

Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he,
I am he who will sustain you.
I have made you and I will carry you;
I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

Isaiah 46:4

Sunday 1st

Thanks for organisations, Christian and otherwise, providing aid when disasters strike

Monday 2nd

Alison

Tuesday 3rd

Worship God for his perfection

Wednesday 4th

East Crescent

Thursday 5th

Staff and pupils at Enfield County School

Friday 6th

Children and staff at Al-Shurooq School in Bethlehem who we support as a church

Saturday 7th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 8th

Give thanks for all those who give their time and support to our organisations and to help in our community

Monday 9th

Andrew

Tuesday 10th

Worship God for his sovereignty

Wednesday 11th

Erminside

Thursday 12th

Staff and pupils at Chace Community School

Friday 13th

The work of Christian Aid (we support them)

Saturday 14th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 15th

Give thanks for good health

Monday 16th

Anne

Tuesday 17th

Worship God for his nearness

Wednesday 18th

Falmer Road

Thursday 19th

Staff and pupils at Kingsmead School

Friday 20th

Children in Zambia, particularly those who are helped by Beyond Ourselves who we support as a church

Saturday 21st

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 22nd

Thanks for those who love us and share our lives

Monday 23rd

Arthur

Tuesday 24th

Worship God for his infinite greatness

Wednesday 25th

First Avenue

Thursday 26th

Staff and pupils at Latymer School

Friday 27th

Those suffering from Multiple Sclerosis and the charities who seek to find a cure

Saturday 28th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 29th

Thank God for the freedoms we enjoy to pray and worship and to participate in public life

Monday 30th

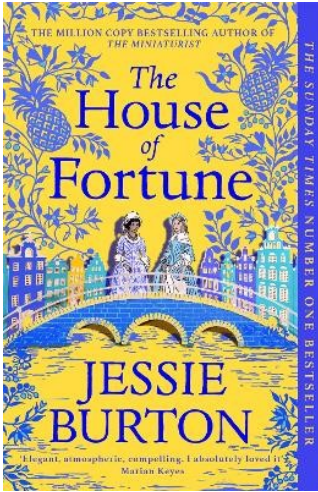
Caroline

Tuesday 31st

Worship God for his holiness



Book Club



The House of Fortune by Jessie Burton

This sequel to 'The Miniaturist' continues the saga of this dysfunctional family in Amsterdam at times of sailing vessels, exploration and the introduction of exotic plants to their palatial homes on the canals.

With Johannes and Marin dead, his widow Petronella and her father Otto raise Thea to be a rather lonely child but so loved by them and her nurse/companion/cook Cornelia. Her coming of age brings her out into society, but she is a strong, independent

young woman, if somewhat naïve. She has taken a liking to a stage set creator in the local theatre, which she keeps secret. Thea is also in awe of a local actress; they form a close bond.

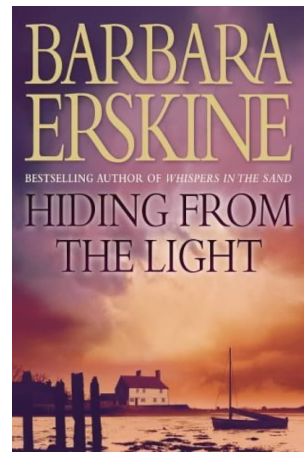
As in their earlier years, miniature wooden articles pertaining to their lives start to be delivered again. More secrecy.

The continuing story follows this family whose money is quickly running out when relationships and personalities have become strained.

While we may not understand the ways of society in the Netherlands at that time human nature has not changed through the years and we recognise the emotions involved. Will there be a third part to his saga?

Our next book is 'Hiding from the light' by Barbara Erskine. We will meet at Dunelm café at 10:30 on Monday 2nd October.

Sylvia



Just what the Doctor ordered

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. (Luke 1 1-4)

Saint Luke, the gospel writer and author of the Book of Acts, is celebrated on 18th October. It reminds me of a series of sermons which we once had in church.

One sermon was on the law, and a doctor preached about them. When my turn came up, I had to talk about doctors. In my daily work as a lawyer, I frequently work with medical colleagues. The two professions have one big thing in common: that is that we both deal with evidence.

Of course, we have different types of evidence to consider. A doctor needs evidence of someone's symptoms to make a diagnosis, while a lawyer needs witnesses or paperwork to prove a case. (Though sometimes, when clients come to tell me about a problem, they are surprised when I ask what witnesses or papers they have as evidence. Without that, the case is not going to get very far.)

I wonder if that is why Luke was chosen as a gospel writer. He explains in the opening verses of his gospel that he relied on "eyewitnesses" and that he, himself, had also "...carefully investigated everything from the beginning."

So, his faith, like our faith, was based not on feelings and made-up stories, but on hard facts. Just what the doctor ordered!

Prayer: Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give Your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

David Pickup, a solicitor

Bible Sunday – 29th October

At the recent Coronation the King was given a Bible with the words ‘the most valuable thing that this world affords’. As Bible Sunday is celebrated this month, let’s ask why we should read the Bible?

The Bible isn’t a single book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking at the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, it claims one authority – God Himself! *‘All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work’* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (‘the word of God in the words of men’) and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: *‘when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth’* (John 16:13).

How should we read the Bible? Let’s consider the following guidelines:

Right time: We need a regular routine, which will meet our needs. This will vary according to our circumstances: e.g. a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person.

Right Place: We need to find a space where we can be undisturbed e.g. lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen.

Right Version: We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. A number of versions are available e.g. NIV, The Message, as well as Bible apps we can access on our phone.

Right Help: Reading notes also help us to understand a passage and apply it to our lives.

Let’s get reading!!

Canon Paul Hardingham

Prisons Week – 8th to 14th October

Prisoners and their families need help, if they are to really repair and rebuild their lives.

And so it is that Prisons Week has been growing steadily, year by year. It currently has 25 Christian denominations and organisations working together to use “all our skills and gifts to see God’s kingdom come and His peace be established in a place of suffering and weeping.”

Prisons Week is supported by the Church of England, the Catholic Church, the Free Churches Group, and the Salvation Army. It is also supported by the prison ministry organisations including Prison Fellowship, Prison Advice and Care Trust, and Caring for Prison Leavers. Other supporting organisations include Bible Society, the Mothers Union, and Youth for Christ.

The week-long campaign each October aims to provide Christians across the country with information, expertise, resources, and encouragement for this particular, and challenging, area of ministry.

For anyone, or any group, who would like to support Prisons ministry, there are several campaign resources available at their website.

Above all, Prisons Week urges individual Christians to pray for prisoners and their families, that their lives might be rebuilt and renewed.

Prisons Week describes its aim as “relieving the human suffering caused by crime and imprisonment.” For more info, please visit: www.prisonsw.org



After the wildfires in Hawaii

A pastor at a chapel on the Hawaiian island of Maui has spoken of the terrible day that strong wildfires swept through many homes on the island.

Pastor Kirk Milhoan, from Calvary Chapel in the south of the island, recently told Premier Christian News that on the day, everyone was 'in the dark', with no means of texting or phoning when the fires began.

"Survivors have lost friends and loved ones, fathers, mothers, grandparents, and children. Also, all the people who live on tourism, now suddenly they have no income.

"So, it's just layer after layer of difficulty. But what we have is the Word of God that says, *'I will never leave you or forsake you.'* We have a good shepherd in Jesus Christ.

"When I look at all the healing that's required in our land, right now we have physical healings required, we have financial healing that's required, we have emotional healing that's required. But most importantly, we have spiritual healing that's required."

Pastor Kirk said: "I don't have to figure out all the things of God. I just want to direct people back to the Saviour. He is the only one who can heal this horrible hurt."

If you would like to help victims of the disaster, please contact the American Red Cross at redcross.org



**American
Red Cross**

Girls' Brigade News

We are back for a new school year and our core group of girls have returned with big smiles on their faces.

To start this session, we are looking at "friendship" and the story of David & Jonathan. Throughout the Bible there are many references on the importance of friendship. In the next few weeks, we are exploring, by looking at the character of Jonathan, what it means to be a good friend. Hopefully it will help the group to become more confident at making and maintaining friendships which provide fun, support and a place to share their faith and values. We will remember that even Jesus needed close friends whose support helped Him to strengthen His ministry.

We will remember that Jesus is our friend, through thick and thin, and that he will always have our backs.

Please remember us all in your prayers and ask for Gods help enabling us to develop and grow.

God Bless,
Lynda

the **GIRLS'**
BRIGADE
ENGLAND & WALES



Wordsearch

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

| | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| luke | physician | companion | house | arrest |
| paul | compassion | parables | good | samaritan |
| prodigal | | | | |
| son | | | | |
| women | | | | |
| virgin | | | | |
| birth | | | | |
| poor | | | | |
| lepers | | | | |
| sacred | | | | |
| profane | | | | |
| pagan | | | | |
| early | | | | |
| christians | | | | |
| jerusalem | | | | |
| rome | | | | |



Prayer

A Prayer for October

Dear Lord and Creator of all things,

In this fast-moving and high-tech world, help us to slow down – just occasionally – to notice the rhythms of Your creation; the beauty of the colours of autumn; the annual ritual of falling leaves and darkening evenings. All part of Your cycle of the year that we often take for granted.

And yet Lord, there is evidence of changes in our climate – extremes of temperature, droughts, floods and wildfires. There is evidence that our behaviour might be responsible for damaging Your world.

Lord, we thank You for Your goodness and faithfulness and grace to us. We are sorry when we get things wrong. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us the way to be in a right relationship with You. Help us to put our trust in Him and as part of living Christian lives, to accept our responsibility for caring for the world You created.

In Jesus' name, Amen

By Daphne Kitching

Ed: If you have a prayer you would like put in the newsletter instead (or indeed as well as...) do email it to newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk.

If you would like prayer for yourself or family and friends please email prayer@bhpurc.org.uk

Weekly Activities

Monday 6.15pm Boys' Brigade Junior Section
7.30pm Boys' Brigade Company Section
10.30am Book Club (Once a month, see inside for date)

Wednesday 10:00am Toddler Group
6.30pm Girls' Brigade

Thursday 10.45am Friends Group (2nd & 4th Thursday)

Friday 6.00pm Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys

Sunday 10.30am Worship with groups for children and young people (Communion 1st Sunday)

Please check the church website to confirm if the activity you want to go to is going ahead. www.bhpurc.org.uk/whats-on

The Bush Hill Park URC Newsletter is published monthly. To receive email notifications please email newsletter@bhpurc.org.uk
Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the whole fellowship or representative of church policy.

