



The
United
Reformed
Church

www.urc.org.uk

Bush Hill Park
United Reformed Church
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www.bhpurc.org.uk



June 2024

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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,

I hope this letter finds you keeping well? It's that time of the month when I wish I could write pastoral letters like Paul, but sadly not. On the other hand, his letters were probably not always easy to receive. I often try to imagine the looks on the congregation's faces as they heard his words of correction read to them. He certainly didn't mince his words, did he? I hope my letters do not come over as letters of correction but rather letters of encouragement.

Paul however was not someone who was bothered about what people thought of him, his only concern was to make sure he was a faithful Apostle and obediently shared the hope he had and we can have, in Christ.

Being a true follower of Christ comes at a cost though. Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 16:24-26
'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and



take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?'

As a follower of Christ, we stand to lose friends, we are open to ridicule and let's be honest it can be really hard to stand firm in a crowd that thinks completely differently to you.

What does 'deny oneself' really mean in practice? It means to lay down everything you are and what you want for Christ. It's to follow his agenda not your own and put him first in everything. This is the reality for so many

persecuted Christians who have nothing and no one but have the joy of the Lord as their strength and for them it is the best treasure in the world. They are so much richer than many people who can go to church freely and in some cases, take going to church for granted.

Jesus warned us that there would be trials
"I have told you this so that you will have peace by being united to me. The world will make you suffer. But be brave! I have defeated the world!" (John 16:33). So in some respect we shouldn't be surprised should we that life can be a trial at times? It can be hard though can't it when we are in the middle of that thing that causes us suffering?

The thing we need to remember is that Jesus has defeated the world and what we have been promised, is that if we stand firm in the storms of life we will be with him when we have to leave

this world. That's our greatest hope, never being separated from God.

Stay focused my friends on Jesus, put Him first, let Him guide your ways and trust His promises, so that on that day when we see him face to face He will know us and we will be with Him forever. As the chorus states:

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Hallelu, Hallelujah. Amen.

As we reach halfway through 2024, may I leave you with the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26

'The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.'

*God bless,
Ruth*

Smile lines

Newspaper headlines where you know what they meant, but... !

Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

Man Struck by Lightning: Faces Battery Charge

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

Hospitals are Sued by Seven Foot Doctors

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

Descriptions

Dust: Mud with the juice squeezed out

Inflation: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper

Raisin: Grape with a sunburn

Mosquito: An insect that makes you like flies better

Beauty salon: Where women curl up and dye

Cannibal: One who is fed up with people

Committee: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours

Here is the news

Jamaican government accepts URC's apology over slavery

UK churches and the government are being encouraged to follow in the United Reformed Church's footsteps and apologise for their roles in the transatlantic slave trade. Last month, the Hon. Olivia Grange, Jamaica's Minister for Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, accepted an apology delivered by the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, during an ecumenical service themed 'Reparation, A Journey Towards Repentance, Repair and Reconciliation' at Webster Memorial Church in the parish of St Andrew, an area around Jamaica's capital, Kingston. Dr Henry-Robinson had travelled to the island with other members of the Church as part of an ecumenical pilgrimage to learn about the legacies of slavery. Learn more about the URC's apology to Jamaica at <https://urc.org.uk/jamaican-government-minister-accepts-urcs-apology-for-its-role-in-transatlantic-slavery>



Christian Aid week

Thank you to everyone who donated to Christian Aid in May. We raised £73 in cash donations and £109 online. The online envelope is still available for donations if anyone missed out in May. Thank you!



After Rwanda: Church leaders speak out over hostility to refugees

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Bishop of Southwark have joined with leaders of other churches in England to renew their commitment to caring for the most vulnerable, as legislation to enable asylum seekers to be deported to Rwanda was approved by Parliament.

In a joint statement with leaders of the Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Churches, they pay tribute to all those who “live out Jesus’s call to feed and clothe the poor, and to welcome the stranger, at times in the face of opposition and prejudice.

The statement voices concern that asylum seekers and refugees have been used as a “political football” and that the kindness of churches and charities towards people fleeing war, persecution and violence has been “unjustly maligned by some for political reasons.”



If you need some new summery clothes for the warm weather try having a look in the charity shops before heading off to other shops. Not only could you bag a bargain, but you'll be preventing something from going to landfill.

This is a rubbish campaign

Our world has an urgent rubbish problem. But Christians are uniting to take global action.

So says the charity Tearfund, as it launches a campaign to highlight the threat of the growing mountains of plastic pollution.

“Two billion people have no safe way to dispose of rubbish, and it’s people in poverty who are suffering the worst impacts of this rubbish problem,” says the charity. “They are forced to live and work among piles of waste, which is making them sick, releasing toxic fumes, flooding communities and causing up to a million deaths each year.

“But Jesus told His followers that even the smallest amount of faith can move mountains. So, we are asking you to put your faith into action and join us in demanding an end to plastic pollution.”

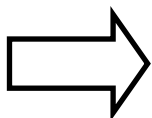
And just now there is a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do just that,” explains Tearfund.

“During 2023 and now 2024, nearly 150 governments have been meeting to develop the first-ever global treaty on plastic pollution (see more at <https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2023/05/the-global-plastics-treaty>). But it’s not a done deal. Please add your voice to demand an end to plastic pollution and its harmful impact on people living in poverty.”

If you would like to know more and consider signing the petition, go to: <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/rubbish-campaign>

Tearfund is part of the Renew Our World and #BreakFreeFromPlastics coalitions.

Diary for June



See back cover for regular activities

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

Sun 2nd 10.30am Communion with Michaela Lawrence

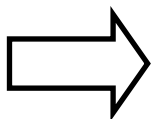
Mon 3rd 10.30am Book club at Dunelm cafe

Sun 9th 10.30am Parade with Barrie Thompson

Sun 16th 10.30am Worship with Lisa Hamblin

Sun 23rd 10.30am Worship with Anna Erikson

Sun 30th 10.30am Joint pastorate worship at Bush Hill
Park URC with Rev Ruth Dewis



**Next newsletter deadline:
Sunday 9th June**

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

Prayer diary for June

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Psalm 95:6-7

Saturday 1st

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 2nd

Give thanks for those who
help with Kings Club

Monday 3rd

Tony

Tuesday 4th

Persecuted church in North
Korea

Wednesday 5th

Alberta Road

Thursday 6th

Member of Parliament for
Enfield North - Feryal Clark

Friday 7th

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

Saturday 8th

Sunday's Worship Leader and
the service tomorrow

Sunday 9th

Thanks for the small things
people do to help us

Monday 10th

Vikkie

Tuesday 11th

Persecuted church in Afghani-
stan

Wednesday 12th

Amberley Road

Thursday 13th

Member of Parliament for Enfield, Southgate - Bambos Charalambous

Friday 14th

For those who are fearful in their own home

Saturday 15th

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 16th

Be joyful in hope and faithful in prayer giving thanks to God for his blessings

Monday 17th

Yvonne

Tuesday 18th

Persecuted church in Somalia

Wednesday 19th

Amberley Gardens

Thursday 20th

Member of Parliament for Edmonton - Kate Osamor

Friday 21st

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

Saturday 22nd

Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 23rd

Give thanks for long summer days

Monday 24th

Alison

Tuesday 25th

Persecuted church in Iran

Wednesday 26th

Bertram Road

Thursday 27th

Local government decisions

Friday 28th

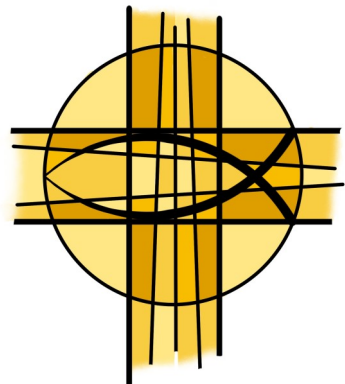
Those seeking to free people from trafficking, the people who are being trafficked and the charities which help

Saturday 29th

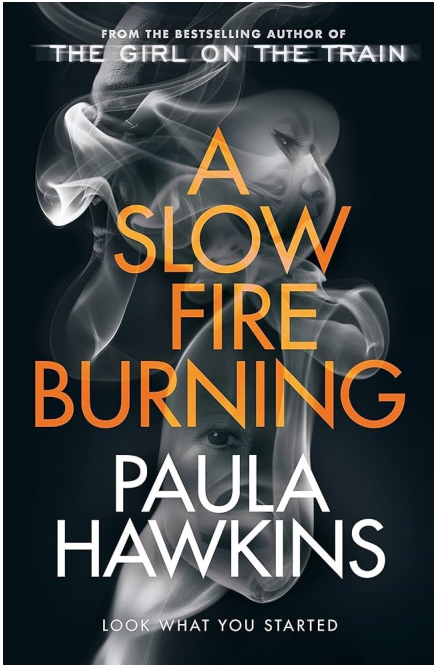
Sunday's Worship Leader and the service tomorrow

Sunday 30th

Thanks for the Peacemakers



Book club



A slow fire burning by Paula Hawkins.

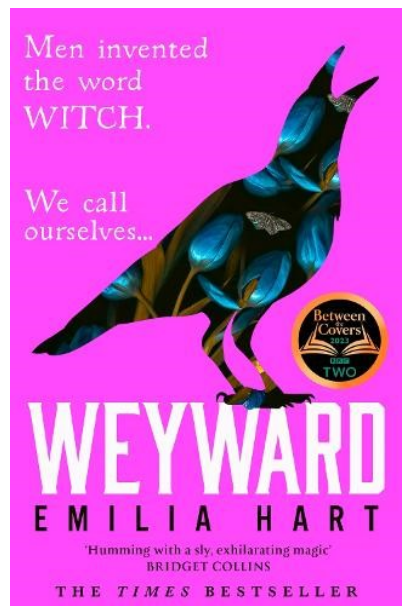
OK, at the start we confess we did not think this an important novel enough to say it is a must to indulge in.

The storyline is, of course, complicated and somewhat long-winded. We did not like the characters; there were too many, all with issues with the past intertwining but we must agree the thought process to writing the book is amazing. A

sub-plot was not easily seen at first and in some way detracted from the main story but in the end was necessary. Who did kill Daniel on his houseboat on the canal in Hackney? Well, many had motives. Eventually we found out.

We next meet at 10:30 at Dunelm café on Monday 3rd June having read 'Weyward' by Emilia Hart.

Sylvia



Sudan – one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises

World Vision is appealing for support for its work in Sudan. Since the war broke out last Spring between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, over nine million people have had to flee their homes.

Now John Makoni, National Director of World Vision Sudan, warns: “Sudan is currently quite possibly the worst place in the world for a child to live, due to the huge numbers of boys and girls affected by the conflict,” explains Makoni. “but also because of the full range of physical and emotional challenges they face. Children are literally being starved, abused, and traumatised by what they are experiencing and witnessing. Many have fled the violence but have been unable to find any real safety.”

Before the war, World Vision’s work in Sudan focused on providing clean water, sanitation, income generation, and health and nutrition activities. Even then, Sudan was facing a severe hunger crisis and rising levels of child malnutrition, with one in three in need of humanitarian assistance.

But now, according to the World Food Programme (WFP), today more than half the population are struggling with hunger and malnutrition, while about 19 million are acutely food insecure and nearly four million children under five are malnourished. Most of these people are stuck in places that are hard to access due to the conflict.

According to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, some 24 million children in Sudan are “at risk of generational catastrophe”.

If you would like to support World Vision in its efforts to help, please go to: <https://www.worldvision.org.uk>

Committed to supporting our global partners in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world. Over half of all girls are married before turning 18. 22% are married before the age of 15. Child marriage normally spells the end of a girl's education as she takes on the domestic duties of a wife and mother.

But we are making a difference. Morsheda Khatun was married as a child. She had to drop out of school because her widowed mother was unable to support her



Image: Christian Aid, used with permission

education. "Girls getting married at an early age is common here. Some are 13, 14 or 15 years old and it harms girls a lot. They can't continue to study. It's a huge loss," she said. However, with support from our local Christian Aid partner, Morsheda has embraced new opportunities.

Morsheda now runs an online clothing business from home. She has also resumed her education and has already completed her Intermediate exam, equivalent to GCSE in the UK or Junior Cert in Ireland. We are confident she will go far!

You are making a difference through your support for Commitment for Life. Thank you.

The Euros 24

A former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*

This month sees the start of the UEFA Euro 24 football tournament, which will be watched by millions across Europe and the world. Yet it also illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the Cup themselves. For us the prize is the eternal life, God's gift of relationship with Him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the Euros you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is undeserved and is not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win Euro 24, they need to have trained hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we must train ourselves to say no to the wrong things in our lives and yes to love others.

As we build up our godly muscles, we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

Canon Paul Hardingham

Tunnels

Of all the remarkable engineering projects in the world, one is surely the Channel Tunnel. This undersea railway subway is the longest in the world and connects Kent, England with Calais, France. It is over 31 miles (50.46 km) long and was opened just over 30 years ago, in May 1994.

After six years of construction, this massive enterprise created three tunnels, running parallel to each other. Trains go through two large tunnels with a smaller service tunnel for ventilation and access. Every day, about 500 trains go through the tunnels carrying passengers, cars, lorries and coaches.

The Bible tells us of another amazing tunneling project. King Hezekiah wanted to fortify the city of Jerusalem against the invading Assyrian armies and needed to protect the water supply. Using simple hand tools, and digging through solid rock, the completed tunnel was 1,750 feet long (533 m)! It still exists today and tourists with torches can shuffle along the cold, wet and narrow passageway from one end to the other.

Close to the tunnel is an original written inscription which describes how the tunnel was excavated. Two teams, one starting at each end of the curving channel met in the middle. Apparently, their direction was guided by men listening to hammering sounds as they gouged through the rock.

King Hezekiah's tunnel was indeed an incredible engineering feat and accomplished without modern machines and sophisticated technology. His vision and careful planning saved the people from their enemy. (2 Kings 20:20)

At the end of his eventful life, a eulogy was written that King Hezekiah did what was right and what was pleasing to the Lord

his God. His accomplishments were done in a spirit of complete loyalty and devotion to his God.

We may well ask, when our time draws to a close, if such a fitting tribute will be given to us.

Lester Amann

Contacting an old friend

Have you been wondering about an old friend with whom you have lost contact? Do you feel a bit hesitant about contacting them again? You are not alone.

It seems that rekindling an old friendship can be as nerve-racking as speaking to a stranger, according to the findings of a recent study by the University of Sussex.

The study found that although nine in ten of us have lost touch with an old friend, and although we would greatly welcome a message from them, we personally feel nervous about making the first move.

The most common reasons are fear that the old friend might not want to hear from us, that it would be 'too awkward after all this time', and that we feel guilty that we had not been in touch before.

But Dr Gillian Sandstrom, a psychologist and Director of the Sussex Centre for Research on Kindness, said that the people who pushed past their hesitation and did reach out to an old friend reported feeling happier.

She said that past research suggests that old friends appreciate you reaching out, even more than you expect.

Wordsearch

Erasmus, patron saint of sailors

Do you like messing about in boats? If so, then you'll have heard of St Elmo's Fire. It is the light that is sometimes seen on mastheads of boats after storms at sea. St Elmo is another name for St Erasmus, a fourth century Syrian bishop who was not afraid of violent storms. Legend has it that one day when Erasmus was preaching outside, a thunderbolt hit the ground right beside him. That might have distracted modern bishops, but not Erasmus – he just kept on preaching. His courage won him the respect of sailors, who made him their patron saint. Erasmus finally died during the Diocletian persecutions in 300AD, and his feast day is 2nd June.

boats	elmo
fire	light
storm	masthead
sea	fourth
century	bishop
legend	preaching
thunder	ground
respect	courage
sailors	saints
died	persecution

S	T	L	R	P	F	I	R	E	N	U
A	C	I	E	O	M	S	T	H	C	E
I	E	G	D	H	A	D	T	C	A	R
N	P	H	N	S	S	T	S	O	D	G
T	S	T	U	I	T	S	M	U	R	S
S	E	R	H	B	H	L	T	R	E	M
Y	R	U	T	N	E	C	Y	A	G	E
S	R	O	L	I	A	S	A	G	O	P
U	I	F	D	E	D	D	I	E	D	B
L	E	G	E	N	D	N	U	O	R	G
N	O	I	T	U	C	E	S	R	E	P

Prayer

Dear Lord,

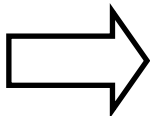
Here we are in June. Halfway through this year already! How the years fly by and often we are so busy, so taken up with everyday concerns that we forget to take time to be still; to consciously be in your presence; to be aware of the wonders of your world.

June is such a beautiful month, so we take this moment, Lord – and we thank you for your goodness to us and your provision for us. Especially we thank you for the gift of Jesus who is the only way to you, who is your truth and who offers us eternal life, if we will turn away from our self-centredness and put our trust in Him.

For June and for Jesus, Lord, we praise you and we glorify you. And we move into the rest of the year in hope and trust.

In Jesus name,
Amen.

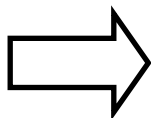
Daphne Kitching



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



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

Monday

- 6.15pm Boys' Brigade Junior Section
- 7.30pm Boys' Brigade Company Section
- 10.30am Book Club (once a month, date inside)

Wednesday

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

Thursday

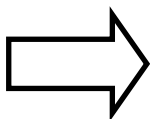
- 10.30am Friends Group (2nd & 4th Thursday)

Friday

- 6.00pm Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys

Sunday

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



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.

