

# UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM

A local union of the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church

## S E P T E M B E R, 2 0 1 7

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, a teacher at one of the local primary schools asked me to speak to their year 6 children about my faith and what it was like to be a Minister. Now there's a challenge, I thought! Nevertheless, being up for the challenge, I readily agreed. So there I was in a large classroom, surrounded by about forty children, all very eager to ask their questions. After giving a brief introduction about how I became a minister and what it means to be a Christian (using one of my 'magic bags'), I was then at their mercy for the next forty-five minutes or so. Quite a daunting experience!

By nature, children are inclined to be inquisitive. They are uninhibited and will often ask questions which many adults are reluctant to ask. They had obviously given the matter a great deal of thought, for all their questions were sensible and quite probing. Despite my initial feelings of trepidation, I left the school feeling quite uplifted. In a strange sort of way I felt that I had learnt as much from them as they had from me. At a time when we are led to believe that Christianity is being marginalised in our schools in favour of 'comparative religious studies', it was also encouraging to learn that is not the case in all schools, as was clearly evident from my experience.

It brought to mind some familiar words of Jesus when he spoke about the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew 18, verse 12: "*I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven*". Jesus was not saying that we must all become childish, but rather he was extolling child-like characteristics such as being inquisitive and having a simple, uncomplicated faith that was filled with wonder and awe. Jesus calls his followers to be people who ask questions and make discoveries. I reckon I might describe my experience with those young children as Kingdom moments. It was certainly a blessing and I felt privileged. If we are honest with ourselves, there is something of the child in all of us and that is no bad thing. Likewise, regarding faith development, it is always good and healthy to retain some simple child-like qualities.

A verse in one of Brian Wren's hymns sums it up when he writes:

*Listen to the children,  
thinking and exploring,  
deeper than the ocean  
higher than the skies.  
So among the children  
eager for an answer  
open-mouthed in wonder,  
loving a surprise,  
for in their seeking  
Christ is meeting us today.*

Your friend and Minister,

**Alan.**

**MINISTER: Revd Alan Wickens**

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## **UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM - SEPTEMBER, 2017**

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Alan Wickens
	6.30 pm	United Circuit Service at Laleham Methodist Church - Welcome Service for Revd Juliet Ushewokunze. No service at Egham.
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Tuesday at Eight - Annual General Meeting and coffee.
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Deacons' Meeting
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Bible Study at Christ Church URC., Windsor - theme: Esther
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mr Sydney Shore
	4.00 pm	Evening Worship - Joint Service with Windsor at the United Church - "Songs of Praise"
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 pm	Craft Club
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> and Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am to 8.00 pm	(Book Sale --- )
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 am to 12.30 pm	( --- in the Church)
	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Revd Alan Wickens
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Revd Andrew Reed
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mr Paul Murphy
	12.30 pm	Church Meeting
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Alan Wickens
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 pm	Craft Club
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Bible Study at Christ Church URC., Windsor
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Special Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support.

*Regular meetings: we have - BROWNIE GUIDES (Mondays at 6.30 pm); BEAVER SCOUTS (Tuesdays at 6.00 pm); CUB SCOUTS (Thursdays at 7.00 pm); SCOUTS (Fridays at 7.30 pm);*

**COFFEE AND TEA will be served in the Vestibule of the Church each Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10.00 am to noon. On each Thursday there is a LUNCHTIME SERVICE from 12.30 pm followed by a TIME OF FELLOWSHIP (bring your own sandwich/salad/whatever!) when coffee and tea will be available, and then a SOCIAL AFTERNOON of board games.**

### **DUTY ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER, 2017**

*Sunday Deacons*

*Sidespeople*

3 <sup>rd</sup>	am	Anthony Long	Nyree Long and Di James
10 <sup>th</sup>	am	Harry Cumming	Jill Reynolds and Janet Figgins
	pm	Graham Burrough	Graham Burrough
17 <sup>th</sup>	am	Jane Leckie	Barbara Read and Derek Weston
	pm	Paul Murphy	Paul Murphy
24 <sup>th</sup>	am	Patricia Harper-Bill	Christine Maynard and Frank Clark
	pm	Anthony Long	Anthony Long

### **FLOWER ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER, 2017**

3<sup>rd</sup>: Graham Burrough; 10<sup>th</sup>: Pat Webb; 17<sup>th</sup>: Janet Figgins; 24<sup>th</sup>: Gordon McCallum