

# UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM

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

## OCTOBER, 2017

Dear Friends,

2017 is a special year within the life and witness of the United Reformed Church and I thought I might share with you two important events that are being celebrated. The first marks the centenary of the first woman to be ordained in a British mainstream Christian denomination. Constance Coltman was ordained into the ministry of the Congregational Union of England and Wales on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 1917. This was a bold step to take at that time when the Ministry was very male-dominated; however Constance had a great determination to follow her sense of 'call' and was backed by a shrewd College Principal who identified the spirit within her and gave her the opportunity to commence training. Constance went on to become something of a trailblazer and her fine example led to the doors being opened for other women to follow her example (not just in our tradition but in other denominations and more recently within the Church of England). It was whilst studying at Mansfield College, Oxford, that Constance Todd met her future husband, Claud. They were married the day following their joint ordination and went on to serve the Darby Street Mission in Wapping, which was a run-down area of east London at that time. You can read more about this amazing story in the September issue of Reform.

The second celebration this month concerns Martin Luther's brave act of defiance when he nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church, Germany. This act started a movement which, despite fierce opposition from the Catholic Church, grew and finally brought about the Protestant Reformation. Luther's 95 theses detailed his opposition to certain Catholic Church doctrines, especially the corrupt practice of selling 'indulgences' as a way of buying one's way into heaven. He held firmly to the teaching of the apostle Paul who taught justification by faith alone and denied that it was possible to pay your way to salvation. Eventually, after many fierce debates through the councils of the Church, Luther was excommunicated from the Catholic Church for refusing to recant (*refusing to revoke his theses*). Instead, he remained defiant in his conviction. He held firmly to his famous statement of faith "*Here I stand. God help me. I can do no other*". Today, some 500 years later, Luther's hymns are still listed in our hymnbooks (Rejoice and Sing 585: *Our God stands like a fortress rock*).

Both Constance Coltman and Martin Luther have each in their own way, left their legacy upon our reformed church, for which we are thankful. They have demonstrated each in their own way what it means to stand up for what is right and to follow faithfully where they feel Christ was leading them. Not surprisingly then, it is right and proper to celebrate and mark their contribution to our Church today.

Your friend and Minister, **Alan**.

**MINISTER: Revd Alan Wickens**

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

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	HARVEST THANKSGIVING:	
	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Revd Alan Wickens
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Mr Paul Murphy
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00 pm	Tuesday at Eight - Farrell Tang and Emily Pennington (RHC students) talking on Education: Rokoto Palampor, India.
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mrs Thelma Roberts
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Revd Alan Wickens
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 pm	Craft Club
	7.30 pm	Deacons' Meeting
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Bible Study at Christ Church URC. Windsor - Esther (3)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am to 8.00 pm (Book Sale --- )	
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 am to 12.30 pm ( --- in the Church)	
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Revd Canon Judith Allford
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Mr Peter Marks
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 am	Granny's Attic sale of collectables, bric-a-brac, art and furniture - in the Church.
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mr Paul Murphy
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Alan Wickens
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	12.30 pm	Craft Club
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Bible Study at Christ Church URC., Windsor - Esther (4)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Alan Wickens
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Revd Andrew Reed

*Regular meetings: 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 OCTOBER, 2017**

	<i>Sunday Deacons</i>	<i>Sidesmen</i>
1 <sup>st</sup>	am Jane Leckie	Nyree Long and Di James
	pm Patricia Harper-Bill	Patricia Harper-Bill
8 <sup>th</sup>	am Gordon McCallum	Jill Reynolds and Janet Figgins
	pm Lindsay Mair	Lindsay Mair
15 <sup>th</sup>	am Jane Mackerness	Barbara Read and Derek Weston
	pm Paul Murphy	Paul Murphy
22 <sup>nd</sup>	am Anthony Long	Christine Maynard and Frank Clark
	pm Lindsay Mair	Lindsay Mair
29 <sup>th</sup>	am Harry Cumming	Marion Mason and Nyree Long
	pm Lindsay Mair	Lindsay Mair

### **FLOWER ROTA FOR OCTOBER, 2017**

1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>: Harvest flowers; 15<sup>th</sup>: Alan Wickens; 22<sup>nd</sup>: Anne Long;  
 29<sup>th</sup>: Jane and John Mackerness