

UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM

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

JULY, 2018

Dear Friends,

As I write, Anthea and I are eagerly awaiting the safe delivery of our first grandchild. Waiting is hard - as any child will tell you in the run-up to a birthday or Christmas! But we have to be patient... and wait. As the days go by, each time the telephone rings, we hold our breath - 'is it the call?' or do we have to wait a little longer. In our day-to-day lives, there are many times when we have to wait: in the supermarket queue, at the bus stop, etc. Ultimately, we simply have to be patient. As a child, I was reminded that 'anything worth having is worth waiting for!'

A favourite psalm of mine, Psalm 40, speaks into this situation where we read *'I waited patiently for the Lord, he turned to me and heard my cry'*. David, the author of many of the Biblical psalms, expresses all our human emotions - love, joy, anger, sorrow and even patience. He knew there were times when we have to be patient and simply wait for God to respond to a particular situation.

Likewise, Jesus helps us to understand what it means to wait patiently in the familiar account of Lazarus recorded in John's gospel (John 11). In that story, Jesus received news that his friend Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, had fallen sick. Being a dear friend of Jesus, the two sisters send word for him to attend, but instead Jesus delayed his visit by two days before journeying to their home. On his arrival, he learned that Lazarus had been dead for four days and had been placed in a tomb. The reaction of Martha and Mary was understandable. They said if only he had come sooner, their brother would have lived. As we know, all things turned out fine, for Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb, showing that he had the power over life and death, despite the long wait.

What this story reminds us is that whilst we may become anxious and impatient when we have to wait for God to act, the reality is that God acts in his time and in his way. As mere mortals, we cannot force God's hand, or coerce God to fulfil our own wishes and desires. Instead, we have to let God be God and wait patiently in the knowledge God works for our good. Whilst we may feel at times that God is distant and may not have heard our prayers, the reality is, God hears and responds in God's own time.

So while Anthea and I continue to patiently wait for God's precious gift of new life, revealed in a tiny baby, I would like to offer you the following prayer, written by Frank Topping (amended) from his book *Lord of the evening*:

Lord, help me to be patient, not only in wanting things, but help me to be patient with my wife/husband and children.

Each day, each hour, each minute, help me to breathe slowly, to listen and to wait.

Help me to be patient with myself, and not least, to wait patiently for your guidance.

Today and always, Amen.

P.S. Since writing my Newsletter, I am pleased to say that our daughter Charlotte, has given birth to a beautiful little girl weighing in at 9 lb 2 oz. God is good!

Your friend and Minister, **Alan**.

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UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM - JULY, 2018

Sunday 1 st	11.00 am	Morning Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Alan Wickens
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Revd Alan Wickens
Tuesday 3 rd	8.00 pm	Tuesday at Eight - Afternoon Tea for members and friends at Pegasus Court, Egham from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm
Wednesday 4 th	12.30 pm	Craft Club
Thursday 5 th Windsor	2.30 pm	Bible Study at Christ Church United Reformed Church,
Sunday 8 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mrs Vivien Gerhold
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Mr Peter Marks
Sunday 15 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mr Jane Mackerness
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship- Mr Paul Murphy
Wednesday 18 th	12.30 pm	Craft Club
Friday 20 th	10.00 am to 8.00 pm	(Book Sale -----
Saturday 21 st	8.00 am to 12.30 pm	(----- in the Church)
Sunday 22 nd	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mr Sydney Shore CBE
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Mr Paul Murphy
Tuesday 24 th	9.30 am	Church Outing to Eastbourne
Sunday 29 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Revd Alan Wickens
	12.30 pm	Church Meeting
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Alan Wickens

Regular meetings: we have - RAINBOWS (Mondays at 5.00 pm); 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, when the Church will also be open for prayer. On each Thursday there is a LUNCHTIME SERVICE from 12.30 pm followed by a TIME OF FELLOWSHIP (bring your own salad or sandwich or whatever!) when coffee and tea will be available, and then a SOCIAL AFTERNOON of board games.

DUTY ROTA FOR JULY, 2018

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

FLOWER ROTA FOR JULY, 2018

1st: Di James; 8th: Margaret Gilman; 15th: Di James; 22nd: Janet Figgins;
29th: Harry Cumming

DATA PROTECTION ACT

In common with most other churches and organisations, the United Church of Egham keeps pastoral records of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of regular worshippers and friends. The information is used for church purposes only, is never communicated to any other body and is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

