

Upminster Methodist Church Notices

Re-Opening of the Church

All being well, we are planning to re-open the church for worship on the morning of Sunday 27th June.

To enable this to happen, the church will first have to be thoroughly cleaned which will be done by outside contractors. In addition to this, we will also need people to volunteer for various other tasks. We are not yet sure what restrictions will apply for the service and whether we will need people to help in the way we did at the previous re-opening.

Some people will still not feel comfortable coming into the church and the aim is to provide the service on Zoom to people in their homes. This means that we will need volunteers to be trained to work the sound system, lights and the camera.

Training will also be provided for people who are willing and able to move the communion rail.

If you are willing to help or would like more information, please contact one of the stewards, Peter Hobbs or Dick Dixon.

The Stewards

A Chat about Church

Jason and Rachel invite you to join them for an informal conversation about church and church life.

As you may be aware, Jason is moving on to Bury St Edmunds this summer. During his time in Upminster, All Age Worship has been a particular focus for his work and he has really enjoyed working with and meeting the families in the community, not least through these services.

We would love to have some time with you in the weeks before he leaves, to hear your ideas for the church going forward, to learn of your thoughts about faith and what you see as the role of the church in the community, and its potential. We'll even have a go at answering any questions you might have!

Do join us:

or All Age Worship on Sunday June 13th and Sunday July 11th at 10am when we will begin to explore these issues.

and also for a relaxed chat on Zoom (and maybe even in a coffee shop?) on any or all of these dates, whichever you can make:

Tuesday 15th June 7.45 pm

Monday 21st June 7.45 pm

Tuesday 29th June 7.45 pm

Thursday 8th July 7.45 pm

(If evening dates/times don't work for your calendar, please let Rachel or Jason know and we'll be happy to meet during the daytime too - and a coffee shop will be open!)

Jason and Rachel

Farewell to Jason

As you will be aware, Jason is sadly leaving us this summer and will be taking up the role of Superintendent in the Bury-St-Edmunds circuit. His last service with us will be the morning of Sunday 18th July (hopefully in the church).

We are planning a farewell lunch for him, Yvette and Jasmine after the service.

If the weather is fine we can be outside but in the event of bad weather we will be able to use the Wesley Hall. We would like to propose a 'bring and share' lunch but if you are not comfortable sharing food you are welcome to bring food just for yourself. All being well, we'll be able to have a list available at the back of the church when we re-open, but if not and for those who can't be there in person, please contact the stewards via e-mail Upminster.stewards@gmail.com to let us know what you would like to bring so that we can plan the catering.

The Stewards

Richard House Fundrasing Walk

I hope this finds everyone well? I am in the process of helping Richard House Children's Hospice to plan a fundraising walk between all of their charity shops and finishing at the hospice in Beckton. This event is on 3rd July, for around 150 people and they will be starting right on our doorstep at Upminster Richard House Hospice Shop. If anyone is interested in signing up for the event or volunteering on the day please see attached the poster for further information or please contact me directly if you would like to know more.

Also they will be giving out 'goody bags' to all participants, which will include drinks, snacks etc – basically fuel for the 22.5km walk! I was wondering if anyone has any contacts of companies that would be able to help to donate tote bags, bottled water, energy drinks, small bags of sweets or energy snack bars, that we could use for the participants please? I can organise for the pick up of items and we need to get all items over to Richard House in time to prepare the bags prior to the 3rd July.



If you have any questions, would like to know more please do let me know. Further information on Richard House Children's Hospice can be found here

- [Richard House Children's Hospice](https://www.richardhouse.org.uk/) <https://www.richardhouse.org.uk/>

Many Thanks

Allison Winegarden

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Next Quiz

You are invited to take part in a quiz using Zoom on Saturday 29th May at 3pm for Macmillan

If you are interested in taking part in the quiz, please email me at familyhobbs4@btopenworld.com and I will send you details and the link to join on Friday 28th May.

The quiz is free to take part but, if you would like to donate, please credit sort code 110411 account 10646962, send it to me (any cheques payable to me please) or via the JustGiving link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peter-hobbs20>

I hope you can take part. Peter

Get Well Soon

Prayers for my lovely neighbours this week, as Keith Dutton is in hospital, I hope you are back home with June very soon

Julia

Foodbank Donations

I have a great update for the foodbank...

We donated 76.44kg of food this week making our total weight thus far ~

2,877.84kg

We are getting very near to our next thousandth kg!

This week, the Foodbank have asked if we could please help the the shortage in particular of;

Sugar

Jam

Toilet Paper

.... they are very popular!

They would also be very grateful for the following items too:

Tinned Rice

Tinned fruit

Kitchen Towel

Cleaning supplies

Detergent

Toiletries (Shower gels, toothpaste, shampoo)

Long life milk

Juice (squash)

Thank you everyone!

Have a wonderful week,

Joanna - For more information on donating and delivery please contact Joanna

on 07932 416102

Circuit farewells

The following details of Circuit events to say farewell to those leaving the Circuit are in addition to any celebrations arranged locally. Details of what is planned for Upminster will follow in due course.

As you will be aware, the circuit holds an annual barbecue in July each year. After everything was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, I am delighted to say that we are holding the barbecue this year on 11 July at CMOP, starting at 4.30pm. In addition, during the last year, several people have stepped down from roles and others will be leaving us this Summer. We have been unable to hold any sort of thank you service or event for them and would like to put this right by holding a farewell and thank you service on 18 July. This will be held at Harold Wood MC at 4.30pm followed by refreshments.

There has been a lot of debate about whether or not it was sensible to hold two events so close together and if it would be better to combine the two. In the end we have decided to keep the events separate. The main reason for this is the continuing uncertainty caused by the Corona virus. Everything we are planning still depends on the continuing role out of the Government's road map to reducing restrictions. Although we are hopeful that all will go well and that by 21 June all restrictions will be lifted, we are aware of the medical and central Methodist advice on not rushing into holding large gatherings.

We have had as many as 80 people at the barbecue and this might be increased by another 50 for those attending the farewell service. After much thought we have agreed to limit the attendance at both events to 50 to 60 people. Priority for the service will be given to those for whom the thank you service is being held and their families but otherwise tickets will be allocated on a first come basis. The last date to book a ticket for either event will be 4 July to allow the necessary provisions to be purchased. If anyone attending the barbecue requires vegetarian food would they please let us know when booking their ticket. Tickets can be booked by e-mailing gowletts@ntlworld.com or telephoning on 01708 508320.

Covid testing centre

Have you been yet?

The Havering Health Team are currently using the Minor Hall at the church as a Covid (Rapid -Lateral Flow) testing centre, until 9th July.

It is scheduled to be open 7 days a week, from 7am - 6pm weekdays, and from 9-6 at weekends. Home testing kits will also be available from the centre. It will be well staffed and the centre will be deep-cleaned each night. Everything is being done to keep the building 'Covid Secure.'

This should be a great benefit to the Upminster community. NHS advice is now for us all to get tested twice-weekly, whether or not we've been vaccinated, so why not take advantage of a facility which is on familiar ground to so many of us – and free!

Prayer of the week

We offer you our hands, O Lord, to do your work; our lips to sing your praise; our life to proclaim your glory and our heart to serve you in our neighbour; for Jesu's sake. Amen.

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

Facebook

www.facebook.com/upminstermethodist

Remember the facebook page has daily updates and new links

Many Thanks and Peace be with you

If you have anything you would like to include in future notices please email upminster.newsletter@gmail.com by **Thursday morning** to be included on Fridays notices. Thank you!