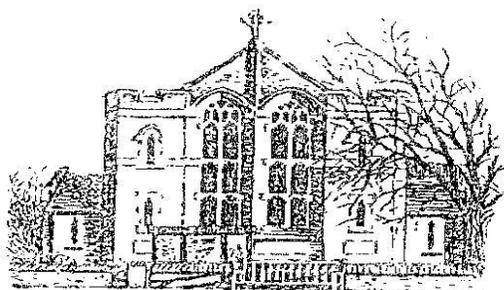


UPMINSTER METHODIST CHURCH



Church Notices
25th October 2020
www.upminstermethodistchurch.org

WEEKLY NOTICES

- Revd. Joseph Riberio's 12.00 noon zoom service can be found on the email page.
- Ricky Bull will be taking this Sunday morning service from 10.00am via Zoom. The link can be found on the email page.

To enter with the telephone landline, call "Zoom" on one of the following numbers:

0 203 481 5237,
0 203 481 5240,
0 131 460 1196,
0 203 051 2874,

You will be asked for the meeting ID. This is 857 0723 1338 # (remember to include the #)

You will then be asked for the Participant code. Just enter another # to this. You should then join the meeting, again after being held momentarily in the Zoom "Waiting Room".

- Revd. Jason Vinyard 7.00pm zoom service can be found on the email page.

(if you wish to dial into Revd. Jason Vinyard's service using your telephone, please use one of the numbers below and then you will be asked to enter the meeting ID number, including hash tag)

Dial by your location

0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 816 4329 4747#

Also you can find the link for the Rainham Foodbank which includes a monetary donation section.

Please note: that the Sunday morning service at 10.00am via Zoom will alternate between:

Revd. Jason Vinyard

Stella Holland

Ricky Bull and

Rachel Read

It is also planned to hold a All Age Worship once a month, which will be lead by Rachel Read – details to follow as and when

The Methodist Church

ROMFORD CIRCUIT – _35/32
The Revd. David Jebb BTh.MA.
Superintendent Minister

12 Oaklands Avenue, Romford RM1 4DB

Tel: 01708 734005 (m) 07786907634. Email: djebb2003@gmail.com
To Ministers, CLT Members and Church lead Stewards and the Council
Secretaries

Dear Friends,

WEEKLY PASTORAL LETTER (28) – 22nd October 2020

‘Wait for the Lord. Be strong. Let your heart be strong. Yes, wait for the Lord’. Psalm 27:14.

Our society has been especially designed to exclude waiting. The advertising industry seeks to persuade us that everything can be obtained instantly: instant credit, instant satisfaction, instant rewards. One of the first credit cards had as its slogan, “Taking the waiting out of wanting” and that’s not a bad summary of how our society works. The psalmist had an altogether different approach. For him, waiting was something good and he encourages his fellow worshippers to wait for the Lord. The truth, of course, is that the most valuable things in life require waiting – and often a great deal of it. There is no way in which you can instantly acquire maturity, a godly character or a strong and trusting relationship. They require years of patient, thoughtful, prayerful development.

At times it looks as if God takes a long time to get round to answering our prayers. He doesn’t conform to the requirements of our instant society and that can be extremely frustrating. Surely, if he is omnipotent he should be able to respond with speed and efficiency to our requests. He sometimes keeps us

waiting for years. Why does he do this? Above all it is because he loves us and he knows that it is only as we slowly build up a trusting relationship with him that we will ever really grow up in our Christian maturity. This is a hard word for our modern world. It isn't what people want to hear. They want blessings today, and miracles to order. But God wants followers who will trust him whatever happens. He wants us to be people who have built up a strong, resilient relationship with him that will be able to stand up to any challenge, discouragement or disappointment.

This is yet another illustration of the upside down nature of the Kingdom of God. God loves us so much that he wants to rewire our thinking and help us to see that waiting is the surest way possible of helping us to grow. My question is: Are we good at waiting for the Lord? If not, how are you going to learn to develop this skill?

Closed....Reopened....Closed and reopening again.....

I would like to express my sincere thanks to most of our churches responded promptly for the District Chairs' strong recommendation for the churches to pause for a short period and also for being willing to re-look and review the existing risk assessment and amend them in line with Tier 2 / 3 guidance / changing Government regulations before reopen again!

As you may aware that Government Covid 19 latest guidance say that places of worship play an important role in providing spiritual leadership for many individuals, and in bringing communities and generations together. However, their communal nature also makes them places that are particularly vulnerable to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). In our areas (Havering & Essex) subject to "COVID alert level – high" restrictions, we must not mix outside of our household or support bubble indoors, including within a place of worship. We always guided by the Conference & District as they keep in touch with the Government Officials regularly and they are doing what we can to respond to a rapidly changing situation. District main aim in sending the email a week ago was to support us as there is a general understanding that the Church must not be in a position of putting people at risk. The fact that so many of our members, adherents and associated groups' members are in higher risk categories means that we have a pastoral responsibility not to arrange anything which might heighten that risk and the safety of our congregations and building users has to be our first priority.

However, If local trustees choose to remain open, they will need to pay very careful attention to their risk assessments again and will need to consider the

fact that we are in a context of high risk of transmission of the virus. This does not mean you shouldn't open, but should church trustees make the decision to remain open, it is with the very clear understanding of the risks associated with this and to ensure that you have robust risk assessments in place before we reopen. .

As we have been informed by the PM that the country has moved to a tiered system for lockdown. The Government's current advice is that churches in England can remain open. Each church will need to consider the missional imperative in deciding whether or not to remain open or to reopen for worship. The safety of those coming into the building must be paramount and consideration given to the practicalities involved. Each decision will be individual to each local area and the decision and responsibility lies with the Managing Trustees (the Church Council) which should be chaired by a presbyter with the notice of 14 days calling a meeting. All decisions and delegations may be made by a simple majority vote.

We know that these are far from easy decisions, however, please know you have my support as you work with others in choosing the most appropriate way to respond to be in safer environment at your church buildings. I would like to encourage the churches and ministers who are offering on line services to continue to do so in the future, meantime, I would like to encourage the churches to see whether you are ready to be back in your church buildings to worship in person in a couple of Sundays time (**on 8th November**) with robust risk assessments and a very clear understanding of the risks.

As MCH & District will monitor the regulations produced by governments and to update the guidance, so we hold all those who have to interpret and implement decisions in our prayers and we ask you to continue to pray for the Government, MCH, District, Circuit and Churches and for each other.

Preachers available chart

In the light of current situation, I will not take steps to make the traditional quarterly preaching plan for the next quarter(December 2020 to February 2021) but Cathy Simmons and I jointly will arrange the preachers' available chart. Thank you for all LPs, WLs and Ministers for you available dates which you have passed them to us. In the current Covid virus situation, we are only planning dates one month at a time. The available chart will be centralised for the operational purpose. Please do contact me directly any churches need preachers / ministers for their services either in person or on line / zoom / YouTube services. Please note that a couple of our staff and a few Local

preachers are in isolation currently. Some LPs have decided to do on line services only due to their health conditions.

All the requests should come to the Superintendent so, I will allocate the preachers for your Church services monthly.. This will be kept under constant review. How each congregation emerges out of lock down will vary immensely. How worship will happen when we can gather, could be very different. We know that sustaining the former traditional number of services and churches is not possible and maybe not desirable. Congregations need to meet to discern what has been learned through this time and how their identity and practice might be radically different in the future. couple of our circuit churches have decided to continue to meet on line and other 2 churches have postponed reopening of their building for some time.

Whether you reopen your church building for worship in person or continue to worship on line or not to open at all, may you all know the quiet assurance of God's love and his peace in these unsettling times. Let us keep each other in prayer over the next few weeks, and let us pray that as this new chapter in our churches and the Circuit open, that all of us together will be able to continue that great mission we have been entrusted with of building God's kingdom. Join us to pray for the current situation we all face and to pray for those who work within and/or are affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19). And, let's continue to pray that we take steps forward which are safe and full of grace, as we slowly work out how best to do things.

Please pray;

- For Rachel Read as she is preparing herself for her LP accreditation service on 15th November 2020 at 4:30pm and also currently going through her candidating process for the Presbyterian Ministry.
- For the Circuit looking for a Presbyter for East Cluster and a Pioneer Deacon for CMOP via 2020 Stationing.
- For Revd Jason Vinyard as he is seeking an appointment via Stationing matching process this year.

ON LINE SERVICES:



[Brentwood On Line Sunday Service at 10am](#)

The link for Zoom is <https://zoom.us/j/93392688802> and everyone is welcome.

□ **Farmlands On Line Service** Link is available from 11am and service starts at 11:15am
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84894658706?pwd=ZmdCSXlqUWQycDY2SnUwQWRtUkIHQT09>

Meeting ID: 848 9465 8706

Passcode: Farmlands

□ **TRINITY AND CIRCUIT SATURDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME TOGETHER** from 9:30am to 10:30am via ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87316278454?pwd=dHkwNXFTZWlUMnVpaFhILOJ3MjY1dz09>

Meeting ID: 873 1627 8454

Passcode: 976717

□ **ROMFORD CIRCUIT & FRIENDS - SUNDAY AFTERNOON REFLECTION TIME TOGETHER**

Topic: Sunday Worship & Reflection Time: Oct 25, 2020 02:30 PM
London

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82721418908?pwd=cHZaV01KN2NYdU9QdjFXOWhqdlQ5dz09>

Meeting ID: 827 2141 8908

Passcode: 334823

Joseph Ribeiro's Online services on Sundays 12 noon and Wednesdays 7.00pm.

The link below is a recurring one is always used for these meetings - No password is needed.

Revd. Joseph Ribeiro's 12 noon Sunday services ,7.pm Wednesdays
Bible study and prayer link via zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82844150209?pwd=cTFoRXlVNVN4dVFoaHEzK0pQQjhldz09>

Note: Revd Jason Vinyard is leading a contemplative service via zoom at 7pm on Sunday. Topic: Rev J C Vinyard's Contemplative Zoom Meet

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643294747>

Meeting ID: 816 4329 4747

NOTE: We hope to be able to upload a short video service each week to the Circuit website which will allow us to develop our online worship facility.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Jebb', is written over a horizontal line.

The Revd David Jebb

Superintendent Minister of Romford Methodist Circuit
Presbyter in the West Cluster Churches – Gidea Park, Harold Wood, Havering
Road, Hornchurch and Trinity.

Lead team of Circuit Mission Outreach Project (CMOP) at Collier Row,
Romford.

***Please note that the links mentioned above may not open by clicking on
the address. You may have to type the address into your Search Engine.***



In our devotion to the needs of others, O God, let us not neglect the wisdom of your counsel. In the midst of our work let us not lose sight of your great purposes. In our path of service let us not snatch the management of the world from your hands. Amen.

Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)

God of breeze and sunshine, bless us;
God of wind and rain, refresh us;
God of gale and hail, invigorate us;
God of cyclone and snow, renew us;

God of creation, grant new birth to all your earth,
in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Graham Thompson, Plymouth and Exeter District Chair



Dial a prayer and podcast

During lockdown we heard that many people didn't have access to online services so we set up free phone lines that are updated on a Thursday with a new prayer and our podcast.

We are delighted that nearly 6000 people have used this service and would ask you to share the numbers with anyone you know who might not wish to use online services.

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The tree festival has always been a major outreach to the local community and we would like this to continue with an alternative festival this year. You will have read of the plans that are being put in place but these do not come without some cost - this year mostly for the printing of posters, flyers etc and also for the large tree to go at the front of the Church.

Donations towards these costs would be very much appreciated, electronically (to the account details found on the notices under offertory) would be preferred but clearly marked for the Tree Festival, alternatively cash donations again clearly marked which you can put through our door 1 Oak Avenue.

Any excess will be given to our chosen charity - First Step.

Therefore, we are inviting anyone who wishes to erect a tree in their front garden from Saturday 5th December and create a community festival around the streets of Upminster and Cranham.

The theme is Rainbows in acknowledgement of all the NHS has done this year, with colourfully decorated trees being encouraged.

Each contributor would be given a rainbow to go on the top of their tree as a way of recognising it is part of the festival.

There would also be an A4 laminated sheet given to go on each tree explaining that it is part of the tree festival.

We plan to create at least one trail around the locality for people to spot the trees. We will also be setting up a Just Giving Page with the intention of raising some money for a local charity.

If you would like any more information or to take part in this festival then please send an email to Christmastreefestival2020@gmail.com. More details will continue to follow through this newsletter, the Church Website, Facebook and Instagram.

Let's make the 10th Christmas Tree Festival one to remember in a different way!

FAMILY NEWS

- Happy Birthday to David Hill who will be celebrating on Tuesday 27th October.



Don't forget, if you have any news of any kind that you wish to share with the congregations, please send an email to: upminster.newsletter@gmail.com

OFFERTORY

It is with much regret that we have had to temporarily suspend all meetings on our premises which most unfortunately includes Sunday worship.

A number of you already give your offertory via standing order and at this time I would ask those of you who don't to consider pursuing this option should you wish to continue your regular giving, please contact Peter Hobbs for further details or set it up yourself from your bank as a monthly standing order quoting your envelope number as the payer reference.

The bank account details are; sort code 20-72-89 account number 73858618 in the name of Upminster Methodist Church Council.

SHOUT

Our young peoples group **SHOUT** will not meet today but will have an informal meeting by zoom next week 1 November at 11 am. For details please email gordonmreed@gmail.com



PRAYERS, HYMNS AND SERVICES

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Church of England have set up a freephone telephone number called 'Daily Hope'.

When you ring the number they have a very good easy press button system for the caller to listen to hymns, prayers, services etc. Some of the items are updated daily and people can call the line at any time of the day, how often they want, completely free.

It is very easy to use for anyone who may not have any technology devices or are fearful of technology.

The number is: 0800 804 8044.



NEXT QUIZ

Everyone is invited to take part in the next quiz on Zoom on **Saturday 31st October at 3pm** to raise money for **First Step**.

If you are interested in taking part, please email me at familyhobbs4@btopenworld.com and I will send you details and the link to join nearer the time.

I hope you can take part.

The amount raised from the last quiz and my half marathon run was £810 plus Gift Aid for Macmillan.

Thank you to everyone who supported these events.

Peter

FOODBANK UPDATE

Good Morning everyone,

It's been another wonderful week for donations and a pleasure to take them to the Foodbank for you all.

This time, we donated a staggering **137.44kg** in partnership with a fantastic contribution by James Oglethorpe School and thank you to everyone who has kindly given supplies.

Our total is now **1309.84kg** - fantastic!

This means we are currently on par with the weight of a Southern Elephant Seal!



This week, the Foodbank have asked very kindly for help with supplying:

Sugar
Toiletries (Female, Male & Child)
Tinned Goods

...and anything you can spare.

Thank you all,

Best wishes and keep safe, Joanna

The address to deliver the donations to is:

8 Hurst Park Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6DJ