



virtual  
the **magazine**



**Park** united reformed church

**May 2021**

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The views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily represent the views of Park United Reformed Church, nor those of the editor.

## The Minister's Letter

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Dear Family,

I hope you have had a chance to see the wonderful messages of hope and encouragement for the community and passers-by outside the Church railings on Wokingham Road. They were made at Muddy Church! I pray that seeds of hope are planted in the hearts of our community and those walking/cycling/driving past!

*Speaking of prayer and the heart...*

Did you know the HEART is a part of our cardiovascular system a very important part of our health? The heart communicates with different organs in the body to provide oxygen and nutrients. The heart is directly impacted by daily habits.

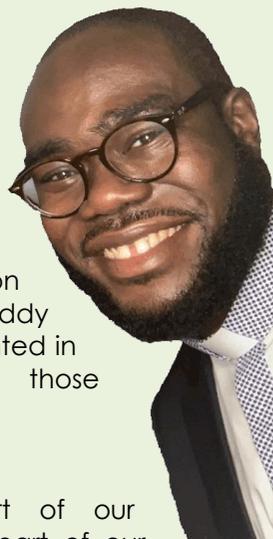
It is the same way with PRAYER. Prayer is very important to our spiritual health and well-being. Prayer plays a key role in providing a communication system with God, who gives our spirit and soul power and the breath of life! Prayer is directly impacted by daily habits.

*Is prayer a part of your daily habits?*

"There is no right way of praying. There are just the ways that are right for you. But there is also the great heritage of praying that we can learn from and explore." The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell

Psalm 17:6 "I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer."

I have heard that when you want to form a new habit - include it as part of your habitual routines (like brushing your teeth or dressing up) as it will be 'easier' to make it a part of your daily habits.



Why not pray on your walk? Whilst colouring or birdwatching?

The heart of prayer is being open to God's presence which surrounds you now and always!

This month - why not also try asking someone how you can pray for them today?

**Stephen**

## **Spring at Last!**

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The first bloom of the year in the Memorial Garden.

**Alan**

## Family News

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We continue to give thanks for the recent improvement in the coronavirus situation, and we ask for God's blessing on the congregation of Hungerford URC as they re-opened the church for worship on Sunday May 9th.

We pray for the whole community of Arborfield Green, and particularly for the 19 families whose homes were lost in the recent fire. We pray too for those who are providing support and trying to supply the essentials of life in what are already difficult circumstances.

We remember with grateful thanks the life and work of HRH Prince Philip, and we continue to remember Her Majesty The Queen and all her family in our prayers.

We send our love and congratulations to Janet and Alan Pritchard, who celebrated 25 years of marriage on Tuesday April 13th. On this special Silver Wedding occasion, we pray that God will continue to bless Janet and Alan and all their family.

We rejoice with Helen and Tony Durrant on the birth of their third grandchild. Remy was born on Monday April 26th and we send our love and congratulations to his parents Lisa and Joe, and to all the family.



We thank God that many of Park's children and young people and friends were able to gather in the park on 2nd May for a Messy/Muddy Church session on the theme of 'Spring of Hope'. We pray that we will be able to continue with monthly meetings in the park.

We pray for all those in education, but especially for year 11 and 13 pupils, currently sitting school exams and assessments, and for their teachers with mammoth amounts of marking and moderating.

We continue to pray for all in our church communities who are affected by ill-health, recovering from, or receiving treatment. Stephen's mother Mercy has not been feeling well recently, but has shown some signs of improvement - we continue to pray for her.

We also pray for Alan Pritchard; Ruth Clark; Bob and Andrea Dewing; Renne and Bert Ewen; and Thelma Butler.

From Hungerford, Fiona has received a letter from her friend Kathy in Canada thanking everyone for the prayers which have helped to sustain her as the long process of healing continues following her eye operation. We continue to pray for Kathy, and also for Abigail, Steve and Elisha in the USA. We pray for Fiona's daughter Hannah, who is struggling with the return to school; and we continue to remember Barbara Barr; Carol Hobson; Nelish Gohil, who is in good spirits after the operation on his brain tumour; Tom, Jo, Abi and Hannah McMahan; Anne Smith's friend Jim Bracey; Maureen Bull; and Peter.

Lord, in your mercy ..... Hear our Prayer

**Carrie**

## **Letters**

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Dear Friends

We would like to thank you for your kind wishes and cards on the occasion of our 25th Anniversary.

We enjoyed the day at home, thankful for the 25 years we've had together. How time flies. If we hadn't been members at Park Church, we may never have met.

We also thank you for your kind messages wishing Alan a speedy recovery when he recently broke a bone in his leg. He has recovered very well and was discharged from the hospital after 6 weeks with physio appointments to help him on his way.

With love to you all.

**Alan and Janet Pritchard**

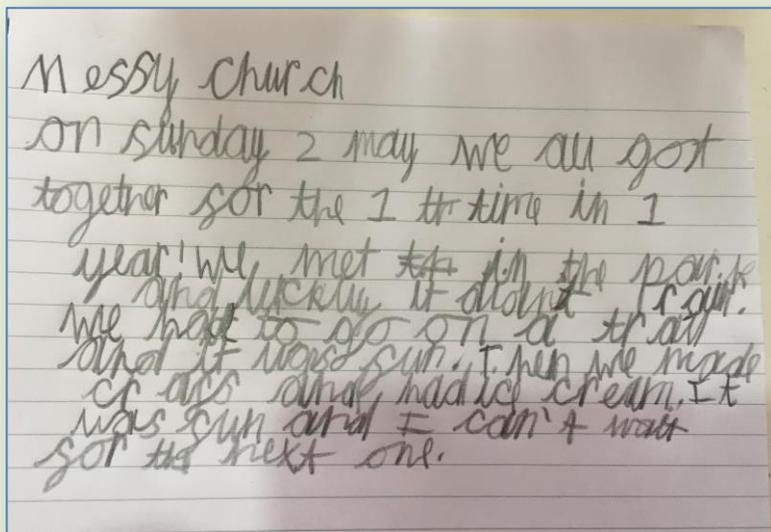
There are probably only a few people now at Park who will remember me and even fewer who would remember my husband, Peter Wright, who was not a Church member.

Peter passed away peacefully on 13th April, in Yorkshire, with family beside him. (The cause was advanced dementia.)

**Diana Wright**

## Messy Church Report

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On Sunday 2nd May we all got together for the first time in a year!

We met in the park and were lucky it didn't rain!

We had to go on a trail and it was fine then we made crafts and had ice cream.

It was fun and I can't wait for the next one.

**Issy**

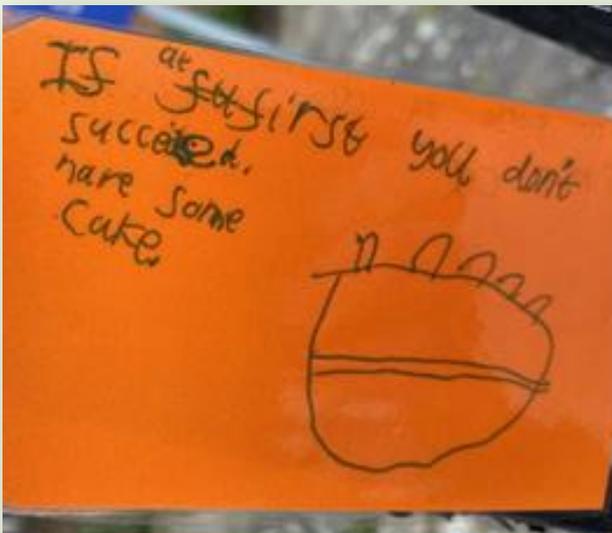
Joseph enjoying Messy Church too:



## Messy Church Decorate the Church Railings

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## **An Earley Trefoil Song**

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*Tune: Battle Hymn of the Republic*

We hold our monthly meetings in a bungalow just near  
Comfy chairs in pink and green, full of homely cheer  
It's good to be together, and share our latest news  
The Guiding spirit is alive, we don't have time for blues.

*Perhaps you'd like to come and join us  
Maybe sometimes on a Monday  
We can help to ease your worries  
The Earley gang is here.*

One day we went to London and hoped to see the Queen  
The weather it was boiling, we needed our sunscreen  
The horses were magnificent, the golden coaches too  
Our hats were quite a spectacle for everyone to view.

Last summer, one June evening, we thought it would be good  
To have a lovely evening walk, and maybe have a pud  
The weather it was terrible, it rained beyond our dreams  
We still turned up at Sprinkles to sample their icecreams.

Sometimes we've been to Harrogate, Southport and  
Weymouth town  
To go to the Region AGM is where we're always bound  
Enjoying the local tourist sites as well as a bus ride  
It's good to meet some Trefoil who've come from far and wide.

*Perhaps you'd like to come and join us  
Maybe sometimes on a Monday  
We can help to ease your worries  
The Earley gang is here.*

2020 started well with all our spirits high  
We thought of all the many things that we would like to try  
January slipped away and February too  
But when we came to the month of March it all became untrue.

A huge pandemic struck the world and made us stay at home  
The Guiding spirit stayed alive although we couldn't roam  
We moved our meetings onto Zoom. A virus can't defeat -  
Ten million Guides across the world who hear the Guiding beat

We were shut in like prisoners, it really was a pain  
We were allowed to walk about in garden or in lane.  
The weather it was gorgeous it did seem so unfair  
But everyone was just the same in Britain everywhere.

We listened in each evening to Boris, Whitty, Matt  
The deaths were soaring higher, there was no time to slack  
The hospitals were filling up with people of every race  
We must remember what we've learnt – hands, face, space.

Times are getting better but it's 2021  
We've already passed the date, when it all went wrong.  
We're opening up the shops, the pubs, and hair will soon be tamed  
The next thing'll be holidays and meeting friends again.

*Perhaps you'd like to come and join us  
Maybe only on a Zoom link  
But it's all that we can offer  
Until the world is jabbed!*

**Joan Pearson** – Earley Trefoil Guild

## Holiday Forum 2021

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It's time to secure your place for Holiday Forum 2021! to be held on 21-27 August.

Whether you'd like to join us in-person at The Hayes or online this August, now is the time to book your place to avoid disappointment.



Jane Rowell leads our daily worship and Anthony Reddie brings us our theme of **Living With & Loving Difference**: the challenge of being human in a fractured world.

It promises to be fantastic, so don't miss out! All are welcome and we all need a holiday this summer!

Book via our website (for both in-person and online places) or email [bookings@urholidayforum.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urholidayforum.org.uk)

The Steering Group is busy finalising our plans to stream parts of our programme online - more details to come soon.

Don't forget our Bursary Fund, which is available to help provide financial assistance - open to all. Please see our website for more information.

## SALT Art

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This is a picture that Markus did in our SALT session:



We were looking at the story of Thomas's meeting with Jesus. Markus drew around his own hand, put a circle in the middle to represent the wound that Thomas touched, and then wrote 'Jesus is alive' in the circle to remind us that that's what Thomas discovered when he met Jesus. Then he decorated the rest of the hand!

**Rebecca**

## Alan's Elders' Prayers

This month's selection of some of Alan's daily prayers...

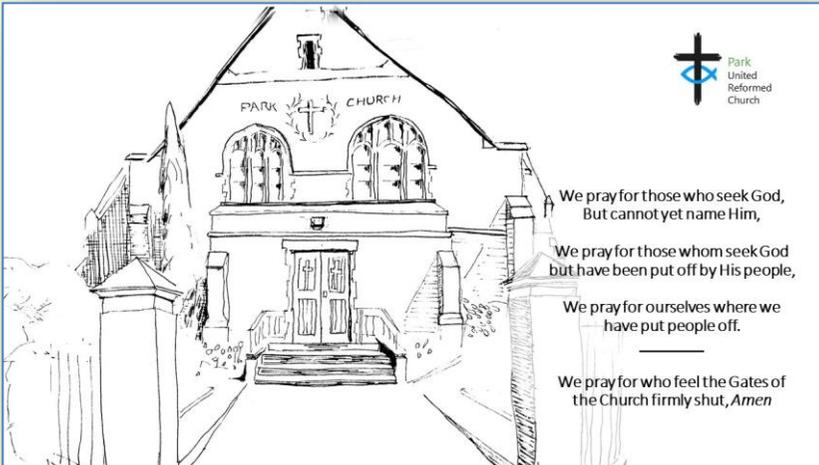
**Lord God,  
You have given great gifts to  
humanity,  
Bless us too with the wisdom to  
use these gifts wisely and accept  
our responsibilities to You,  
our World and to others,  
To the Glory of Your Name,  
Amen**



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Prayer inspired by cartoon in the  
New Scientist.



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We pray for those who seek God,  
But cannot yet name Him,

We pray for those whom seek God  
but have been put off by His people,

We pray for ourselves where we  
have put people off.

We pray for who feel the Gates of  
the Church firmly shut, *Amen*



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**May the Lord  
who prunes the vine in Love,  
Guide and prune His Church  
in the ways of Righteousness,**

**And guide and prune our lives to the  
Glory of His Name,**

**And may we have the Grace to accept  
the guiding and the pruning,  
Amen**



*Lord God,*

*As Winter gives way to Spring,  
As branch gives way to leaf*

*May Anxiety give way to Hope  
May Hate give way to Love,  
May Bitterness give way to  
Peace,*

*To the Glory of Your Name,  
Amen*



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LORD GOD,  
HELP US TO SEE OUR BLESSINGS,  
ENABLE US TO FULFIL OUR HOPES,  
AND  
CHALLENGE US TO FULFIL YOUR  
DESTINY FOR US,  
THROUGH THE POWER OF YOUR  
LOVE,

AMEN



Dear Lord,

Bless us with  
Hope without complacency,  
Love without favour,  
Faith without measure,

To the Glory of Your Holy Name

*Amen*





## Church Contacts

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**Minister.....Rev. Stephen Ansa-Addo**

*phone:*

07835 810424

*e-mail:*

minister@parkurc.org.uk

minister@parkandhungerfordurcs.org.uk

**Church Secretary .....Roger Clark**

*phone:*

0118 935 2324

*e-mail:*

churchsecretary@parkurc.org.uk

**Assistant Church Secretary ....Simon & Jenny King**

**Treasurer: .....Yvette Gayford**

**Assistant Treasurer .....Rod King**

**F & GP Chairman .....Tim Lancaster**

**Centre Manager: .....Becky Joyce**

*phone:*

0845 463 6426

*e-mail:*

centremanager@parkurc.org.uk

**Magazine Editor .....Rod King**

*e-mail:*

editor@parkurc.org.uk

**Church Website: .....[www.parkurc.org.uk](http://www.parkurc.org.uk)**

**Facebook:**[www.facebook.com/ParkURC?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](http://www.facebook.com/ParkURC?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)