

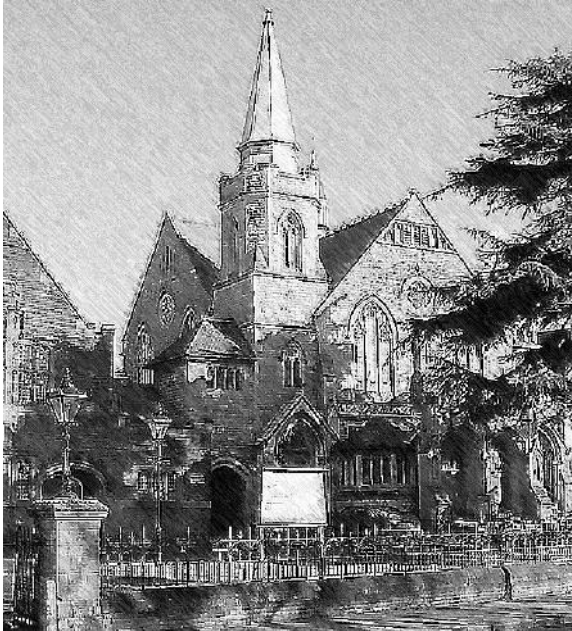
May 2012

*The magazine of
Wood Street and
Chesterfield Road
United Reformed
Churches*

FOCUS

www.chesterfieldroadurc.org

www.urc-barnet.org



*The
United
Reformed
Church*

Hello Dear Friends

At our last Elders' meeting we continued our discussion on the way forward in seeking a minister. Although it may appear that we were doing nothing, we have discussed the vacancy and the way forward and always remember the situation of the church in our prayers. Naturally we hope that all members and friends are of one mind with us on this. Rev Sue felt the call of the Holy Spirit on her to seek another church and she was led to Groby, now we must seek the mind of the Spirit for our future, not only when we have a minister but whilst we are without one. Many churches survive and prosper on their own and we have had sufficient vacancies to realise that it is the ongoing life of the church that is important and not just when we have a minister.

But what can we do in the meanwhile? This leaves me to a very important part of our ministry and something that we all can do - that is pray!

We can all share experiences where prayer has changed things and if not 'things', us. Some of you may already have been aware, but in the eight years Rev Sue was with us, she met regularly with various members to pray for the church. For example from 6:30 am for one hour once a week, every week (apart from holidays and illness) she and someone met at the church (building) to pray for the church (people) - that is for you and me and the way the Gospel would be worked out in the life of each one of us. I believe this contributed to the success of Rev Sue's ministry at Wood Street. Now she has moved we need to continue in prayer for our church. Are you willing to commit yourselves to at least one hour each week to pray for the church and the way forward?

The scripture says of our Lord:

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” Mark 1:35

It is good to spend time on our own in prayer, but it is also good to pray together. How you action your own prayer life is between you and the Lord, but if you have ideas of the best day, time etc. for some of us to meet together for prayer, maybe for only half an hour then please let the Elders know or initiate a group yourself. As usual we will be having a day of prayer on 16th June which Sue will be arranging so, again, if you want to be involved in help organising and running or simply have some bright ideas to share please let her know.

In the meantime let us commit ourselves to pray and seek the mind of the Spirit on the way forward for our church.

Every blessing

Vic

Church Secretary

On Wednesday a group of us visited Springdene Nursing Home to conduct a short Easter service. We were given a very warm welcome and the service was enthusiastically received. As a thank you we received a box of chocolates, which at least some of you, got to sample on Easter Sunday! Also, we have agreed to respond positively to future invitations. So if you would like to join us look out for the email!

For the next four months it is planned to write a simple introduction to our church and its structure. It is not an in-depth, academic study but a simple introduction to the United Reformed Church.

In the beginning

After Paul and the apostles started spreading the gospel the church continued to grow around the world. Although the basic message of salvation through Jesus stayed the same, some minor thinking and ways of administration changed between Christian groups. The history of the many strands of the Christian church can be found in a huge number of good books and on the internet and I do not intend to explain this further, although it is a fascinating topic to pursue.

Within the Anglican Church (Church of England), thinking had been affected by the Reformation and there were those who questioned the structure and some of the theology of the church. This led to the great ejection of 1662 when those whose thinking was at odds with the church were thrown out. From these dissenters, a name which they later were given, the many “non-conformist” or “free church” groups which we know today came into being (Presbyterian, Congregational, Methodists, Baptist to name a few!)*

In 1969 two of these denominations decided to try and begin a movement to bring together these dissenters into one church. Heeding the call of the Lord that we “might all be one”, these two groups, Congregational and Presbyterian, came together and formed the United Reformed church in 1972. In 1981 the Churches of Christ also joined this grouping. Regrettably, despite many attempts, only one other group joined the URC, the Congregational Union of Scotland, in 2000. Now we are

generally seen as denomination in our own right, which is not what we had hoped for when we became the URC.

Next time I will explain, hopefully, the structure and running of the URC nationally and where we, as the local church, fit into this.

Wood Street was originally a Congregational church and a previous minister, Revd Terence Perry, wrote a book on our history from 1669 to 1969 called 'An Independent People'. If you have never read it I can supply you with a copy. It is well worth the read to follow the events of our past.

Vic Russell

**The monarch is the head of the Anglican Church. After the Great Ejectment the Dissenters found themselves in a difficult situation. So a group of them made a decision to deliver to the monarch, Charles II, a loyal address pledging their allegiance to the monarchy in spite of their departure from the Church of England. This has become a tradition under succeeding monarchs. For example, this year, in celebration of the present Queen's Diamond Jubilee the Dissenters and the Free Churches were invited to be amongst those groups making a Loyal Address to the Queen. As some of you already know, I was invited to be one of the two representatives of the Dissenting Deputies on that occasion.*

Wood Street Calendar - May

Main Contacts	Sat	5th	8:00am	Churches Together Prayer Breakfast: McDonald's in the High Street
<i>Church Secretary</i> Vic Russell 020 8449 5349	Sun	6th	11:00am	Stephen Lane leading worship with Communion
<i>Sunday Club</i> Val Wall 020 8449 8831	Wed	9th	6:30pm	Evening Service
<i>Boys' Brigade & Girls' Assoc.</i> Alan King 020 8440 7537			Christian Aid Week	13th – 19th May
	Sun	13th	11:00am	Battalion Parade with Peter Liddelov
<i>Brownies & Guides</i> Pamela Lane 020 8441 5339	Mon	14th	8:30pm	Elders Meeting
	Wed	16th	8:30pm	Girls' Night In
	Thu	17th	2:00pm	Friendship Club
<i>10 O'clock Club</i> Lynette de Naeyer 020 8449 9654	Fri	18th		BB & GA Show
	Sat	19th		BB & GA Show
	Sun	20th	11:00am	Revd Bernie Collins
			6:30pm	Evening Service
<i>Hall and Room Bookings</i> Fred King 020 8440 7537	Sum	27th	11:00am	Pentecost Sunday - Linda Sanders
			6:30pm	Evening Service
			~7:30pm	Church Meeting

Chesterfield Road Calendar - May

Wed	2nd	7:00PM	Monthly Family Night	Main Contacts
Sun	6th	11:00 AM	Tony Alderman	<i>Wings</i>
Wed	9th	10:00AM	You Can Do It group	<i>Sunday School</i> Bernie Cleal 020 8449 1868
		7:00PM	Pilots children's club	<i>Pilots</i>
Thu	10th	7:00PM	Elders meeting	Gill
Sun	13th	11:00 AM	Chris Mortimore	Cunnington 07850 768 583
Mon	14th	2:30PM	Bible study Group	
Wed	16th	10:00AM	You Can Do It group	<i>Fellowship</i> Maisie Jaques 020 8440 178
		7:00PM	Pilots children's club	<i>You Can Do It Group</i>
Sun	20th	11:00 AM	Allan Down - communion	Sue Weston 07947 692 098
Mon	21st	2:30PM	Bible study Group	
Wed	23rd	10:00AM	You Can Do It group	<i>VIDURA</i> Giulia 07879 138 896
		7:00PM	Pilots children's club	<i>Monthly family night</i>
Sun	27th	11:00 AM	Philip Stewart	
Mon	28th	2:30PM	Bible study Group	Gloria Draper 020 8441 3776
Wed	30th	10:00AM	You Can Do It group	
		7:00PM	Pilots children's club	

The Notice Board

Articles for the Next Edition of **Focus**
(June 2012)
must be with the editor by

Sunday 13th May

focus@urc-barnet.org

Wood Street Flower Rota

April	1 st	Alison Atkinson.
	8 th	EASTER
	15 th	Moni Pifeleti
	22 nd	Val Wall
	29 th	David Marshall
May	6 th	Pam Lane
	13 th	Friendship Club
	20 th	Dulcie Ashdown
	27 th	Sue Russell

Bible Discussion Group

Chesterfield Road have re-started our Monday group, studying the book of Esther.

Our next meetings are on
14th, 21st & 28th May
at 2.30pm.

All are welcome.

A thank you to all who contributed to the Easter flowers. It was a real pleasure to choose such lovely lillies and pussy willow.

Would YOU like to sponsor a special Sunday arrangement, maybe for an anniversary or remembrance etc.

I am planning the next six months (June - November) now, so if there is a date you would like, please let me know ASAP.

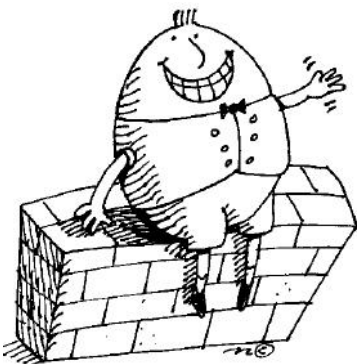
Lynette
8449 9654

All the King's Men

On Friday 18th and Saturday 19th May our Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association members will be performing "All the King's Men" in the Ewen Hall.

"All the King's Men" is a show based on a true story from 1643, during the English Civil War. King Charles wanted control of all the major cities in the West and after taking Bristol his army moved onto Gloucester. After trying various ways to break into the City they decided to build a armoured bridge, modelled on those used in Roman times, which would reach across the River Severn and over the city wall. They couldn't build the bridge in position as they would have been under constant fire, so they constructed it away from the city and planned to wheel it into place once it was finished.

The people of Gloucester found out what was happening and during the nights they came out of the city and dug away at the river banks. When the bridge was rolled into position, the river was wider, and it did not reach the far bank. The bridge, which had been named Humpty Dumpty, collapsed into the water. All the King's horses and all the King's men couldn't put Humpty together again! This story is supposed to be the origin of that well know nursery rhyme.



If you want to see a dramatised version of this historical event, complete with songs written by Richard Rodney Bennett, get some tickets from any BB leader or member when they are available in May.

Alan King

Barnet Gets a Royal Visit

The day The Queen wished me a Happy Birthday. It was a great surprise to be nominated and invited to the North London Reception for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Then to be told that I was to be presented to The Queen, together with Bobby Swinstead, Alan King and Alison Newgent. All this to be held on my birthday too.

The day arrived, bright and sunny. I went by 34 bus with Bobby and Alison to Walthamstow Assembly Hall. We had to queue together with the Mayor's of North London, to go through a security check.

Having been directed to a marquee, we were put into the order we were to meet Her Majesty. The atmosphere was tangible as we waited, we were told it would be about 10 minutes. Finally the time arrived. We heard the cheers of the crowd outside and the paparazzi backing into the marquee!!

Then Her Majesty was there among us. She was introduced to each set of four by the Representative Deputy Lieutenants for the London Boroughs. Martin Russell being ours. He introduced me first informing Her Majesty of my connection with The Boys' Brigade and Church to which she commented ppppon The Boys' Brigade! Martin the said that it was my 75th birthday to which she replied 'Happy 75th Birthday'.

She then moved on to speak to Alison, then to Bobby, and then to Alan, then she was gone onto the next group. What Her Majesty said to Alison, Bobby and Alan, I couldn't say, you'll have to ask them.

The Queen then moved on to have lunch in the Town Hall with the Mayors and other invited guests, but they weren't introduced to Her Majesty!!

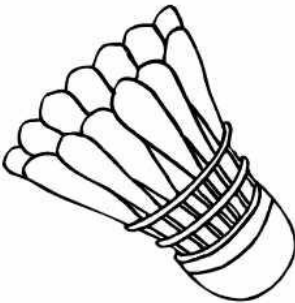
We were served with a buffet lunch, which I later found out, from the TV, was the same menu as they sat down to in the town hall. We then had to wait for The Queen to leave for a further engagement in Harrow.

We returned home with the help of Alan in his car. What a birthday to remember. My thanks to the person who made that day so momentous by my nomination.

Allan Down

The Boys' Brigade National Competitions Update

I was privileged to be at the Semi-Final of the Five-a-Side (Company Section) competition at Cranfield last month. A very keenly contested event with teams from all across the south of England in attendance and 1st Torquay #making the longest journey. The standard of play was exceptional and all the lads were a credit to their companies. In the end 1st Barnet just managed to pip 4th Hillingdon to the top spot.



It was an amazing day for the 1st Barnet, as later that evening, their Badminton team edged past 7th Plymouth to set up two National Finals appearances this year!

Allan Tresidder

The Boys' Brigade National Competitions Organiser

Finances

I have recently reviewed the Accounts that Alan King presented for the year ended 31st December, this time of course for 2011, and my first duty is to thank him for the diligent way in which he maintains and prepares the books and my second is to thank him on your behalf for the tremendous job he undertakes over the course of the year. By the time you read this Church Meeting will have approved the Accounts. Wood Street URC is in good shape, you should be pleased to know, owing to some extraordinary income and careful stewardship.

Let me highlight some of the outgoings. The Ministry and church running costs were £48,000. On top of that you had the new floor fitted in the Stewart Room at a cost of £9,250 and the Manse needed updating at a cost of £5,700. Compared with some previous years, your necessary large items of expenditure were relatively modest, believe it or not.

On the flip side the church benefitted from legacies of £30,000 from generous former members and the flats and cottage continued to generate solid income: £26,847.

The outstanding item of income, however, was £40,650 from...have a guess. The lettings of the halls. Fred King has done yet another magnificent job in managing the bookings. He's knocking a hole out of his eighties and still manages to run the book. Have a look at these numbers which represent the income from hall hire, due to more lets than to increased charges:

2007 £11,910

2008 £24,696 - Fred's 1st year

2009 £22,670 - getting into his stride

2010 £31,571 - the man's working miracles

2011 £40,650 - amazing

Wood Street would not be financially healthy without the money that the bricks and mortar can generate. They are God given and I am sure He has no problem how and for what purpose you use them. Your regular giving as just as important albeit on a scale that does not match the costs of Ministry and the general running costs of the premises.

Another satisfactory year. Thank you Alan.

Nigel Ward