



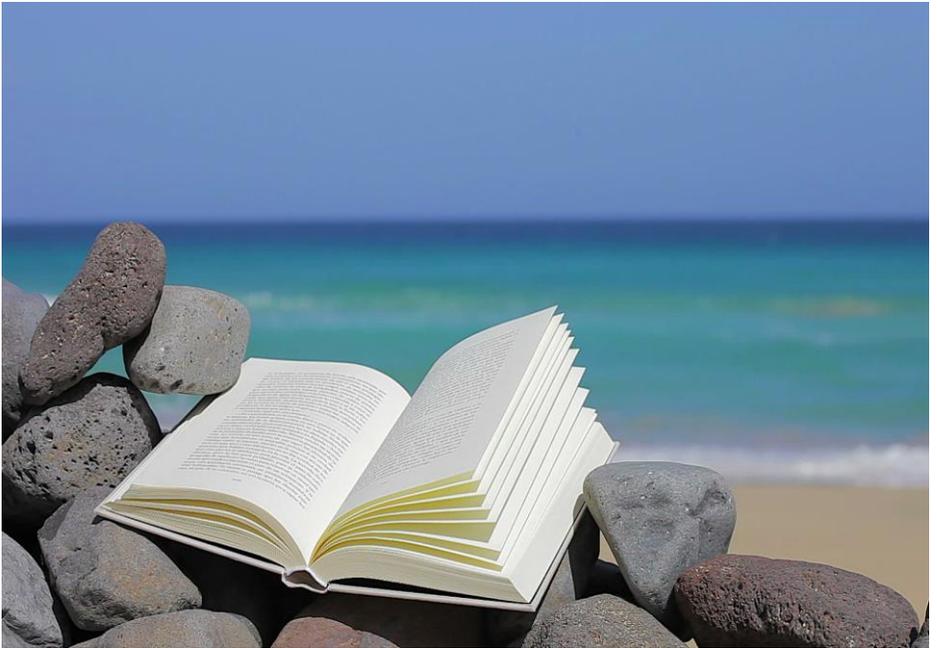
The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

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# The COURIER

*June/July 2019*



*United Reformed Church  
New Road, Brentwood*



***Dear Friends,***

This year was the first time I experienced the Spring season in Essex, since we moved into our new home in July 2018, and I had been wondering what my garden would look like. As I don't know much about the trees and flowers I had no idea what to expect. There are many trees and the garden looked quite messy during winter, but I was amazed by the dramatic transformation during Spring. It began with new buds in every corner; all the dead-looking branches bringing forth their new shoots. This was very normal and common, but still so powerful in my reflection on Lent and Easter that the core Christian message of 'death and life' had been expressed in each and every new bud.



Not only that, the garden soon came into flower with white, yellow, pink, purple, red and other indescribable colours. I could sense the power of life, not just the power of breaking death, but also the power of growing, nurturing and flourishing.

It is Pentecost (meaning fiftieth in Greek) Sunday on 9th June this year. The Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised came upon the disciples of Jesus, an event which is often described as the birth of the Christian Church. We don't know exactly why this happened when the Jews were celebrating the feast of Pentecost but an understanding of

the background would be very helpful for our reflection on the meaning of Pentecost as we remember this day.

Pentecost was one of the Jewish feast days and it was also called 'the Feast of Harvest' or 'the Feast of Weeks' (Exodus 23, Exodus 24, Leviticus 16, Numbers 28, and Deuteronomy 16). There were two harvests each year in Palestine, and it was the celebration of the beginning of the early weeks of harvest, which came during the months of May and June; and the final harvest came in the Autumn.

Pentecost took place fifty days after the offering of the sheaf of firstfruits at the time of Passover and Unleavened Bread (cf. Lev.23:9-14). The Jews celebrated the Feast of Firstfruits for the beginning of the barley harvest, and after that on the fiftieth day they celebrated the Day of Pentecost for the beginning of the wheat harvest.

In Judaism, Pentecost was also associated with the renewal of the covenant made with Noah and then with Moses. In second-century Judaism the festival became associated with the giving of the law and the making of the covenant at Sinai.

In our Christian tradition, the day of Pentecost is associated specifically with the descent of the Holy Spirit on each believer and the believing community, and we celebrate it fifty days after Easter, the day of Jesus' resurrection.

At Easter, we reflect on the power of life that broke the power of death which brought the new life like the 'fristfruits.' Then at Pentecost, we see the beginning of the early harvest from the life that has been growing, nurturing and flourishing. That is to say, in the lives of the spirit-filled followers of Jesus, the powerful presence of the risen Jesus is manifested in every corner of the world.

Through the power of the Spirit, the kingdom of God has **already** come, through which we bear the kingdom fruits, but the full harvest is **yet to come**.

May God bless us so that we might be growing, nurturing and flourishing in the risen Jesus Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, with hope of the glory of God in His Kingdom.

*Barnabas Shin*

### **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

The Pastoral Care Group held its bimonthly meeting at the end of May and are relieved to report that most of our members are in reasonable health,



We have one very pleasant piece of news to share with the congregation – Lucy C has passed her Ballet Exam – RAD 1 with a High Merit. Warmest congratulations Lucy. I think most of us will remember how Lucy always loved to dance when she was a little girl and her success gives us a personal link with

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the Dancing School.

I hope that the lack of news of members is a good sign but would ask you all to remember all the church family in your prayers.



There are very few birthdays to celebrate in this issue of News – Taku T is 22 on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and Jean N is 90 on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Rosalie Brentnall



### ***Treasurer’s Report for March and April 2018***

The collection for the past two months (March and April) is given below. The average per week both for the whole of the year so far and for the whole of the previous year (2017) is given for comparison. In addition, a number of members given regular Standing Order donations which are not covered in this report. A further 25% is also claimed from the Revenue on top of the money given below and from the Standing Orders. If you are interested in giving through Standing Orders, please free to contact me.

	TOTAL	Loose	Envelopes
Per week March-April	188.67	41.59	147.08
Total 2019 so far	4,894.90	1,033.50	3,861.40
Per week 2019 so far	188.05	38.78	149.28

per week 2018	204.53	36.41	168.12
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*Kees Maxey*

### ***Mothering Sunday voices***

Three members of the congregation spoke during the service – two told us about their mothers, and one about her great-grandmother. They had grown up in three different countries – Malawi, England and South Africa and the stories were so interesting and inspiring that it was decided to share them with the Courier readers.

#### **Jean Tsingano's mother:**

Mother's Day, is a day when you get to show your mum how grateful you are, that she is in your life, and that you are thankful for the life she has given you.

I am unfortunate because I lost my mum when I was 23 years old but I am so grateful for the life she gave us. We were four children and I am the first born. She was the emotional backbone of the family. She provided the holding place for everyone 's feelings and did her best to keep us from being hurt.

She was a working woman. She worked so hard, and made sacrifices, so that our lives would be better. She would never want to see us lacking for anything, she would not even want to see us worrying. As kids, we would hurt her feelings in so many ways, especially my brother who was very naughty, but she would forgive him and love him in return and still loved us all.

She was a mother to us, and also to street people, poor and the needy. I remember that when she got paid, she would send me to a remote village, very far away, to meet someone - someone she just got to know from the street.

She would just give me a name. I would struggle to get there because of lack of transport, as it was too remote. Eventually, I would meet the person she wanted me to meet and I would bring groceries and clothes. Sometimes I would ask myself, why does mum bother with these people anyway? I didn't understand. But now, I know. It was love. She was a mother to any needy person. She taught me love which I try to teach kids too.

When she died, it was not only us kids and family who lost her, the poor lost her, the "nobody people" whom she valued most; missed her more.

My mum was very strict but her boundaries are the ones which made me a better person. Sometimes I didn't like some of her decisions, I hurt her sometimes when she said no to what I wanted. But I know she meant well and it was because she loved me more than anyone else. I wish I had the opportunity to tell her how much I appreciate her and thank her for making me who I am today.

So today, if you have a Mum, cherish her, and not just your mum: your mum can be anybody who cares for you.

**Carolyn Rudkin's mother:**

Phyllis was one of eight children. She lived in a village close to Clitheroe, Lancashire, for most of her life. She won a scholarship to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School but the family could not afford the uniform, so she didn't go. When she left school she trained as a tailoress and she was a fabulous one. She made coats, suits, dresses and wedding dresses (including mine). When she started a family she worked at home making clothes for the family, friends and people in the village. We were very lucky.

When Phyllis' mother died in 1943 she took her eldest brother, who had been deprived of oxygen at birth, into the family. He was happy being part of the family; he helped with the washing and washing up and took pride in polishing shoes and did small jobs for the neighbours and ran errands. Every Spring he would appear with a beautiful bunch of lilac for Phyllis – his way of saying thank you. We never got to know who let him pick them!

Wednesday was baking day – in an oven next to the fire. She made several cakes, pies, fruit tarts etc. A good portion of this went to another brother who wife was partially paralysed. She persuaded Stan (my Dad) to have an allotment. He was reluctant at first but soon loved it.

She was always active: she was a steward of the Methodist church, on every committee and acted as what we now call the church secretary, as well as teaching for a few years in Sunday School. She decided she wanted to be a teacher and went to night school for training. When she qualified she did a full term for a teacher at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School who was ill. Then she went full-time at Norden Secondary School until she retired.

Sadly, Stan died when he was 61 and Phyllis was a widow for 16 years until she died at 76 whilst having a pacemaker fitted.

### **Corne Van Staden's Great Grandmother:**

This story was told over generations and started with my great grandmother, Maggie Collins who left Scotland as a very small baby (no one knows exactly why other than it was overnight and they were fleeing from the "government"). They took a ship to South Africa where she

grew up and married an Afrikaans speaking farmer (Boer). This was the time of the Great Boer War and the story goes that as the English took over the farms (taking all cattle and burning the farm houses/crops); the woman, children and all female “help” were taken to concentration camps whilst the men (black & white) were fighting the “English” somewhere...



It so happened that my great grandmother was taken to such a camp with my grandfather who was still a very small baby. The Xhosa woman who helped my great grandmother, Maggie with her new born son (Albert), escaped when the “English” raided the farm. She did not run far and kept a safe distance, knowing where Maggie and Albert were taken. She came at night to visit them at the camp and when Maggie became seriously ill, this Xhosa woman (who had no other reason to be there other than her caring nature) helped sneak my grandfather Albert out of the camp.



She took him to the hills to her village where she raised him for quite a number of years until he was big enough to go to school. She decided (according to the story told) that he was a white boy needing to learn English and Afrikaans and could not stay with them forever.

My grandfather told my father of his experiences as a child, growing up in a “foster” home but going back to the Xhosa village as much as he could. He could speak fluent English, Afrikaans and Xhosa and later married an English woman.

My story is about MOTHERING and how this is more about caring and risking everything for those in need or in trouble across cultures, races, languages and differences.

*Sheila Maxey*

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**Commitment for Life** would love our partner churches or representatives from your church to join us and Christian Aid on **Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June**, when we come together with thousands of others in **London's Westminster**. The purpose is to celebrate our faith in action, lobby our politicians - to end the UK's contribution to climate change and pass ambitious laws that create a healthier environment for nature and people, especially those affected in the partner countries that *Commitment for Life* supports.

For further information please see the following link <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change/thetimeisnow>

If you are unable to join us, please could you send us a short note, of roughly 20 words of support, stating the name of your congregation and why you support this important campaign. If these could be sent to us at the address below, by Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, we will then have time to print them out and attach them to a banner.

If you are able to join us in person, for this unforgettable day of action, please do let us know, so we can co-ordinate meeting up etc.

*Suzanne Pearson*

**Administrative Assistant Commitment for Life | The United Reformed Church**, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT, 020 7916 8638  
[Suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk](mailto:Suzanne.pearson@urc.org.uk) | [www.cforl.org.uk](http://www.cforl.org.uk)

*A short update on Julia Driffill (Brian Driffill's daughter) who has completed the London Marathon in 4 hours and 23*

*min! Anyone who wishes to still donate please do so by donating to 'Whizz-Kidz' on Virgin Money Giving.*

### **A LITTLE BIT OF (CHURCH) HISTORY.....**

History was always my favourite subject at school and has continued to interest me all my life - family, political and church included. One of my responsibilities as Church Secretary has been to keep the church archives in order. Most of the recent records are in the office of course but the majority, going back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, are stored in the Essex Record Office and make very interesting reading. Sometimes I receive new additions from people (possibly because of older members passing away or moving or just having a clear out of long forgotten things) that add to the story of our church and bring a new light to scraps of information we may already have.

How many of you have noticed the inscription on the cross that stands on our Communion table? It was actually presented to the church by a Mr. A.J. Southgate and his wife on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. The Southgate family had strong connections to the church for many years and several of the family still live in Brentwood. In 1978, when he was 90 years old, Mr Southgate wrote an account of his life from his birth on 2nd July, 1888 in Norwich. The family moved to Brentwood during his early childhood and his little book gives a fascinating account of life in Brentwood over 100 years ago.

He tells us "On Sundays I went with my parents to the Congregational Church in New Road, and to the Sunday School which took place in the afternoons. The Minister at that time was the Rev. Walter Legerton, who remained in

the pastorate of the church for just over 50 years. There were no cars about the roads in those days, in fact I saw the first car come up the High Street. There was a man walking in front waving a red flag to warn people with horses to take care in case the horses were frightened and shied. I can remember as boys and girls we used to spin our tops in the middle of the High Street. After a time, this was stopped by law of the Council as being far too dangerous as a few more cars came on to the road.



We had no vandalism in my young days but two or three of us would have a 'lark' together when we had nothing else to do. We would tie the

knockers on the doors with a long string from one to the other from the beginning of a row of cottages in Queens Road (they are now demolished) to the end of the row and then return to the first house and knock on the door. When the door was opened of course it raised the knocker of the next house and so on. We would hide and watch the old ladies come to their doors one by one. Another pastime was to wrap a brick in a bag and attach it to a long piece of string and from an upstairs window lower the brick to the ground behind the back of somebody walking along carrying a basket of things. As the brick touched the ground we quickly pulled it back up to the window and watched the person look to see what they had dropped. Sometimes we would do the same thing with a penny.

There were no gramophones, radios or television, we had to make our own entertainment by singing and playing around the piano at home with my father helping with his violin. We would invite some of our friends in on Sunday evenings after church and have some very happy times, especially during the winter months when we couldn't get out for a walk. In the summer when we were able to go out, we would have a competition between ourselves to see who could collect the most different kinds of grasses or wild flowers". Childhood was very different in those days! Next time you will hear more about his very active life in the church.

*Jenny Mayo*

## **OUR CHARITABLE GIVING**

### **Kijumba school in Uganda.**

During March and April we raised **£1262.35** for 3 blackboards and 80 desks, plus a little extra, for a new rural primary school. We channelled the money through PENHA UK and thus to PENHA Uganda. We look forward, in due course, to receiving a report and photographs.

### **WaterAid**

During Lent some of us had 'jars for change' at home in which to put our loose change. We raised **£250.** Wateraid in their letter of thanks told us how a nearby source of clean water can transform a child's life both in terms of health and time and energy to go to school.

### **Christian Aid - Cyclone Idai emergency appeal**

In response to the devastating cyclone which affected Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe we gave **£230.** In

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their letter of thanks Christian Aid assured us it was working through partners on the ground to provide food, shelter, clothing, water, healthcare, sanitation and psycho-social support.

### **Christian Aid Week 12 – 18 May**

This year Christian Aid Week focussed on the great need in Sierra Leone for maternal health care. At our service on 12 May we heard of the appallingly high death rate in childbirth due to poverty and lack of health workers.

Christian Aid is working with local partners to train local health workers, and improve the hygiene of local facilities so birth of a baby can be a cause of rejoicing rather than dread and often grief. Although we no longer manage to collect house-to-house, through envelopes given out on three Sundays we collected **£ 542. 84**

### **Commitment for life**

In April we forwarded an **individual** gift of **£125** to Commitment for Life for its ongoing work.

In all the above, where-ever appropriate, gift aid was added and will be claimed back in the next tax year. Many thanks to all of you who gave so generously.

*Kees Maxey*

### **MONDAY GUILD**

In May we welcomed Mr David Sparks who spoke of his life in Brentwood. The talk was interspersed with favourite music and songs.

Our next meeting will be 10<sup>th</sup> June in the William Hunter room and then 8<sup>th</sup> July both at 2.30pm.

**COMMUNION AIMS FUND COLLECTION**

**The retiring offering for June 2019 is for The Gideons.**

In 1899 three commercial travellers in the USA formed an association of Christian businessmen. They chose the name Gideons after an Old Testament leader. Today, over 250,000 members work in 190 countries placing over 80 million copies of the word of God annually. The Gideons became established in Britain in 1949. The objective is to share God's message of salvation by personal witness and through placing bibles into people's hands.

***July 2019 is for the Moderator's Benevolent Fund***

The fund is used to bring particular help to people who find their resources stretched at times of need, sometimes for family reasons, and often because of ill health. Our gifts enable the Moderator to show the love and care of the synod to people going through times of difficulty.

**Prayer Calendar for June and July 2019**

Week beginning

June 3rd      Our environment and those who care for it.  
 The United Reformed Church (General Assembly begins June 6th).  
 The Church of England (General Synod begins June 6th).

June 10th     Prisoners and Prison Staffs

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PARC, our Commitment for Life Project.  
This church in the current vacancy period.
- June 17th Fathers and Families ( Father's Day today)  
Refugees and Asylum Seekers.  
Those who have been bereaved.
- June 24th Our armed forces and their chaplains.  
UK Methodist churches (Methodist  
Conference begins June 28th).  
Churches Together in Brentwood.
- July 1st Workers in Industry and Industrial  
Chaplains.  
Victims of torture and injustice.  
The URC Eastern Synod.
- July 8th The tourist industry and its employees.  
Users of our building.  
Baptist churches in our area
- July 15th The 10th Brentwood Brownies.  
Churches in rural areas.  
Roman Catholic Churches in our area.
- July 22nd Our local Council, its employees and officers.  
Coffee Shop.  
Methodist churches in our area
- July 29th Those who are persecuted for their faith.  
People who suffer from economic hardship  
Anglican Churches in our area.

**FATHERS DAY 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

**Fathers** are wonderful people  
Too little understood,  
And we do not sing their **praises**  
As often as we should...  
But **FATHERS** are just wonderful  
In a million different ways,  
And they merit loving **compliments**  
And accolade of praise,  
For the only reason Dad aspires  
To **fortune** and success  
Is to make the family proud of him  
And to bring them **HAPPINESS...**  
And like our Heavenly Father,  
He's a **guardian** and a guide,  
Someone that we can count on  
To be **always** on our side.

*Happy Fathers Day*

**DUTY ROTAS – JUNE 2019**

	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Steward</b>
2nd	Ian Davidson	Rosie Benjamin
9th	Sheila Maxey	Gabrielle Crowther
16th	Sally Bealey	Corne Van Staden
23rd	Rosalie Brentnall	Gordon Hanna
30th	Moses Tsingano	Mary Tate

	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>
2nd	Heather Davidson	Kees Maxey
9th	Lucy Crowther	Sally Bealey
16th	Markus Van Staden	Moses Tsingano
23rd	Josh Hanna	Rosie Benjamin
30th	Jenny Mayo	Linda Hanna

	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
2nd	TBC	Elaine Austin
9th	Elaine Austin	Margaret Cheer
16th	Gabrielle Crowther	Eileen Goult
23rd	Linda Hanna	Mary Tate
30th	Eileen Goult	Elaine Austin

**CHURCH CALENDAR – JUNE 2019**

**Sunday            2nd    10 am            Mrs Beryl Hunt**

Wednesday 5th 9.30 am Sacred Space  
2 pm URC Knitters

**Sunday 9th 10 am Rev Barnabas Shin**

Monday 10th 2.30 pm Monday Guild

Wednesday 12th 9.30 am Sacred Space

**Sunday 16th 10 am TBA**

Wednesday 19th 9.30 am Sacred Space  
2 pm URC Knitters

**Sunday 23rd 10 am Rev Barnabas Shin –**

**Holy Communion  
CHURCH MEETING**

Wednesday 26th 9.30 am Sacred Space

**Sunday 30th 10 am Mrs Faith Paulding**

**DUTY ROTAS – JULY 2019**

	<b>Vestry</b>	<b>Steward</b>
7th	Ian Davidson	Eileen Goult
14th	Sheila Maxey	Gabrielle Crowther
21st	Rosalie Brentnall	Gordon Hanna
28th	Sally Bealey	Markus Van Staden

	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Prayers of Intercession</b>
7th	Heather Davidson	Ian Davidson
14th	Lucy Crowther	Jenny Mayo
21st	Josh Hanna	Moses Tsingano

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28th	Markus Van Staden	Sally Bealey
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	<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
7th	Sally Bealey	Margaret Cheer
14th	TBC	Eileen Goult
21st	Elaine Austin	Mary Tate
28th	Gabrielle Crowther	Eileen Goult

**CHURCH CALENDAR – JULY 2019**

Wednesday	3rd	9.30 am 2 pm	Sacred Space URC Knitters
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Rev. Barnabas Shin</b>
Monday	8th	2.30 pm	Monday Guild
Wednesday	10th	9.30 am	Sacred Space
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Rev. Sheila Maxey</b>
Wednesday	17th	9.30 am 2 pm	Sacred Space URC Knitters
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>TBC</b> <b>NO JUNIOR CHURCH</b>
Wednesday	24th	9.30 am	Sacred Space
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Rev Barnabas Shin - with</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>NO JUNIOR CHURCH</b>
Wednesday	31st	9.30 am	Sacred Space

## ***THE COURIER***

The next issue of The COURIER for August/September 2019 will be available on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**All articles and content for publication of the COURIER should be sent to Corne Van Staden email: [hcvstaden@gmail.com](mailto:hcvstaden@gmail.com)**

If you have articles for inclusion please ensure that these are emailed to Corne as early as possible during the week commencing Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> July and before the final deadline of Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> July.

EDITOR            Corne Van Staden            

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PRINTING        Jenny Mayo

COLLATION & DISTRIBUTION    Jenny Mayo

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***BRENTWOOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH***

New Road, Brentwood, CM14 4GD

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

10:00 am Family Worship with Creche and Junior Church

Holy Communion is usually celebrated at Morning Worship on the last Sunday of each month.

Details of preachers and special events are given in the COURIER.

**EACH WEEK:**

Brownies: To be confirmed

WEDNESDAYS: 12:00pm Luncheon Club

FRIDAYS: 09:45am – 11:45am Coffee Shop

