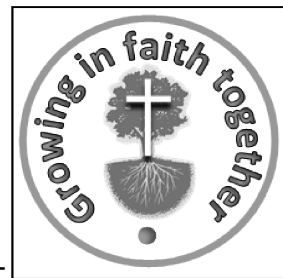


Unity

The Newsletter of Ealing Green Church

Ealing Green Church, The Green, Ealing, London W5 5QT



Ealing Green Church (Methodist & United Reformed)

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Open Tuesday – Friday 10am ~ 5pm

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~ Groups ~

Monday Fellowship: 2nd & 4th Mondays monthly at 1.45pm

Choir Practice: before and after the service each Sunday

Full details can be found in the weekly notice sheet

~ You are welcome to come to any meeting ~

March 2025

Welcome to the March issue of the Unity newsletter.

This issue's contents are listed below. Thank-you all for your contributions.

**Closing date for contributions for the April 2025 issue is
March 15th.**

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Front page:

A lovely picture of early flowers in Pitshanger Park from Helen

If you have any pictures relevant to the time of year or some other event, please let me have them. Ideally a .jpg file.

Thanks, Lee

A conversation with Joseph Heller

"Joe, you know, this hedge fund manager makes more money in a single day than Catch-22 has made in its entire history."

Heller, without missing a beat, replied, "That may be true, but I have something he will never have."

His friend asked, "What's that?"

Heller grinned and said, "Enough."

Reported by Kurt Vonnegut

From Sue

Dear Friends

Warning – this letter requires you to respond!

Has it got to March already?

Did you manage – unlike me- to put some “New Years-ish Resolutions” in place as I suggested in the February letter?

I hope you did, but if you didn't then we are about to have the whole of Lent for that kind of self reflection that brings us closer to God, and helps us to discern his will for us and for our lives.

I imagine my Lent will be about getting myself back to being fit and healthy after being slowed down physically, and engaging in comfort eating after my little accident in January which damaged my ribs. I hope to eat healthily again, to return to Yoga, and to manage my daily 12 000 steps again.

Spiritually I am going to receive five weeks of accompanied prayer so that I can talk with somebody about my prayer and be challenged to grow through the readings and activities that they give me to pray with. I will probably do other things too, but those are the ones I have planned specially for this season.

If you read my February letter, I will not need to explain to you that I think the seasons of the church are wonderful for our progress with God – after all they have been put there for us after years of discernment about what might be helpful to people in their Christian journeys.

What are you going to do – or give up if you like – for Lent this year?

Here are some things that you might want to engage with – with me. Whoever you are, there should be something you could engage in, and I will help you to do so!

Attending a Lent group at the Manse

Watching the film “The Way” together in three parts, and reflecting on its journey and our journey with Phil Male and myself.

We will be doing this between 4.30 and 6.30pm on Sundays March 9th, 16th and April 13th. We would love you to join the conversation, but please let us know you are coming so that we know that we can fit you in.

Joining the Monday morning Bible Study Group for Lent.

We are currently studying Isaiah. I sent out notes about the chapters we will be looking at each week, so you will be able to slot in. We don't plan specifically in advance, but only for the upcoming session since we never quite know how much we will cover in a session

Our sessions before Easter are on Monday March 3rd, 17th and April 7th. We meet in the Parlour at the back of Ealing Green Church between 11.00 and 12.30pm.

Join us on Zoom on the Friday mornings in Lent at 10.30

At this time we pray for the needs of individuals and community, and we also look together at the coming Sunday's Gospel reading. We use the lectionary readings for this. This worked wonderfully as an Advent Group in Advent, and I think will be just as rewarding in Lent. You are welcome to join us but will need to contact me to be added to the weekly email list.

A conversation about your prayer

This is, as I have said, what I am going to engage in for myself this Lent. When did you last have a conversation with somebody about your own prayer life? About how to explore new ways of praying, or to continue growing with well-worn ones? About starting to pray? About how to pray?

Everyone is different. We could all benefit to giving some time to prayer – to growing our relationship with God, to exploring how to be more for him.

I am offering to have a conversation over Lent with anyone who wants it. Email me now – or leave a message on my phone, or just ask when you see me. Let me know if you would like to have a one to one conversation – or meet with others in a group to explore prayer together. It's just a pastoral conversation. Contact me, and we will find a good time to meet. It is definitely the option for you if you think you don't know how to pray! If you love prayer you will already know that it is also for you!

Reading Timothy Keller's "PRAYER – Experiencing awe and intimacy in prayer."

That is my book for Lent. If it interests any of you let me know and we can talk about it together. I chose it because I thought it might suit one of our number, and therefore now have to read it myself. Again

just be in touch if you are interested so that we can work follow up around you.

If you have read this far, now decide what YOU are going to do. If it is one of the above be in contact.

If something different also let me know. When we share what we do, others grow with us, and we grow through their responses to our sharing.

With prayers and Blessings and an eagerness to hear from you all

Sue ***revsuefemale@gmail.co***

News of the Church Family

Ela Trail is back home and recovering following her knee replacement. She is being looked after by members of her family, particularly her son Peter.

We were delighted to welcome back **Aileen Cunningham** to Church after several months absence as she recovered from a nasty fall. We have missed you Aileen!

Sue Male has almost recovered from a small accident she had five weeks ago which damaged her ribs. It has been slow but she is now fortunately experiencing less pain.

Jean Rose had another fall recently and continues to struggle with pain and limited movement. However she managed to get to Church last Sunday, brought by her son Bernard. It was lovely to see them both. (See also a picture on page 17).

Barbara Hawkins has had a number of hospital appointments recently. She is on the waiting list for a ground floor flat which would enable her to get outside once again. We hope this will not take too long. Belated congratulations Barbara, on becoming a great grandmother at the end of January!

John Axbey is bright and cheerful and doing well; he is now able to walk about inside the house. He continues to be well looked after by his wife **Margaret**, as well as several carers calling each day.

My hip replacement was postponed from February to Friday 7th March for my benefit, so that my surgery would be on a weekday rather than at the weekend. There are now questions about which type of

anaesthetic I should have, but I hope nothing delays the surgery taking place this time!

Congratulations to **Deb** who is now Granny to another little one. **Beth and Luke** have a baby boy, **Daniel William**. Our Love and congratulations to them too! All are doing well.

Congratulations to **Helen & Bob Wormald** who will be celebrating their **66th Wedding Anniversary** on Friday. They are both doing well. They continue to be well looked after by their daughter, Kate, and Marta their carer.

Congratulations to **Nyarai Gondo** who has been Head of Nursing at St Marks Hospital for over a year but has just had another interview, this time for **Associate Chief Nurse** at St. Marks and been given the position! Well done Nyarai! So pleased for you
It is always good to share good news as well as our concerns.

We pray for all those mentioned above as well as anyone else in our Church Family who may be struggling at the moment for any reason. We pray that we will all be aware of God's presence with us and receive His comfort and strength for the days ahead.

Gill Hatherall

A Picture I came across showing Ealing in the old days (or maybe the future):

Cybermen standing at the bus stop in 1967.

(Note Ealing Green in the background)





Letters, Emails and Texts.

From the office:

Hello everybody

I do hope you are keeping well? Amanda, one of our Trustees, is a volunteer for the MacMillan Cancer Awareness Project, and has been sent this information regarding free NHS lung checks. I put this information below for you, please contact the NHS directly if this is of interest to you. You might be interested to know that I recently took part in a telephone questionnaire from the NHS as part of this programme, and it was very easy to do. Depending on your answers, they may refer you for further tests.

Dear Champion,

I hope this email finds you well, please see below email about the Lung Health Check Programme in Ealing, NHS programme. Please feel free to share it with your friends and family.

I am reaching out to request your support in raising awareness about Lung Health Checks in Ealing. The Lung Health Check programme in Ealing is an NHS initiative aimed at the early detection of lung conditions, including cancer, among residents. These checks are now available for self-referral, providing an opportunity for early detection and intervention for those at risk of lung disease.

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify for a free Lung Health Check, individuals must:

- ✓ Be registered with a GP in Ealing
- ✓ Be aged 55-74
- ✓ Be a current or former smoker

Ed. note: For obvious reasons I cannot recommend this NHS initiative enough. If you have any questions, please, please let me know Lee

Never argue with someone whose TV is bigger than their bookshelf.

Emilia Clarke

From Gill Hatherall

Blister packs.

Thank you for saving your blister packs and bringing them to Church.

For the last few years I have then been taking them to Superdrug, where they are recycled and the proceeds go to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Superdrug now do not like to receive a large bag full but are happy to take small individual bags. Partly because of this and partly because I will be out of action for a few months, I will not be taking any more blister packs.

I note on Superdrug website it does not say that any donation goes to Marie Curie now. They still do recycle them as do Boots who also have a collection box. So please continue to save them but take them yourselves in future.

Thank you.

Gill

First Aid Course.

The Pastoral group have arranged a First Aid Course, for:

Thursday 8th May 7 30 - 9pm in the Parlour

Our trainer will be Carrie Reid. This is run by the Red Cross and is free as it is felt that it will be a benefit to the community. I think we should give a donation to the Red Cross if you agree, but more of that nearer the time.

Our numbers will be limited due to limited space in the parlour. If you would like to attend please would you send me an email by the end of March. If not many people respond, I will open it up to Kingsdown. If you do not have internet please ask someone to send an email on your behalf. My email is: gillhatherall@gmail.com

I am asking you to send an email as after my surgery I will not be at Church for a while, but I can always look back at emails as I recover, whereas with a phone call or word of mouth I may forget!!

Carrie sounds very pleasant and is recommended by Jane and Lee who attended a similar training course run by her, as leaders in the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter.

Gill Hatherall

Unity

It has come to my attention that this newsletter is not getting to everyone possible. If you know of anyone who doesn't receive this and would like to receive it electronically, either attached to an email or via a link to a more readable medium, let me know. I would love to add you/them to the distribution. Please let me know on

Unitymagazine@hotmail.com.

Ealing Green's Night Shelter 'shift' of seven weeks, from the beginning of January until the middle of February, has come to an end. We have thanked all of the many volunteers for making it such a success. It is a tribute to the church member volunteers and those with little or no connection to the church who have all contributed to helping us do what we can to fight back against the debilitating situation that is homelessness. We are grateful for all of their contributions.

Apart from that, we had an illuminating talk on Israel, Gaza and the West Bank from the Revd David Hardman at the end of January, which was just after I had emailed out February's issue of Unity. I didn't take notes, so the last few weeks, when the night shelter 'shift' was coming to an end, I eventually, managed to put the enclosed article together. I have emailed the draft to The Reverend, but not given him much time to respond, so if he has any significant comments I will update you in future issues. For what I have determined so far, see page 11.

Next month is Lent and, apart from any personal sacrifices you may be considering, there is a chart, from our local foodbank with an appeal to be considered over Lent. See page 16 for further details.

Lastly it was a pleasure to see Richard Goldstraw in church on the 23rd February. There were also a couple of others who we don't see/haven't seen for some time. Turn to page 17 for the pictures.

We are presently catching up with life after the work for the Night Shelter, gathering up the washed bed linen, sorting the blankets and towels and preparing to put everything into store for next year. So if you volunteered this year, many thanks. If you would like to volunteer for next year, please let us know.

God bless you

Following a lecture from Rev David Hardman

On Sunday 25th January, we were treated to a really informative lecture on the situation in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza by the Rev

David Hardman, who is one of the Methodist Liaison Office Staff based in Jerusalem.

He talked us through the situation in Israel, with particular emphasis, in the light of the conflict there, on Gaza.

It was a sobering

evening during which Rev Hardman went through the development of the situation over the last 80 odd years.

His observations on the approach that Israel is taking towards the Palestinians referred to the status quo before the recent outbreak of murder and taking of hostages by Hamas.

A brief background:

1. The Land of Palestine: A Brief Overview

Palestine is a geographical region located in the Eastern Mediterranean, bordered by modern-day Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon. It is part of the broader area known as The Levant, which has been a crossroads of various civilizations throughout history.

Before 1948, Palestine was home to a diverse population of Arabs, Jews, and Christians, as all groups had religious ties to the area, especially the city of Jerusalem. The land itself was under the control of various empires, such as the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, and eventually the Islamic Caliphate and the Ottoman Empire.

2. The British Mandate and the Rise of Nationalism

In the aftermath of World War I, the League of Nations granted Britain a mandate to administer Palestine. The British Mandate aimed to



establish a "national home for the Jewish people" while also protecting the rights of the Arab majority. However, tensions between the Arab and Jewish communities began to rise, leading to widespread unrest and violence.

During the British Mandate, the idea of a separate Jewish and Arab state was proposed multiple times. However, these proposals were met with opposition from both communities, making it difficult for the British authorities to find a solution to the growing unrest.

3. The Creation of Israel and the 1948 Palestine Conflict

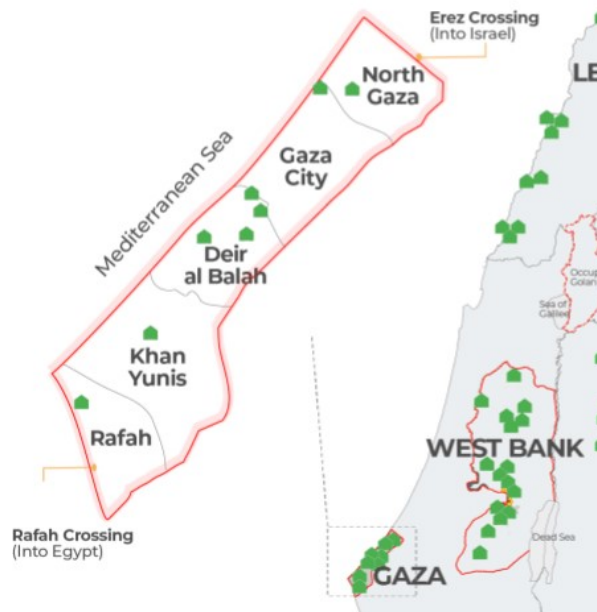
In 1947, the United Nations proposed the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as an internationally administered city. While the Jewish community largely accepted this plan, the Arab community rejected it, leading to the outbreak of civil war.

On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established, marking the end of British rule in Palestine. This event triggered the first Arab-Israeli War, involving neighbouring Arab countries, which ultimately led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs.

Since then, as you can see from the maps, the Israeli state and the Jewish settlements (illegal according to international law) have proliferated. They have forced many Palestinians off their land with the encouragement and enforcement of the Israeli government.

The number of Palestinians have reacted to the Israeli government's policies since 2008, when settlement accelerated. In this time, over 5,700 Palestinians have been killed. There have also been some casualties on the Israeli side. Remember, the Israeli settlers, with the backing of the Israeli army are taking over, illegally in the sight of international law, Palestinian land. Of the 251 deaths over the same period on the Israeli side, roughly half are Israeli soldiers. This an unequal battle with might definitely on the Israeli side. A ratio of roughly 23 Palestinians killed for each Israeli is an unfortunate comparison that comes up again and again.

Gaza



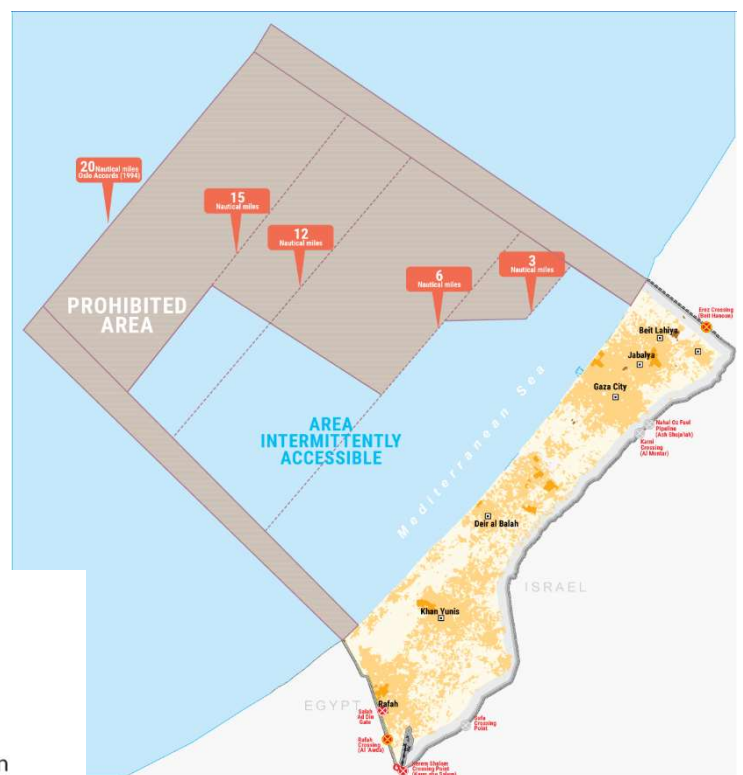
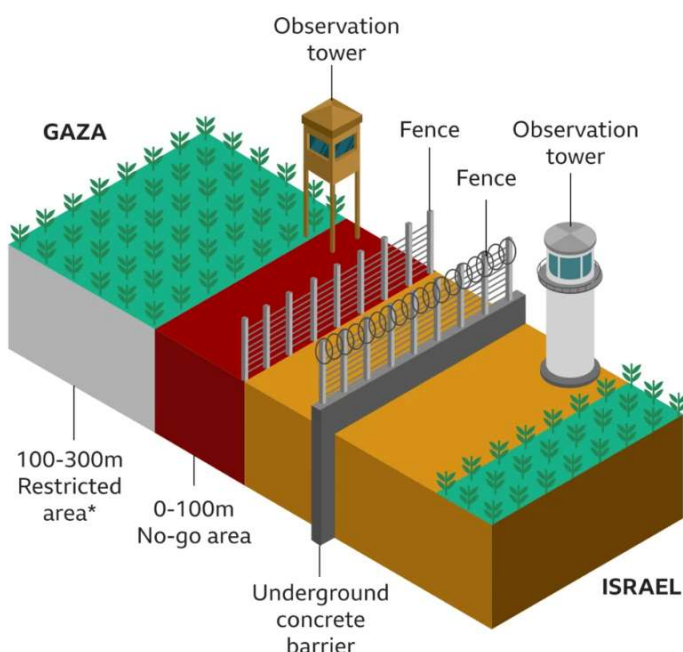
Gaza is a small strip of land bordering the eastern Mediterranean and, in Donald Trump's imagination could be a Riviera with hotels and beaches and so on. In fact it has been described as the largest open air prison in the world.

The sea forms one side of Gaza, but local fishermen are only allowed to fish in the areas shown in the picture below. This limitation is rigidly

enforced by the Israeli navy. Not unsurprisingly, this considerably limits the ability of Gazan fishermen to obtain enough fish to feed the population.

On the land sides of Gaza, the Israelis have built a border fence

Israel's border fence with Gaza



that belies the simple name 'fence'. As you can see from the diagram, this is a barrier that would make the Berlin wall look like an amateur construction. On the Gazan side there is a 100-300 metre restricted area, which can be easily monitored from the observation towers and then a

100metre 'no-go' area before we come to the two fences, which are enough to deter anyone. The fence on the Israeli side is built on an underground concrete barrier which has been installed to make tunnelling impossible. There are a few breaks in the wall which are manned by Israeli soldiers effectively limiting any ingress and egress of people and vehicles to and from Gaza. In the case of any security alert, these checkpoints are simply closed, stopping the flow of all people and, more importantly essential supplies, until the Israelis see fit to open them again.

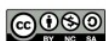
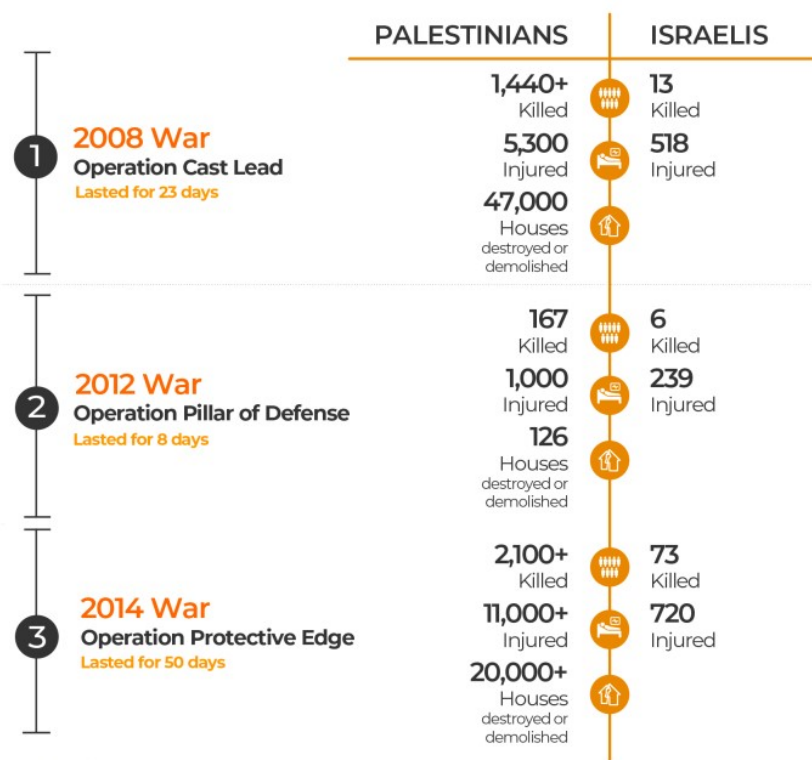
This means that Gaza is effectively shut off from the rest of the world – despite the 1993 Oslo Accords, signed by Israel, that stated that Israel must treat the Palestinian territories as one political entity, not to be divided.

The unfortunate phrase that comes to mind about Israeli actions against Gaza is that of shooting fish in a barrel. The chart here is from Al Jazeera. You may question Al Jazeera's view on this, but my experience of Arab-Palestinian relations is that this is a true reflection of the use of might that the Israelis exercise.

Hammas

After the attempts by the US and Israel to negotiate with some chosen (by the US and Israel) 'representatives' of the people of Gaza in 2006, there was a general election. Those who could vote rejected the attempt of the US and Israel to pick who they negotiated with on behalf of the Palestinians – and resoundingly elected Hammas as their 'government'. As the US and Israel refused to discuss the situation with the elected representative, Hammas, the 'negotiations' predictably failed . So there followed the 2008 war,

ISRAEL/PALESTINE Assaults on Gaza



Source: Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor

followed by the 2012 war, the 2014 war and, the presently unresolved situation.

Hammas, a truly reprehensible organisation, reacting, as they see it, to the injustices of the last decade and half, and wanting to bring the slow death of Gaza to the world's attention, carried out the massacre or roughly 1,200 people and the taking of 250 hostages on 7th October 2023. There are claims that the Israeli high command were aware of Hammas' preparations and let it proceed so that it would lead to an excuse to try to rid Gaza of Hammas altogether.

Whatever happened, the instant and continuing destruction of lives and infrastructure, over 47,000 killed to date, in Gaza is a frightening statistic and, with escape routes out of Gaza closed to any would-be refugees we come to the 'shooting fish in a barrel' concept.

Gaza is now, although no external independent journalists are allowed in by the Israelis to report on the true situation, virtually a moonscape and largely uninhabitable. Although the Israelis have more recently allowed some relief trucks to enter Gaza, their grip on the area amounts to a stranglehold that they can tighten at will. Even now the Israeli government is threatening the resumption of the war.

The situation appears unlikely to improve in the near future as the chief negotiator, the US, with its current President, appears anything but impartial. He has given Israelis encouragement with talk of moving the entire population of Gaza, some 2 million people, out to an undefined destination.

It is hard to see how this could be acceptable (it has already been rejected by much of the world) to the Palestinians.

And so the conflict will continue.

Abba Eban, a distinguished Israeli Foreign Minister once said 'You only make peace by talking to your enemies'

Lee

I have tried to reflect the part of David's talk related to Gaza, with some additional graphics I have found. I have avoided his discussion on the West Bank as that would take up more than we can fit in this month's issue of Unity. I hope it doesn't come across as biased, not least because my family sympathies have a basis in my father's family being Jewish. Whatever my views of the Israeli government I would hope to be strongly against any anti-Semitism.

Lee

LENT 2025

Join us to pray for Ealing Foodbank each week this Lent



Prefer to receive this as a weekly email? Sign up on ealing.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/lent/ or by scanning the qr code.



5 MARCH

Isaiah 58

Is not his the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Pray

As we fast and pray this Lent, soften our hearts to better understand the difficulties many of our neighbours face in their daily lives. We pray especially for those foodbank users who are suffering and stuck in systems of injustice.

Consider donating some of our most needed items



10 MARCH

Deuteronomy 26

Then we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

Pray

We lift up all of those who are oppressed and excluded from our society. In your mighty power we pray that you would bring justice in our borough and bring foodbank users out of the situations that cause them physical, emotional and financial hardship.

A prayer for justice by Ronald Rolheiser



17 MARCH

Psalms 27

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling: he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

Pray

Protect us God when we're scared, when we're in trouble or in danger. We pray for your protection to cover all of our community, especially the most vulnerable. Help us to know when we can protect those around us and help us to act.

Give Today allows you to donate food to us online



LENT 2025

24 MARCH

John 17 - Jesus prays

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one...As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

Pray

Thank you Lord for giving us the job of taking care of our earth and our community. Help us to know how to care for those around us. We pray for Ealing foodbank as they care for their neighbours, for their staff and volunteers.

Volunteer at Ealing Foodbank



31 MARCH

Luke 15

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Pray

We pray for ourselves and for our society. Give us your perfect mercy and compassion so that we can show compassion to others. We pray for the foodbank, that people would find relief, compassion and mercy when they come to the foodbank.

Scan the code to see a video and prayer on Luke 15



7 APRIL

Psalms 126

Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

Pray

We pray for all of those who weep and mourn, who hunger because they have no food. In your mercy, provide Ealing foodbank users with what they need and let them walk with joy.

You can give financially to Ealing Foodbank



HOLY WEEK

Isaiah 42

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice: he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.

Pray

Help us to continue to work for holy justice in this world. Give us strength and hope to never give up.

EASTER

Christ is Risen!

Join us to continue praying for the foodbank as we celebrate hope, joy and life overcoming death.

An Easter prayer from the foodbank.



Visitors to church on the 23rd of February

It was lovely to have Richard Goldstraw back again on the 23rd as the preacher and good to see him as he recovers from a recent illness. We wish him well and continued recovery.

We were also happy to welcome a rare appearance of Jean Rose.



Jean has been unwell for some time now and in considerable pain, so it was lovely to see her and to wish her well.



We were also paid a visit with Rolo, accompanied by Helen. He's fairly familiar with the church now as he's a regular at the Tuesday coffee mornings in which he helps Helen establish a welcoming atmosphere.



Ealing Symphony Orchestra

ESO members, the Voice Section, and friends perform music for smaller ensembles

Saturday, 22 March 2025 • 7.30pm
St Mary's, Perivale Lane, UB6 8SS

Free entry with retiring collection

ealingso.org.uk



Chamber Music Soirée

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter

It's over for another year. Ealing Green's volunteers provided a welcome, beds, meals and companionship to 14 homeless people every Thursday for seven weeks from 2nd January to 13th February this year.



It is a testament to the goodness of people who helped to make this a success again this year. Some of those volunteers are members of the church, some with only a tenuous relationship to the church, and some who, apart from the night shelter have no relationship to the church at all. All worked closely together.

On their arrival guests were welcomed with the offer of a cup of tea or coffee prior to being let into the main hall, where the Early Shift team had erected, and made up their beds. Shortly afterwards those in the kitchen presented the guests with a meal they had prepared, grace was said and everyone sat down together and enjoyed the food and companionship.

After the meal the guests either took up the opportunity for a refreshing shower, read, took part in some of the board games or, as many have had exhausting days, retired to bed to read/check their phones or simply to go to sleep. By the time of lights out many were already fast asleep.

In the morning those who hadn't showered took their turn. The guests dismantled the beds and, mostly, sorted the blankets, mattress protectors, bed linen and towels into their respective piles for later washing by yet more volunteers. Breakfast was provided by the Morning Crew, after which the beds and pillows/duvets were loaded into the cars for onward transportation, by yet more volunteers, to the next venue.

Marie, the social worker associated with the night shelter, has had a busy time helping the various guests in their quest to find permanent accommodation or papers or job applications or other documentation so that they can get on with their lives. It is a thankless task and much credit must go to her for her efforts.

It is a privilege for us to work with our volunteers. We thank them for all their efforts and hope they will be able to help again next year.

Lee & Jane

From the Methodist Church - Ministry during war

Feb 2025:

When the invasion of Ukraine began three years ago, millions of people became refugees as they sought safety from the war. Some of them stayed within Ukraine, moving to the west of the country where many were supported by Yulia Starodubets, a pastor with the United Methodist Church there.



Since the start of the war, Yulia has been sharing her experiences with the Methodist Church in Britain. Here, she offers her reflections after three years of conflict. Her ministry is the management of the social and spiritual centre of the United Methodist Church in Ukraine, operating two shelters for internally displaced people.

After three years of war we get tired, but it's hard to complain about it, because people who are on the battlefield, they're the ones who are really tired.

In the first year of the war we had a confidence that it would not last long, three months, six months, a year? Now the mood is not so optimistic. When you drive through Ukraine, you can see the graveyards where the burial places of soldiers are marked by Ukrainian flags. You just can see how the number of flags grows. In our society, we see injured people. Each of us has personal stories related to the war, we have church members, we have relatives and friends who are fighting.

During the first six months of the war, the situation was urgent and we provided shelters. The shelters were usually short term, we gave people a place to stay, food, clothes and helped with documents. Now things are much quieter



but we still have people coming. We have people who need a permanent shelter, not just for a couple of days or one week or one month, but people who need to stay somewhere for longer. At the beginning of the war, we had spaces in our church and in a school for around 120, now we are renting space that allows around 80 displaced people to have a home.

All those who are touched by the war, they pray, they want to approach God. We listen to the soldiers. They ask our churches to pray, praying for protection, for the end of the war, for the justice of peace. Last Christmas we preached about hope, and we continue preaching about hope in our churches. We need to keep our hope that God will bring His peace and His light into what feels increasingly like a place of darkness. When we help people who are not necessarily religious, we still offer them spiritual healing. We offer people in the shelters Bible studies and invite them to our church services. We do not force, but we offer them love and patience.

We still have people from eastern Ukraine whose homes were bombed out. We have people whose villages were occupied in the first days of the war and those whose homes were flooded when Russia bombed a hydro-electric power station.

Our prayers are for a just peace.

A prayer for Ukraine, shared by Yulia

Lord, we lift Ukraine into Your hands.

Bring peace to this land torn by war.

Protect soldiers defending their homes, give them strength and courage, and guide the government with wisdom and integrity.

Comfort prisoners of war—may they not be forgotten but treated with mercy.

Heal the wounded, strengthen the weary, and provide for those who have lost everything.

Keep civilians safe from harm, shelter the displaced, and bring relief to the suffering.

Soften hearts, open doors for reconciliation, and let justice prevail.

Fill Ukraine with hope, faith, and restoration.

We trust in Your power, Lord.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

A poem and a note from Helen

I recently found a little book in a Charity Shop, of poems written by a young Palestinian poet called Mosab Abu Toha, describing in detail what it is like living in Gaza during the war. They are so moving, I had difficulty in choosing one to send to Unity. Here is a short one :

Rescue Plane

I wish I had a rescue plane
to fly over Gaza
to drop wheat flour and tea bags,
tomatoes and cucumbers,
to remove the rubble of the houses,
to retrieve the corpses of my loved ones.

I wish for a second rescue plane
to drop flowers for children--
the ones still alive—to plant
on the graves of their parents and siblings
in the streets or schoolyards.

The wish behind the wish ?

I wish there were no planes at all
I wish there were no war.
I wish we never had to wish.

Thanks to Helen for this

The note: I am willing to lend the book to anyone who is interested to read the poems from Gaza.

Helen

When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive – to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.

Marcus Aurelius

Collection Point

CHINHOYI CLINIC

Chinhoyi is a small farming and mining town situated a hundred and twenty kilometres north of Harare, the



Zimbabwean capital. About 100 000 people call it home. A beautiful small and quiet place to live in, all things being equal.

But nothing is equal in Zimbabwe at the moment, besides poverty and hunger and disease! Zimbabwe has the highest inflation rate in the world (546% in 2024). It has a very high percentage of orphans in the world too. HIV prevalence is one of the highest globally. Life expectancy rate is one of the lowest, 37 years for women and 34 years for men. Food, fuel and clean water are always in short supply.

Added to all this is a poor and miserable economy and a collapsed public healthcare system. Hospitals are understaffed, most of the qualified health professionals are leaving in large numbers to countries with better opportunities and livelihoods.

There is one doctor per 10 000 people in Zimbabwe [in the UK, by comparison, there are 32]. There are no basic diagnostic tools in most government hospitals and clinics. Basic medicines like paracetamol are not readily available in most hospitals, and very expensive when available. The only option available for sick people is to seek help at private clinics which are very expensive and beyond the reach of the majority. The British Medical Journal ranks Zimbabwe worst in the world in health. The World Health Organisation places Zimbabwe at the bottom of the list of 191 nations.

It is against this background that the Chinhoyi Clinic was started and now operates. Hundreds of people die daily from diseases that are preventable or curable with simple medication. We are very grateful that, with the help of our partner, Ealing Green, we are playing our part, albeit small and insignificant, to redress this dire scenario.

The Chinhoyi Clinic offers primary health care services (outpatients consultations, sutures, dressings, antenatal clinic, post-natal clinic, family planning, HIV/AIDS testing and treatment etc.) but also offers assistance to more people than the local government hospitals.

The picture shows Chiredzi, Zimbabwe. Cholera patients are being treated under a tree. Zim continues to sink to unbelievable depths.



We have recently constructed a labour and maternity wing to help a few expecting mothers safely deliver their babies. We are still procuring the needed equipment. Unfortunately this takes time because we have to import most of the things. Currently the clinic assists over a hundred clients daily, that with three nurses and a visiting doctor who serve for next to nothing in wages.

Ealing Green Church has helped put some respectability on the salaries of the dedicated staff over the years. For many years our prayer has been for the Zimbabwean situation to improve but for now it seems like the more we pray the more the country continues to sink. Most people have become hopeless. We are trying the best to treat the few we can, but resources are at the barest minimum. The clinic desperately needs financial support to buy medicines and pay salaries. The small consultation fee charged at the clinic can only cover a few expenses. The community relies on the clinic for its medical needs and attention. We therefore are appealing for financial assistance and sponsorship to keep this ministry running. We are grateful for the help we have received from Ealing Green for the past years.

May God continue to bless you all.

Please give generously – they certainly need our help at the moment.

Thank you and God bless you

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March (TBA)

March	Time	Preacher	Prayers	Reader	Set-up	Welcome	Flowers	Coffee
2 nd	11:00							
9 th	11:00							
16 th	11:00							
23 rd	11:00							
30 th	11:00							

Notes:

Tax collection and valuations:

To collect taxes, Christian IV of Denmark asked Captains of ships crossing the Øresund to estimate the value of their cargo, which was applied as the tax base without further audit. But the king also claimed the right to buy the entire cargo at exactly that price.

There's a similar fact about reforms in Guatemala to try to take some power away from the United Fruit Company. The government nationalized many of the lands owned by the company, but they paid them the full value of the lands. How did they figure out the value of the lands? Well, it was the declared value that the company said that the land was worth for the purpose of calculating the taxes they owed on the land. Turns out, surprise, surprise, they were underreporting the true value to evade taxes!