

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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Contributions to Unity: unitymagazine@hotmail.com

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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 ~

June 2025

Welcome to the June issue of the Unity newsletter.

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

**Closing date for contributions for the July/August 2025 issue is
June 18th.**

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Front page:

Ealing Common – on a lovely spring afternoon

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

Books are a form of political action.

Books are knowledge

Books are reflection

Books change your mind

Toni Morrison

From Sue:

Hello everyone

Lee suggested that if I did not have time to write a letter for Unity this month – things are certainly a bit pushed! – then could Phil do it? What a wonderful idea! I often wondered what husbands were for – now I know, and I also know that Phil HAS done it, though I don't know what he has written! I hope he hasn't suggested changing everything that happens at EG! I wonder what else I could get Phil to do for me?

May is like a month just whizzing by. I was on retreat last week which was fabulous and refreshing. A chance to be with God and spend quality time. Do you manage to give God quality time?

This week has had 2 church councils in it – all the emails from last week as well as this week ... and those which pre-empt my second absence this month as I visit my parents in the third week of May. On top of this, this is candidating season and I have been accompanying 3 candidates for ministry this year. This involves about 10 hours over the month of May with each of them individually. I am not moaning though. It is lovely to hear their sense of call, their enthusiasm, their different ways of thinking, and their love of God. ... and then there is the normal pastoral work as well .. or some of it ...

I am sure there are many dates to put in your diary, but I'll name just a few:

16th June 11am in the lounge

Bible Study this term will be looking at 2nd Isaiah.

22nd June after church

Please come to our quarterly church meeting so that you know what is going on, and can give your own insights and ideas

6th July after church

Come and join a group to take part in a local arrangement service which will take place on 3 August. Please especially come if you have never done this before. It is a lovely thing to do, and helps to build the church community. We will plan a service together with the aim of building our community around the centre of our God. It's

also my excuse to get to know you all better. Please also come if you have led before. You will be essential!

And that's it – short and sweet, but supplemented by Phil.

Prayers and Blessings for you all

Sue

News of the Church Family

Our love, sympathy and prayers for **Lee and Jane Horwich** and all their family, on the death of Lee's Mum, **Jem**, who passed away peacefully, aged 98 years, on 9th May. Jem was the oldest member of our Church Family.

A Thanksgiving service for her life will take place at Ealing Green Church on Friday 27th June at 12 30 pm. All are welcome to attend the service and are asked to wear colourful clothing! If you plan to come please let Lee know. May Jem rest in peace and rise in glory.

Barbara Hawkins is moving to a different flat in a nearby block, which has a lift and so it will make it possible for Barbara to get out and about once again. However this will be a big upheaval for Barbara which includes having to downsize so we pray for strength for Barbara at this time.

We continue to pray for **Colleen Hicks** who is still being looked after in Clayponds Hospital. She has had the plaster removed but her hand is still swollen and bruised and she is unable to grip anything including a walking aid, so her mobility is very limited.

Please pray for **Helen Wormald** who is making progress with her walking as her balance improves, following her fall two months ago. We also pray for her husband **Bob** and daughter Kate.

Hema Souri Parsons had a short stay in hospital following an episode of vertigo last week. We give thanks that she has recovered well.

We pray that **Edwin Owen** will have planned surgery on 17th June, having had it postponed on at least two occasions.

Nyarai Gonda would be grateful for our prayers as on 2nd June she starts her new job as Associate Chief Nurse for London North West

University Healthcare Trust, which comprises Northwick Park, Ealing, Central Middlesex and St Mark's Hospitals.

Please pray for all young people taking exams at the moment, especially **Mariah King** and **Felix Kloetgen** from our Church Family.

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

Gill Hatherall



Letters, Emails and Texts.

Dear All

I had planned to begin our Bible Study on Second Isaiah on Monday June 2nd. Unfortunately I cannot now be there on that Monday morning, I will therefore have to delay the start of the Bible Study to 16th June 11am at Ealing Green.

Apologies for that. It does mean I don't need to rush an email out to you now to tell you which chapters we will be looking at. I will do that when I get back from visiting my parents.

Please let others know.

Thanks

Sue

Church BBQ

This is to give you plenty of time to find your umbrellas, raincoats and wellies:

There will be a church BBQ at Lee & Jane's in the afternoon on Saturday 6th September. Please let us know if you are going to come so we can make sure there is enough for everyone.

Unity

It's been quite a few weeks through May. The weather, always a talking point, has been unseasonably warm and dry, except for a couple of days, which only made the point more clear. The family has gone through, and is going through quite an upheaval as I write and the summer is beckoning.

Over the last few weeks we have had several visits from family and friends from overseas. With only one small exception they have all enjoyed warm, sunny and rain-free stays in London. The old image of London being foggy and wet are long gone and the general reaction of some of them was surprise at the climate. Oh, and the politeness of Londoners. It was lovely to hear how much our visitors noticed and appreciated the politeness of people on the trains and tubes and in the street. We were regaled by stories of incidents when people stood aside to let the family, with the pushchair, on to the train or an escalator. Apparently this doesn't happen where they live and it all added to their enjoyment of being here.

They have gone now and we are drawing breath before another long time (they'd be upset if I called them 'old') friend comes to stay. I first met M when she was doing her teacher training in northern Germany when I was doing my training as an engineer there. It's been a pleasure to have known her, and her family, with whom we have deepened ties over the years and we welcome her again.

It's a bit like Ealing Green, in that we have a wonderfully mixed membership and, through the fellowship that has attracted some to the church, have retained ties with many of those who have since moved on. This newsletter, for instance, is read and I get occasional messages from all over the world – and Pinner!

So I hope that those of you reading this can appreciate the beauty of the diversity of the people around us and can enjoy the work of the one who made us.

As the saying goes, it takes a long time to grow an old friend.

Lastly I thought you might be interested in a piece that Sarah passed on about John Wesley's London. We are fortunate to be only a tube/train ride away from some of the most important sites in Methodist history. See more on page 12.

God bless you

Church notices

The next concert in **the Iris Axon series at Acton Hill Church** will take place on June 1st at 4pm, with Peter Cigleris on the clarinet and Neil Crossland on the piano. There is a poster in the foyer with full details.

Monday Fellowship will meet on Monday 9th June, with a meeting of summer music. Meet for refreshments at 1.45pm in the foyer, all welcome! The next meeting after that will be on 23rd June, with Ann Hughes.

Greenford Centenary. To celebrate its centenary, Greenford Methodist Church will be holding a service with worship and thanksgiving on Saturday 14th June at 2:00pm followed by afternoon tea. If you would like to attend, please email Mrs. Suzanne Brown on:

Szmod@btinternet.com or 07540 569 281

They have also released commemorative mugs and pens. *"The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with Joy"* - Psalm 126:3. There are both right-handed and left-handed mugs, which will feature the above verse and a colour photo of the church as a centenary emblem. They are available for a donation of £7. The pens are £3. Please contact Steward Claudette Hanson on claudette365@aol.com to purchase them.

First Aid Course - The Pastoral group have arranged a First Aid Course run by the Red Cross, on Thursday 12th June 7 30-9pm in the Parlour. The course is free. Numbers are limited due to size of room. If you would like to attend, please send Gill an email, or ask someone to send one for you. Thank you. Email:

gillhatherall@gmail.com

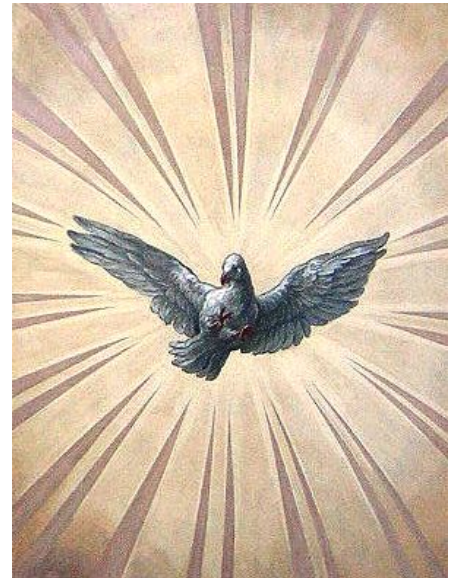
[I can highly recommend this course and encourage anyone to take it. – Lee]

MacMillan Coffee Morning – Early warning!

Please put **September 27th** in your calendar for the upcoming MacMillan Coffee Morning. Helen and Winnie will be more than happy to hear from you if you can help out.

Whitsun / Pentecost

Whitsun commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1–31). The Catholic Church believes the Holy Spirit descended upon Mary, the mother of Jesus, at the same time, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:14).



This happened after Jesus' reported ascension from earth to heaven on Ascension Day. It's also known as Whit Sunday. Whit Monday is the second day of the Pentecost festival. It is still a bank holiday in many Christian countries, such as Belgium, France and Germany. It goes by the name of 'the Green Holiday' in Poland!

Pentecost also refers to the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost Sunday inclusive of both. Because Easter itself has no fixed date, this makes Pentecost a moveable feast. In the United Kingdom, traditionally the next day, Whit Monday, was until 1970 a public holiday. But since 1971, by statute, it has been replaced by the last Monday in May as a Bank Holiday.

While Eastern Christianity treats Pentecost as the last day of Easter in its liturgies, in the Roman liturgy it is usually a separate feast. The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday may also be called Eastertide.

Since Pentecost itself is on a Sunday, it is automatically considered to be a public holiday in countries with large Christian denominations. However, in Hungary, it is distinguished from a regular Sunday due to the stricter trading laws, forcing most businesses to close even if they are normally open on Sundays (the same restrictions apply to the following Monday).

Pentecost or Whit Monday is a public holiday in many countries including most of Europe, so if no one answers your phone calls on the 5th June, it might be that they are observing their holiday and not just ignoring you.

Lee

Following in John Wesley's Footsteps

Experience the remarkable story of Methodism's founder through this fascinating walking tour of John Wesley's London. This carefully curated route connects 15 historic sites across central London, all within easy walking distance of Wesley's Chapel on City Road.

Follow in the footsteps of an 18th century revolutionary who transformed religious practice across Britain and beyond. From the stirring site of his evangelical conversion at Aldersgate (marked



today by the "Aldersgate Flame" bronze sculpture) to St Paul's Cathedral where Wesley worshipped before his spiritual awakening - each location reveals another chapter in his extraordinary journey.



Discover where Wesley preached after being debarred in St Bartholomew the Great Parish Church, visit his meticulously

preserved home, and pay respects at his final resting place. The tour brings to life not only Wesley's personal story but also the vibrant religious landscape of Georgian London.



The full route takes approximately 2½ hours without stops, making it perfect for history enthusiasts, spiritual pilgrims, or anyone seeking a unique perspective on London's past.

Each site features informative plaques or displays, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the world that shaped the Methodist movement's birth.

Walking Wesley's Way isn't just a historical tour – it is an opportunity to connect with a spiritual legacy that continues to inspire millions worldwide.



If you want a copy of the map of the route, please go to:

<https://media.methodist.org.uk/media/documents/london-walking-map-0511.pdf>

or let me know.

Lee

Clearing out – did we have fun?

Saturday 17th of May was the date sort out the sheds behind the garden. It has to be said that over the years, 'stuff' has been accumulated by the church and stored wherever it seemed fit at the time. Well, like all things the time has come for it to be sorted before it takes over and stops essential works being carried out – like the replacement of the rotting and essentially unusable curtains on the stage.

Pretty much all of the stuff in the shed has been affected by the demise of the shed itself and so was either unusable because of its age and the time it had been stored or because of the state of the shed itself.



Gordon, Deb, Hector and myself, under the strict supervision of Jane, dragged everything out of the sheds that is to be disposed of. And, as you can see it turned out to be quite an assortment (not including the bench at the front).

Stage lights from another era, rotten tables, cast iron trestles for tables that had long since contracted woodworm or simply rotted away, any amount of rotten wood, empty drum boxes and loads of blue chairs (these latter from behind the stage) were all piled up ready to be taken away and disposed of.

It would have been a shame for the twelve blue chairs to be taken to the tip, so we put them out at the front of the church by the flower beds. To our delight all the chairs were soon taken by some people who were pleased to have them. Similarly the amplifier/speaker placed there disappeared shortly after.

The only thing that remained in the old shed were a couple of pieces of scaffolding – which were left as they were the only things holding up the roof of the shed.

Stage 1 of the clearing up and reorganising the church has begun. Join us for more clearing up in the coming months.

Lee

James Bond

As a 7 year old in 1983, in the days before First Class Lounges at airports, I was with my granddad in Nice Airport and saw Roger Moore at the departure gate, reading a paper. I told my granddad I'd just seen James Bond and asked if we could go over so I could get his autograph. My granddad had no idea who James Bond or Roger Moore were, so we walked over and he popped me in front of Roger Moore with the words 'my grandson says you're famous. Can you sign this?'

As charming as you'd expect, Roger asks my name and duly signs the back of my plane ticket. I'm ecstatic, but as we head back to our seats, I glance down at the signature. It's hard to decipher, but it definitely doesn't say 'James Bond'. My granddad looks at it, half figures it out that it says 'Roger Moore'. I have absolutely no idea who that is, and my heart sinks. I tell my granddad he's signed it wrong, that he's put in someone else's name, so my granddad heads back to Roger Moore, holding the ticket.

I remember staying by our seats and my granddad saying 'He says you've signed the wrong name. He says your name is James Bond.' Roger Moore's face crinkled up with realisation and he beckoned me over. When I was by his knee, he leant over, looked from side to side, raised an eyebrow and in a hushed voice said to me. 'I have to sign my name as Roger Moore because otherwise Blofeld might find out I was here.' He asked me not to tell anyone that I had just seen James Bond and he thanked me for keeping his secret. I went back to our seats, my nerves absolutely jangling in delight.

Many years later I was working as a scriptwriter on a recording that involved UNICEF and Roger Moore was doing a piece to camera as an ambassador. While the cameramen were setting up I told him the story of when I had met him in Nice Airport. He was happy to hear it and he had a chuckle and said 'Well I don't remember but I'm glad you got to meet James Bond'.

And then he did something so brilliant. After the filming, he walked past me in the corridor – but as he got level, he paused, , looked both ways and in a hushed voice said. 'Of course I remember our meeting in Nice. But I didn't say anything in there because those cameramen – any one of them could be working for Blofeld.

I was as delighted at 30 as I had been at 7

Marc Haynes

Migration – and the church's response to the government

More than 20 senior faith leaders from across the UK's Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities have united to sign an open letter, urging the Prime Minister to rethink the Government's recent rhetoric around migration. The letter, which was signed by leaders from the Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed Churches and the Church of Scotland, follows the publication of the White Paper on immigration on Monday 12th May.

The letter was led by a growing steering group of leaders from different faiths and denominations who are working together for a more compassionate refugee policy and narrative. The signatories offered a timely reminder rooted in their lived experiences as faith leaders, that 'we see that real and lasting integration comes through building relationships. It is through sharing experiences that we come to recognise our common humanity.'

Be a part of sharing experiences, having conversations and building relationships by taking part in Refugee Week 2025.

The letter sent, reads as follows:

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: The Government's recent rhetoric on migration – our call is for a more compassionate narrative

We are writing as faith leaders to ask you to reconsider the language the government uses when discussing migration, following the rhetoric used to announce the Immigration White Paper earlier this week.

Our concern is that the current narrative, which presents only one side of the debate, will only drive public anxiety and entrench polarization. When you refer to the "incalculable" damage done by uncontrolled migration, you are in danger of harming migrant members of our communities and strengthening those who would divide us.

We recognise that there is public concern around migration and what it means for our society, which of course must be addressed. But this must be done in a way which is principled, and lowers the temperature of the debate, respecting the dignity of all who make

up our nation. People have come to the UK under the rules set by successive governments, paying whatever fees and surcharges, to work, contribute and pay taxes. Framing this as somehow unfair only feeds the politics of grievance and division.

In our work as faith leaders, we see that real and lasting integration comes through building relationships. It is through sharing experiences that we come to recognise our common humanity. We urge the government to think more holistically and positively about fostering good integration; the recommendations of several government-commissioned reviews into integration remain on the shelf.

In the context of a genuine debate on migration, we are appealing to you to also affirm those things that would bring us together, across our diversity. Only by doing so can we actually fix the systemic problems faced by those within our current asylum system and humanitarian protection schemes. Promoting fair policies that balance the needs of host communities with real opportunities for people restarting their lives after fleeing war, conflict, and persecution is a necessary start.

Finally, we wish to speak up for all those whose voices are rarely heard in these debates but who have been at the sharp end of recent rhetoric. These include many from within our own faith communities who have built new homes and lives in the UK, becoming part of our national story and fabric. Our country would be so much poorer without them.

Yours sincerely,

Imam Qari Asim

Revd Helen Cameron and Mrs Carolyn Godfrey, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

There follows a long list (over 20) of faith leaders. I can send them to you if you wish.

To be called 'woke' in a world that sleeps through suffering is no insult.

Pope Leo XIV.

With God in our lives . . .

I have been sitting in the garden enjoying some sunshine and thinking what I could send in. I received a couple of messages from my children, who some of the church congregation know.

My daughter is a head teacher and faces concerning situations every day which people might never connect with a Head teacher position

My son who has suffered with cerebral palsy since birth and been in his job 23 years is now faced with possible redundancy. He has two small children to support

Both my children have been Christian's all their lives. The words of this song came into my mind:

With God in our lives we are never alone. Sometimes He's walking beside us and sometimes He carries us. One sure thing is He won't desert you even when you feel He might.

Marian Martin

When you walk through a storm
Hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark
At the end of a storm
There's a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark
Walk on through the wind
Walk on through the rain
For your dreams be tossed and blown
Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone
Walk on, walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone

Collection Point

Supporting children's cardiac, respiratory and intensive care at Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals.



The Brompton Fountain is the children's charity at Royal Brompton and Harefield

Hospital. It works closely with the teams within the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), High Dependency Unit (HDU), children's ward (Rose), the playroom, outpatient



departments and hospital school. The charity provides a wide range of vital resources, services, parent/carer amenities, and accommodation. It also funds medical equipment, facilities improvements and projects outside of the NHS remit.

Who we help:

Parents and children

We provide comprehensive support to parents throughout their child's treatment journey and beyond. Our support is for the whole family, this includes parents and patients, siblings and grandparents

Young People

We work with young people from birth to 25 years old, providing treats and services during an admission and at home. We run a group called Trailblazers, supporting patients aged 13-25 and collaborate with the nursing teams to run information days.

Many patients have life-limiting conditions and will require frequent admissions and often long stays in hospital for surgery and ongoing treatment for the rest of their lives. Our team have first-hand experience in caring for a child with a serious illness and provides support from the point of diagnosis as well as before, during and after any admission. The charity's aim is to improve the quality of life and environment for young patients in hospital and at home, making a difference when it's needed most.

Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals make up the largest specialist heart and lung centre in the UK and among the largest in Europe. The hospitals have gained world-wide recognition for their expertise, standard of care and successful research, and carry out some of the most complicated surgery as well as offering some of the most sophisticated treatment available anywhere in the world, to patients from all over the UK and around the globe.

The care given by fetal cardiologists can begin as early as 12 weeks into a mother's pregnancy when the baby's heart valve is just over a millimetre in size, and teams of specialist staff treat patients through childhood and adulthood, with many patients being treated well into their 90s.

The hospitals have made numerous significant medical achievements, including performing Britain's first successful heart and lung transplant, implanting the first coronary stent, founding the largest centre for cystic fibrosis in the UK, and pioneering intricate heart surgery for newborn infants. They are leaders in UK respiratory care and in paediatric cardiorespiratory care and treatment of congenital heart disease and cystic fibrosis.

Isabel's story, by her mother, Emma.

I was 30 weeks pregnant when I found out that our baby was going to need heart surgery as she had a condition called Coarctation of the Aorta, as well as a VSD (Ventricular Septal Defect) and three ASDs (Atrial Septal Defects).

Our world fell apart as we had never even heard of these conditions before, and we felt really scared. But the next 10 weeks went by really fast, and eventually, Isabel was born, an otherwise very healthy baby girl weighing 8lb 4oz. She had been born by Caesarian Section so I couldn't see her until she was a



few hours old, and by then, a medical team had arrived to move her to the Royal Brompton Hospital. It was the hardest to watch them get my baby ready to be taken away from me. I had to remain at the maternity hospital for now, and my world stopped.

Two days later, my husband called me at 7:30 am to tell me that Isabel's condition had deteriorated and she would need surgery that morning. I was then discharged from hospital and made my way to the Royal Brompton just as she was going to the operating theatre. I was dying to meet my baby, and every time I was close to seeing her she was going again, I felt helpless and didn't know which way to turn.

Five hours later, we were told the news that the operation was a success and we would be able to see Isabel very soon. I finally felt I could breathe again.

The next day Isabel was doing amazingly well, and the doctors were able to take her breathing tube out. For the first time, I could give my beautiful baby girls a cuddle, and it was the best feeling ever!

On day 2 after her operation, she was still doing brilliantly and with most of the tubes now removed, she was fit enough to move from Intensive Care over to Rose ward.

By day 5, she was breastfeeding and doing really well, you would never have known what this beautiful little girl had just been through. On day 7, the doctors told us we could take her home.

I cried my eyes out; it was all over, and she had amazed all of us. She was a warrior, she is our hero, and she's still doing fantastically well.

This is all down to the staff at Royal Brompton; without them, she wouldn't be here today, we are so grateful to to all involved!

Please give generously

Thank you and God bless you..

June

June	Time	Preacher	Prayers	Reader	Set-up	Welcome	Flowers	Coffee
1 st	11:00							
8 th	11:00							
15 th	11:00							
22 nd	11:00							
29 th	11:00							

I'm afraid it's not been possible to get the Rotas out in time for this month's newsletter. Please could all of you lovely people who keep the wheels of the church running so smoothly give Sarah the times when you are free/available/ready to act so she can sort it all out.

More Volunteers Wanted

On Saturday – July 5th or 12th - (please let us or Sarah know if you could help on either of those days)

Along with help from the Polish Church we will be helping to clear the stage. Those items that are worth keeping will go in the new shed.

If you are able, please let Jane, Sarah, or if all else fails, myself know if you can help.

Thanks Lee