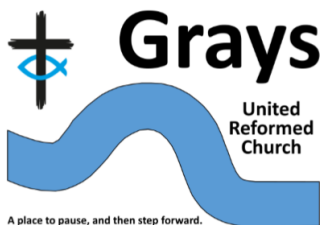
 URCGrays
www.graysurc.org.uk

Minister: Rev'd David Coaker
07378 348191
drcoaker@gmail.com

Silent Visitor



April 2022



Easter Services

Palm Sunday

10.30am Sunday 10th April

We will complete our Lent Journey marking Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem for Passover.

Maundy Thursday

6.30pm Thursday 14th April

We will share in communion together and reflect on the events leading up to Jesus' arrest.

Good Friday

2.00pm Friday 15th April

We will meditate upon Luke's telling of Jesus' trials and execution.

Easter Sunday

8.30am Sunday 17th April

A short service celebrating the arrival of the women at the empty tomb followed by bacon sandwiches.

10.30am

We will celebrate Resurrection and share in communion together.



Grays United Reformed Church - Worship Plan

Date	Lead by	Time	Notes
10.04.22	David Coaker	9.30am	Young Families
	Alf Pryer	10.30am	Palm Sunday
14.04.22	David Coaker	6.30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion
15.04.22	David Coaker	2.00pm	Good Friday
17.04.22	David Coaker	8.30am	Easter Sunday
	David Coaker	10.30am	Communion
24.04.22	David Coaker	10.30am	Annual CM
01.05.22	David Coaker	9.30am	Young Families
	David Coaker	10.30am	Communion
04.05.22	David Coaker	11.00am	Dementia Friendly
08.05.22	Alf Pryer	10.30am	
15.05.22	Kathryn Taylor	10.30am	
22.05.22	David Coaker	10.30am	
29.05.22	George Semain	10.30am	

Community Café: Wednesday 10am-12noon – all are welcome! Dementia friendly worship, 11am first Wed of month.

May SV - If you could please email or phone through your contributions for May SV by **Friday 6th May** to David.

Sunday 24th April – following worship we will gather as church meeting for our ACM to review the past year and look ahead to the next. Reports have been circulated by email and are available on the table in the worship space.

Worship Team: the next meeting will be on **Thurs 9th June** between 10am-12noon. All with an interest in our worship are welcome to participate in the conversation.

Baptisms – we are delighted that our worship will include baptisms on the 12th June of Tekla & Sandor Zaveczeni and on the 4th September of Bethia Flemmings.

Live the Resurrection!

Sun 17th April is not just another Sunday. The 17th is Easter Day, and just as Christmas Day symbolises something we should celebrate every day, so does it. On the 25th December we celebrate that Jesus was born, and on Easter Day we celebrate, remember, and incarnate for ourselves the Resurrection.

We could immerse ourselves in the detail of the different Resurrection stories we have in the four Gospels and in Paul's letters. We could tie ourselves up in knots and be confused by their differences, or we could embrace the wonder of not truly knowing and celebrate the invitation to participate in it.

After Jesus' death, his followers and family were distraught. Their friend, brother, rabbi, the man they had declared messiah, was dead. Not a gentle or sudden death either, but a public execution after being judged guilty by both the religious and political authorities. A death reserved for the worst offenders, brutally crucified as a deterrent to others who might challenge the status quo. A mode of death common under Roman law, but not one sanctioned by Jewish law. A death that Deuteronomy 21:22-23 tells us leaves the victim 'under God's curse'.

This small group of believers are grieving, and piled upon that is the apparent condemnation of their master by both God and society. How could Jesus' story have ended like this? What had the teacher, healer, and performer of miracles, done to deserve this fate? If he'd died leading a revolt against the Romans his martyrdom could have inspired them to continue the fight, but how did what happened fit with their dream of a liberating messiah? Their spirits were as low as they could be. They were bewildered by what had happened. But ...

The Resurrection happened! They were transformed into a band of preachers, martyrs, missionaries and leaders who declared, lived and celebrated the Resurrection. They took this message and changed the world. In spite of all worldly appearances they were liberated, empowered and inspired by the Resurrection.

This is our inheritance and our calling, as we live the way of Jesus.

With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker

Sight Loss Friendly Church

<https://torchtrust.org/sight-loss-friendly-church/>

Everyone has the right to a fulfilling spiritual life, but feeling left out or unable to join in at church often means that people stop attending altogether. They then miss out not just on regular services, but social activities, a sense of community and a feeling of human connection.



from **TORCH TRUST**

Churches may

not realise that anyone in their congregation or local community has sight loss, and if they do they may not know how to provide support.

Sight Loss Friendly Church is here to help us become more aware of how to support people with sight loss. They can help us become more accessible and more confident.

Torch Trust is an ecumenical Christian ministry that focuses on the spiritual support and encouragement of blind and partially sighted people. For over 60 years they have been providing accessible resources and a variety of ways to connect and support people living with sight loss.

Registering as a Sight Loss Friendly Church is a first step and gives us access to advice, guidance, training, support, resources and a network of others congregations seeking to be more accessible.

Praying for Ukraine

The prayer offered by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland:

God of all peoples and nations, who created all things alive and breathing, united and whole, show us the way of peace that is your overwhelming presence.

We hold before you the peoples of Ukraine and Russia, every child and every adult.

We long for the time when weapons of war are beaten into ploughshares, when nations no longer lift up sword against nation.

We cry out to you for peace; protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety, comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones, be with those who are bereaved.

Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression and fill leaders with the wisdom that leads to peace.

Kindle again in us a love of our neighbour, and a passion for justice to prevail and a renewed recognition that we all play a part in peace.

Creator of all hear our prayer and bring us peace. Make us whole.
Amen



Annual Church Meeting

Following our service on Sunday 24th April we will gather as church meeting to reflect on the past year and look towards the next. The papers have been circulated and you are encouraged to read, reflect and pray through them.

A crucial part of this is nominations to be serving elders. Whether through election or co-option we need an effective elders' meeting, and from them at least a named church secretary, to ensure we meet the basic functions of being a URC and, in time, are able to maintain, explore and develop our service and mission as a church.

Please give prayerful consideration to seeking nomination, proposing someone (and please talk to them before filling in the form) and holding our meeting in prayer as we seek to elect elders.

With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker

Synod Big Day Out

If you would like to go please mention it to David so we can try to coordinate transport.



Maidenhead's phenomenal response to Ukraine

590 boxes of all sizes packed full of medical supplies, sanitary products, toiletries, food, sleeping bags, blankets and cutlery, along with more than 1,000 packs of nappies were driven to Ukraine from Maidenhead United Reformed Church last month. With links to families in Ukraine and towns on the border with Poland, first-hand knowledge of exactly what was needed fuelled donations. With nearly every main part of the church filled with donations, Bob Robertson, an Elder of the church said: "For us, this project is about being out there and visible to everyone and being God's presence at a time when God's presence is needed." Read more.

End war in Ukraine

The Revd Dr John Bradbury, URC General Secretary, the Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of the URC General Assembly, along with 300 delegates at the Churches Together in England Forum held in March. They called upon churches everywhere to campaign for an immediate end to the war in Ukraine.

Share your good news

If you have a good news story that can inspire, raise hope or show God's work in action then please let URC Communications know. We would love to help share your news across the denomination and in local news outlets. Email the team: press.office@urc.org.uk

Share your thanksgiving

Send in a postcard sharing your thanksgiving to God for an aspect of the URC that you want to celebrate. These postcards will be used as part of the URC's Thanksgiving and Celebration service on 1 October. On a blank postcard write your details (name, age, location and what URC you're connected to) on one side, and on the other, as imaginatively and brightly as possible, share your thanksgiving. Please send your cards to Dr Sam Richards, Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT, by 1 August.

All-age jubilee resource

'Jubilee' is a resource packed full of ideas for all ages to explore the biblical theme of jubilee looking at the past, the present and how we might shape the future in the light of God's love and justice. The resource includes games, prayers, bible-studies, craft activities, worship material, and ways to put faith into action.

Download the poster, colouring and puzzle pages, or the whole resource from the URC website: www.urc.org.uk

Design a birthday card

Children aged 12 and under are invited to enter URC Children's birthday card competition. Design a card, either digitally or on A4 paper, that a church or synod could send to a child aged one-to-12. Please leave a space for the URC Children's logo. Up to three entries per child can be made and sent to the URC Children's and Youth team by email or post to Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT by 10 June.

Please include name and age, connection with the URC, email address, and a signature from parent or carer.

Crossfire camp

Crossfire Camp, an annual Christian youth camp for 12-18-year-olds, takes place from 1-4 June at Stathern Lodge, near Melton Mowbray. The camp costs £30 per person. More details are available here: www.crossfirecamp.org.uk

Westminster residential

'New Insights for Worship Leaders: Lay Preacher and Worship Leaders' residential takes place from 9-11 Sept. Participants can attend the residential, both in-person or online. There will be time for reflection, networking, and social opportunities. For full details see the Westminster college website: www.westminster.cam.ac.uk

Practical ways to help Ukraine

As millions of refugees flee war in Ukraine, UK citizens have joined a global response in offering accommodation, money and supplies. To find out practical ways you can help, visit the URC's Crisis in Ukraine page from the URC website: www.urc.org.uk



We have been delighted to have two young ladies, one from Palmers College and one from the University of Birmingham both undertaking workplace placements. They have both worked so hard it is so encouraging to see these young

people and it is good to be able to share with them what is involved in operating a foodbank.

The Trussell Trust is continuing to support us to take action in our communities. Over the next few weeks, there will be lots of opportunities for us to call on local leaders, councillors and mayors from across our governments and local authorities to work alongside us towards a future where emergency food isn't needed.

On Thursday 5th May, elections to local councils will take place in England, Wales and Scotland, and elections will also be taking place for the Northern Irish Assembly. The Trussell Trust will be urging all candidates to take a leading role in developing plans to end the need for food banks by:

- Ensuring everyone can afford the essentials.
- Helping local services work together to ensure people get the right support at the right time.
- Involving people with direct experience of poverty and local food banks.

We're working closely with our partners across the sector to ensure we have sufficient support and resources so that we can continue to deliver our vital services and get people the help they need in their situation.

Unfortunately, the demand over the past few weeks has remained high. This continues to hit our stock levels hard on some of the popular products: Long Life Milk, Tinned meats - Spaghetti Bolognese, Tinned Curry, Sausages & Beans etc, Cooking Sauces, Tinned Fish, Sponge Puddings, Tinned Custard, Rice Pudding, Tea Bags, Fruit Juice/ Squash

We value each and every donation, it is so essential for our work and supporting those in need within our community.

Date for your Diary: If you are interested in hearing about the future strategy for Thurrock Foodbank, please keep **Monday 23rd May 2022** free, as we will be holding an information session here at Chase Road. Exciting times ahead and come along and hear how we will support those in need across Thurrock. More formal invitations will be issued nearer the time.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support, as we continue to support those in need across Thurrock, it is really valued.

If you would like any clarification or further information on our work please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards, Pete Newall, Operations Manager Thurrock Foodbank
01375 416200 <https://thurrock.foodbank.org.uk/>

Financial Report Apr 2022

There is not much to add to my last financial update in Silent Visitor, other than to report that the bank balance stood at £17,500, as at 23/03/22.

The 2021 year end accounts are now ready and have been audited. I will present the accounts to church meeting at the next available opportunity, as I will most probably not be at the church ACM.

In the meantime if anyone would like a copy of the 2021 accounts please email me and I will happily forward a copy electronically.

Regarding the increase in of gas heating costs, Charlotte has adjusted some of the heating settings and timings; this has resulted in a reduction in heating costs for February and March.

I think that is all for now, other than the usual thanks to those who contribute so generously to Church funds each month, to Alf and Bob for any help required, Charlotte for organising the lettings and Elaine for the invoicing.

Also thanks to Steve Morgan for kindly auditing the year end accounts.

Alan Beckley

Who's Who at Bradleigh Avenue

Minister:	Rev'd David Coaker 07378 348191 drcoaker@gmail.com
Secretary:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Mr Alan Beckley
Elders:	Mrs Janet Semain, Mr George Semain The functions of Elders' Meetings are temporarily combined within church meetings
Organist:	Mr Richard Wade
Facilities Manager:	Mrs Charlotte Webb 0784 3559011 graysurc@gmail.com
Silent Visitor:	Mrs Janet Semain 01375 373532 geojan321@sky.com

