



 URCGrays  
[www.graysurc.org.uk](http://www.graysurc.org.uk)

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# Silent Visitor



*Sunflowers*

**July / August 2023**

# Grays United Reformed Church

## Worship Plan July & August 2023

<b>Date</b>	<b>Led by</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Notes</b>
02.07.23	Denise Beckley	9.30 am	Young Families
	Alf Pryer	10.30 am	Communion
05.07.23	David Coaker	11.00 am	Dementia Friendly
09.07.23	David Coaker	10.30 am	Parade
16.07.23	Denise Beckley	10.30 am	Cafe Style Worship in the Hall
23.07.23	David Coaker	10.30 am	
30.07.23	David Coaker	10.30 am	
02.08.23	David Coaker	11.00 am	Dementia Friendly
06.08.23	Alf Pryer	10.30 am	Communion
13.08.23	Denise Beckley	10.30 am	Cafe Style Worship in the Hall
20.08.23	Kathryn Taylor	10.30 am	
27.08.23	Kathryn Taylor	10.30 am	
03.09.23	TBA	TBA	TBA

### Duty Elders:

02.07.23*	Alan	06.08.23*	Elaine
09.07.23	Denise	13.08.23	Alan
16.07.23	Denise	20.08.23	Elaine
23.07.23	Alf & Margaret	27.08.23	Alf & Margaret
30.07.23	Denise	03.09.23*	TBA

# Collaborating

This is one of those words with negative and positive connotations. If you use it in the context of being occupied by a foreign occupier you have one image, and if you are gathering people together to achieve a common goal you have another. Collaborating is about cooperating, working together, joining forces, teaming up, working in partnership, pooling resources and acting as a team. So let us be positive and collaborate together, and with our neighbours, for the sake, visibility, and challenge of the Kingdom of God.

This is our goal. The living out of justice, peace and love within each of our lives, our fellowship, community, and the wider world is what we are about as Church. It is the Kingdom that Jesus declared, lived out, died for, and the Resurrection is God's power vindicating him, and empowering us, to live likewise.



It is the Kingdom we are about, and that can be as much of a challenge to us who attend church regularly as it can be to those who have never set foot inside.

Some of the aspects of our life together clearly express this goal, and for some it's harder or debateable. So, the first task is to think about what we do in the light of this goal. This could encourage us to expand some aspects and minimise others, and it should help us clearly state who we are, why we are, and where we are going.

The next is to think about how we can all contribute to enabling our life together to happen and develop. We all have a part to play, whatever our age, availability, ability, aptitude or attitude. We each are able, and called, to make the life of Christ visible.

We can then take a wider view and see what activities in our neighbourhood also express the Kingdom and then explore how we can encourage them. A wider view takes in our ecumenical neighbours to see how we can help each other, seeing what is possible rather than fixating on our differences. Still wider we can look to our fellow URCs and determine how we can share the resources we have to express our Reformed view of our faith. Working together is a practical but also a spiritual need, as together we discover the height, breadth and depth of the Kingdom.

**With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker**

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## **Financial Report July 2023**

As at 31 May the bank balance stood at £15,000. I have decided to transfer £3,000 which has accumulated in the CCLA interest account to the HSBC current bank account.

I have also re-negotiated our current contract with British Gas until December 2024. Hopefully this will result in a small reduction in our heating costs. Let's wait and see.

The church continues to rely on hirer's income. Other than that there is not much else to report.

The usual thanks to all 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 invoicing.

If anyone has a query regarding Church finances please contact me and I will do my best to help.

*Alan Beckley*

# Sunday Worship from September 2023

At our Church Meeting on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May we agreed:

To focus our worship on Sunday mornings by drawing together elements of the present 9.30am and 10.30am services to offer times of worship that are informal and formal in a sustainable and manageable way each week.

Elders' meeting on Wed 24<sup>th</sup> May reflected on the discussion at CM and shared an outline plan in June SV which was then discussed at an open meeting on Wed 28<sup>th</sup> June.

The following is the result of that discussion which elders will be looking to implement from September, with your help and support, and will be reviewed in November:

Pattern for our Sunday mornings:

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|---------|--|
| 9.30am  | Arrivals and non-specific activities for children (i.e., a standard mix of activities each week)   |
| 9.45am  | Welcome – brief introduction to the week's theme<br>Activities – worksheet / craft<br>Story, songs, prayer   |
| 10.15am | Refreshments   |
| 10.45am | Quiet time – transition from informal to formal, for those who came to the earlier worship to depart and those who came for refreshments to prepare for worship. Marked by a set piece of music. |
| 10.50am | Beginning of our more familiar worship service, with its usual variations.   |
| 11.30am | Final blessing and depart.   |

We will just have one time of worship for Parade services.

We will use the Daily Devotions material once per month.

We will source the Roots material.

We will invite other leaders of worship for our later time.

Whether we vary our pattern during school holidays or include café-style worship will be reviewed in 2024.

**Notices** –a printed copy each week that is also emailed.

**Donation box** – and make Standing Order forms available.

**Harvest** –Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct Harvest parade service. Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> a Harvest service at 11am, lunch, and Church Meeting.

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## **News from the Foodbank**

The Thurrock Foodbank has been visited by local school pupils who will be joining them in some work experience.

Another school are discussing the work of Year 9. The First Give Programme is part of the curriculum all about raising awareness for social issues and involving pupils. The pupils are running a food drive for the foodbank, and will make it a competition among their groups to entice more pupils to participate. They will be creating posters, announcing in assembly and posting on the foodbank social media pages. The winning Charity will receive £1,000.

Recently the demand has increased with many centres seeing a reasonable dramatic increase. They still have lower stocks in various items. The items mainly are dessert related products and include:-

Custard, Tinned Fruit, Tinned potatoes, Mashed Potatoes, Cooking Sauces, Jams/spreads, Sponge Puddings/Angel Delights and Jellies, Long Life Milk.

"Your support makes a difference and we do see daily blessings in our work. The Trussell Trust are also looking for Church Ambassadors, so if you, your church or organisation require any further information regarding our work or would like to discuss any aspect of our work in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you all for your continued support, it is so much valued."

Best regards, Pete Newall, Thurrock Foodbank

## The Garden in Summer

When we have been on holiday we have enjoyed visiting stately homes and their grounds/gardens. There is always a variation of what you might see and find.

On one of our visits last year, we came across a flower that was being shown off as it had never bloomed there before. This was the pride and delight to the gardeners who watched over and nurtured it.

Whilst we do not have any rare flowering species in our garden we have been enjoying once again a glorious show of roses this year. As the Elvis Costello song says "its a good year for the roses"?

We have a variety of roses which are looking quite lovely. Some of them were planted to commemorate something special whilst others were bought to fill a gap. It is always a bonus if they have a lovely scent. The one we bought to commemorate a wedding anniversary a few years ago called "Golden Anniversary" has a really lovely perfume.

On looking further down the garden I can see a mass of white roses that resembles a bush. It is supposed to be a climbing rose. We bought it whilst visiting Mottisfont Abbey in the New Forest (the property is well known for its rose garden particularly in June). This particular rose (can't remember its name) is covered in small pinkish white roses. It did climb up an old pear tree and the nearby old apple tree for a few years. That was until the pear tree fell down and its other supports gave up too. In the gardens at Mottisfont their roses climb around ornate arbours, trellis and thick ropes which all looks very grand. However as a "mighty rose bush" it doesn't look too bad!



*Janet Semain*

## Who's Who at Bradleigh Avenue

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

Treasurer: Mr Alan Beckley

Elders: Mr Alf Pryer; Mrs Denise Beckley;  
Co-opted: Mrs Elaine Barcz,,  
Mrs Margaret Pryer, Mr George Semain,  
Mrs Janet Semain

Church Contact: Mrs Elaine Barcz  
graysurcsecretary@outlook.com

Organist: Mr Richard Wade

Facilities Manager: Mrs Charlotte Webb  
0784 3559011  
graysurc@gmail.com

Silent Visitor: Mrs Janet Semain \*  
01375 373532  
[geojan321@sky.com](mailto:geojan321@sky.com)

Assisted by Mr Kee Cheung

*\*For the next few months or so the reins of the Silent Visitor have been handed over to Rev'd David Coaker. Thank you Dave for looking after it once again. Ed.*