 URCGrays
www.graysurc.org.uk

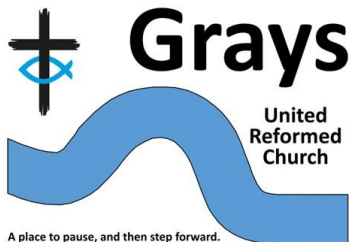
Minister: Rev'd David Coaker
07378 348191
drcoaker@gmail.com

Silent Visitor



September 2023

Sunday mornings @



A place to pause, and then step forward.

9.30 - 11.30am

Be yourself.
Ask questions.
Share your answers.
Arrive when you can.
Leave when you're ready.
Come when you're able.
Welcome to Grays URC!



We begin with an informal,
child-friendly time.

Gather together to share
refreshments.

End with a time of formal /
traditional worship.

Grays URC, Bradleigh Avenue, RM17 5XD

Pattern for our Sunday mornings:

9.30am	Arrivals and activities for children
9.45am	Welcome – brief introduction to the week's theme
	Activities – worksheet / craft
	Story, songs, prayer
10.15am	Refreshments
10.45am	Quiet time
10.50am	Beginning of a more traditional worship service
11.30am	Closing words and depart.

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Sunday Worship from September 2023

We are embarking on something new! We have a plan. We've organized who is doing what. All that's left is to get started.

We've used the shorthand of 9.30 and 10.30 throughout this discussion, but once we get started those labels should no longer apply. There will of course be elements of what we've done before in the new, but if we don't end up somewhere different, we must have taken a wrong turn along the way.

We have a whole host of new labels to try out: early or later, informal or formal, family or traditional, before or after refreshments – to name but a few.

Our prayer, our intention, our hope, is to create a space where anyone will feel comfortable, welcome and accepted in our building on a Sunday morning. For that to happen, having the plan is but one piece of the puzzle. The other pieces are you, the people you invite along, and those you meet in the coming weeks. If we don't step forward in faith expecting a difference in our life together, then nothing will change.

Change can be unsettling, but we can easily trace the path to this point back at least 5 years and possibly further, and we've spent the last three months working through this plan. Nothing has been rushed. Everyone has been given the opportunity to participate. And now we step forward in faith to see where God will lead us.

So, from September come along whenever you're ready. Take part in as much as you'd like to. Head off when you've had your fill. Embrace however other people make those choices.

We offer many thanks to those that will leading the different parts of our worship, offering refreshments, and the whole host of other things that need to happen. Let us place all of our endeavours before God in prayer as we seek to support each other, invite others along, and offer a welcome.

With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker

Worship Plan September 2023

06.09.23	11.00am	Dementia Friendly	Dave Coaker
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Date	Time	Type	9.30 Lead	10.15-10.45am Refreshments	10.50 Lead
03.09.23	9.30am	Communion	Dave Coaker		Dave Coaker
10.09.23	9.30am		Dave Coaker		Dave Coaker
17.09.23	9.30am		Denise Beckley		Alf Pryer
24.09.23	9.30am		Dave Coaker		DD Screen

DD Screen = Daily Devotions material, led by Dave Coaker

News from the Foodbank

Good afternoon from a Sunny Corringham Warehouse,
Apologies for the early wire this week, but I am now out of the office for the rest of the week.

Last week it was lovely to meet with the ladies of Little Thurrock WI (please see picture below). We had a lovely afternoon talking about our work and how we operate and it is always good to understand people's different perspectives regarding the existence of Foodbanks. It was a really good afternoon with lots of discussion about our work and how we operate. The ladies were also very generous in their donations, which is very much appreciated.

Hireco based on the DP World Estate now have a collection tin on their counter to encourage their customers to donate towards the work of Thurrock Foodbank. We thank Tyler and all at Hireco for supporting our work. Hireco are also holding a raffle with some great prizes to also raise some funds for us,

please see the attached poster, and please feel free to advertise it.

Whilst our stock levels are getting better, demands on our service are continuing and we had a much busier week last week. We have lower stock of some of the basic food parcel items that help us give a balanced food parcel. These items include:

Mashed Potatoes

Cooking Sauces

Tinned Soups (Tomato/ Vegetable)

Jam/spreads

Sponge puddings/ Angel delights/ Jellys

Packet Rice

Long Life Milk

Your support really does make a difference to our work and we do see many blessings daily in our work.

If you require any further information regarding our work or would 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 very much valued and appreciated

Best regards

Pete Newall

Pathfinder Lead & Operations Manager

Thurrock Foodbank

Personal Line:01375-411806

Office: 01375-416200

MOVING STORIES

Committed to supporting our global partners in:

ZIMBABWE

Batsirai Byanutete, lives in the Mutoko District in Zimbabwe. He is a young man who has had his life turned around by the intervention of our Christian Aid partner. Christian Aid has assisted with the help of indigenous knowledge, doing brilliant work in identifying indigenous plants and shrubs that can be carefully combined into livestock feed. These bushes and plants are processed using a Christian Aid supplied milling machine. The product is then bagged and stored, ready for sale.

This highly nutritious supplement is given to animals in lean times (like now) and just before market. The animals are healthier, which means that the community is healthier too.

Your support for Commitment for Life, means that Batsirai Byanutete, instead of hanging out with directionless youths, drinking and getting into mischief, has a sense of purpose now that his milling expertise is much valued by the community.

BANGLADESH

Fast Fashion – a detrimental effect on the Environment

Bangladesh is the second largest garment exporter in the world, providing millions of garments to the UK market.

Large numbers of high street fashion brands in the UK are buying from factories in Bangladesh, according to one study 'Impact of Global Clothing Retailers' Unfair Practices on Bangladeshi Suppliers During COVID-19'.

Many factories are struggling to pay the Bangladeshi daily minimum wage of £2.30 due to rising costs and the burden of shareholder dividends.

Commitment
for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

The rise of fast fashion has a profoundly detrimental effect on the environment. One cotton shirt requires roughly 700 gallons of water overall. The fashion industry produces 5% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, or 2.1 billion tons of CO2 annually.

This is more than shipping and aviation combined! Next time you shop for clothes, think:

- Where is the garment made? Are working conditions safe? Do the workers get a living wage?
- Will I wear this garment a minimum of 30 times?
- Could I rather use a charity shop?
- Will I take the '30-wear' pledge'?

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for your presence in our lives. We bless and praise you for the many gifts you pour so generously into our lives. May we be transformed by the infilling of your Holy Spirit to perfectly love you through our care and support for our neighbour in need. And, in so doing, may we increasingly come to resemble you. Amen.





The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Ministry And Mission Fund - Annual Letter to Local Churches

Dear Friends,

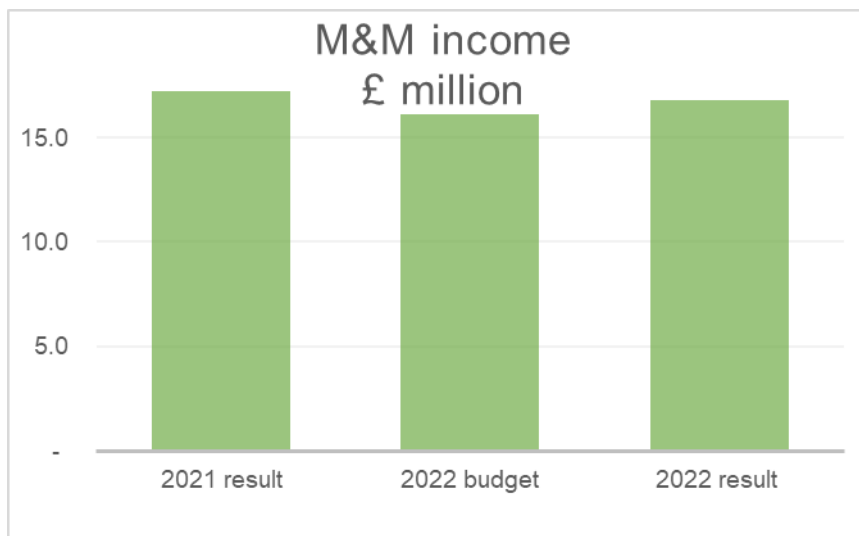
When will normal service be resumed?

As we are writing this letter and closing off the URC's accounts for 2022, the country is still torn with industrial disputes, mostly notably with Health Service workers, rail industry workers, teachers etc. etc. Whatever your view as to the wisdom or justice of such action, we suspect all of us are affected by the disruption to some degree.

In church life too, are we back to "normal life"? Some churches no doubt have returned to something like their pre-Covid level of activity and attendance numbers. Quite a few have recommenced their activity but find their numbers have reduced. Some churches have found re-opening too difficult and have decided to close.

Whatever the "new normal" was to be, we suggest its arrival has (like many trains) been disrupted, delayed, or cancelled all together.

The URC's finance officers had concerns that the late arrival of the return to normality would impact very significantly on the giving to the M&M Fund in 2022. However, the churches responded magnificently and the giving to M&M was £600,000 ahead of budget. It was also only 2.5% down on 2021's result.



So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2022 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With normal service not yet resumed, 2023 is not going to be an easy year either. We now have the added disruption of high inflation, pushing up wages and overhead costs. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

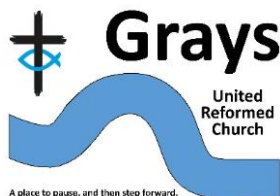
Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Hardie (Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)



Community Outreach Worker

Grays United Reformed Church
31 Bradleigh Avenue, Grays RM17 5XD

3-year, part time appointment (10 hours per week)
£14-16 per hour, depending on experience.

We are seeking an experienced person who is motivated to develop and support initiatives that aim to improve the lives and wellbeing of people in our community.

The focus of the work is to assist and develop the existing activities on Tuesdays and Wednesdays: PlayDen, Mature Movers, Community Café and, if possible, on Sundays, and to lead on local and social media advertising.

The successful candidate does not have to be a committed Christian but would be expected to be caring and empathetic and be comfortable working within the Statement & Nature of Faith of the United Reformed Church.

Church-based, with some working from home permissible.

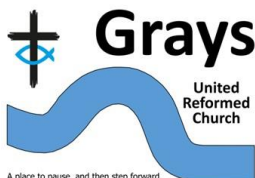
An application pack can be accessed by emailing David Coaker on drcoaker@gmail.com

Only completed application forms will be accepted. No CVs.
Closing date for applications is by 5pm on Thursday 21st Sept.

Interviews will be held on Wed 27th and/or Thurs 28th Sept.

As part of the interview, you are asked to prepare a ten-minute presentation on your choice of subject to cover the responsibilities of the role and to display the essential experience, skills and abilities listed in the person specification.

Harvest



*Come, you thankful
people, come ...*

Worship



**Sunday 1st October
10.30-11.15am**

We come together to give thanks for the blessings that life offers as part of our all-age service including our Guide and Scout groups.



**Wednesday 4th October
11.00-11.30am**

We come together to give thanks for the blessings that life offers as part of a more traditional service within our Community Café (open from 10am).



Lunch

Wed 4th Oct, 12-2pm

We will be offering a simple lunch and refreshments.

(Donations please to cover costs)



The Harvest gifts we gather will given to:

Fresh produce - St Luke's Hospice

Non-perishable, retiring collection and any surplus monies - Women's Refuge

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 Assisted by Mr Kee Cheung

**For the next few months or so, Rev'd David Coaker.*