



# *Ruislip Manor Methodist Church*

*ANNUAL REPORTS 2020*

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# Minister's Letter 2020

This has very much been a year like no other.

Following our last Annual Report it began normally enough and that will be reflected in the other reports detailing events and changes so I am not attempting to reflect comprehensively on those things. Simply to say how grateful I am to be part of our church family at Ruislip Manor with its Worship, Learning & Caring, Service and Evangelism.

Part way through the year I had my 4<sup>th</sup> sabbatical (must be getting old!) which I had decided to use to challenge myself in a new way, stepping outside my comfort zone by teaching at a Methodist school in Chile. With the protests and riots in Chile starting the week I arrived it turned out to be further outside my comfort zone than I could have imagined! However it was still a wonderful experience sharing in the lives of Christians in a different country.

Soon after getting back we were able to welcome a number of people into the family of our church including those who were transferring from South Ruislip. With them we are thankful for the ministry and life of that church dating back to 1944, and for its repurposing as our Circuit Hub. We are sad with them that the church family has had to disband. But we are so glad they have chosen to make their new home with us.

Coronavirus began to impact our lives and we have been learning what it is to be a church when we cannot physically meet. Our weekly newsletter has become even more significant; we are having weekly stewards' meeting on 'Zoom'; a new Facebook Group has been set up; we have been learning how to access services and devotional materials online. Though even more significant has been the way in which our pastoral links, and indeed we all, have sought to keep in touch with and care for one another. Our young people sending Easter cards to those who might feel most isolated is one beautiful example of this.

The English word 'church' derives from the Greek term *kyriakos* meaning 'belonging to the Lord' and this was originally applied to a church building as in 'the Lord's house'. But when the New Testament talks about the people of God, it uses a quite different word, *ekklesia*. This means an assembly of people and cannot mean a building. We get into a muddle when we use the same word, 'church,' to refer to our buildings *and* to God's people. It is God's people – scattered as well as gathered – who are the 'sacred space', rather than any building.

So if you are finding this time without a building difficult and even have a sense of being cut off from the church family, do let me or another member know. If you have any ideas what more we can make of this strange opportunity then again please let me know. Together we are the *ekklesia*, bound by the love of God.

God's best to you,

Roger

## Senior Steward's Report

We are going through very strange times at the moment – please do keep in touch with each other – and may we know God’s love and care shining through. As everything seems so different it is lovely to see nature carrying on as usual, lovely blossom, bluebells – God’s love is shining through to each one of us.

Thank you for all you do to help with our Church Community – we all need each other and are stronger when working together.

Thank you to all the support from the stewards, I am very grateful for all you do. Thank you also to the Vestry Assistants who help us each Sunday.

The Audio Visual team are amazing, they have to respond to very demanding challenges - definitely during this Coronavirus period when you are watching other services on You Tube you realise what an amazing job our team do, thank you.

Our Treasurer, Communion Steward’s, Door Steward’s, Flower Arrangers, Coffee Makers, coming to worship, we all play our part and are stronger as a Church Community.

A big thank you to Janet Miles for producing our Notice Sheet and our Annual Report and to Graham for all the printing he does.

It was lovely to welcome a number of people into our Church Family.

We look forward to when we will all be worshipping together again.

Love and prayers to you all,

Janet Fairclough

Senior Steward



The Prayer Chain has now been working for a few years and we have prayed for quite a number of people and situations. If you would like to join us to add a few more prayers to your prayer time it is very easy. It all happens in our own homes - there are no meetings.

The way it works is:- Prayer Requests come to me either verbally or by email, text or telephone. Before I accept I ask the question whether the people involved are willing for information to go on the Prayer Chain and also in the Weekly News Letter - and we adhere to those instructions.

Requests for prayers I then pass on to the list of people who pray. It is perhaps easier if they can be passed on by email but as everyone doesn't have that facility I can either text or telephone. All the information given to people who pray is confidential and those people will not divulge anything to others. However now that we are putting a list of people who have Prayer Requests on the Weekly News Letter a further question must be asked whether it should be included in that publication or not.

If this is something you feel called to do, all you have to do is contact me by email at [prayerrequests@rmmc.org.uk](mailto:prayerrequests@rmmc.org.uk). It would be lovely to hear from you.

Daphne Turner.



## Social Evening

Once again we have enjoyed our Meetings. We have been very pleased to welcome two new members, Yvonne from our Church, also David who came from South Ruislip when the Church there ceased to meet. This Christmas for a change we went to the Ruislip Harvester for our Christmas meal which was most enjoyable..

Beryl Henry.



## Northwood Live at Home Scheme and our new Ruislip Manor Friendship Group



The Group has continued to meet every Tuesday afternoon, until prevented by the need to suspend its activities because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We miss our friends very much, and are looking forward to the meetings starting as soon as possible after things can return to something approaching normality. The numbers who attend the Group have varied, inevitably, due to illness, hospital appointments and the like, but have remained steady overall, and it's clear that there is much enjoyment to be had, both for the members and the helpers, in the chat, quizzes, exercise classes and other activities. Undoubtedly, however, the most popular part is the lunch, which is provided every week by Shashi, who leads the sessions. It's always beautifully presented and includes fruit – sometimes with mouth-watering mangoes and other delicacies - as well as cheeses, savoury biscuits, pancakes on Shrove Tuesday ....and doughnuts! This began, because the necessity for an early start for the sessions, meant that some members were missing lunch, and by the time that they had returned home it was then too late. So, a difficulty has been transformed into another pleasure.

Some of the members are participating in the outings, events and wider activities held at (or from in the case of outings) the main premises at St. John's United Reformed Church in

Northwood. One of these events was the Scrabble competition held there earlier in the year, won by Lindsey from our own group, which was especially exciting! Sadly, the NL@HS holiday has had to be cancelled, but we hope that there will be further opportunities for all those who had intended to go, and especially our members, of course.

We still have five Church volunteers as well as Sue and Rosemary who worked with Active Ageing, and, to everyone's delight as reported last year, transferred their volunteering to the new Group. However, we do need more volunteers from the Church community, to chat, make tea and provide additional help for activities. This doesn't have to be a huge commitment; just one session a month would be so much appreciated or, perhaps, if you have craft skills and would be prepared to teach fairly easy ones on an occasional basis, that would be lovely too. Drivers are still needed, too, to enable those members who cannot use public transport to get to and from St. John's URC from time to time. Do have a word with Val or me (on a no obligation basis) if you feel that you might be able to assist. It's fun and satisfying too!

The Church continues to provide the use of the premises without charge, as part of our support of external charities. The inevitable financial shortfalls, which NL@HS accepts as part of its charitable work have been offset in part, not just by their own fund raising, but the annual grant from the Bequest Fund to which we have committed for three years. It's good that, as a church, we can make a difference to the resources of a charity which, already makes such a difference to the lives of older people.

Hilary Porter



Hillingdon Carers Volunteers provide Therapeutic Care to carers in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Hillingdon Carers have been using the Ruislip Manor Methodist Church twice a month for the past 14 years to provide support to unpaid carers in the London Borough of Hillingdon. This service along with all of Hillingdon Carers services are free to carers. We have always found the venue friendly, warm, accommodating and a familiar landmark in Ruislip.

Volunteer Therapists provide Comfort touch to Carers, using therapeutic techniques to provide comfort and support to Carers in a relaxing, comfortable and soothing environment surrounded by gentle music and beautiful aromas to relax the mind, body and soul. The Therapist offers emotional support to Carers whilst they have a 30 minute treatment. Some Carers relish the opportunity to confide to the therapist, others prefer to sit back, relax and have a quiet break. Support workers from Hillingdon Carers attend all sessions,

facilitating peer support and friendship around a large table set up in the lounge area. They also offer emotional support, information, advice and signpost Carers to other levels of community and statutory support that is available. Tea, coffee and light refreshments are also provided to Carers from a Hillingdon Carers Volunteer who is also a Carer. Harlington Hospice also provide two six week **Well Being Workshops** per year using the Ruislip Manor Methodist Church (as well as other locations around the borough) to offer a variety of simple to learn practices that Carers can use every day to enhance coping skills and improve the ability to relax.

Hillingdon Carers are also supported by Ruislip Lions who fund our popular **Ruislip Carers Cafe** - again facilitated at the Church. The cafe offers Carers friendship, support and lively conversation on the Third Monday of each month. Volunteers from Ruislip Lions supply all the provision and support for this friendly cafe for Carers and the person they care for.

Nadia Habibi-Evans

Wellbeing Development Officer

Hillingdon Carers.



## Ruislip Manor Rangers

We have been working on the new guiding programme, in particular the Live Smart section.

The Rangers planned a two-course meal and, cooked it without the use of an oven. They also had to make sure each individual dietary requirement was considered. Truffles and chocolate boxes were also made for Mother's Day gifts.

For the Church Family Service, we were asked to produce two types of lashing to demonstrate two types of crosses. We made square lashing and diagonal lashings and learnt the practical uses for each lashing. For our end of term outing we went rock climbing at Brunell University.

During the summer term we spent as much time as possible doing outdoor activities. To cover the Skills for My Future part of the Guiding programme, we had an evening working out the best way to survive after a plane crash in the desert. Skills which could be transferred to many situations. An evening was spent at the Golf Driving Range and, an evening at the escape room. We managed to defuse the bomb and escape with, twenty-three seconds, to spare!

For the last evening of the summer term we went on a ramble from Harefield with our O.S. map and Silva compass, having learnt how to map read with a Silva compass on previous evenings.

To complete the Skills for My Future part of the new Guiding programme we thought about all the skills we had to offer and, how these could be transferred to school, and C.V.s for University and, the workplace.

Upcycling and creating beautiful boxes for the bedroom out of waste completed the Ranger year.

Marian Ronchetti and Jane Smith (Ranger Guiders).



**Our Church had another very good year. In the 12 months ended 31st August 2019, a total of £2640.25 was raised - by far the largest sum of all the churches in the Circuit.**

**Of this, £1494.11 was from JMA. Our collectors do a wonderful job. Look out for small humans with little yellow pots - and in some cases with record cards also - and feel free to put some cash into the pots. The children deserve our warmest thanks and congratulations.**

**We also have a number of (slightly) older people who hold World Church Boxes - these yield a good sum each year, We also had a very lucrative - £582.76 - and enjoyable Coffee Morning a few weeks before Christmas. In addition, annual World Church envelopes - formerly known as Self Denial - raised £258.76.**

**Gift Aid is claimed, adding about 25% to the moneys raised, Many thanks to Graham for facilitating this.**

**I have been World Church secretary for 50 years now, and JMA secretary for even longer by a couple of years! It seems that it might be time for me, reluctantly, to retire at the end of August 2020. I am pleased to say that a successor is waiting in the wings, and I shall be only too glad to give them any advice that they may seek.**

**Ken Bracey J.M.A. Secretary**



The last year has been another busy one. We have welcomed more new girls and grown in numbers over the year. The leadership team remains strong and has also expanded. Elizabeth joins us when home from university and via facetime most weeks, even leading games remotely ! Emma and Poppy are now well established as young leaders. We officially welcomed Alan as our Unit helper. Through the spring term the girls finished Be Well level 4 Skill builder and started their Express myself - Communication and Skills for my Future - Lead level 4 Skill builders. This involved learning common signing phases, exercises looking at leadership styles, storytelling and thinking about how we include everybody in all we do. A chocolate themed evening to celebrate Easter was a reward for the girls thoughtful work on the themes they chose. In summer we worked on Have adventures - Skill builder Camp level 4 both as part of preparing for camp and at Camp . We enjoyed activities with a Jungle theme at camp. The weather wasn't as kind to us as the previous year but the girls particularly enjoyed the I'm a leader get me out of here activity where if they got their question right all sorts of gungey beastie things landed on their leaders!. They cooked over an open fire and took part in all camp duties. A Come Rain or Shine Challenge badge and Camp level 4 Badges were awarded to all. We ended the term with a lively summer BBQ for all with a family quiz and various activities ending with an enrolment ceremony. During the autumn term we continued the new guide programme with the girls working on the Innovate level 4 skill builder which included a cookie making competition and designing surgical tools to extract objects from their "body"! We became Guiding Planet Protectors recycling plastic into patrol emblems and making pledges to use less plastic. We had a wonderful evening celebrating Elizabeth's 21st with Disney themed fancy dress, games and food. The traditional end to the term meant it was Panto trip time. We benefited from the continued support of parents helpers through a personally challenging year for which we are very grateful.



# Torrington Group

*At the beginning of 2019 we reflected on our programmes from previous years and concluded that it might be more helpful to use a study guide that could be completed within one year. We chose the Lent study booklet "Behold the lamb" which contained seven sessions (one each covering the readings for the six Sundays in Lent plus one looking at the Easter Day readings) so slightly adjusted the balance between social and discussion meetings to make sure we could finish working through the booklet by the end of 2019. It prompted some helpful and thought-provoking discussions.*

*Changes to the car-parking arrangements at Ruislip Lido resulted in us dropping the summer evening walks from our programme, but quizzes, games and meals together continued to be enjoyed.*

*At the beginning of 2020 we again chose a study guide we expected to complete within the year: "The Kingdom: studies from Matthew's gospel" in the Cover to Cover series. Little did we know that, before we reached session two, the government would have instructed churches to close and banned meetings of more than two people not from the same household. Although we are unable to meet together at the time of writing this report, we are strengthened and encouraged by our friendships and look forward to resuming our programme once the lockdown is lifted.*



**Christian Aid** 

**Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to Christian Aid during the last year.**

**Last May we raised £1,403 for Christian Aid week, this was more money than we have raised for several years. This was a very good result as it was the first year we haven't done a house to house collection in the local roads. We are most grateful to Valerie Graham and her helpers who arranged a splendid quiz night. It was a huge success and a most enjoyable evening which raised a lot of money for Christian Aid. The money donated in Christian Aid week last year was used to prevent so many mothers in poor countries dying in childbirth. This year Christian Aid week will go to help people suffering from the results of climate change.**

**Last September each church in our Methodist circuit was asked to collect £315 for Christian Aid to help people displaced by the Syrian conflict. We have collected over this amount June Palmer**



# Friendship Teas



We are now in our 13<sup>th</sup> year of Friendship Teas (not unlucky for us!). We enjoy great company, sandwiches, cakes and lots of tea & coffee on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 3.30pm in the Coffee Lounge.

We always have a quiz, which are great fun, but sometimes a bit fiendish, depending on who has set the questions!

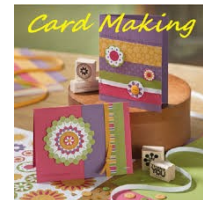
It has been lovely to see new faces at the Tea – Hilda, Carol, Sylvia & Sue.

If you know of anyone who would like to join us (maybe they are on their own on a Sunday afternoon), please encourage them to come along; they would be very welcome. It is always a lovely atmosphere and we have a happy time together.

I am very grateful to the team of helpers who make the Tea happen –the people who provide lifts, pour tea, chat and wash up. If you would like to join the team, please let me know.

Valerie Graham

# Craft Group



The craft group is of course taking a break at present but only from meeting down the church. We are keeping in touch with each other and keeping busy being creative at home so there will be lots of new cards for sale when we return!

All the profits that are made from the cards are sent to various charities, over the past year we have sent donations to; Smile Train, The Danny Galivan Trust and Clic Sargent, we have also supported World Church and Christian Aid at coffee mornings in the Church and the total amount donated this year is £343.65.

The craft group meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday mornings but the cards are always available in the corridor, thank you to all who support us by buying our cards.

Nola Stammer





# Journeys

Journeys is a church study group including people from Ruislip, Ruislip Manor & South Harrow Methodist Churches. We have evening meetings at Ruislip & Ruislip Manor – more details can be found on our websites and notice sheets. Journeys is affiliated to the Progressive Christian Network (PCN). We welcome new members. If you would like more information on Journeys, please contact Val Graham.

In the past 12 months we have enjoyed a variety of material, which has produced much discussion – some of the best discussion is when we digress from the original subject though!

We listened to the #SheToo podcasts produced by the Bible Society, which explored some of the texts that include violence against women.



We read the book “Everything Must Change” by Brian McLaren, which suggested how a fresh understanding of the message of Jesus, brings healing and sanity to the three major societal and global crises of our time; a damaged environment, a growing gap between rich and poor and growing threat of catastrophic war.

We watched a DVD of a PCN meeting where speakers spoke on the topic of “Religion & Atheism – beyond the divide”

Hilary led two sessions entitled “What is the Church for?, where we learnt a lot about each other as well as sharing our views.

Last summer, some of us also enjoyed an evening walk around the Lido, followed by a mini picnic.



We are looking forward to leading a Local Arrangement service at our Churches on the theme of ‘Water’, when we meet again when Covid-19 is over.

Val Graham



**Once again Ruislip Manor Methodist Church has supported the Whitechapel Mission during the year 2019/20. The Mission helps and supports those people who have the misfortune to be homeless.**

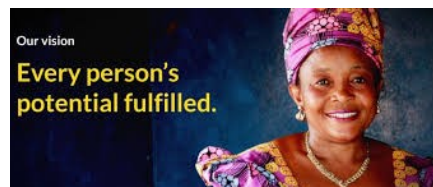
**Helping the people who pass through their doors in so many ways such as simply providing a hot meal and a shower or using The Mission's address to receive their post, helping to find employment or referring some to drug and alcohol programmes.**

**Last year The Mission served 108,398 Breakfasts 23,800 Showers. 2,467 used The Mission's advice services. There are many many more services which are provided by the regular team and the 5,200 volunteers 365 days a year.**

**As I have said every year that I am really amazed at the generosity of everyone at the Manor for their gifts of Clothes, Food Toiletries and of course the cash donations (which amounted to £441-25).**

**I hope that we will continue to support Whitechapel for many years to come.**

**Roger Davis**



Ruislip Manor Methodist Church is continuing as a Partner Church with All We Can (the trading name for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund). They provide us with publicity materials describing their work and we had an inspiring service, last May, led by Matt Forsyth from AwC who gave us examples some of their work.

We have received a certificate showing the final total raised for AwC in the past Church Year as £923.65p, an impressive total for a small Church.

Having previously featured communities in Zimbabwe, AwC's Autumn Partner Church update gives details of the village and family in, Ethiopia that they are featuring in this years' publicity. Urge lives in the village of Cherkos, Ethiopia with three generations of his family. For Urge, the impact of the climate crisis is first hand. His community and family are feeling the effects on a daily basis. Where they used to have two rainy seasons, they now only have one. This has meant they have a food gap to fill. Without enough food, some of his children have had to move away to earn money to send back to the family. For someone like Urge in Cherkos, Ethiopia, the climate crisis is not just statistics, it is his day-to-day reality. For him, he cannot dismiss climate change as something that isn't happening or that will only affect some future generation. It affects his life, today. It affects his family's future and well-being.

All We Can and our local partner have been working to make a difference to the lives of Urge and his community. The small action of growing a specially developed variety of potato has meant that there is now a means of having food where they were experiencing a food gap. The potato farmers of Cherkos can grow enough to feed their families and hopefully sell any excess. That will have a big impact on the whole community.

## Discoverers

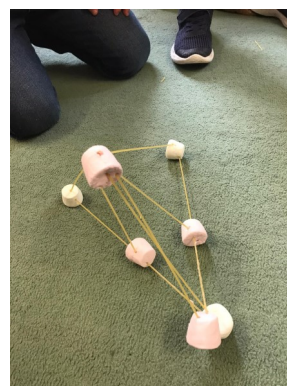
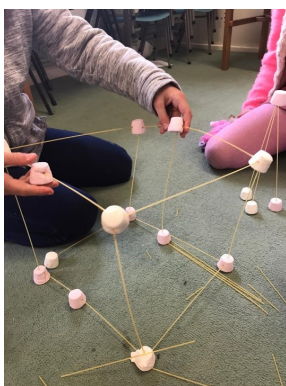
Last year Laura (the church gardener) set up a vegetable plot and joined Discoverers one Sunday to plant a variety of vegetables and herbs. There was a good crop which everyone loved checking on as the grew

The last year has seen a continuation of our fund raising for toilet twinning and we have now raised enough to twin with a school toilet block. The children really enjoyed learning about Uganda, the country we chose our block for and it was great to be able to link their hard work into our Christmas nativity service as well.

As always the kids loved their annual pancake sunday which I know the main congregation are always envious of.

Another highly enjoyable activity involved showing how little ingredients coming together can make something amazing (in this case a self saucing chocolate pudding). It helped illustrate to the children how each one of them is valuable to God.

Another session looked at Working Together, it was illustrated by using the salt to support an egg in water, and making spaghetti and marshmallow towers. Both eggs and spaghetti on their own are fragile but this changes with the right support



It's been very strange to miss our Easter festivities at church this year and we can't wait until we can all get together again. In the meantime we hope you enjoyed the Easter Garden and 'thinking of you' cards we sent out to some of our congregation to remind them that we are still together while apart. Also if you are taking your daily exercise past the church keep an eye out for some beautiful rainbows in the church windows.

Kathryn and Gavin

# Ruislip Manor Methodist Church

## Extra, Extra! Annual Reports 2020



### Brownies and Rainbows



I knew Emily for along time as I have been a part of guiding for nearly 16 years in different ways .

Rainbows at the church have been getting used to the new programme. We have welcomed new rainbows and seen some move up to Brownies.

We have had evenings of cooking, painting and games. Also have celebrated Christmas and Chinese new year, Valentines day and mothers day in different craft activities.

The girls are happy to come and are seeming to enjoy the varied programme.

In this time we are still keeping in touch with and sending out fun activities they can work on at home which will earn them badges.

Brownies have also been getting used to the new programme and even though we have low numbers at the moment they are getting along fine. They have been doing things like fruit art, cooking pancakes for pancake day and also loads of craft for festivals such as Christmas, Chinese new year, Valentine's day and Mothers day. We have also had a few games nights. We had sparklers and made s'mores on a disposable bbq for fireworks night too. They have been working hard to earn new badges.

Gail Lisi





**For hall & room bookings:** [bookings@rmmc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@rmmc.org.uk)

