


EGERTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

February, March April 2023



If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.
And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.



Dear friends,

As I look out of my window, the sun is shining and there is no frost and no puddles on the ground. Today feels like the first time in a long time that I could say that. This has been a cold, wet winter, not helped by a gloomy outlook economically and a great many other clouds on the horizon of our world.

It's at times like these that we most need the light of the hope that our faith and our church family bring to us. It's also at times like these that we most need to share that light in whatever way we can.

Many of you are doing that in practical ways, whether by supporting Urban Outreach and foodbanks, or by providing the light and warmth of your presence both within the church building and way beyond it to so many who are finding life difficult at this time. Paul urged us to share one another's burdens. (Galatians 6:2) and whilst he was not really talking physically, that is a good starting point.

Nevertheless, we need to go much further. We need to recognise that the hope we have in Christ is not only especially needed at times like these, but also that many folk will be more open than ever to hear about it. So what can we do about that?

A lot of church members tell me that they have no idea what to say to a friend or neighbour to make them want to try coming to church. All that you have to do is to tell them what a difference your faith makes to you. Why **do** you come to church? Perhaps it's the hope offered by Christ through these dark times or the warmth that you feel from the fellowship. Maybe the worship sets you up for the week or makes you think or feel differently. Whatever brings you to church will appeal to others too.

You don't need to answer any awkward questions – if anyone quizzes you on your faith and you don't know how to answer or feel that you can't explain, just be honest and then simply ask them to come and see. All you need to do is to offer to pick them up one Sunday, or to walk with them. It's God's role to work on their response and it's for the rest of the fellowship to work on what happens when they get there.

Jesus said 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28). It is that lightening of even heavy burdens that we have to offer in Christ. It's a gift worth having, so don't hide Jesus' light under a bushel. Be open about your faith with those that you know and you will be offering a gift whose price is beyond pearls.

May the sun shine on you this spring and may the light of Christ be seen wherever you go,
Jacky



EGERTON URC FILM CLUB

Egerton URC have a thriving film club that now meets at church on the second & fourth Wednesday of every month at 6.30 PM.

Most films last around 2 hours and we have an intermission for a friendly chat & refreshments around half time.

The club first started on the 25th August last year when we initially showed The Great Gatsby & subsequently decided to show a new film on the first Wednesday of each month.

Last year we also showed Victoria and Abdul followed by Avatar, The Greatest Showman and the Book Thief.

The club has proved very popular so we decided to meet twice a month on the second & forth Wednesday.

January this year we showed Downton Abbey 2- A New Era & Six Minutes to Midnight.

Our next film on Wednesday the 8th February will be Belfast which stars Judi Dench.

We don't make any charge for watching the film.

Refreshments are available typically tea, coffee, red & white wine, Crisps, nuts, Popcorn & sometimes Ice Cream - though this can vary.

Voluntary donations to cover the cost of refreshments are gratefully received.

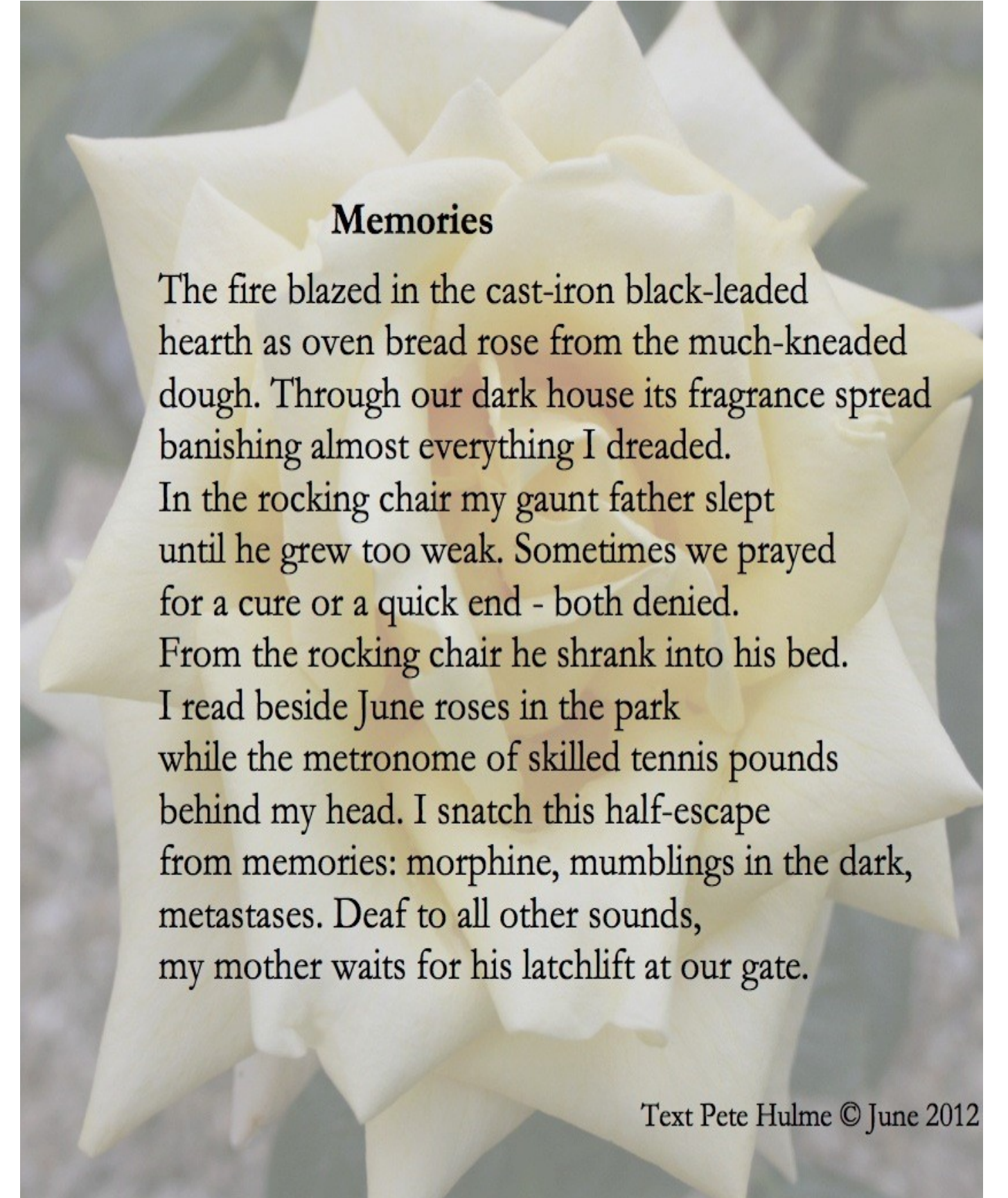
The club hope that you have enjoyed the films shown to date.

We have a list of films we can draw from currently circa 200 & we are always happy to listen to any suggestions for future films.

Hope to see you at the club during 2023.

We post the next film we intend showing on the church website. We appreciate not everyone makes use of social media on the internet so you can always speak to a member of the club for details of the next film or make any suggestions

Members of the film club



Memories

The fire blazed in the cast-iron black-leaded
hearth as oven bread rose from the much-kneaded
dough. Through our dark house its fragrance spread
banishing almost everything I dreaded.
In the rocking chair my gaunt father slept
until he grew too weak. Sometimes we prayed
for a cure or a quick end - both denied.
From the rocking chair he shrank into his bed.
I read beside June roses in the park
while the metronome of skilled tennis pounds
behind my head. I snatch this half-escape
from memories: morphine, mumblings in the dark,
metastases. Deaf to all other sounds,
my mother waits for his latchlift at our gate.

Text Pete Hulme © June 2012

**Please pray
for those unable to attend church
Brian & Jean Harfield
John & Pat Rea
Barbara & Paul Adam

What's on at Church

Here is a bit of information about the gatherings currently on offer at the church.

Monday Club ;2.00pm ; This is a Friendship Group— everyone is welcome. There is good chat, games, crafts , biscuits and occasionally cake!

Slimming World ; Tuesdays am,5pm & 7pm Led by Ian Bunney Tel. 07743 499292

Parents and Toddlers group ;Wednesdays (Term time only)9.30– 11am Led by Lyn 07986 244222 Great fun for the children

The Cardiac group. 7.30pm Cardiac Support Group (3rd Wed of the month)
Speakers and refreshments. Anyone with a heart related problem will be warmly welcomed. David (Chair) Tel. 07941 608604

Thursday Club This is a Coffee Morning. 10-11am Chat and friendship. Come and join us.

FILM CLUB; This is a new venture that was suggested at a church meeting, earlier in the year.

Started in August we show a film in church on the second & fourth Wednesday of each Month at 6.30pm with refreshments during the intermission.

The club currently has 22 members. We have shown The Great Gatsby, Victoria & Abdul, The Greatest Showman, Avatar, The Book Thief, Downton Abbey 2 & Six Minutes to Midnight so far.

We are grateful to all the films that have been donated so far almost 200!

See Lindsey Torrance, Nigel Anderson or Stuart Bromley for more information

Saturday Saturday Brunch (4th Sat of the month)

11..30– 1pm Enjoy a delicious lunch, raffle, tombola, cake stall

Sunday Worship 10am Followed by tea, coffee & chat.

Communion— 1st Sunday of the month

There is a calendar on the church website, for your reference.

Look out on Facebook for posts of upcoming events.

**Egerton United
Reformed Church**

**Blackburn Road. Egerton
BL7 9TB**

The Beatles

Sing-a-long with

Kaleidoscope Pies

**Friday 17th February 2023
7.30pm**

£16 (inc. Supper)

Bring your own glasses, drinks

For Tickets– Sue or Ian

07903166322 or 07535522964

Or 01204 308496

LEST WE FORGET

Inspirational Christian Women of 19th/ 20th Century. (6)



Hannah Whitall Smith, née **Hannah Whitall**, (born February 7, 1832, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.—died May 1, 1911, Iffley [near Oxford], England), American evangelist and reformer, a major public speaker and writer in the Holiness movement of the late 19th century. Hannah Whitall grew up in a strict Quaker home and had from childhood a deep concern with religion and a habit of introspection. In 1851 she married Robert Pearsall Smith, also a Quaker, and in 1865 they moved to Millville, New Jersey, where they came under the influence of the Wesleyan-based Holiness movement, a revivalist creed based on sanctification by faith and the direct experience of salvation. Robert soon began preaching at Holiness camp meetings, and in 1889 he began publishing in Philadelphia the periodical *Christian's Pathway to Power*, to which Hannah contributed frequently. She began preaching as well.

In 1874 she travelled to England to join her husband, who had gone there the year before, and the two became the most prominent figures in the interdenominational Higher Life movement that swept up masses of followers in 1873–75. Hannah was known as the “angel of the churches” both for her eloquence and for her appearance in her evangelistic addresses to huge gatherings throughout Britain. The Smiths’ work in Britain came to a sudden end in 1875 when Robert was implicated in a scandal, and they returned to Philadelphia.

Hannah then turned to writing. In 1875 she published *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*, a guide to sanctification and complete surrender to divine will that was translated into several languages and sold some two million copies around the world. She became a prominent advocate of college education for women and in that regard was a strong influence on her niece, Martha Carey Thomas, who would become the second president of Bryn Mawr College. Hannah helped found the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in 1874 and in 1883 became superintendent of its new Evangelistic Department.

In 1888 Smith and her husband moved to London, where their home was frequented by intellectuals, artists, and reformers, including Bernard Berenson (who married their daughter Mary), Bertrand Russell (who married their daughter Alys), George Bernard Shaw, Henry and William James, Israel Zangwill, Sidney and Beatrice Webb, and George Santayana. Smith continued to work with the British Women's Temperance Association, to preach occasionally, and to write, until her death in 1911.

Article revised by Melissa Petruzzello.

John East asks that if you shop at Asda you collect a green token and drop it in the DARE box to support the scheme their church is running—every little helps!



"WATER, WATER, everywhere" –

Throughout the last few months we have all had our fair share of downfalls or being out and about when a sudden rain-storm descends and we have no brolley!

Looking back to 1977 and the severe drought, I remember dried –up reservoirs and tree and grass dying as we were forbidden to water anything or clean our cars. We had government instructions to boil our drinking water and only flush the loo when necessary.

After days of sunshine, the drought finally broke and the relief was enormous. I, for one, swore I would never curse rain ever again – a resolution that has been difficult to keep lately!

However, when the international news shows us severe droughts in countries where people and crops are perishing due to a lack of water – then we realize just how lucky we all really are. From Doreen Healey.

THE SPIRIT YET CAN SOAR.

No sunbeams pierced the sky today,
We huddled in the rain;
Restless storms kept pressing in
To soak us once again.
Now as day gives way to night,
Clouds billow just the same,
But out upon their distant edge
There glows a rim of flame –
Reminding us that when life's storms
Around us crash and roar,
There, beyond the darkest cloud
The spirit yet can soar –
And as the glory still to come,
A future yet unknown;
God's promise of a brighter day
When stormy times have flown.
by Marion Cleworth.

Information from Churches and Other Christian Organisations

The Bolton Unity Project's Winter Community Walk

All are welcome on a

Winter Community Walk

At Walker Fold

Thursday 26th January, 2pm

(meeting from 1-45pm at Walker Fold Car park, Walker Fold Rd, Smithills, Bolton, BL1 7PT)

And on the Horwich Town Centre Historical Trail

Thursday 2nd February, 2pm

(meeting from 1-45pm at Horwich Evangelical Church, Wright St, Horwich, BL6 7HU)

- Exploring the history of the Walker Fold area and Horwich Town Centre
 - Snacks and drinks provided
- Great chance to meet others from the Bolton community

The walks are fairly gentle and about 2-3 miles (an hour to an hour and a half in total)

If you would like to participate in the walks please contact Keith Armstrong

on tcc@bolton.gmim.org.uk or 07500928573 who will send you more details of meeting points, directions etc.



Tea Rota October 30th – April 2nd 2023

January	22 nd	
	29 th	Trish Holden
February	5 th	Rita
	12 th	Cheryl Johnston
	19 th	Lindzi Torrance
	26 th	Mary Bromley
March	5 th	Sue Swannell
	12 th	Rachel Cronshaw
	19 th	Carol Fielding
	26 th	Sue Topping
	2 nd	Joan Hall

 * *Coming Soon.....*
 * Sunday Flowers Rota
 * We seem to have got out of the
 * habit (due to Covid) of having
 * fresh flowers for Sunday.
 * There will be a fresh
 * rota for 2023 put up
 * soon.
 * If you would like to
 * add your name to
 * the list, it would be
 * appreciated.
 *



 * Take away containers
 * If you have any spare "take
 * away" (with lids), please can
 * you bring them into church for
 * the brunches. We are fre-
 * quently asked for "Take
 * Aways" and
 * struggle to
 * find con-
 * tainers to
 * put them
 * in.



Duties February 2023 – April 2023

Date	Elder	Reading	Reader	Preacher
Feb 5	Steve Swannell	Matt. 5: 13-20	Stuart Bromley	Walt Johnston
12	Ian Topping	Matt. 5: 21-37	Nigel Anderson	Kath Knowles
19	Peter Crook	Matt.17: 1-9	Peter Crook	Doreen Goodship
26	Rachel Cronshaw	Matt. 4: 1-11	Rachel Cronshaw	George Grimes
Mar 5	Steve Swannell	John 3:1-17 or Matt.17: 1-9	Rita Dunn	Jacky Embrey
Mothering Sunday 12	Ian Topping	John 4: 5-42	Joan Hall	Adrian Yapp
19	Sue Topping	John 9:1-41 ?	Doreen Healey	John East
26	Peter Crook	John 11:1-45 ?	Stuart Bromley	Walt Johnston
Palm Sunday Apr 2	Steve Swannell	Matt. 21: 1-11	Nigel Anderson	Doreen Goodship
Easter Day 9	Rachel Cronshaw	Matt. 28: 1-10	Peter Crook	Walt Johnston
16	Ian Topping	John 20:19-31	Rachel Cronshaw	Adrian Yapp
23	Sue Topping	Luke 24:13-35	Rita Dunn	Michael Hawksworth
30	Peter Crook	John 10:1-10	Joan Hall	Kath Knowles

Do you have a good news story? (for the next edition)

Share your thoughts and prayers through our newsletter.

Sunday Worship and Sunday School

10am with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month

Minister: Rev Jacky Embry

Church Secretary: Mrs Roma Hooper

Church Treasurer: Mr Nigel Anderson

