**Hounslow United Reformed Church.  MARCH & APRIL NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to the spring!

**MAY 12th is** our **200th Anniversary of Chapel worship here in Hounslow.**   11.00am worship and Celebration lunch - all are welcome.

This promises to be a great occasion and many friends have been invited to the service at 11.00am and to the Celebration lunch to follow.   Rev. George Watt, Moderator for Thames North Province will be preaching.  A massive thank you to everyone helping in the preparations. Please make a point of putting the date in your diary and inviting friends and neighbours to the party.

**Our charming organist, Paul, will no longer be playing for us.**  Paul has been coming a massive distance to play.  We are sincerely grateful for his highly professional contribution to our worship.  He will be missed.  Jane Gibson has kindly agreed to help where she can and we will be seeing more of her in the weeks ahead.  Thank you to both Paul and to Jane.

**Do you have any memories, photos, newsletters or publications** that might bring to light the past few years in our church?  We are building up an archive; trying to tell the story of service and witness from our Chapel in Hounslow - long ago to the recent past.  If you have any ‘memorabilia’ do please speak to Tony who is curating the exhibition for us.  Thank you and thanks to Tony too.

Elders are recommending that we open for worship three times a month on months when there is a **fifth Sunday - March 31st Easter Day, June 30th, September 29th.** The fact that 31st March is Easter Day seemed an obvious occasion to celebrate together.

**The Prayer Handbook is available** free for everyone.  Please do collect one from the front pew.  During Lent, John suggests we use the reading for each week as part of our private Bible Readings and prayer.  We will know that our church friends are all reading the same passages.  I wonder what the Lord will reveal to us?

**On 11th February the message encouraged us to follow God’s instruction to ‘Listen to him!’**  John would like to start a conversation amongst us as we try to find our God’s calling for us.  We need to listen.  Are there thoughts, concerns, ideas and dreams you have for your faith, for our service and the future of our fellowship?   Please will you ask your church friends and raise the topic of the future of our fellowship with them?  As a listening church we will discover God’s will and plans for us.  Let us ‘Listen to Him!’   At our next **Church meeting, March 24th,** we hope to hear what you think and what your prayers have brought to mind.  We seek his will.



**Are you a designer?**   We would really like a lively church logo that reflects us and our Risen Lord Jesus.   Would you like to submit some ideas for our church logo?  It will go on our noticeboards, letter headed paper and publications.  The denomination’s cross and fish could be included or added afterwards.  Artists, Designers, IT experts, this is your chance!

**Safeguarding is most important.**  We have our agreed Safeguarding policy, soon to be on the website. It is available at the church.  The Safeguarding Officer, temporarily, is John Latham. Should you have any concerns, or anxieties to do with safeguarding of children or adults please do speak to John in complete confidence.  Contact email: **hurc114@outlook.com**.   Should you wish or need to contact the Local Authority. Hounslow Borough Council please call 020 8583 6000.   In an emergency call the police, 999.

**Continuing our experiment to get to know one another** with refreshments in the sanctuary (church) after worship on the 4th Sunday of the month - as well as our lovely ‘party time’ on the second Sunday in the McCrea Hall.

**Worship 11.00am. 2nd, 4th (and 5th) Sunday of each month - List of worship leaders.**

**March 10th** Peter Knowles     **March 24th** John Latham - Holy Communion

**March 31st** **(Easter Sunday)** John Latham

**April 14th** Andrew Heron **April 28th** John Latham – Holy Communion

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**Hounslow United Reformed Church – 200 years of non-conformity (Independents, Congregationalists and Presbyterians) - Part 2**

****In my last article I started to write about the early history of the Church (that has now become) Hounslow URC. This time, the focus is on the Ministry provided by our preachers. There is a full list of every minister since 1824. The first four of these are mentioned below:

**Rev. Edmund Crisp (1796 - 1877)**

He was ordained in 1821 and married a Mary Groube, from a local family. He started the early ministry in Hounslow, but was sent to India (Madras) by the London Missionary Society. He stayed in India until 1840 when he returned to England. He continued to work for the Missionary Society. He died in Ealing. In our memorial garden there is a memorial stone for Mary Groube and her family. A chest tomb at the side (Chapel Road) bears the name, Susanna Eliza Crisp.

**Rev. Doctor Samuel Walter Trac(e)y 1778 – 1854**

Minister at Hounslow 1824 - 1832. He was a former secretary of the London Missionary Society (1811 – 1816). He continued his ministry after Hounslow, serving abroad and in Chelsea and Brixton.

**Rev. Timothy Atkinson 1806 – 1875**

Minister at Hounslow 1832 – 1837. This was when some of the rebuilding of the church took place. He was sent to Canada by the Colonial Missionary Society and in 1845 he settled in America and was secretary of the American Congregational Union.

**Rev. Charles Fox Vardy 1806 – 1889**

Minister at Hounslow 1838 – 1841. His degree came from Glasgow, as English universities at the time were closed to all but Anglicans. He arranged a special service in 1840 to celebrate the return of Rev. Edmund Crisp to England. He remained in England for the rest of his ministerial career, moving to Bethel Church, Hanley in 1841 and Kentish Town in 1846.

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**Bethel Church, Hanley, Staffordshire (Minister 1841 – 1846)**

**Tony Fredjohn**