



WITHAM URC CHURCH MAGAZINE
July/August 2021

Our Vision: "To celebrate God and share the love of Jesus."

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends

It is my turn to write the Pastoral Letter for the Magazine. Whenever I have to write something I look through my list of past writings to use one of them as a template or starting point and I came across this one from November 2016. I was going to simply use it as a pattern, however, reading it again I see God's hand in directing my attention to it, so without apology I offer it to you again with only a minimum of edits.

We are told to love one another, we know that, but what does it mean? We are not meant to naively pretend that people are better than they really are. Rather we are asked to care about people, looking for the best in them and work for their good. We are not asked to agree with one another – we are all different, with different views and opinions. We are asked to be graceful, treating one another with respect. This isn't a sentimental type of love, this is a Love that we must strive for, working hard to achieve it.

What is important to us? Our style of worship, coffee before or after the service, where we sit, times of services...? Yes, all these things matter, some more and some less so, but without love for one another they matter not at all.

John writes: "Beloved, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also".

And Paul writes: "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or

resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

We were all hoping to be released from covid restrictions, but now that date has been postponed until 19th July and we have to wait and see if restrictions are removed on that day or deferred once more. It is frustrating, but we have to be patient and continue to observe the restrictions.

My Father died just over a month ago and the Doctor has now told me that Mum is also in the last days of her life. We come into the world with nothing but love and we also leave it with nothing but love. For God’s sake just love one another.

May God give you his grace and love.

Tony xx

Thoughts - Peter Howard

You can't be friends with a stranger
You can't strike a match that's spent
Love, if it works is hard work
Dear John letters are better not sent
You can't shoot an arrow with a rainbow
The sun goes home when it rains
I searched your eyes the other day
And saw hurt behind pupils and veins
The past can't go back where it came from
A picture's stuck in a rut
Frances, he talked to the animals
The psychiatrist he muttered tut tut
The trunk of the tree houses the branches
But it doesn't charge any rent
A man, he walked on the moon
But a postcard he never sent
Two lovers went on a journey
Holding hands with a vice like grip
New love so fresh and tender
I once had it, but let it slip
The wise they smile and they listen
While the arrogant babble away
The sentry stands erect
While his comrades, they sleep and ply
Water engulfs the gullet
Meeting the body's need
The flowers are in bed in the garden
But it's dodgy being a weed
The ship it stands in the harbour
Safe in its water womb
The street child sits in the doorway
Dreaming of warmth and a room

Ian Hardie (Treasurer) and John Piper (Deputy Treasurer)
On behalf of the whole United Reformed Church Finance
Committee to all members and adherents of
United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical
Partnerships

It would be fair to describe the year-and-a-bit since March 2020 as having been “different”, wouldn’t it? Lots of us have experienced loss of loved ones, loss of income and perhaps jobs. All have experienced periods of lockdown; periods without ‘non-essential’ shops; and continuous and extensive disruption to our ‘normal’ social interactions and relationships. The world we thought we understood and could take for granted has been utterly transformed. How many of us imagined at the start of 2020 that we could go months without a haircut or without people not in our ‘bubble’ entering our homes?

As members of United Reformed Church congregations ourselves, we understand much of what your church community has experienced since March 2020. The absence of what is now regularly labelled “in-person worship” for much (or all) of this time has compelled us to turn to other ways of being church. Buildings in which we used to praise God regularly have been shut, both to regular worshipers and others who might have sought solace within their walls during these desperate and troubling times. It has been hard to maintain close fellowship with people we only meet over Zoom (or the like) – if we are digitally enabled.

Financially, things have been extremely tough too. Plate offerings have collapsed; some regular givers have had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God’s work; and those churches which hire out their premises have seen income from that source disappear.

At denominational level, we feared that these financial troubles would spell disaster for the URC’s Ministry and Mission (‘M&M’) fund through which

the URC has always supported and developed our stipendiary ministers and Church Related Community Workers. It would have been all too easy for congregations to forget that for almost 49 years this fund (under various names) has provided stipends, pension contributions and training for all ministers throughout the three nations in which the URC operates: so that ministry reaches where synods judge it to be most needed and is paid for according to each congregation's ability to contribute (though the ways of determining that vary from synod to synod). It was all very well to remind ourselves that the M&M fund is meant to be the first call on every congregation's resources if the undertaking to financially support our ministers is to be honoured. We feared that drastically reduced income would make that impossible and that, because the need was less visible than the other calls on your diminished resources, payments to the M&M fund would have stopped first.

We are sorry if we ever doubted you.

It quickly became apparent that, although some congregations had to reduce their pledged giving to the M&M fund, many more of you were continuing to meet the 2020 commitments you had made during better times, despite the struggles that required. At the start of that year we had been expecting churches and synods to contribute around £18.5 million to the fund. By the year end, all but half-a-million pounds of that had been received. Since Church House staff and committees managed to reduce their budgeted expenditure by almost £1 million, your money enabled us to meet the full costs of our Ministries, Education & Learning, Children's and Youth Work and Mission departments in 2020 as well as covering amounts spent on safeguarding, denominational governance and communications.

What is perhaps even more amazing is that, collectively, you have pledged to give £17.3 million during 2021 despite the financial problems caused by the pandemic being fully apparent well before your offers for this year were made.

We are always grateful for the financial support given each year to the M&M fund by all of you; but this past year has been phenomenal.

Thank you to those of you who have been able to maintain or increase financial support for your church congregation through this difficult time. That has enabled those responsible for your congregation's finances to keep more money flowing to the M&M fund than we expected.

Thank you for all your previous financial support to those of you who, after prayerful consideration, have had to reduce or stop giving in response to your changed financial circumstances.

Thank you for the pledges your congregation has made about contributing to the M&M fund during 2021 even though you were by then aware of the impact the pandemic was having on your local congregation's finances.

Thank you in anticipation for what you agree to offer to the M&M fund during 2022 to enable the denomination to deliver ministry, education and learning, children's work and mission activity on God's (and your) behalf.

We are aware that synods have played a significant part in encouraging and supporting many congregations with their contributions to the M&M fund. We have separately written to Synod Treasurers to express our thanks to them and their colleagues too.

Of course, our giving for God's work is in response to the amazing generosity and love of God which we see in Jesus. Nonetheless, it is important for us to thank every one of you for what you do for God, your congregation and its and our denominational finances.

Thank you!

Fellowship Profiles

This month we are delighted to have Rosemary sharing her story.

Rosemary Stinson

I was born into a loving but strict Christian home with my mother, grandmother and grandfather. I never knew my father and although my mother married him in this church she had no idea he was a bigamist. One thing I know about my father is that he wrote poetry and this is something I do.

I had a very happy childhood and was given a strong foundation in the Christian faith, However, God has no grandchildren and I made my commitment to Christ in a gym equipment room at the Girls' High School after a C.U. meeting.

Having always wanted to teach, I trained as a Business Studies and Divinity Teacher at a Methodist church in Wimbledon. During my second year there I met a group called The Gospelairs at a Christian Youth activity in Braintree. One of the group was Irving who came from Florida and was stationed at RAF Wethersfield. He had three brothers, was class President of his year at school and debated a lot. He placed second in the State for extemporaneous speech. In his late teens he started a workshop at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church and later at the chapel at Wethersfield.

The plan was that we would go to live in Florida but things didn't work out as we expected and Irving trained as a Science Teacher in Brentwood. Irving became Sunday School Superintendent at Guitham Valley and we organised many holiday clubs and I ran the Bible Class. For most of this time we lived in Braintree, then moved to Witham but I was beginning to have health problems and was diagnosed with Agoraphobia. I then spent a long time not going out and then discovered a lump in my breast. God was with me through all of this and especially during my operation in hospital. He also

provided me with work I could do at home teaching shorthand to local reporters.

Time passed and we became members at Witham URC and later we became Elders. I counted it a privilege to lead worship with Irving and to play for services, share God's word and lead a house group.

Irving, as many of you know, has a wonderful singing voice and used to take services in a number of churches in Essex including Little Waltham where he was Interim Moderator.

Eleven years ago I was rushed into hospital in a diabetic coma; we had no idea I was diabetic. My eyesight has been affected and I had to have the toes and ball of my right foot amputated.

God has been very faithful and I began to realise He had new work for me all concerned with prayer and listening. I run the Prayer Chain and am the Pledge Committee Chair. I hope everyone knows I will listen if they have needs and will pray with them over the 'phone.

Irving has supported me through all of my ups and downs and especially during lockdown, which has not been good for the agoraphobia which I had to fight every day during my teaching career and am now finding it very difficult to get out.

My life verse would be - Jeremiah 29 v11

"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

In closing a couplet from one of my favourite Gospel songs and some words I have added.

"When the one who has kept me standing stands in front of me and every battle that I've fought just fades from memory. When I gaze into His eyes of love and His hand-scarred hand and feet, I'll know that I am home at last, my story is complete."

From both of us we wish God's blessings upon you and pray He will bind us all together in His love.



*...just humour him - he's hoping it'll
help him reach the young people in his diocese...*



Fiona Hunt National Cathedral Cycle

Ian, John and I took part in the National Cathedral Cycle. We started in Chelmsford and cycled to Writtle (5 miles but did have to come back)

John led the peloton 😊 and had lots of fun.

John got to cycle down the aisle of the cathedral as did we.

It was a really good time. The baton was really heavy (4 kg) but really beautiful.

Cathedrals Cycle Route – Week 2

Something a bit different On Saturday the team cycled the 51 miles to Chelmsford where they were greeted by the Dean, the Very Revd Nicholas Henshall who received the baton and placed it on the altar in front of the specially commissioned Cathedrals Cycle Route candle which had been burning during their journey.



There were homemade cakes in the North Transept.

On Sunday morning, the riders for the 48 mile leg to St Albans came into the Cathedral with their bikes just before the morning Eucharist and the Dean handed over the baton and gave a short reading. The Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani prayed for a safe journey and blessed the riders before they were encouraged on their way by the congregation.



The candle continued to burn for the rest of the day.

Congratulations to the youngest rider, five-year old John Hunt, who held the baton and then he and his parents set off with the other riders and cycled the first five miles towards St Albans.



Thank You - David Cumbers

After 7 months with Witham URC, my placement for this year has come to an end on 27th of June. It has been a strange placement as I have not met any of you in person, due to the pandemic, however, I have enjoyed sharing and learning with you all. Everyone has been so friendly and made me feel at home from day one.

I would like to thank the elders for giving me this opportunity to experience life at Witham URC. I feel that I have developed in my knowledge, experience, and confidence as the year has gone on and would like to thank Mark, Lorna, and Viv for their guidance and everybody for your support and encouragement through what has been a very different placement to my previous one.

This year at college has been a challenge with everything being online, including lectures, books, meetings, worship, and social time. It has meant that my kitchen table, like a lot of people's, has become my place of work, my desk, the classroom for the children and myself, the library and common room, along with its normal purpose of hosting family meals. I have been doing well in my studies this year and have passed all my assignments to date with good marks. Though it has been tough at times, God has always been there with me, guiding, leading, equipping, and cheering for me. It reminds me of a quote, 'God doesn't call the qualified. God qualifies the called.' That is so true for all of us, we may never feel we are good enough or clever enough to fulfil a role God has for us, but God knows us better than we know ourselves and God will give us the skills, the knowledge, and gifts we require to follow his call. We just need to take that first step.

As we move out of lockdown, I am excited but tentative about going back to Westminster College in September, due to our family shielding for most of the last 16 months. We are slowly getting used to the new way of living and engaging with society again. We are taking things one step at a time but each day try to keep moving forward. I hope in the future to be able to come to

Witham URC for a service, when we feel ready, and get to meet the lovely people who have made my time on placement at Witham URC such a joy.

Thank you once again to everyone and I pray that God will continue to bless you through the amazing witness and work that is done by Witham URC in the town and beyond.

Holdfast Forecourt Table-top Sale -Fenella Hardie



A forecourt sale in aid of Holdfast Supporters will be held on **Saturday 10th July from 9.30 til 1pm**. There will be good quality clothes with some designer and never worn items, collectables, children's toys, cakes, crafts, plants and bric-a-brac. All donations gratefully received but **please get in touch with Fenella to arrange delivery. No books, cds or dvds please as they do not sell well as sadly we only have to dispose of them as the charity shops don't want them.**

TWAM (Tools With A Mission) need knitting wool

Muriel Heppinstall

Tools with a Mission is a Christian charity enabling people to earn a living and support themselves and their families. In many countries people have few skills, little education and no means of earning a living. A switch from aid dependency to self-sufficiency is impossible without help. TWAM started over thirty years ago, and has since provided this help by collecting and refurbishing tools and equipment no longer required in the UK and sending them overseas. Through collectors and centres across the UK, their teams of dedicated volunteers and supporters help transform thousands of lives every year.

Their current newsletter says “We're sending a container to DR Congo and we need your wool!

“We normally send 20 foot containers, but the most cost efficient option to the DRC is a 40 foot HiCube which is about 60% bigger. We need a huge amount of tools to fill it and the biggest need is for lots of knitting machines, hand and knitting machine wool (especially hand knitting wool).

“It is common for women to knit with bamboo canes or bicycle wheel spokes. Can you imagine knitting with them? The groups we send to are often from rural economies that live on the produce they grow, so have very little money to buy wool. By sending it out, it gives them the opportunity to make some clothes and earn the money needed to buy more wool. So wool is really important.”

I'm willing to collect and forward any wool, needles or even knitting machines that anyone would like to donate.

History of Witham United reformed Church - Muriel Heppinstall

I've almost finished an updated version of our church history. It's been about 50 years since M L Smith wrote his scholarly version and much has happened since then. I've gone back further into the history of 'dissenters' and the sacrifices they made for their beliefs, we have much to be proud of. I'm hoping it will be printed by September and will be on sale in time for Christmas! Price, yet to be decided but all proceeds will go towards Holdfast Supporters, one of our current charities.

Door Stewards Rota - David Goodwin

It is hoped that normal services will start again in July. With this in mind, I am now preparing the rota for July to December 2021 and volunteers **of all ages** are needed for this very important role in assisting the Duty Elders to greet people as they arrive for our Sunday morning service. It is envisaged that from July onwards one of the two Door Stewards will greet people at the gate as they enter the church grounds.

Your duties will also include handing out the song books, bibles and service sheets, collecting them and any disused service sheets up after the service and taking one of the plates at the Offertory (only if you want to).

I hope enough volunteers come forward so you only have to undertake the role once in the period, although you are more than welcome to put your name down more than once if you wish to.

Please add your name to your chosen date/s on the rota in Church Suite if you can. If this isn't possible then please either email me with your chosen date/s or call me – details below.

Email: davidgoodwin2009@hotmail.co.uk

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CHURCH ON THE SOFA IS NICE BUT...

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient (who doesn't love not getting ready in the morning or leaving the home?!), it's important to remember why church attendance matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers either. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We do life together.

The church needs you.

And you need the church.

Wherever you are, find a local church where you and your family can be part of community and use your talents to advance the kingdom and reach others. To come alongside one another physically, not just through a screen.

While I'm grateful for technology to keep people connected that can't physically come to a facility or need to be away, it's absolutely not like being in the building. Never will be.

Yes, church on the sofa is nice.

But it'll never be the same as church in the sanctuary.

WURC Strippers Staplers and Scrapers Club



No-one had to strip off, but over a couple of days a small group of volunteers, not all are in this picture, lead by Graham Bantock got about 100 of the sanctuary chairs ready so that parts of them could be sent away to be reupholstered.

We managed to get a production line going!.This involved removing the seats and backs first from the frame of the chairs and then the upholstery was stripped off ,with about 150 staples having to be removed from each chair without any injury! They were then scrapped down and sanded.

Philip has subsequently been spending many hours in his workshop, making some adjustments to the seats and backs so that the upholstery will fit better and last longer. When the chairs have been reupholstered the same exercise will be repeated with the remaining chairs.

Surprisingly it was good fun and Denise provided us with some excellent cakes. Until the next time !

The step challenge result - you cannot be serious! - Bob Stibbards

As some of you will know one of the activities for Christian Aid this year was a challenge for our church to complete 30 million steps in May. We fell somewhat short of this target but well done to the 20 or so people and two youngsters who took part.

Having mentioned a few times in the magazine my obsession of ‘doing the steps’, do I hear a yawn, I may have inadvertently set myself up as a target. With the daily numbers coming in consistently high I know that the challenge was on and getting serious but in the end I fall short of Tracey’s magnificent total of 741,190 compared to mine of 643,293 with third place going to Deborah with a highly competitive 547,212 and closely followed by Gavin and Beverley. No sour grapes on my part but really I should have won! Here are my reasons and excuses.

I should have had a dog. In speaking to Tracey and at the same time trying to trip her up she mentioned that she did a lot of steps in her job and had a dog that needed lots of exercise. I should have listened to Jo as ever since I have known her she has been telling me that we should have had a dog.

I should have got up earlier and gone out in the dark.

I should have had shorter legs. I of course covered more miles than Tracey as I have longer strides.

I should have included Jo’s steps in my total.

I should have strapped my Fitbit to my ankle when out cycling.

Tracey is a lot younger than me!

But truly well done to Tracey..... upwards and onwards.....

Plastic Free July

We hear so much about the impact of plastic on our planet, particularly on the oceans but plastic comes in many forms and some can be easily recycled and others are much more difficult. To be honest, a plastic free shop is almost impossible, especially for cooked food and raw meat and fish. But some plastic is easy to recycle so here is a very simplified guide:

PET

(Polyethylene Terephthalate)

This is the clear plastic of soft drinks bottles, fruit & veg trays. This is easy to recycle into more of the same, so as long as you put it in the right bin, it is fine.

HDPE

(High density polyethylene)

This is from milk cartons, some yoghurt pots and cleaning products
Again, easy to recycle.

Polypropylene

(PP)

From margarine tubs and microwave meal trays
Easy to recycle, provided clean

Most other plastic is difficult or impossible to recycle, this includes salad bags, shopping bags, crisp packet and sauce bottles. This is mainly because they are composite plastics, designed to keep the contents safe and fit to eat for as long as possible.

A company called Terracycle collects and recycles crisp packets, this is separate from the local council kerbside recycling. We hope to set up a recycling centre for these when the Centre reopens, they are collected and passed on to Howbridge School who then send them to Terracycle.

To do our bit for the environment we can ensure where possible we buy loose veg and fruit and find out which shops allow you to bring containers to refill.



Have you visited the local REco Store at Tower Business Park, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree, CO5 0LX ?
(Just about 500yds from Perrywoods on the same side of the road.)

REco Store brings you affordable, well researched, earth friendly produce. They buy locally wherever possible and are always working with suppliers to improve their packaging or to initiate closed loop supply systems.

They stock a huge range of dried food, from pulses, rice and pasta to fruit, nuts, seeds, baking essentials and even loose tea and coffee beans. They also have a wide range of sweet and savoury treats as well as rapeseed and cooking oil. All the food products are sold loose so you can avoid piles of un-recyclable packaging after every shop. By bringing your containers to refill you are saving hundreds of plastic produce bags and bottles from landfill every year. Small changes collectively make a huge impact.

HOW IT WORKS:

The Tiptree store is small, because of this we serve our customers. Simply bring along your empty containers we will do the rest for you. You don't have to fill every container to the top, you can half fill or even mix different products together (like a healthy trail mix).

Open Tuesday to Saturday 9am – 5pm

Muriel has downloaded an electronic copy of their product range, which is vast, just email me for a copy or log onto their website.

Muriel Heppinstall

Newsletter - Christiana Moon

Numbers 24:26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Most of us will now have become familiar with these lines. We have heard the popular worship song by Elevation worship. 'The Blessing' came out at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic last year. The song became famous, sparking a global anthem of hope during a time of crisis. However, these lines were penned long before Elevation worship set them to music! This blessing is actually the oldest evidence of any form of scripture found. It was found on an amulet dating from about 7th century BC. It originally comes from the book of Numbers. I had the opportunity to dig deeper in preparation for my most recent teaching.



Greater significance to these 3 lines is revealed in the Hebrew. The format of this blessing is actually mathematically perfect. The number of words for each line is (3,5,7). Letters (15,20 and 25) and Syllables (12,14 and 16)- all of these numbers symbolic of completion or perfection. If the word 'LORD' is taken out of each line- 12 words remain- leaving the LORD and His 12 tribes of Israel. There is no necessity to having the word 'LORD' repeated here 3 times. The emphasis is on the LORD who is the complete source of all blessing.



This is something God has really shown me over these past four months since I returned in Ukraine. They have been incredibly busy and have contained some unique challenges. Through everything, God has continued to show me that He is my only true, source of blessing and peace. He, not my ministry, not my talents and gifts. Not the people

around me, or the place in which I live. Not my thoughts, feelings, emotions or logic. He is my true, unchanging, source of blessing and peace. Now as I am learning to experience the LORD's peace in my daily routine of work and ministry. I am organising my life to better see God at work, and trusting Him with the time and resources He has given me.

Here is a look back in thankfulness for all God has done in the past 6 months. He is the source of every blessing!

A Look Back at the Lord's Blessing from Last year

We Graduated last years' SBS in December 2020. An incredible blessing to be running an in-person Bible school in the year 2020! Was wonderful to see the fruit of being able to graduate all 14 of our students!



We Moved into our New Building! It is wonderful to have a beautiful, spacious new classroom for our students to study in. We also have rooms for conferences, events, meetings and staff workspaces!

Seeing family and friends at Christmas

I arrived back to England in God's perfect timing before the national lockdown hit. The lockdown meant I could spend more time with my family than I had in years. I also had a wonderful time catching up with some of the people who have supported me this year. I was also able to serve my church through online teaching. Zoom, Facebook live, park walks and door visits were some fun challenges. Thank you so much for continuing to support me monthly and 1-time donations. Also for your prayer and encouragement. I would not be able to continue to serve here in Ukraine without you!



The Lord's Blessing the past four months

Being able to return to Ukraine at the end of January as I planned

60 countries closed their borders to the UK- but Ukraine was open with a negative covid test! I spent February communicating with our prospective students and preparing for the school.

Seeing last years' students in 'Titus project'

6 of our graduates have completed their teaching internship! We sent teams to Ukraine, Belarus and Egypt from the end of January. They have been

providing inductive Bible-training for local churches. Great to see them use the skills they learned to bless others!

15 students this year from 4 nations-Ukraine, America, Brazil and Turkey

Our largest Bible school yet. Praise God for sending us more world-changers! So far they have had amazing revelations about the character of God in the Old Testament.

4 new staff members- from Ukraine, America and Germany.

4 of last year's graduates decided to come back to serve with us as Bible teachers! We also had some previous staff come back so this increases our staff team from 3 to 8 which is amazing! All our students and staff were able to get their visas to come here.



Over 1 year on staff

The end of March marked my 1-year anniversary of serving as a full-time missionary! It truly is a joy and a privilege to be able to serve the Lord in this way.

Join me in prayer for....

We have just come out of another lockdown. Please pray for numbers to continue to decline. Pray for effective launching of the vaccination.

Political Situation between Russia and Ukraine

Russian has been at war with Ukraine since 2014. Recently more troops have continued to mount up at the Eastern border. The War zone in the East of Ukraine is far from us in Kyiv, but we are concerned for our friends that live and serve there. Religious freedom is also limited in these areas. Please join us in prayer for an end to this conflict and the free-exercising of faith.

The Completion of Our Building Project

We still need to fundraise last 10% to finish off our building. This is for kitchen items, landscaping, seating and a sound system. This is \$27,000.00 total. If you have desire to invest in something that will be a training resource for years to come, please contact me.

SBS

Pray for continued transformation of our students as they study the Word of God. Pray for finances for our students to be able to pay their school fees. Most of our students are from Eastern Europe, where the average wage is low. This means fundraising can be a challenge. If you would like to invest in our students so they can invest in their nations, please also contact me.

Russian lessons

Please pray for my focus and memory as I continue to master Russian grammar in my weekly Skype lessons.

Women's Bible Study

Pray for us as we study the gospel of Mark together!

Our New Ministry opportunities

We have started a new mixed-gender Bible study on Amos. We have also started teaching the teenagers in the Free School on our campus. *And* started

a new Bible study for staff. Pray these programs would be a blessing to the participants!

My Role in helping to pioneer all these new opportunities!

Please pray for wisdom on designing curriculum and time-management. I am also co-leading our Bible School this year so have new responsibilities there too! Pray for the right people I can delegate teaching and responsibilities to.

Staff Retreat. The week after next all of our staff are going on a retreat for spiritual renewal in the west of Ukraine. Please pray for good REST for all of us, including myself.

This was a long letter but so much has happened in the past 4-6 months! I felt the pressing need to give my 'team' of friends, family and supporters a good update! God is good, and I am so excited to see even more of His blessing in the days to come. Thank you for being an invaluable part of His work in Ukraine and Eastern Europe!

Praying for you all,
The Lord Bless you and Keep you,



Minister	Revd	Mark Ambrose	791197
Associate Minister	Revd	Lorna Bantock	571757
Admin Assistant to Rev. Mark Ambrose	Mrs	Deborah Robinson	07564 168342 admin@withamurc.org.uk
Youth Pastor	Mrs	Viv Solis	500958
Assistant Youth Pastor	Ms	Tracey Eagling	500958
Centre Managers	Mrs	Rocio MacDonald	500958
	Mrs	Ana Martin	500958
Discipleship and Growth	Mrs	Sarah Biyi	
Worship and Music	Mrs	Sarah Campbell	
Church Secretary	Mr	Tony Deighton	518866
Mission and Outreach	Mr	Gavin McCall	
Children and Youth	Mr	Keith Meredith	
Pastoral	Mr	Doug Sandles	
Property	Mr	David Wellings	
Church Treasurer	Mr	Ian Hardie	
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