

Northwood Hills Echo

The United Reformed Church in Joel Street Northwood Hills

It's a great pleasure to be able to share news with you about our church and to let you know about some of the exciting changes that are happening. In April we ceased all worship activities at our building on Bridle Road and the church community are now firmly embedded in Northwood Hills Church. Our Eastcote site has been sold to a Hindu Community who we wish well as they begin their new journey.

Our Church

Our services take place at 10.30am on Sunday. We also have a short service starting at midday on the first Thursday of every month. This is followed by a light lunch which gives us the opportunity to enjoy each other's company. We also have the occasional evening service (details can be found on our website).

I would like to share something about the type of worshipping community we are. We aim to be a place of inclusivity that celebrates difference. To that end we embrace a progressive and open theology that freely acknowledges doubts and where questioning is welcomed. We recognise the value of other faiths and appreciate dialogue with them. As a community we search together for a deeper meaning of Jesus and what it means to follow him. That means that we are not afraid to speak out and take actions on issues of politics, justice and peace.

Hirers

A wide variety of groups and organisations regularly hire our premises. We have a Buildings Manager and Administrator who help to facilitate this.

Serving the Community

Over fifteen years ago we began to work in partnership with Hazel Templeton whose mission was to bring comfort and support for those living with dementia and their carers. To this end a specially equipped Day Care Centre was built. This was later taken over by the Alzheimer's Society who have now sadly decided to withdraw their facilities from Northwood Hills. Whilst we are extremely sorry about this we are determined to continue to use the Centre to the benefit of vulnerable groups. In the meantime, the Alzheimer's Society Drop in Café continues to run every other Tuesday and our commitment to Dementia Care remains undimmed.

We also offer space for Northwood Live at Home Friendship group which meets every Monday offering companionship and activities for older people in the locality.

The Future

We do not want to be a building that is simply open to the community, but a building where the community feels its belongs. To this end we are working on a redevelopment of our building so that it will better help us to serve the needs of the people around us. The people who are best able to tell us what those needs are the people who live the area. Whether you are Christian, belong to another faith or have no faith at all your voice matters to us. What groups and organisations do you think are looking for a place to meet in? What areas of need and deprivation do you see around you? What facilities would you like to see in our new building? We would love to hear your views either via our website or better still pop in and see us. We hold Charity Coffee Mornings on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 10.30 to 12 noon.

This is a really exciting time for us and I look forward to keeping you updated about our work and our plans for the future.

Liz Shaw (Minister)

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