FFWPU UK: Love, Community and New Beginnings

Bogdan Pammer
October 17, 2026

FAMILY FEDERATION
FOR WORLD PEACE AND UNIFICATION UK

Newsletter 17.10.2026

HAPPY 44TH BLESSING ANNIVERSARY!



Dear 6000 Blessed Couples,

Happy Anniversary! Fumiko and I and all families in Europe and the Middle East send our warm wishes as we celebrate our 44th Blessing Anniversary today. We hope and pray that you and your families will have a truly blessed and fruitful year, full of hope and gratitude. Even though our True Mother is still confined and our hearts ache for her, we know that today she would want us to give joyful thanks to Heavenly Parent and True Parents. After all, the Blessing is the greatest gift that anyone can receive, and we are all lucky enough to have received it directly from True Parents.

The Blessing at Chamshil Gymnasium on that crisp October day was indeed a historic event. I still have the Korea Times press cutting from the next day, and our motto “World Peace Through Ideal Families.” I think it is safe to say we are all still on that journey together. Let us also remember all the other Blessings that True Parents gave in this month of October – seven in all!

October 14th is of course even more memorable as the day when True Father was liberated from Heungnam prison in 1950. Rereading his account of it in Peace Loving Global Citizen, Father said that he came to realize, on the 13th October, that he would be among the prisoners who would be executed the very next day. Even then, he did not pray for God to save him but simply comforted and put his trust in the Heavenly Parent.

This October 14, True Mother is doing the same as she draws near to the 400th day in confinement. We are, of course, still hoping and praying that the judges will grant her bail during the appeals process. Yet she herself is comforting God and encouraging us.

The day after every Blessing, True Parents always gave some very pithy advice:
“You have everything you need to bring the kingdom of heaven on earth. If you just expect to sit back and be loved by your spouse, the original sin will creep back in. You have to lay the foundation; that is, you must love and understand your mate … you must make an effort. It will not flow into you automatically.”

How will you celebrate your 44th Anniversary? We hope it includes a romantic dinner, at least. We are inviting a few neighbor couples for a home made Korean dinner. And although it is a bit cheeky for us to suggest homework on such a joyful day, one thing that I know would greatly please God and True Parents is to make effort to reach out to your Blessing classmates, especially those whom you might not have heard of from a while. Even it was a long time ago, and seems even longer, it is never too late for love!

With all our best wishes for a blessed and prosperous year for you and your family,

Sincerely,

Michael & Fumiko Balcomb,
Continental Directors, FFWPU Heavenly Europe & the Middle East



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NORTH OF THAMES NEWSLETTER

Stay connected, and hear about the activities of our member in the North of Thames!

FINDING EVENTS & DEVOTIONS



For upcoming events and links to weekly devotions, click here to visit the Events page on our new community website.

WEEKLY DEVOTION

North of Thames Morning Prayer
Mondays 10-10:30 am

Prayers for Peace
Every Other Monday 7-7:30am

EUME Weekly Prayer Call
Wednesdays 7pm

River South Service
Sundays 10:30am

North and East Europe Devotion
Thursdays 6-6:30am

UK Weekly Devotion
Fridays 6-6:30am

North of Thames Service
Sundays 10:15am

Want to share your testimony, experiences, or thoughts?

Get in touch by emailing: **comms@ffwpu,org,uk**

Your faithful tithes and donations help make all of this possible.

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North Thames News

Issue 32, 25 Sep 2026



Summer ADP+ workshop participants in T-shirts with motto
Hold on and return to the arena

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Message from Pastor

William Haines

It has been a long hot summer. The longest and hottest since the one I remember in 1976 when I was on a team in Oxford Street selling the One World magazine and witnessing to people. Soon after that I was lucky enough to go to America with around 40 other members to invite people to the Washington Monument Rally. We went round part of Washington DC knocking on the doors and recording all the responses. It later became the basis for Home Church and Tribal Messiahship. All I saw was a couple of housing estates and of course the extraordinary rally itself. The next day we flew back to London. Why? Because Dennis Orme knew Father would ask all the British members to stay in America … which he did ... but by then it was too late.

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That was 50 years ago last week and how the world has changed! As time has gone by, I have become more and more struck by how insightful Father was about world affairs, how much it concerned him and how much he invested over the decades to try to solve these problems. In 1965 at the height of the Cold War, he met US President Eisenhower and assured him that the democratic world would overcome the communist world. Furthermore he warned that the US should be aware of the risk that Islam would rise up and work with communism. I was amazed when I read about that 40 years ago, as Islam wasn't present in Korea; and Islamic terrorism or extremism didn't exist and wasn't in the media. But Father called it right and one of the things he did was to initiate interfaith work on a level that had never been done before. Also at the Washington Monument Rally he spoke about how the UN was trying to destroy Israel and how important it was that Israel, America and Korea should be united.

And then we saw, of course, 25 years ago there was 9/11 when the Islamic terrorist group Al-Qaeda attacked the Twin Towers and tried also to destroy the Pentagon and the White House, all symbols of American and western power and authority. When I watched some recent documentaries about that terrible event, very rarely was it ever said who was behind the attack and why they did it – partly to "punish" America for supporting Israel. It was like describing a battle in great detail without explaining who was fighting it and why. Not unlike the way what used to be called Guy Fawkes Night is now celebrated in England every year as Bonfire or Fireworks Night without telling the story of who was behind blowing up the Houses of Parliament and why.

And yet, for an event to have meaning the story behind it should be told. That is what is behind all religious festivals. Christians tell the story behind Christmas Day and Easter. Otherwise, what is the meaning or point in having a tree with lights or chocolate eggs? Muslims tell the story of Abraham being asked to sacrifice his son as the background to the celebration of Eid al-Adha and the value of following one's conscience and submitting to God's will. And Jews celebrate Passover when they retell and symbolically relive the Exodus and thus understand who they are.

And I think we, as individuals, families and a community, need to do the same: to remember and celebrate the incredible events, like the Washington Monument, re-read Father's speech and tell the story of what we did and the impact it made on the world in which we live. As Bruce Feiler wrote in *The Secrets of Happy Families*, "The single most important thing you can do for your family may be the simplest of all: develop a strong family narrative."

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A family narrative connects children to something larger than themselves. It helps them make sense of how they fit into the world that existed before they were born. It gives them the starting point of an identity. That in turn becomes the basis of confidence. It enables children to say "This is who I am. This is the story of which I am a part. These are the people who came before me and whose descendant I am. These are the roots of which I am the stem reaching upward toward the sun." And that is why the Principle is based on the Bible because it is the story of God and man: why God created human beings and God's providence to help restore the world from what went wrong, so his dream of a peaceful world can be realised.

Our Summer

Patrick Hanna

Summer is drawing to a close, and autumn invites us to harvest what we have sown in the months before.

On 14th September, we wrapped up the final workshop of our summer programme. Between us, my wife and I were involved with BCGen in five events in Europe and the UK: the ESGD workshops ADP+, HARP and Roots, the Children's Summer Camp, and The Retreat.

Each workshop had a different purpose and was aimed at a distinct group, but each one included a cohort from the North of Thames community. From the perspective of community members, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the two workshops we were involved with in the UK, and to express our gratitude and reflect on some of what we can carry forward into the new academic year.

Caring for the kids

As parents, it is precious to see other people caring for your children as though they were their own family. This is what we could experience at the Kid's camp in a new way; it was very surreal to observe our children attending a workshop for the first time. It is something to cherish and something we want to support in the future; we could witness the joy and growth that our children



Staff and children as a big family

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Children's camp staff convey a message by role play

experienced, and all the heart and dedication that was poured into them.

Afterwards, we had the pleasure of attending a BBQ at the Le Bas household in Pinner to celebrate and give thanks for the Kids' Camp staff (a special North of Thames shout-out to Alvit & Miwa Babi-Shaw, Paulo Stout & Cindy Vanderstok, Aunty Lela Murati, Mateo Scorcea, Taisei Takeida, Bobby Rai, Yebuny Hanna, and Caleb McGuigan). We appreciate the consistency and continuity of this project through Uncle Chris's leadership and stewardship over many years, and also the support he continues to offer to those currently taking care of a project which really puts children first. Projects like this should be the bread and butter of any family-centred movement, so it was very meaningful for us to step into this new domain and learn from those who have consistently cared.



A team game bringing all ages together

A peak experience

The Retreat in the Peak District had a specific focus, but brought together a wonderfully diverse age group. We had three generations of community members playing together, singing together and sharing together.

Alongside our 'regular' British participants, we were joined by our four missionaries (Seirei, Risa, Munhee, Insung). We were blessed with their openness and bright spirits; their participation created a meaningful cultural exchange and brought another

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Outside the Retreat venue in Derbyshire

dimension to our time together. It's important to relate to each other as brothers and sisters and to know each other by name.

We were also able to celebrate Jonathan Graham's 32nd birthday, and Uncle Peter was also able to join us and fully participate in the experience (and have a well-earned break from playing the guitar). The Retreat gave us all the time to take a break, but also to regain energy and perspective. It reminded us that we can be a source of support for one another, while also recognising that we need spaces where we can be open enough to both give and receive support. Love needs to be expressed and practised within a healthy community, and this requires setting aside time and space, which is not always easy to do.

Having Uncle William, our community pastor, turn up in his distinctive green Toyota, Crocs and hat was, in itself, a personal highlight! But beyond the warm and reassuring presence, it is his willingness to listen and share, together with his resilience, that provides a positive example to us all.

Beyond the practical work of running a workshop, there was something valuable about simply being together. Conversations could happen, relationships could develop, and we had the chance to enjoy some of our Kingdom's "green and pleasant land". It is not automatic, and simply being together is no guarantee, but the opportunity to be in a space where meaningful conversations can take place is one which many could embrace on this Retreat.

The Value of Working Together

When we think about the accumulated contribution of North of Thames community members over the summer, we are struck by just how many community members invested their time, energy and care.

Some participated as attendees; others took on staff roles. Some worked in the kitchen, some helped lead and organise, some cared for the children, and others prepared and delivered education. Many people took on several different roles across multiple workshops.

We also want to acknowledge the consistent support that the North of Thames community has given us — financially, helping us to run these workshops and make them accessible, but, more importantly, through the trust and care that we have experienced

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and continue to experience.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed, participated, served, encouraged and supported. Also, to parents who supported their children to attend. For all of this, we are truly grateful.

We want to build upon the relationships that have developed through these experiences. There is a particular bond that grows when people work together towards a shared task and take responsibility together. It brings a new quality to our relationships and helps us to know one another in a deeper and more genuine way.

Looking Ahead

We are grateful that we can have a distinct North of Thames community experience while also being part of a wider national and international community.

Additionally, we believe that it is commendable that the North of Thames community has opportunities to serve and support blessed families from other communities. These efforts and exchanges remind us that our community is not an isolated group, but part of something much larger.

This is a challenging time for our wider community. That makes it particularly important to create spaces where we can make sense of our reality together and use the framework of the Principle to find stability and direction.

We need to invest in the next generation, while also creating space for adults and families to talk, reflect and navigate the turbulence of the present.

We want to continue to be part of creating Unificationist spaces where we can genuinely experience community, but also spaces where we can find depth and direction — where hope can grow and our faith can be nurtured.

We look forward to seeing what we can sow and grow together in the season ahead.



Children's summer camp staff barbeque

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FFWPU UK Children's Summer Camp 2026

Miwa Shaw

From 3rd to 8th August 2026, 24 children (age 7-12) gathered at Livingstone House for our Summer Camp, supported by 6 Team Leaders (age 15-18) and 14 staff members.

This year's camp theme was:

Do Re Mi Familia

Inspired by the camp movie Coco, the theme of the camp made us use music, family and faith as a way of exploring who we are, where we come from and how we can build loving relationships with those around us.

Throughout the week, our programme combined study sessions, games, creative activities, sports, prayer and plenty of opportunities simply to enjoy being together.

Our study programme explored themes including lineage, love and harmony, teamwork and unity, creativity and offering, and remembrance. Through stories, discussions and practical activities, the children were encouraged to think about their families, their relationships with others and their own potential to make a positive contribution.

Family and remembrance were particularly important themes throughout the camp. Inspired by Coco and traditions surrounding the Day of the Dead, the children created family-inspired crafts, including picture frames, ofrendas (see photo), Memory Envelopes and Legacy Boxes. These activities gave them opportunities to appreciate the people and traditions that have shaped them and to think about what they can pass on to others.

Of course, Summer Camp would not be complete without plenty of games and adventure. The children enjoyed outdoor team games, Skeleton Ball, Capture the Flag, water sports, a water slide and our traditional Predator evening. We also took the whole camp out for a day of Combat Laser Quest, where teamwork, strategy and encouragement were essential.

Creativity and self-expression were another important part of the week. The children worked on crafts (family pictures and the "ofrendas") and team projects, culminating in our Family Night, where each team presented a skit alongside individual performances, music, karaoke and plenty of laughter.

Alongside all the activity, we made space for prayer



Team with their "ofrenda" display and tealights for prayer night

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Livingstone House decorations to fit the theme of Coco

and reflection. Our Prayer Night gave the children an opportunity to slow down, open their hearts to God and spend some quiet time praying within their teams. These quieter moments helped balance the energy of the camp and gave space for the children to reflect on the themes we had been exploring as well as open their hearts to God.

Many arrived knowing only a few people, but through games, shared meals, team challenges, study, new friendships quickly developed. The children were encouraged to support one another, communicate, work as a team and recognise the unique contribution each person could make.

Our Team Leaders played an important role in this. Having experienced Summer Camp themselves previously, they were able to act as role models and bridges between the children and staff, bringing energy, encouragement and a sense of continuity to the camp.

The final day, "Re Re Remember Me", was a chance to reflect on the week, play some final games and celebrate everything the children had achieved.

We finished with our graduation ceremony, joined by parents and family members. It was a special moment to celebrate the children and recognise the friendships, memories and experiences they had created together.

After graduation, everyone was invited to stay for a picnic in the garden of Livingstone House. With beautiful weather and a home-cooked paella prepared for everyone, we were able to finish the week in a relaxed family atmosphere, sharing food and conversation together.

The camp would not be possible without the dedication of the people who give their time and energy to make it happen.

We are grateful to our 14 staff members and six Team Leaders for everything they contributed throughout the week: from preparing and delivering activities and study sessions, to cooking, organising logistics, caring for the children and creating the atmosphere that made the camp so special.



A study session with the camp banner above

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We are also grateful to all the parents, families and members of our wider church community who supported the camp through their encouragement, practical help and prayers.

We would like to give a special thank you to the NT for their generous grant towards our camp outing, which enabled the children to enjoy an amazing day of Laser Tag. We are also very grateful to the Head Office for their grant towards the accommodation costs at Livingstone House, which helped make the camp possible.

We would like to also thank the Livingstone House team for welcoming us back and for being so helpful and supportive throughout the week. Their cooperation and care made a real difference and helped us create a warm and enjoyable environment for the children.

Most importantly, we are grateful for the opportunity to spend this week with the children. We hope that they return home with new friendships, happy memories and a deeper appreciation of their families, their community and their relationship with God.

Do Re Mi Familia reminded us that, just like music, life is richer when different people bring their unique gifts together in harmony.

God bless,

Miwa Shaw, Achan Mould, Saoirse Mould & Paulo Stout *Children's Summer Camp Coordinators*

Children's Reflections:

Prayer night was…"Peaceful and the hot chocolate was yummy"

The Family Night was… "Very funny" "Next time more than 1 or maybe 2?" *and* "I think my team worked really hard"

Games & Activities… "In sports I learned that working together is important" "My new favourite game is Matanage and Skeleton Ball" *and* "I loved stretches because I grew my confidence leading one of them"

Outing…"Shot gun" "I enjoyed the Laser tag A LOT!" *and* "It was so fun memories"

The teams…"I made friends" "Team Leaders really help you progress and learn more"

Food was… "AMAZING!" "PANCAKES!!!" *and* "FOOD WAS REALLY TASTY!"



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Workshop Reflections from Summer 2026



Cindy's Team with Team Leader Lili Farkas from Hungary

***Paulo Stout**:*

Having just graduated, I was reflecting about what God is calling for me to do next. I felt the ADP+ workshop to be the best place to take a step back, have deep and impactful conversations, to receive DP and M+B content, and to return to Camberg, the place where I have returned to every year since my early teens for these ESGD workshops, and where my parents were matched. … The content was a real reminder for me to return to my relationship with God and True Parents. Regardless of what is happening in the church, I can always hold on and return to that. This is where I find stability in my life, this is the foundation of my Blessing, and it is because of them that I am here. … I want to be intentional in this next stage and include God in all of the new things I will be starting in this next phase.



Paulo's Team with Team Leader Julie Claus from Germany

Cindy Vanderstok:

The motto "Hold on and return to the arena" was a bit confronting for me at first. … I arrived to ADP+ asking the question: 'In what way do I fight? With what spirit?' … Throughout the workshop, I grappled with my reality and how I want to move forward. In life, I feel called to trust God more with my future while working hard in the present with love. … The pillars I want to hold onto are gratitude, and simplifying my purpose. … By the end I felt more of an

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acceptance: I will probably always be fighting in an arena or multiple arenas in life, but that is okay. And if I care, then I want to fight.

Paulo and Cindy:

Being on the workshop was a good reminder of our position as second generation and where we stand as a Blessed Couple. We don't want to purely enjoy the Blessing for ourselves but want to share the Blessing that God has given us … to honour God, True Parents, and the Blessing by serving each other, our family, the community, and the people around us in a genuine way.

Hanul Rai:

Having just graduated from Sixth Form, I decided to go to this workshop in hopes of gaining some input and inspiration for the upcoming year/period … I also wanted to take time to invest into my relationship with God and reconnect after an intense period of studying, where I felt I couldn't prioritise my faith as much as I would have liked. I can confidently say that this workshop has definitely helped me to achieve that and has pointed me in the right direction and helped me to understand that better. … a key idea that stuck with me was the idea of doing "what is required of me" rather than "what I want to do" … like Armando said "you can avoid responsibility, but it will just fall on someone else". Moreover, I liked the idea of allowing my original mind or conscience to guide me as I take these next steps. I also received a lot of guidance from older participants … which provided a lot of very valuable insight … to enter and adapt to a new, more mature, environment, given that it was my first 18+ workshop.

Bobby Rai:

The Camberg Summer HARP WS was quite a different experience for me this year compared to last … the staff, are really open and sincere with expressing themselves and interacting freely and joyfully with other brothers and sisters. This rubs off a lot on the participants and by the end of the WS it becomes a really relaxed and comfortable place to be. There's also a lot of focus on people having one-on-ones with each other which some people find a bit overwhelming … like eight deep, meaningful conversations in a few days … though I don't mind it and enjoyed it this time around. In terms of the workshop content, I think the messages are essential for young people and are honestly not found anywhere else.

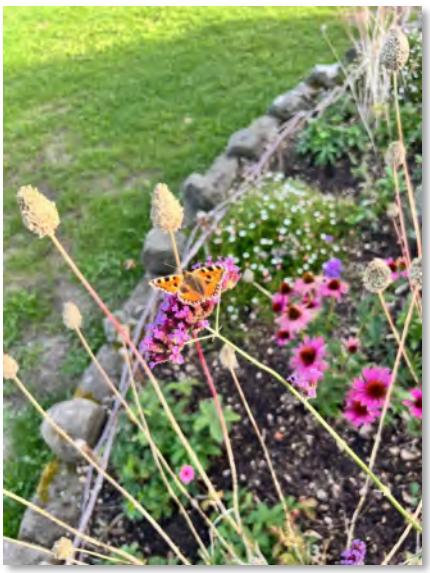


Hanul, Paulo, Cindy, Simran and Patrick at ADP+ workshop

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The Retreat
Dovedale, Derbyshire

Lisa Yatsuda



This was our first time attending the Retreat, and it was a valuable opportunity to meet 2nd generation members, couples and others from different generations and build deeper relationships with them.

The main programs were hiking, pair sharing, icebreakers, worship, and morning hoondokhwe. The natural environment in Derbyshire is peaceful and beautiful. During the hike, I enjoyed the beauty of nature while naturally talking and getting to know brothers and sisters along the way. It was a wonderful time to build closer relationships with each other. During worship, all the participants came together as one through the songs and music that the band team had prepared with sincere dedication. It became a meaningful time where we could feel and share God's love together, both with our hearts and through our whole bodies.





Peter Graham

We usually visit relatives 'up North' and do some bird watching at the end of the Summer. This time we heard about the retreat, so decided to go there as well. It was an opportunity for Jonathan to reconnect with friends on his Birthday! A big old house in the middle of the Peaks was full of young children, young parents and activity, plus a full band. We helped ourselves to table soccer, ping pong, snooker, board games and plenty of delicious food. We walked a lot, played with kids and shared freely. It was well organised and balanced, over too fast but deeply heart-warming. Thanks to all, highly recommended!

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Annual Memorial Service

Chris Le Bas

The annual memorial service this year was held at Holy Oak Memorial Woodland on Sunday August 9th. I have been impressed by the development of the SeongHwa caring ministry and, although I was unable to attend, I was deeply touched by the speeches that the online recording provided (*see* https://youtu.be/GsP-1zLUvNU?si=uGhTldh-9Vhccz7x). Here are a few snippets that I extracted - those that resonated most for me, along with some personal thoughts.

Joanna De Souza told the heart-rending story of her daughter Sandra: the pains and joys of her life as well as her early departure into the next world. She described especially her gratitude for all the carers and supporters:

… all these people, they are my family … I wanted to take them all to heaven". Then there was her dream of Sandra, after which she explained her excitement, being "desperate to get home to call the hospital to tell them, Sandra's talking, Sandra's walking, Sandra's good … that was my wonderful experience of my daughter's new life. She was well. She was in a place where other second gen, I believe, were. She was happy. She could talk to me. We could walk together. We could sightsee together. We could shop together. These are things I longed for that I couldn't have. And that one experience was my dream, my experience that God gave me.

After a further touching testimony and songs by Bernard Chellew, about his wife Masako, it was the turn of their daughter Yoshiko (now Pammer). She spoke of how she gained a sense of the spiritual realm by looking at the sky:

… so difficult this concept of spirit world … it's ungraspable, you can't see anything, but the sight that encouraged me while I was walking was to look literally at the earth and the sky.

The earth below us is finite and tangible while the sky above is infinite and beyond our touch, though the air is very real to us:

… it keeps just going out into space and we don't know where the limits are … but we're still experiencing it, so it's still very real. We're breathing it in and we wouldn't be alive without it. And it is bigger - it's embracing us.

For our own family, with Joshua having his twin brother in the spirit world, the link between the two worlds is ever present but continues to be a mystery too. Yoshiko's explanation



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struck a chord with me, probably also because of being a physics teacher. When she spoke about our Family Pledge number 5, for "the unification of the spirit world and physical world", it also brought to mind my thoughts on pledge number 4: building a "universal family encompassing heaven and earth". This description fits *all* of our families once we give recognition to the presence of our ancestors or any departed loved one. She said much more, of course, so I recommend listening to the full recording.

Our own Françoise Murphy concluded the event, as core founder of the ministry, with her votes of thanks to all those involved and explanations of the resources available on the UK website. Life and death, heaven and earth, physical and spiritual realities are all around us. What is most striking is the way that the UK ministry is being contacted by members from all over the world, from South America and Canada to Germany and Siberia, for help and support in putting this most fundamental aspect of the Principle into practice.

For a full overview of the event, see the report in the UK newsletter (familyfedcommunity.org.uk)

9/11: Watford Bridge of Peace

Françoise Murphy

September 11, 2001 — do you remember that dreadful day when two planes crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York City? It felt like time had stood still; the world was in shock. So many people died. We all wondered what the consequences of this horrific event would be on the stability and peace of our world. That day, True Father stopped everything he was doing and urged America to lead the way in practicing Jesus' teaching of 'Love your enemy'.

At that time in 2001, I had been a member of the Watford Interfaith Association for over three years. The following year, they asked me to speak at one of their conferences on women's contributions to world peace. I spoke about the work of the WFWP and the Bridge of Peace. I didn't want just to give a speech; I wanted to offer something concrete for our town. Watford has a high percentage of Muslim residents. I made an announcement that I would organise a sisterhood ceremony between Christian and Muslim women.

On March 2, 2003, at the outbreak of the Iraq War, 40 women from the Christian and Muslim communities in Watford responded to our invitation to cross the Bridge of Peace. It was an amazing sight to witness these women coming together under the Peace Arch, embracing each other and pledging to become peace sisters learning about



each other's communities. The Mayor of Watford was

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present. She congratulated us and promised to offer her continuous support for our outreach. Later that year, she attended the



With Mayor and Muslim Women

Middle East Peace Initiative in Jerusalem.

In 2007, the Watford Bridge of Peace received a grant from the Prevent programme of the Home Office. I continued my outreach work with the Muslim community for many years afterwards. I was invited by my Muslim peace sister to join her community centre, where she was the Chair. I became a Trustee and Vice Chair for a while. As the years passed, I ended up being the only non-Muslim on the committee. Eventually, last year, the community centre had to close.

Our Peace Arch is now standing at the entrance of the Peace Garden in Cassiobury Park, a reminder of our sisterhood ceremony and a symbol of harmony and friendship between the various communities of Watford.

A few days ago, we commemorated the events of 9/11. As I was reminiscing about my outreach work, I was reading about True Father's reaction to 9/11 and how he had launched the Middle East Peace Initiative in 2003 and the UPF in 2005. I was then amazed to find out that the Middle East Peace Initiative was inaugurated on March 2, 2003, the same day as our Bridge of Peace here in Watford. I was astonished and realised that, at that time, I must have tuned into True Father's mind and heart. Two years later, on September 12, 2005 True Father inaugurated the Universal Peace Federation and twelve days later in Watford on September 24, 2005 we hosted the Watford Celebration, an annual community event celebrating the rich diversity of cultures and faiths of our town.



Bridge of Peace 10th anniversary

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A Journey to Hatch End

A reflection of my visit to the Sunday Service 20/09/2026

Peter Schroder



On the day it happened, I travelled from the East End to the north of London, bound for Harrow-on-the-Hill station. From there, I caught the H14 bus from the terminal just outside, embarking on a 15-to-20-minute ride through suburban streets toward our Sunday Service venue.

I arrived at the Harrow Arts Centre bus stop. Stepping off, I walked around a striking, beautifully maintained red-brick complex steeped in character. After crossing a large parking lot at the back and rounding a final left corner, our destination revealed itself: a newly built, neat, bright house with modern glass panes, seamlessly embedded within the historical architecture.

Arriving 20 minutes late, I slipped into a back row. Announcements were already on screen. While I cannot recall the MC, Peter Graham soon took the stage on guitar. During the sharing segment, several members contributed, including our pastor, William. Spotting the scheduled speaker in the second row, I realized William was on stage specifically to remind us of the 50th anniversary of Washington Monument, as well as the 9/11 tragedy, marking its 25th anniversary.

Meanwhile, Réamonn sat just an arm's length away at the tech desk, flawlessly managing the audio and visuals. Looking up, I noticed three or four acoustic panels fixed below the ceiling. The crisp sound made me think of our Café at Lancaster Gate, where the echo is often deafening; similar acoustic treatment would be excellent there!

Following another song, Francis Fobbie—sharply dressed in a perfectly suited, bright golden bow tie—stepped behind the pulpit. The screen announced his topic: “I am Enough, I have Enough, I do Enough.” Francis delivered a very good sermon on identity and faith, urging us to remain true to ourselves during difficult times and

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reminding us that we are uniquely chosen by God. He reassured us that God never abandons us and that we must maintain absolute trust. To ground his message, he drew a parallel between the troubled times of the Old Testament and the chaotic socio-political difficulties of our current era. The service concluded beautifully with an offering, a final song, and a closing benediction by William.

The warmth of the community carried into a potluck lunch filled with engaging conversations. We were joined by an Australian blessed couple, Kim and Naoko Raimond, who re-introduced themselves, having visited us a few years prior.

Eventually, I boarded the H14 bus back to Harrow-on-the-Hill, accompanied by Patrick. We spent the ride locked in an engaging conversation about healthy lifestyle choices before I caught my train home. It was a deeply fulfilling day.

Thank you for the Sunday Service at Hatch End—I will keep those memories close to my heart.

You can view the full Sunday service at *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJkZycu-wew*

New curtains

for 43LG ballroom

After much deliberation, the curtains are installed! They were paid for from North Thames FFWPU funds — our contribution to 43LG upkeep in appreciation of our free use of it for Sunday services over many years. Thanks to David Schroder for the photograph and, with Grant Miller, for overseeing the process.



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North Thames Community Survey

Kieran Hoyte

On October 11th we will be holding the North Thames Annual General Meeting and to prepare for that we have brought back the NT Community Survey! Please participate in this year's survey using the link **https://forms.gle/h547N9e4UDHrvE5v7** to help us understand how we are progressing as a community. It is a great opportunity to share your thoughts. The survey is anonymous (unless you'd like to volunteer further involvement) and the results will be shared during the AGM to help facilitate some healthy community dialogue. Please keep to one submission per person and submit it by October 5th.Thank you for your investment and participation!

Here are some of the questions we are asking:

⇒In what ways do you engage with North Thames community?

⇒Do you have any comments or suggestions from attending our Sunday services via Live Stream (or what can be improved)?

⇒Do you have any comments or suggestions from attending our Sunday Services in person (or what can be improved)?

⇒Comments on sermon topics, fellowship, inviting guests, volunteering, our pastor couple William and Ruth, the Community Council, support for Tribal Messiahship and outreach, the missionary team, information sharing

⇒Comments on tithing and use of FFWPU funds, such as community champions activities, support of young people attending workshops, the children's summer camp, Patrick and Yebuny's workshops and counselling

⇒What are your thoughts towards the current structure of Sunday services being "hosted" in each of the different communities on a monthly rota (Hatch End NL, Lancaster Gate CL, Romford YMCA ELEA)?

⇒What are your thoughts and impressions on the community newsletter: "North Thames News", and any suggests for improvement?

⇒How can the pastor couple & NT community council best serve to improve the life of the communities?

⇒What activities are most important to you that you would like to see promoted or supported?

⇒Are there some initiatives, activities or general areas in the community you would like contribute to?

⇒What are you thoughts and impression on the progression of our community in the last 3 years?

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Announcements

North Thames FFWPU Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held after the 11.00 service at Lancaster Gate on Sunday **October 11th**. Make sure you complete the survey by October 5th and have your views represented. There will a brief review of the year around 12.00 followed by discussions. Lunch will be provided.

Community Connections Our annual project-showcasing, grant-considering event will be at Lancaster Gate from 1.30 till 3.30pm on Sunday **November 22nd**

Details of services and other North Thames events can be found at

https://sites.google.com/view/north-thames-holy-community

A note about Holy Day and Cheonbo offerings

When donations are being collected for international activities, the request is usually made to transfer funds to the EUME office. Such offerings can be made directly via Paypal (donate@ffwpu-eu.org) or by international bank transfer. Monies that are donated to the North Thames FFWPU (either in cash or via bank) will be used for local purposes, such as holy day celebrations at service venues, but cannot generally be sent abroad.

A Paypal account can be set up quite easily as long as you have a personal email address, mobile number and bank account. Here are the full instructions:

Go to the official PayPal UK website or open the mobile app
Click **Sign Up**
Choose **Personal** account type
Enter your mobile phone number and verify it with the code sent via text message
Provide your email address and create a secure password
Fill in your legal name, address, and other required personal details
Link a bank card or bank account to fund your purchases or transfers
Check your inbox for the confirmation link in the email from PayPal to finish activating your account

An international bank transfer requires a suitable bank account and can generally be set up at your local bank branch (admittedly hard to find these days) or via online banking. The EUME FFWPU bank details are:

Account Holder: FFWPU-Europe (Nassauerstr. 14, 65795 Hattersheim, Germany)

Bank: Frankfurter Sparkasse (Alt-Sossenheim 25, 65936 Frankfurt am Main, Germany)

IBAN: DE97 5005 0201 0200 6918 80 **BIC / SWIFT:** HELADEF1822

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Letters to the editor

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The next issue is due on 6 November 2026

We urgently need a graphic designer

Seeking someone who could use the new Affinity 3.2 software to layout the newsletter and connect with our community. It would involve a few hours once every six weeks. If you have an eye for layout, some software skills and want to use your abilities for good, we need you!

It is especially urgent because we will no longer be able to use Microsoft Publisher after October 1st.

Quote of the day

I'll either find a way

or make one

Aut viam inveniam aut faciam

Attributed to the famous Carthaginian general Hannibal in 218 BCE when his generals told him crossing the Alps with elephants was impossible



Blackberry or Chestnut time?

While both are classic highlights of the autumn foraging calendar, blackberry season acts as the transition from summer to autumn, whereas chestnut season marks the true arrival of mid-to-late autumn.
Conclusion:
It's blackberry time!

A HAPPY END OF THE SUMMER SEASON!

2026 Great Works (GW) & CheonBo (CB) events

26/27 Sep UK (CB)

23/25 Oct (GW) Autumn

28/29 Nov Netherlands (CB)

18/19 Dec Czech (CB)

For the taste buds in this season!
The recipe was advertised as a nice Saturday morning treat:

Chris Baber's ricotta pancakes recipe
https://www.bbc.co.uk/articles/ckx2zgw2drxvo



A dynamic duo jamming in the Peace Garden



SERVICE SCHEDULE

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
4th HAC 10.15	1st HAC 10.15	6th HAC 10.15	3rd HAC 10.15
11th LG 11.00	8th LG* 11.00	13th LG 11.00	10th LG 11.00
18th HAC 10.15	15th HAC 10.15	20th HAC* 11.00	17th HAC 10.15
25th LG 11.00	22nd LG 11.00	27th LG tbd*	24th LG 11.00
& ELEA 11.00	29th ELEA 11.00	& ELEA 11.00	31st ELEA 11.00

***Sunday November 8th:** celebration of True Children's Day at Lancaster Gate

***Sunday December 20th: Special Christmas service** at Harrow Arts Centre

***Sunday December 27th:** LG service to be decided - may be replaced by Dec 31st end of year prayer and reflection meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Connections at LG

Sunday November 22nd, 1.30 - 3.30pm

This is our annual event to showcase existing projects and introduce new proposals. All interested members and friends are invited. The projects do not have to be led by FFWPU members but should align with our core aims: developing worship, community building and serving society. Application forms will be available, to present or display a project or activity, with a view to increasing awareness and support, not necessarily looking for funding, although this can also be an outcome. Come along and see what others are doing!

Tuesday Outreach Group at LG

Every Tuesday, LG café, 1.30 for 2pm

Supported by the UPA missionaries, we have a weekly outreach and witnessing activity. We can go out to meet new people or bring any of our existing friends or contacts for a talk, informal chat or testimony. Please come along and join us if you would like to be involved. Everyone is welcome.



Monday morning prayers

Every Monday 10.00

Join us on Zoom:

Meeting ID 3126272424

passcode V4sF08

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3126272424?pwd=TUxsbVdGQVBIUWhEVHJRWXdwMUUrQT09



Latest National Announcements

Click here to view the latest National Announcements.

PAST EVENTS



Chambumo-ron Lectures and Discussion Day 4

Click for full YouTube playlist of Day 4



Chambumo-ron Lectures and Discussion Day 3

Click for full YouTube playlist of Day 3







[Chambumo-ron Lectures and Discussion Day 2]

Click for full YouTube playlist of Day 2



[Chambumo-ron Lectures and Discussion Day 1]

Click for full YouTube playlist of Day 1

INFORMATION

HAC: Harrow Arts Centre, Greenhill Studio. Starts at **10.15**. **Sunday school** for children aged 4-11. With **pot luck lunch** on 3rd Sundays of month. Livestream http://bit.ly/NLHCLive

LG: 43 Lancaster Gate, London W2 3NA. Starts at **11.00**. With **Sunday school** for children. Followed by **pot luck lunch** on 2nd Sundays of the month. Livestream https://www.youtube.com/c/FFWPUUK

ELEA: Romford YMCA, 1st floor (with lift access), 29 Rush Green Rd, Romford, RM7 0PH. Starts at **11:00**. Followed by community lunch. Livestream *(if available)* https://www.youtube.com/@ELEA-FFWPU

You may view sermons from past services at https://www.youtube.com/c/FFWPUUK or https://www.youtube.com/@norththamesholycommunity

Information for donations

NT FFWPU Tithes/donations by bank transfer *(cheques to **FFWPU-UK**)*:

Account number: 26355161 ***Sort code:*** 80-22-60 (Bank of Scotland)

Community fund donations to Ronald Chandler a/c no 47221013, sort code 23-05-80