

The
**United
Reformed
Church**

OCTOBER 2022

**South & East Leicestershire Area
United Reformed Churches**



**SAFFRON LANE, WIGSTON MAGNA, SOUTH WIGSTON,
OADBY, WHETSTONE**

<http://southleicsgroupurc.org.uk>

and

ABBOTS ROAD

www.abbotsroadurc.com

Contact us:

Revd Martin Ferris 0116 2419357

Resource Minister South and East Leicestershire Area

Mrs Eileen Williams 0116 2478929

Local Church Leader

South Wigston

Di Statham Secretary 0116 2810053

di.statham@btinternet.com

Noel Oldershaw Treasurer 0116 2813398

Marion Bartholomew Magazine 0116 2717755

Wigston Magna

Eileen Williams Secretary 0116 2478929

Ray Green Treasurer 0116 2887774

Ray Green Room Lettings 0116 2887774 /
07518 214144

Mary Childs Brigades Contact 07946093786

Sheila Stephens Magazine 0116 4315206

Sheilastephens48@gmail.com

Church Office answerphone 0116 2882666

Saffron Lane

Sandra Clay Secretary/Finance/Magazine 0116 2835375

Elizabeth Richardson Treasurer 0116 2993176

Oadby

Pauline Hudson Secretary 0116 2712913

Tonyhudson727@btinternet.com

Tony Hudson Treasurer 0116 2712913

Whetstone

Shirley Eastman Secretary 0116 3484121

Glenis Chapman Treasurer

Jean Warner Room Lettings 0116 2752405

Kevin West Magazine 0116 2779402

Abbots Road

Revd Pam Smith Secretary 07830037308

Eric Hanson Treasurer

When Ivor and I were teenagers and had just got engaged we went to a local church of another denomination. On our first Sunday there, we committed a terrible sin of sitting in someone's regular seat. It was a service with Communion and the congregation was invited to go up to the rail to receive the elements, so we went to receive Communion but we were told afterwards that we shouldn't have taken Communion unless we were Confirmed. Oh dear, we were made to feel awful. It wasn't a welcoming church at all.

Now, when we went to The Rock Church Centre (U.R.C.) in Liverpool it was a completely different story. We were welcomed not only at the door but people spoke to us before the service and afterwards. We were invited to go for coffee in the hall and people chatted to us. We felt very welcome.

Now you may wonder why I'm telling you about our experience of being welcomed, or not, to churches, well it caused me to ask myself, 'Do people who visit our churches for the first time, feel welcomed?' Are there people who go to a church feeling lost and needing someone to talk to?

There's a lovely hymn entitled, 'All are welcome.' The words include the phrase 'all are welcome in this place.'

There are congregations who sing that hymn with great gusto, giving themselves a pat on the back because they truly believe they are a welcoming and friendly congregation. But when it comes to visitors, do those visitors feel welcome?

I recently read an account by a Minister who had gone to a church which declared itself a friendly and welcoming church. But it wasn't - no-one spoke to him. His friend was the Minister there and so he had a word with him afterwards.

His friend told him at a later date that he'd mentioned this experience at a church meeting and it was suggested that as a visitor it was up to him to make the first move as they are such a friendly bunch.

The point is that welcoming visitors to our churches is more than giving a handshake and a smile when they come through the door, though that's a start. It means getting out of our comfort zones and actually having a conversation with the visitor/s.

I wonder how many people have gone to a church because they were struggling in life and needed to be with people and have someone to talk to about their struggles, only to actually find that they didn't feel welcome, never mind finding help.

William Temple wrote, 'The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.' People in our society, our communities, are lonely and lost, they need to know the love of God. And the church needs to be the welcoming place where they can find it.

'When Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you into our homes.....' The king will reply, I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'

Yours in the amazing love of Christ,

Pam.

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Whetstone URC | 10.00 am |
| Oadby URC | 10.15 am |
| South Wigston URC | 10.30 am |
| Wigston Magna | 10.30 am |
| Saffron Lane | 11.00 am |
| Abbots Road | 10.45 am |

Please check with the relevant Church Secretaries to confirm when services are taking place at any of the Group Churches.

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER 2022 MAGAZINE

Sunday 23 October 2022

**Send your items to your church representative or direct to
di.statham@btinternet.com**

If you do not have a computer a hand written copy can be accepted.
Contact Di Statham 0116 2810053 for information

Worship Leaders for October 2022

| | | |
|----------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oadby | 2 | Jacquie Gavin - Communion |
| | 9 | Eileen Williams |
| | 16 | Jacquie Gavin - Communion |
| | 23 | David Todd |
| | 30 | Revd Martin Ferris |
| Saffron Lane | 2 | Eileen Williams |
| | 9 | Revd Les Gill |
| | 16 | P Tiplady |
| | 23 | Kevin West |
| | 30 | Revd David Howlett |
| South Wigston | 2 | Revd Les Gill - Café Style Service |
| | 9 | Ray Green |
| | 16 | Julie Slatford |
| | 23 | Revd Martin Ferris |
| | 30 | Di Statham |
| Wigston Magna | 2 | Julie Slatford |
| | 9 | David Todd |
| | 16 | Mr Andrew Davies - Communion |
| | 23 | Revd Jacqueline Gavin |
| | 30 | The Worship Group |
| Whetstone | 2 | Eric Hanson (Holy Communion) |
| | 9 | Revd Martin Ferris |
| | 16 | Eileen Williams |
| | 23 | Revd Les Gill |
| | 30 | Howard Smith |
| Abbots Road | | TO BE ANNOUNCED depending on Martin's health re-arrangements may need to be made. |

Regular Church Events

Oadby URC

Weekly Coffee Morning
Every Monday from 10.00 to 12.00

11 O'Clock Club
1st & 3rd Thursday 10.30 am for 11.00 start

Ladies Group
4th Thursday 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Craft Group
4th Saturday 11.00 am - at 25 Chestnut Ave, Oadby

Whetstone URC

Community Coffee Morning
Every Thursday from 10.00am to 12.00

Saffron Lane URC

Weekly 3T's (Tea, Toast & Talk)
Every Thursday from 10.00am to 12.00

Wigston Magna

Community Cinema
Alternate Months from February - 1.30 pm

Social Afternoon
2nd Wednesday

Coffee Morning
1st Saturday of each month

South Wigston

Drop In with coffee / tea.
4th Wednesday of each month

Abbots Road

Lunchbox every Tuesday from 12.30pm

Quiz Wednesday evenings from 7.15pm (on Zoom)

Thursday Stay and Play and Little Borrowers toy library.
For children aged 0-4 years old and their parents/carers

Saturday Coffee Morning including a raffle, on Zoom
from 10.30am.



Ministers Reflection

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, there has been much recollection in the media about where people were when they heard the news. Much has moved on since the initial announcement, and for many of us it will emit many different emotions. Our Queen reigned for 70 years and there has been many services to commemorate her life of service to the nation, the Commonwealth and the world.

Her death not only leaves a void for many, but there will be some who remember the death of her father King George VI and Elizabeth taking the throne at a very young age with limited experience. However, one could easily say that her calling to the role of Queen, was very much ordained by God and that her faith and witness was very much the cornerstone to her role as monarch. This attribute was very poignantly put at the service of reflection at St Paul's cathedral in the Bishop of London opening sentence of her sermon, to quote "A life lived in the service of others is a rare jewel, it is a jewel that her late Majesty the Queen wore as a crown."

Cont.....

At the age of 25 this young wife and mother of two children came to be our Queen and who would have thought that those words of commemoration at St Paul's would be such a fitting tribute to all that she achieved and all the lives that she touched through her strong faith.

During her Coronation her formal titles were *"Elizabeth II, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and over other realms and Territories Queen, head of the Commonwealth, defender of the faith."* A grace that is an unearned favour of God, a grace of God that she did not take for granted.

Now we come to mark and celebrate an extraordinary woman who dedicated her life to others. It was her Coronation that set her apart towards her service to others, by the sacred act of anointing her head with oil. This act of anointing was so sacred it was hidden from view; a rare moment of privacy in a life to be lived in full view of the world. Elizabeth was clear that her calling to the role of monarch was something that could be picked up and put down again. It was deeply embedded in her understanding of herself, especially as we read in Paul's letter to the Romans; *"For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord"* Romans 14:7-8.

This time of mourning will no doubt spark emotions for many of you who have lost loved ones in your families. Grief manifests itself in so many different ways and our hearts and condolences go out to the Royal Family at this difficult time. There have been many in the media who have said the Queen's death has been like losing their grandmother.

Cont.....

When the Queen ascended to the throne, the world was a very different place. Throughout her reign, Elizabeth has remained a constant in the lives of millions and a symbol of unity, strength, patience and resilience. She has been this nation's infallible heartbeat through times of progress, joy and celebration, as well in much darker and difficult periods. For many, she has been like a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who has looked over our nation and devoted her life of service for seven decades, and we should give thanks and praise to all that she has achieved in putting the great into, "Great Britain".

I was struck during the service at Westminster Hall, where our Queen was laid in state, by the words of Psalm 139 that was sung by the choir as her coffin entered the building, *"You have searched me, LORD, and you know me... For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb"*. As we mourn her loss and give thanks for her life, we also reorientate ourselves as a nation to a life without our Queen. May her words remind us of the power and strength to be found in uniting people together which her Majesty embodied in her service to us all.

In the coming months, many will reflect upon the Queen's reign, and we will witness many changes. We now have King Charles III and Camilla as the Queen consort. We all know that with change comes uncertainty and a sense of unsettlement. Her Majesty would want us to be united in supporting our new King and Queen; so, let us be united in saying the words; "God save the King"

Good and faithful servant Elizabeth II, rest in peace.

Amen.

Bible Bytes

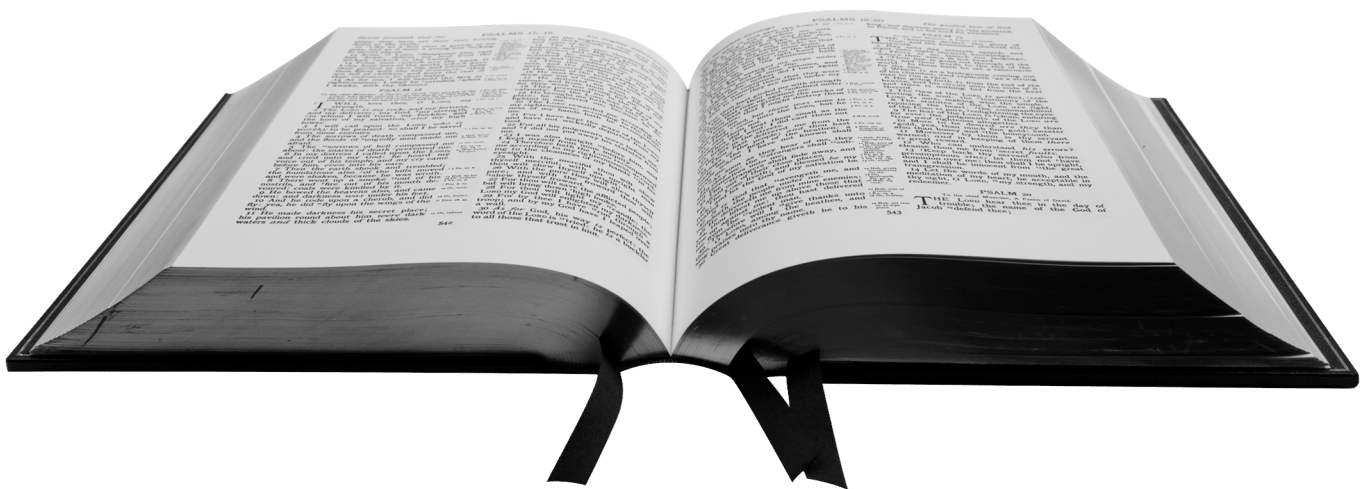
Wednesday 5 October 2022

10.30 am

Come and enjoy a light and friendly discussion

No Need to be a " Bible Expert"

EVERYBODY welcome



Wigston Magna News

DIARY DATES

- 1 10.30am Coffee Morning
- 2 "Sponsor a Child" Sunday
- 12 2-4pm Afternoon Drop-in (Sit, Sip & Socialise)

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Ann Hartle
- 20 Elaine Wiggins
- 30 Les Gill
- 31 Jean Atkinson



FLOWER ROTA

- 2 Wigston Brigades
- 9 Barry Chamberlain
- 16 John Moore
- 23
- 30

Wigston Magna News

Wigston Brigades

It is with great sadness that we announce the closure of the Wigston Brigades.

This is due to changes in staff circumstances and the impact of the Covid pandemic over the last two and half years. It has been a difficult decision and one that was not made lightly.

Everybody is welcome to join us, especially members, helpers and officers, past and present, on 2nd October at 10.30am. (see below)



**Service of Thanksgiving for the
work of 14th Leicester Boys'
Brigade and 3rd Wigston Girls'
Brigade, and the retiring of the
company colours**



Sunday 2nd October at 10.30am

Buffet and refreshments available after the service

Everybody welcome, please let us know if you hope to attend

COMMUNITY CINEMA

at

Wigston Magna United Reformed Church
Long Street

Downton Abbey

A New Era

Monday 3 October

Starting at 1.30 pm

Doors Open 12.45

Hot / Cold Drinks Available

Contact Julie 07544 981674

Masks Optional

Cost £5

RECIPE - October:

Apricot & Pear Crumble (Serves 4)

125g no-soak dried apricots (finely chopped)

450g pears, peeled, cored & sliced

1 tablespoon clear honey

50g fresh wholemeal breadcrumbs

25g demerara sugar

1 tablespoon plain flour

25g margarine, melted

A pinch of ground nutmeg

- 1) Put the apricots in a saucepan with the pear slices and honey.
- 2) Add 1 tablespoon of water, cover, and simmer gently for 5 minutes to soften.
- 3) Pre-heat oven to 180 C/350 F/Gas mark 4 and spoon half the Pear mixture into an oven proof dish.
- 4) Mix together the breadcrumbs, sugar, flour, margarine and nutmeg, and scatter half over the pears.
- 5) Top with the remaining pear mixture and scatter with the last of the crumbs.
- 6) Bake for 25 minutes.
- 7) Serve warm.



GARDENING NOTES - October

- 1 Pile up autumn leaves and garden debris in a quiet corner for hedgehogs.
- 2 Harvest plums, quince and the last of the late apples.
- 3 Clear the bed around the base of fruit trees and cover with half-rotted compost.
- 4 Cut back dead or withered summer flowers close to the ground.
- 5 Continue to dig up, divide and transplant any overly vigorous herbaceous plants and rooted runners.
- 6 Dig up non-hardy bulbs and dry them off.

October Birthdays

27 Andrew Oldershaw

31 Revd Les Gill

DIARY - October

- 5th Bible Bytes - Saffron Lane URC 10.30am. All welcome.
- 8th South Wigston Churches Together Quiz Night -
St Mary's Church Countesthorpe Road, 7.00pm.
- 12th Elders' Meeting, 9.30am; Church Meeting, 10.00am.
- 30th Group 50th Anniversary Service - Whetstone URC, 3.30pm.

Thought for the Month Ahead

The greatest danger for most of us is
not that the aim is too high and we miss it,
but that it is too low and we reach it.

Michelangelo

The workers are few

I will plant a garden with fruits of many kind
But it will need tending, this garden of Mine.
I will choose the workers, I have them in my mind,
For they will do as I bid, they are honest, loyal, kind.
But if there comes a season when My crops should fail to grow,
If My workers fail to tend it then I will surely know.
Whatever befall, what seasons, My garden it Must grow,
For else My people starving, My bounty never know.
Will you come and work for me? The days may be hard and slow.
You will have to keep in touch with Me., My instructions you must know.
But then, I promise one thing. My bounty you will share.
You will be My inheritors of all My bounteous fare.
Amen



South Wigston News

PRAYER LIST - October.

Please pray for:

- 1 Give thanks for the work & service of our late, much-loved Queen.
- 2 The members of the Royal Family, as they come to terms with their loss.
- 3 Our new King Charles 3rd, may he reign victorious.

God Save the King!

- 4 Our Minister, Martin as he continues to recover, and Charlotte as she cares for him.
- 5 Members of URC churches everywhere, on this 50th Anniversary of the Uniting Assembly of the URC.
- 6 Those escaping war who are now having to build a life elsewhere.
- 7 Those of our communities who feel isolated.
- 8 Those who are seeking employment.
- 9 Those who are preaching the Word of God in our churches today.
- 10 Our new Prime Minister, Liz Truss, at this difficult time.
- 11 All suffering discrimination because of colour, race, sex or views.
- 12 Give thanks for the beauty of Autumn.
- 13 Those in our churches who work with children.
- 14 Those living with terminal illness.
- 15 All those living in war-torn countries.
- 16 The Elders in our Churches.
- 17 Nurses, doctors and all who work in our hospitals.
- 18 All who are homeless.
- 19 All those still suffering the effects of floods.
- 20 The bereaved.
- 21 That all Christians will work more closely together.
- 22 All who work for social reform.
- 23 Those reading the Word of God in our churches today.
- 24 All who seek to spread the Gospel to young people.
- 25 Those who are ill or housebound.
- 26 All involved in education; pupils, teachers, ancillaries, governors.
- 27 Those whose gift is counselling.
- 28 Those who, in these difficult times, are finding it hard to pay their bills.
- 29 As the clocks go back, think of those just waking on the other side of the world.
- 30 For those living in countries where going to church is dangerous.
- 31 Those whose lives are ruled by superstition.

South Wigston News

A Tribute

It was with great sadness that, not only our nation, but the whole world, learned of the passing of our much loved Queen, Elizabeth II.

We give thanks for her long life, lived with grace, tact, sincerity, compassion and dedication. We give thanks for her sense of humour and her love for her family, but especially we give thanks for her devout faith, and her devotion to duty that few of us could match.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who will miss her most deeply, and we pray especially for our new King, Charles III, as he faces whatever the next few months may bring, while mourning the loss of a dearly loved mother.

Thank you Your Majesty, for all you have meant to each one of us, and now may you rest in peace.



Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for Oct - Nov 2022

| | OT | NT | SERV | COLL | Preacher | |
|----------------------|----|----|------|------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Oct 2 nd | 6 | 5 | 6 | 13 | E Williams | Communion |
| Oct 9 th | 11 | 12 | 11 | 13 | L Gill | Communion |
| Oct 16 th | 7 | 8 | 7 | 13 | P Tiplady | Communion |
| Oct 23 rd | 30 | 12 | # | 14 | K West | Family Service |
| Oct 30 th | 3 | 36 | # | 14 | D Howlett | 5 th Sunday |
| | | | | | | |
| Nov 6 th | 5 | 6 | 5 | 13 | E Williams | Communion/ Business Meeting 10.30 start |
| Nov13 th | 8 | 7 | 8 | 13 | R Green | Communion |
| Nov 20 th | 12 | 30 | 12 | 13 | K Drinkwater | Communion |
| Nov27 th | 36 | 3 | # | 14 | M Ferris | Family Service |

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 3 Kath T | 7. Angela S | 12. Elizabeth R | # No server |
| 4. Maureen F | 8. Brian S | 13. Darren C | 30 Sandra |
| 5. Sue B | 10. Molly B | 14. Mackenzie | 36 Dec B |
| 6. Pat S | 11. Richard B | | |

Forthcoming Birthdays

October

31st Les Gill

November

6th Sue Bloxham

13th Elizabeth Richardson

30th Darren Clay

Last Month's Events

12th September Ride and Stride

We were sorry that Terry who usually rides for us was told by the Doctor not to do it this year

The Church was open from 10-4.00pm and we all sat there to welcome our visitors. Sadly only two people come to the Church and they were both from the URC churches.



Fish and Chip supper 20th September 2022

As this takes place after the submission date for items for this magazine we will have to tell you about this evening in the next magazine

Maureen Foster

Maureen sends her thanks to the friends who sent her get well cards while she was in Hospital after falling and breaking her hip. She is now at home and with the help of her family and is getting around the house. She also sends thanks to all who sent her cards for her Birthday. She hopes to see us all soon.

Saffron Lane News

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Service took place on Sunday 18 September and was led by Geoff Milnes. The church was decorated by Kath and Elizabeth and all the gifts will be donated to the South Wigston Foodbank. Thank you to everybody who brought something along.

Following the service we all shared a cream cake to celebrate Pat's birthday.



Saffron Lane News

The Book of Life

By Doreen Storton

Life is a book an adventure hold,
Let's read the story, see the plot unfold:
It starts with the birth of a girl or boy,
A happy beginning, full of Love and joy.

Turn the first few pages very slow,
And see how a tiny mite will grow.
Watch him cry, and learn to laugh and talk,
See his stumbling steps when he starts to walk.

A new chapter begins, off to school he must go,
As proud as a peacock, his face all aglow:
With a wave of his hand, he says Goodbye,
While his mother watching has a tear in her eye.

He progresses through school with its ups and downs,
Many pleasurable moments: but sometimes he frowns,
As the work gets harder: exams will decide
And show how hard he has really tried.

But a schoolboy's lot is a happy one,
He needs no-one at all to lean upon,
When he's not at school, he's off with the gang,
On a tiny thread his life seems to bang.

Read on and see how that boy will change,
To a youth, then manhood: his life he'll arrange:
He will take his place in the world overnight,
And the schoolboy has gone, disappeared from sight.

Saffron Lane News

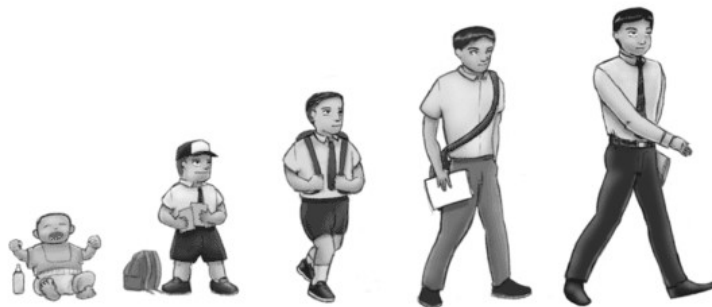
Cont.....

Soon he will marry, a girl he will find,
To love and to cherish: his home leave behind,
Together their dreams and plans to pursue,
Let us hope his troubles will be but few.

So, the story goes on spanning numerous years,
Sometimes there'll be heartache, perhaps a few tears:
But the good will surely outweigh the bad,
And the happier times will make him glad.

Very soon we shall reach the last page of all,
Only then will he bear the Master's call,
His life will be over, the book has to end,
The author is God, Father and friend.

Perhaps you have read this story before,
There are others just like it, yes, many more:
Some shorter by far than the one I have told,
But they're all neatly bound between covers of gold.



Saffron Lane
United Reformed Church
Near the Pork Pie Roundabout

Charity Coffee
Morning

Saturday 1st October 2022

10.00 - 12.00pm

COME AND JOIN US

Whetstone News

An Opportunity Missed ??

What a shame that everyone from the other area churches missed "An Evening with Bernard and Kevin"!

From the outset, there was laughter as Bernard and Kevin "lost" each other - going in one door and out another. We heard funny poems and jokes, we listened to Bernard on the organ, we joined together to perform a Music Hall style song, we laughed at items placed in church magazines and sang along to a medley of ABBA songs, performed on the organ by Kevin.

We then had a supper of cheese and biscuits and tea and coffee. Even at 9pm, people were reluctant to leave after such a wonderful evening. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came and we thank you for your support!

We made no charge for the entertainment or the refreshments. Nevertheless, people kindly donated £124 for Church funds.

Plans for "Another Evening with Bernard and Kevin" are already underway. Don't miss out for a second time!

Other Church News

Richard has now begun to provide worship for the residents of Tavey House in Whetstone on Thursdays.

We see our role at Whetstone as very much a church for the community, offering Sunday Worship but recognising that God's work isn't restricted to Sunday only.

We try to be open as often as possible to ensure that we provide a welcoming space for people to enjoy, meet, seek comfort and refreshment and find peace and sanctuary in the house of God. With God's grace, long may our work continue.

Whetstone News

Harvest Celebrations

We had a busy weekend on 17th and 18th September.

On Saturday, we held a *Coffee Morning*, during which people brought their donations of fruit and vegetables for the Harvest Festival.

Tea, coffee and biscuits were freely available, as well as toasted crumpets and butter for just £1! There was also a raffle.

We had a lovely, busy morning. Thanks to all who supported us!

Special thanks to Jan "the tea lady", Jenny "the raffle lady", Jean "the boss" and Shirley "the lady who organised the Harvest produce display"!

On Sunday, we held our Harvest Festival Service, led by our own Kevin. Our dear friend, Carl, played a lament on the bagpipes as a tribute to her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. He was once one of Her official pipers.

We then sold the Harvest produce and joined together for a Faith Lunch. It was a wonderful occasion and raised £110 for the Pakistan Flood Appeal.



Whetstone News



Whetstone News

Drama Group Celebration

Whetstone Drama Group celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year with a huge production of "Oklahoma!".

Evening shows will take place from 9th to 12th November. A matinee performance will take place at 2pm on Saturday 12th.

Tickets cost £10.

To book and even pick your own seat, visit whetstonedrama.co.uk or call 07410697569.



Jerry M. Wilson

Oadby United Reformed Church
Rosemead Drive

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 29 October 2022

7pm

Cost £6

Including Soup & Roll, Cake, Tea & Coffee

In aid of the Church Garden Fund

Abbots Road News

Holiday at Home.

After nearly two years of inactivity, we were wondering how this event would be received. After all people have moved on following the pandemic; some have suffered mobility issues and some more are needing transport assistance.

We decided to provide a two-day programme instead of three at church and booked the assistance coach from Woods in faith and anticipation!

On the Tuesday we provided jigsaws, newspapers and magazines, some table games and a craft table. Drinks and biscuits were readily to hand and at lunchtime our neighbourly Fish and Chip van came and served us with freshly cooked fish and chips; much enjoyed!

A gentleman came in the afternoon and energised those of a certain age with songs from the late 50's and early 60's.

Wednesday followed a similar pattern with a Pot Luck lunch, as we emptied the freezer of over-catered elements of previous Lunch Box meals. A feast was shared. Folk were so engrossed we never got to the Bingo session!

Our time culminated with an outing to Skegness on the Thursday. We were joined by families and friends for the coach trip. The terrible weather forecast proved to be less bad in fact and the rain did not dampen spirits at all. Everyone enjoyed their day out. It was a good time to talk with friends, look round the shops, walk near the sea and of course, eat and drink in the cafes. The sun came out as our day drew to a close, in time for a sun-filled journey home during which many raffle prizes were distributed,

Our thanks, particularly, to Dorothy who was the prime mover for the event and managed to organise so much while Brian was still very poorly in hospital. We look forward to next year when we hope that Brian will be able to join us again, and perhaps some more of you too.

Irene W

REPORT ON HOLIDAY AT HOME BY EDITH MIDDLETON

This was the first Holiday at Home since the Pandemic. It was held on three days.

Tuesday it was lovely to meet with old friends again. It was a quiet morning before our fish and chip lunch. We buy them in from a chip van which is owned by the family of Kathy who is a member of Abbots Road. They are always cooked fresh. We had a 2 course lunch of fish and chips and mushy peas if we wanted them, followed by lemon sponge and custard. After that we had coffee or tea. It was all delicious.

Wednesday there were more crafts and games and jigsaw puzzles to keep us entertained. After another delicious lunch a singer came in to entertain us. We went down memory lane with him singing songs from the fifties, sixties, seventies and others. We were all encouraged to join in which we did and we remembered all the words.

On Thursday we had a lovely outing to Skegness. Oh dear, the rain came down all day but it didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits. There were shops - lots of shopping was done. There were arcades etc. for us to amuse ourselves in. And Dorothy even had a paddle in the sea! By and large, everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

A grand raffle on the coach, on our return journey, rounded the day off.

"Didn't we have a lovely day the day we went to Skegness!"

Many thanks to Dorothy and her crew for their hard work.

Abbots Road News

URC JUBILEE

On Saturday 10th September we gathered at Nottingham University to celebrate the jubilee of the United Reformed Church. Old friends greeted one another after a long separation.

We enjoyed workshops with different subjects; Poetry or prose which was very interesting; singers went to the praise meetings and sang different songs which they had to learn; crafting & creativity; chill out zone and a family fun zone. There was also a prayer walk around the lake.

Then a time of all age worship including communion including birthday cakes and a reflection on the Magnificat by Rev Fiona Bennett, Moderator of General Assembly.

Also a time for discussion about the future of the URC where many views were expressed. The new Synod banner was displayed and it was a wonderful sight, very colourful.

There was also a wonderful tribute to Her Majesty The Queen. What a wonderful day we all had and our thanks go to all who made it possible.

Edith Middleton

14th Sept 2022

Poems written at the East Midlands Synod Jubilee event in the Poetry Workshop;

Jesus used his hands for blessing the troubled,
preaching to the poor.

He was a carpenter who opened the door to all the beautiful things in life and
condemns those who cause trouble and strife,
so live by his word and thank him for your life.

The life of him who laid it down for you,
His hands nailed to a cross for you.

BY EDITH MIDDLETON 10th September 2022

Abbots Road News

Poems written at the East Midlands Synod Jubilee event in the
Poetry Workshop cont.....

Our hands re a gift
Created by you
The hands we are given
Used to serve you

We hold hands together
Our own, or with others
To pray, to encourage
To care, Sisters/Brothers

Each hand is different
In colour and size
But all fit together
With no compromise

Our hands can do great things
When used the right way
But hands can be hurtful
And the mind led astray
In Jesus, we see hands
That give and were given
Through nails pierce in torment
So our sins, forgiven

So let's use our hands
For the purpose of Him
To show love to the world
And to give light which won't dim.

By ALISON HADLEY 10th September 2022

YOU'RE HAVING A LAUGH

My Auntie ate an apple each day, she said, 'An apple a day keeps the doctor away.' It must be true because she's been on a hospital waiting list for ages.

My sister bought me a camouflage covered dictionary. I was going to thank her but I couldn't find the words.

People say Frankenstein's monster had a temper, but actually he was surprisingly level headed.

What's a spiders favourite vegetable? Corn-on-the-cobweb.

I took a stuffed dog to the Antiques Road Show. The chap said, 'This is very rare, do you know what it would fetch if it was in good condition? I said, 'I dunno, sticks I suppose.

Rapunzel kept several pets, she was always nice to her rabbits but she'd often let her hare down.

You don't have to be good at dissection, it's the taking apart that counts.

Wouldn't it be nice to go to the pub with the Beach Boys. Round? Round? Get a round, I'll get a round.



BIBLE CAKE. Contributed by Hilary Forryan.

Very good in 2 respects, some Bible Study, followed by a nice cake!

INGREDIENTS

1. 1/2lb Psalm 55 v 21
2. 1/2lb Ezekiel 3 v 3
3. 1 tablespoon 1 Samuel 14 v 25
4. 3 of Deuteronomy 22 v 6
5. 1/2lb 1 Samuel 30 v 12
6. 1/2lb Nahum 3 v 12
7. 2ozs Numbers 17 v 8
8. 1lb 1 Kings 4 v 22
9. 1 teaspoon 2 Chronicles 9 v 9
10. a pinch of Leviticus 2 v 13
11. 1 teaspoon Galatians 5 v 9
12. 3 tablespoons Judges 4 v 19.

METHOD

Beat 1,2, and 3 to a cream.

Add 4, one at a time.

Still beating, add 5,6, and 7.

Add 8,9,10 and 11, having previously mixed them.

Add 12, and bake in a slow oven for 1 ½ hrs.

ENJOY!

LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUIZ

A big thank you to those who let me know that the book we'd missed was Hosea!

ARE YOU TROUBLED? - TRY THIS PRAYER.

Dear God,

Calm my worried spirit. Quiet the voices in my head, spinning me in every direction. Help me to focus on you, on your word, on the ways you can, and always will stand next to me in my confusion and chaos. Show me that I don't have to rely on my own sense of strength, on my own anxious heart to guide me through.

Remind me that you are with me, and I don't have to fear.

AMEN.

THIS MONTH PLEASE PRAY FOR

The people of Ukraine and those who are trying to broker peace.

The people of Pakistan who are trying to rebuild their lives after floods decimated their homes and loved ones were killed.

The URC as we celebrate 50 years since its inauguration.

The Royal Family as they continue to grieve the loss of the Queen. Pray also for Charles as he takes over the role of King and seeks to rule with the kindness, concern, and dedication to Christ his mother showed during her reign.

Martin, as he makes a phased return to work and Charlotte who supports him.

Brian Russell, as he slowly continues on the road to recovery after his operation and illness and Dorothy as she supports Brian.

All those we know in our church and Area who are struggling in any way at this time.

The mission outreach of the churches in our Resource Area.

THERE IS PEACE AND CALM IN THE 23RD. PSALM

With the Lord as 'YOUR SHEPHERD'
You have all that you need,
For, if you 'FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS'
Wherever HE may lead,
He will guard and guide and keep you
In HIS loving, watchful care
And, when travelling in 'dark valleys',
'YOUR SHEPHERD' will be there....
HIS goodness is unfailing,
HIS kindness knows no end,
For THE LORD is a 'GOOD SHEPHERD'
On whom you can depend.....
So, when your heart is troubled,
You'll find quiet peace and calm
If you open up the Bible
And just read this treasured Psalm.

By Helen Steiner Rice

Contributed by Anne Allison

TRAI DCRAFT

Please do look at the Traidcraft Stall, there are various items on offer from socks to biscuits.

Look out for the new catalogues which are out soon, and have lots of goodies on offer. You may find Christmas gifts to give to family or friends. They'll also be a selection of Christmas cards which are good quality, and some have a Christian greeting inside.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint-some of them are so hard to live with-but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen.

Lectionary Readings

2 October

Habakkuk 1 v 1 - 4 & 2 v 1 - 4

Psalm 37 v 1 - 9

2 Timothy 1 v 1 - 14

Luke 17 v 5 - 10

9 October

2 Kings 5 v 1 - 3 & 7 - 15

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2 v 8 - 15

Luke 17 v 11 - 19

16 October

Genesis 32 v 22 - 31

Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3 v 14 - 4 v 5

Luke 18 v 1 - 8

23 October

Jeremiah 14 v 7 - 10 & 19 - 22

Psalm 84 v 1 - 7

2 Timothy 4 v 6 - 8 & 16 - 18

Luke 18 v 9 - 14

30 October

Isaiah 1 v 10 - 18

Psalm 32 v 1 - 7

2 Thessalonians 1 v 1 - 4 & 11 - 12

Luke 19 v 1 - 10