

Welwyn Garden City, Harpenden and Wheathampstead United Reformed Churches Magazine



August & September 2022

*****Editors Note*****

We normally begin the magazine with a message from one of the Churches, but this time I felt that the wonderful celebration and opening at Wheathampstead is all the message we need. That of belief and faith can move mountains (plus a lot of hard work!). It is truly inspiring what a small team can do. Led by two amazing women, Jackie and Jane, supported by the congregation, and backed by a community. Congratulations Wheathampstead!

Remembering a Celebration

Thank you to all those who joined us for the service to mark ten years since our last service in the church building in 2012. We were honoured to have the TNS Moderator joining us and giving a very understanding about address what we were hoping to achieve from the Chapel Gym project. It was lovely to have Revd Jane leading us in worship once again and to have Robert Harvey, Sharon Sookrah and Revd David Aplin supporting us with prayers. Jane and Jackie presented a history of the church since an original house group started in 1619 until the present time, most of the challenges dating from around 2000!

The hymns included 'Let us build a house where love can dwell', 'Good news, God reigns!' and 'We all too easily assume', a song that tries to capture the feel of community ministry by the whole people of God. This was to a familiar tune and very appropriate words by John Campbell.

The congregation joined in with an Act of Dedication to say as a church we seek God's guidance for the future and continue to walk God's way. We commit ourselves again to fulfil our mission:-

To live in ways that show the good news of God's love in Jesus.

To demonstrate in actions as well as words how much God longs for the healing and wholeness of the world.

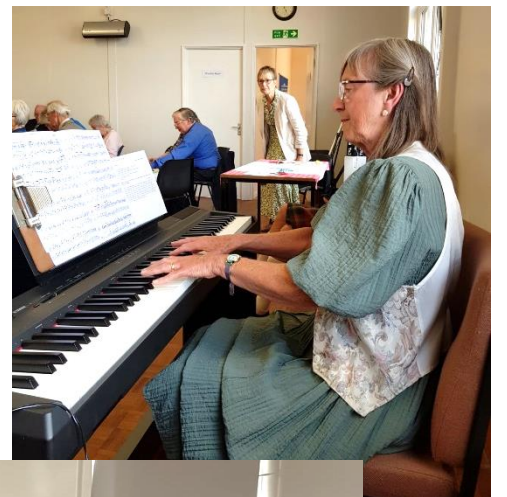
To build one another up in love, so that those we encounter on the way will catch a glimpse of God's kingdom on earth

A kingdom that longs to embrace one and all. Amen

You have all been so supportive and encouraging over the years and without this we could not have carried on. Certainly the prayers that have brought the community in to help us achieve our aims will continue to be vital as we strive forward in faith.

Jackie and Jane





Looking back and being thankful.



As we begin the summer holidays, its good to stop and reflect and look back on the year so far.

We can really be thankful for the services at URC Harpenden and thankful for all the visiting speakers and speakers that have covered services and led us in worship enabling us to have the church open each week and some normality after spending such a long time in lockdown.

We can be thankful for celebrating 200 years of the church in Harpenden being 200 years old.



We had a wonderful cluster service at Harpenden in May with different members being involved and joining in worship together.

We have summer service planned and look forward to having Chris from YWAM speak to us in August. Please see our poster for more info on services.

We look forward to Autumn and Celebrating harvest on Sunday 9th October.

Please see our posters or website for more details on Services in Harpenden.

What is coming up in Wheathampstead

In spite of school holidays and many families inevitably being out of the village there will be lots going on in August:

We will continue to meet up each Sunday for services either in the Worship Rooms on our own site or elsewhere, but 'visit' as a congregation.

Coffee in the Chancel of St Helen's Church will continue to be served with a variety of mostly home-made goodies on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 10 – 11.30.

They will also have a Community larder (and fridge) operating, to support people in the village who are struggling with the extra cost of providing food to families over the holiday 10-4 each day.

On the last Tuesday of the month (30th) we will be meeting with others in our hall at 5.30 pm ready to eat the meal prepared by the Community Kitchen team at 6pm. Some of us will have helped with the preparation others with serving or clearing up, all of us will enjoy the company and meal together if the previous events are anything to go by!

In September most of the regular activities in the village start up again and we will be welcoming new members who have recently joined The Chapel Gym. We also expect to have a range of fitness classes available for people to sign up to – some to be held in the gym and others in the hall.

We will be involved in the International Day of Prayer for Peace on 21st when folk from all the village churches will gather in St Helen's for prayers at noon.

The Community Kitchen meal will be eagerly awaited on 27th.

Jackie and Jane

Dear Friends,

Is anyone back to normal? After two years of pandemic and lockdown, and Covid still with us (thankfully, for most, in a much weaker form), we can now worship together in person and find fellowship again. But for most of us it is not simply a return to how it used to be; some people have not returned to church, some have died or become too frail, some churches have closed and others considering it.

Now we have significant European turmoil and its likely effect on fuel and food prices for us in the UK. Thank God that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13 v.8). Whatever else changes, He is our rock, our cornerstone.

Financially, things were extremely tough for churches in 2021. Plate offerings had collapsed; some regular givers had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God's work; and those churches which hire out their premises had seen income from that source disappear. Even those churches where the majority of the giving was by standing order or bank transfer (*if you have not considered regularising your giving in this way, please do – it helps your treasurer significantly*) may have seen a 20%+ drop in income.

If this had been replicated in giving to the M&M Fund in 2021, we might have been faced with a serious financial crisis last year.

But no, through the generosity of individuals, churches and Synods, we can report that income only fell by 4.4%. With a similar reduction in expenditure the M&M Fund result was a deficit of only £80,000 (less than one-half of one percent of income), a deficit that can be comfortably covered by reserves.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2021 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With churches and individuals under financial pressure, 2022 is not going to be an easy year either. The M&M Fund budgeted income (based on Synods’

projections) will not be sufficient to cover expected costs and we are reconciled to dipping into our reserves more seriously as a result.

However, if we “ordinary Christians” are to fulfil the call of Jesus to be His witnesses in the world around us we need ministers and other workers “on the ground” and we need shared resources which are often best created centrally. That all comes from the M&M Fund.

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Hardie (Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)



Welwyn Garden City URC

Invite you and your Pet (Or photo of your pet)

9 October 2022 @ 3-4pm

Please note that you are responsible for your pet – Do let us know in advance if you'll be bringing any very large pet so we can open the garden!!

Community Café

A Tuesday morning is one of the highlights of my week since it is wonderful to offer pastoral care to such a lovely group of visitors. We always have plenty of refreshments, which include 'posh' biscuits, a craft workshop led by Hazel, fun activities and lots of prizes for our monthly Bingo winners.

MIND Charity has partnered with us, offering support to the visitors as well as referring their service users to the coffee morning. Every week they have a representative who visit and joins in with our activities.

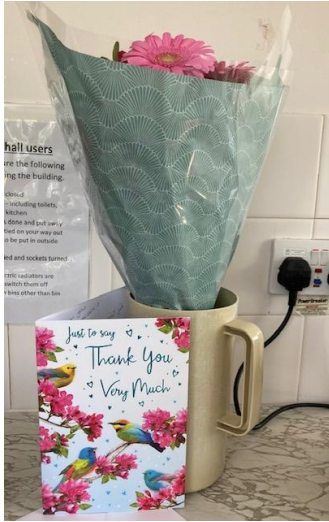
A few weeks ago I asked our Tuesday coffee morning (also referred to as the Community Café or Community Coffee Morning) visitors;

"What do you enjoy most at the Community Coffee mornings?" and "What has it meant to you?"

I thought I would share some of the feedback with you;

- "Volunteering is good for my mental health. Mixing with people is important to me."
- "Enjoy company. Talking to different people, helping when people have a problem."
- "The Community Coffee Morning as I have made loads of friends and always meeting even more new friends. Elizabeth is so welcoming and makes the world a better place to be. Also mixing helps my mental health."
- "I enjoy the cakes and cups of tea and coffee. Also the pleasant company and the activities such as bingo, beetle drives and card games. I can't think of a more pleasant way to spend a morning. Jolly nice!"
- "Make everyone happy, make new friends for a chat to them. My first time here. I have had a very warm welcome. Everybody very friendly."
- "Helping us to connect to our creativity. As a carer it helps me to talk to other people and share experiences and for Pauline it's helping her social skills and creative side too."
- "Company and companionship"
- "Fresh faces, good talks and meeting new people"

- “I enjoy coming to coffee morning on a Tuesday as have a lovely group of people here. Bingo, craft and various different activities and most of all Liz has always made it very welcoming for all.”



Today (19th July) my lovely friends at the Community Café gave me a beautiful card and a gorgeous bunch of flowers.

They shared my happiness that my contract has been extended for another year.

Philippians 4:19: And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

I feel so blessed to be able to facilitate this group and have made such wonderful friends.

Our Jubilee Party:

We celebrated in style with live music from the Happy Daze musicians, plenty of pizza, lovely sandwiches and a large variety of cakes.



Time to Remember Tea

19 June was my first Time to Remember Tea that I have attended and I felt blessed to have been included in the service as well as organizing the hospitality. There were 24 people and Robert led a very memorable service. Thank you to Joyce for organizing the roses, to Allison for creating invitations and sending out the beautiful invitations and to all the ladies who provided so many delicious cakes. Thank you.

Church Leader's away day

I attend the quarterly WGC Church leaders meetings as the URC representative.

Father Norbert Fernandes organized an away day for us, on 5 July, hosted by Lady Salisbury at Hatfield House. This also included a private tour of Hatfield House.

(Right): Elizabeth I was Queen of England and Ireland from 17 November 1558 until her death in 1603.



(Right): The Marble Hall

(Left): The Library



Sharing Our Faith

We are challenged to be open honest and proud to share our faith with those we meet in our everyday lives yet many of us find this hard. We are all comfortable to share in safe situations alongside fellow Christians in Bible Study for example. In Roman's 10 verse 17 we read Faith comes from listening to the message of good news – the good news about Christ. Our challenge is how can we as individuals and as a church share our faith and this Good News.

We often hide behind saying to ourselves "What difference can I make?"

Therefore, I was heartened and encouraged a couple of weeks ago by hearing about how one of our members, a lady in her 90's, had taken the initiative to share her faith. Pat recently moved into a Care Home and was missing attending Church and singing hymns in praise to the Lord and was very disappointed that the home didn't offer any Christian Worship.

She took up the challenge and has now a service every Sunday morning where several of the residents meet to sing hymns in a space which has been allocated to them for their use.

Well done Pat and if you can share your faith by taking the initiative what excuse do we have for hiding our light under a bushel.

Joyce Nicolson

JERUSALEM

I love singing Jerusalem to the stirring music of C. H. H. Parry. I have often wondered why some people dislike it so much. The argument that it is not Christian enough seems pretty feeble. If Blake really believed that one of the Lost Tribes of Israel came to England and we are their descendants, that seems eccentric, but no more than that. But what if Blake intended this as a satirical attack on the Church in all its forms? He certainly had no time for churchmen. His enthusiastic (over-enthusiastic) praise for Milton (Jerusalem appears in the Introduction, I don't know why) might be satirical but it goes on and on for page after page. Whatever the poet intended, the majority accept it as a clarion call to build Heaven (New Jerusalem) on earth. It does remind me of the comedian who blamed the lower life expectancy in Scotland on their diet of deep-fried Mars bars. It was not long before they were actually on the menu! So let's keep singing this wonderful hymn.

Tom Pattie



CANCER
RESEARCH UK
SHINE
NIGHT WALK

Crazy idea. But I'm doing a 'shine walk' for Cancer Research in London in September.

13 miles overnight! I'm part of a group led by a very good friend of mine whose

husband died last year, way too young. My sister too was tragically taken by this disease.

I'm hoping I can get lots of friends and family to donate £5. That's all I'm asking so that people don't feel obliged to donate more than the previous person. It can get out of hand, I know. I have a target and I will donate myself to make sure I reach that target.

I won't be offended if you don't want to. There are a lot of charity events going on and money is tight. But if you can, here is the address for donations. Oh and remember to gift aid if you can. With grateful thanks. 🙏

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/dorothys-giving-page-38>



Save the Date!

Concert by the ever-
popular



Welwyn Garden City Male Voice Choir

at the WGC United Reformed Church

on Saturday 24 September at 7.30pm

in aid of Christian Aid

(Tickets from Robert Harvey 01707.322339)

Thursday Club

The Pandemic resulted in many of our activities, the special treats we enjoy and look forward to being cancelled over the past few years, but I am delighted to say we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style. We toasted the Queen with pink non-alcoholic sparkling wine, played games, enjoyed savoury party food and Allison's Jubilee Cupcakes. Thank you, Allison you are a star.

Sadly we didn't have the confidence to organise our annual day trip to the coast in these uncertain times but were looking forward to our Garden Party hosted by Ann and John Meer's in their lovely garden. Little were we to know that there was another threat looming on the horizon which put this enjoyable afternoon in jeopardy a HEATWAVE!! due to strike on the week of our party. Thankfully God was watching over us as by Thursday 21st July temperatures were forecasted to be on the decline.

Last minute shopping, scone baking, cake baking and a series of phone calls to our members enabled us to welcome 25 club members and church friends to a very enjoyable afternoon in Ann's garden. Thank you, Mary Bedford, for spending the 20th baking a lovely selection of small cakes, to you Ann for opening your garden to us all once again and to our resident club tea lady Norma Collie for looking after and serving refreshments and all who helped make the afternoon a very sociable and enjoyable one.

We are sorry that a few of our regular members were unable to attend especially those who were feeling unwell due to the adverse temperatures we experienced earlier in the week. We look forward to welcoming you all back on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month from 2-4pm in the Lower Hall at WGC URC. starting on the 15th September.

I will be working on the programme and hope to include some new and interesting experiences for you all so please bring friends along. New faces, especially gentlemen and a few younger members, would be very welcome. I will publish the Autumn Programme in the next magazine.

Joyce Nicolson

WGC URC Redevelopment plans

Some of you will already know from Joyce Nicolson's recent news e-mail, which was sent out on the WGC URC e-mail string, that our planning application to the local council for a building extension and alterations was successful. But more about that later on.

This decision brings us to a point after many years. Early in Jane's Ministry, the YMCA leased the upstairs at the Church for running before and after school children's clubs. The YMCA approached the Church with the proposal of building social housing on the Church grounds and using the proceeds to fund major alterations in the Church. Before anything could be finalised, grants for social housing evaporated and the YMCA decided to concentrate their efforts in Hatfield where they saw the greatest need.

After a bit of a gap, WGC URC decided to pick up the feasibility scheme again, and after a competition, a Cambridge firm of Architects was appointed. They are now called B B + C Architects.

After several stages of redevelopment plans, a scheme for extensive redevelopment was produced, and funding would again be based on selling land as with the earlier YMCA ideas.

This scheme was the subject of pre-application advice from planners which nowadays has to be paid for.

Discussions led to the Architects being asked to simplify their plans to something more affordable without selling land, but still meeting the brief.

The existing Church building offers good accommodation but suffers from lack of circulation, meaning that occupied rooms must be entered to gain access to other spaces. Toilet facilities cannot be accessed directly from the grounds which restricts the use of this valuable church asset. Kitchen and toilets are overdue for improvement and the upper floor facilities can only be reached by stairs.

The Synod Property Enabler has been involved on our journey to planning permission.

The Architects came up with three separate options, which were quickly reduced by omitting Option C, which offered little benefit, but would have been far more complex to construct.

Of the two remaining Options, it was decided to apply for permission for the larger one, on the basis that if permission was refused, we could immediately scale the proposals back.

The Architect's plans are on display in the WGC URC vestibule.

Depending on the form of construction and the quality of finishings, the cost was reported to Church Meeting as being in excess of £1 million.

Construction industry inflation is currently running high and will need to be market tested in due course.

Our planning permission lasts for three years and if it expires could be re-applied for and would probably be successful again unless circumstances change.

Permission came with just the one condition, that external materials to be used are approved by the Council before work starts, this would include type of facing bricks and colour of windows, for instance.

Successful permission with just one condition was a complete surprise, because our pre-application planning advice came with so many strings attached.

As mentioned above, permission would expire in time, but making a meaningful start would protect the scheme. What this might mean would need approval of the planners.

The Architect sees the installation of a disabled lift as being a qualifying item, and this would have the benefit of improving access to upstairs and another kitchen, set of toilets and hall space in readiness for when the similar facilities on the ground floor are taken out of use.

Another view likely to gain momentum is that the first phase concentrates on providing the shell of an enlarged kitchen and access to toilet facilities from the grounds at the rear.

The proposed Church Meeting in August will provide an opportunity for all views to be expressed and hopefully a consensus reached, which the Church building group will take forward with the Architects.

The next stage will involve taking on sub-consultants to complete some of the outstanding sustainability information which will eventually be required.

In the meantime, we are going ahead with a permanent tea point at the back of the main worship space which Church Meeting has approved to replace the present temporary facility which has found favour with users.

As a separate piece of work, we will look at creating a technology hub with units matching the tea point in order to provide secure storage and workstation for recording of services.

Philip Read

Car park barrier cards renewal

If you have a car park barrier card, they are due for renewal on **September 1st**. The renewal charge is £25.00 per card for the year.

Please renew using either bank transfer or by cheque.

Bank transfer details are:

HSBC

Welwyn Garden City United Reformed Church

Sort Code : 40-46-08

Account Number : 91680595

Reference : Your name and CAR PARK

Cheques are payable to : WGC United Reformed Church

Please send your cheque to me at the following address :

Treasurer

WGC United Reformed Church

Church Road

Welwyn Garden City

AL8 6PR

Can you please continue to display the permit card in your car when you park. New ones will be issued by Allison or Joyce in Church on a Sunday morning.

Many thanks, Helen Kaye.

Pizza and Film Night: 15-July-2022

By God's grace, the Pizza and film night went well. We had about 16 children (out of which the majority were pre-teens).

Unfortunately, Wendy was not able to come as she was down with COVID. John and Janet and Wale kindly stepped up to cover the evening. Sharon and myself are immensely thankful and grateful for the help they offered without which we doubt if we could have seen this success.

We started with a brief skit + prelude to the story of Joseph by Janet and John as most of the children were not aware of the Old Testament stories, which was then followed by the movie "[Joseph:King of Dreams](#)". We broke at 7.15PM for Pizza, drinks and lollies and resumed at 7:40 PM. We finished the whole event by 8 with a thank you(s) plus a call to participate in our ongoing church and children's activities.

I have to admit, the reactions from the crowd were remarkable - be it in-person, by text or through emails; which was a great testimony for the work of the Church at this time and also a motivation for us to continue such events in the future.

It was inspiring to note the following:

- Thirst/ keenness to hear about God not just from kids, but adults alike. In some cases, we had both sets of parents in rapt attention!
- Sense from people on how "lovely the evening was" - it felt like it was long coming after the covid period.
- How "different" age groups could all come together and stay focussed..
- It was a great opportunity to invite friends from school/ non christians for this.
- The lower hall was nearly full, some pictures attached.
- We could speak to a few adults and explain our ongoing work in the church - services etc and they were very open to joining us in the future.

Last but not the least, the blinds were awesome - it really did work very well. So thank you to all who helped us to get these blinds.

Thanks and God bless,

Sharon & Sanjay



CHURCH FAMILY CORNER

Our August Birthday List starts with Erin, Laura's daughter, who will be 22 on August 2nd, followed by Mary S. on 3rd, Don B. on 4th, Joyce N. on 15th, Lucas H. who will be 18 on 16th, Sheila L. on 22nd, Barbara G. on 26th and last, but not least, my other half, John, on 30th!

Moving on to September, first on my list is Rosemary T. on 6th, then Aiden R. who will be 8 on 22nd, Ted C. on 24th, and Orla, who will be 4 on 25th.

We wish all our friends a very Happy Birthday when their special day arrives and we hope they are each able to enjoy a celebration of some kind.

We all send our hearty congratulations to David & Olive Jones and Ann & Fred Robinson who will both be celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversaries on August 2nd and September 20th respectively - WOW! An amazing milestone for both couples.

We also send congratulations to Tim & Wendy Higgins, who will be celebrating their 3rd Wedding Anniversary on September 28th. How time flies!

Belated congratulations to Rosemary & Arthur Taylor who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 1st July. We hope you enjoyed a celebration on your special day. John and I will also be celebrating our 55th Anniversary on August 5th. What shall we do? A day out somewhere, perhaps? Please let me know if have anything planned when your special day comes around

Congratulations to Roger & Irene Simpson on the arrival of Dillon, a first child for Sandra's son William & Sara, who live in Toronto, Canada. This brings their collection to 14 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren!!

Please continue to remember those in our church family who need our prayers at this time, especially Laura, who is now undergoing more chemotherapy. We pray for her healing and for support for her whole family at this stressful time.

We thank God for His sustaining presence and comfort for all those in need of our prayers.

Ann Meers On behalf of our Pastoral Teams

Wedding of the year (well....ours anyway)

28th May 2022 Welwyn Garden City United Reformed Church

The Church was packed and our lovely Robert Harvey (Friend, Confidant, Social Worker, Linguist, Preacher and many more) was marrying his lifelong friend, Catherine. The sun was shining and the church looked beautiful inside with floral displays by Joyce and her team. Many family and friends were there and the service was beautifully led by Jim Dalglish (our Interim Moderator). Although this is not part of his role, he very kindly did so. There was a very human error at the end when he began "Now that the separation...hmm.hmcelebration - is over" so the service finished on a lighter note..

Catherine wore a long white dress covered with dusky pink flowers and a pale pink bolero jacket. She carried a posy of white peonies. Robert wore a suit of light grey sheen material. We were blessed with sunshine for the group photos. The party and guests continued to the Homestead Court Hotel where they were served Champagne and Canapes and able to relax and mingle in the beautiful gardens prior to the wedding breakfast.

The tables were decorated in blue, white and pink, each with a Centre of roses. The wedding cake was decorated to suit the couple's individual interests i.e. a tennis court in verdant green and white icing indicating Catherine's love of tennis and a colourful floral area illustrating Robert's love of gardening.

Robert made an amusing speech at the end of the meal in which he described how he and Catherine got engaged. He proposed a toast to the lady who was our country's Deputy Medical Officer of Health in 2020 and said, "When the first lockdown was imposed, she instructed - unknown to me - that partners should live together. Sarah Jane and Juliet, now both my step-daughters, rang Catherine to ask "Why are you not living with Robert?" "Because he hasn't asked me" Catherine replied in her usual calm way. So her daughters rang my son Mike, who rang me, who rang Catherine who accepted my invitation to come and stay. This has given us two years to decide whether we can manage to live with each other's more irritating characteristics - my retreating after

supper to do my emails and Catherine's filling the kettle three-quarters full for a single mug of tea. We managed. So I asked her to marry me and she said "Yes" once again in her usual calm way. So here we are.."

The wedding evening progressed with a brilliant idea of having a Barn Dance with Caller. After some persuasion and some of us feeling the need to work off our couple of hours over indulging in the delicious food we took to the floor. This was great fun and with the caller and guide's help we were away. Needless to say after about an hour or so we needed drinks etc. and a wonderful buffet was served.

It was a most splendid event and a Wonderful Celebration enjoyed by all.



Family Games Night

Much fun was had on our first Family Games evening, last month. Luckily the weather was kind and not too hot. We had several families come and join us in some good old fashioned games. Such as Grandma's footsteps, What's the time Mr wolf, stuck in the mud, and a personal favourite (although not that of the parents that played it) Ladders. We also had several 3 legged races and it will be awhile before I forget the picture of Nathan (Must be 6ft 6") with little Orla!! Skipping had not been enthusiastically embraced by some of the boys, until they saw how many jumps Sophie could do, and then it was game on as the picture below shows!



Ice lollies were a welcome break and a good time was had by all. We hope to be able to repeat this again and maybe have a winter edition with board games.

Allison

Marinated Cannelini Bean Salad from Becky

1 shallot	6 green onions
1/3 cup white wine vinegar	1/3 C extra virgin olive oil
1 tsp salt	2 can Cannelini beans
1/2 cup of fresh herbs (your choice. Mine is cilantro, parsley and mint)	1 tsp italian seasoning

Mix the shallot, vinegar and salt in a small bowl and set aside.

In a big bowl mix the herbs onions and oil. Then mix in beans herbs & vinegar mix. Put in fridge for 2 hrs or more.

You can add a can of tuna.

5 days in fridge. Think of the things you can do with this recipe!!

Lovely as a side and lovely heaped on french bread. Bon appetito !

Graduation Special

We are all very proud of everyone who has graduated this year and here are the ones I have been told about. Please let me know if you would like to include your loved one in next month's edition.



Ailsa -Joyce's daughter

Graduated from Poole with a degree in Maths and then completed her PGCE. She starts this September as a Maths teacher at a secondary school. Good Luck!!



Dee Dee – Wales's son

Graduated from Exeter with a 1st class degree in Business and Management. He will soon be starting his training in accountancy. Well done!!



Leanne - Allison's niece

Has received her PhD in environmental microbiology at the University of East Anglia. She has moved on to a research post trying to understand how bacterial infections occur on replacement joints, in order to help diagnose and treat. The further description she gave was gross, so let's not delve any further!!

Thomas – Joanna's son

Graduated at Reading in Economics ; he's not sure what he wants to do but has got a temporary post at the Institute of Accountancy (internship) in London. Well done!!





Georgia – Wendy's Daughter

Georgia had her graduation ceremony for the psychology degree she completed in 2021 at Durham. And she is just finishing off her dissertation for her Masters in Health Psychology from Kings College London.



Sophie – Allison's other niece

Sophie has received her MSc from the Open University and her plan is to now work towards her PhD. The picture is her with her gold medal for archery from the Transplant Games 2022.

This was sent to me by a dear friend
and now I also want to share it with
you.

God Bless, Liz

Read this in silence..

Heavenly Father,
I may not understand
how everything will work out,
but I trust you. I don't see a way,
but I know you will make a way
I have faith at this very moment
you are touching hearts,
opening doors and lining up
the right breaks and
right opportunities. Things may
look dark and bleak now, but
I have faith that my dawn is coming.

Amen 🍷

The 'Good life' in Lincolnshire

It has been lovely to see so many of you over the last few months and to see so many positive things happening. I pray this will continue as you support your Elders through this protracted time of vacancy.

Our good news this month is that we got the planning permission we applied for and work begins in earnest this weekend. Hopefully the major upheaval will be over in two months time leaving us with the mammoth task of relandscaping and a general tidy up.

The shepherds hut is being built at the moment and we have chosen colours for the kitchen and outside. Went to see the work in progress and it is really quite exciting, we are eagerly looking forward to seeing the finished product and getting it settled. In the meantime, we have trenches to be dug to set railway sleepers in the ground for it to rest on. The sleepers have arrived so we are hoping the digger driver will help us out!!

The Garden Room is on order for delivery and installation in September so that means we have ground to clear in preparation for the base laying at the end of August.



The work began on Sunday – of all days – and it bought home to us just how much we will have to do once the water pipes have been passed and the electric cable is in. Anyone fancy a week of helping fill in trenches?????



The garden had been growing well. We have had successful harvests of mange tout, radish and salad greens, French beans are on their way and the kale has been abundant in the raised beds. Cucumbers and tomatoes are doing well. There were a few additional kale plants left over from the raised bed so I thought we would just put them in the ground to see what happened. The rabbits happened and they have made very short work of stripping them down to stalks! We also put Brussel sprouts in with the kale - we hadn't intended growing these but some plants came our way and the rabbits don't seem so keen on Brussels so we will see if we have any success with them. They are so cheap and plentiful here it hardly seemed worth the effort of growing them. They were sold on the stalk for about £1 last year

and are so fresh with hardly any mileage from farm to shop but we would have an unintended bonus if they do grow. Berries have been plentiful and the established raspberry canes have had a bumper harvest. I have made 16 lb of jam and we have eaten raspberries almost every day for 2 months. One of my favourites fortunately.

The biggest change has been the arrival of Chantys' chickens. Ava (named after herself by our granddaughter!!), Gertie, Melia and Bluebell have settled in well. They were too young to lay eggs when Chanty first got them but 6 weeks on and they are all laying. One is even laying eggs with double yolks every other day. They are characters and will do just about anything for kale. They lay just about the right number of eggs for us and we have even given away a dozen eggs in the past 2 weeks as well. They do taste good and although they are probably the most expensive eggs we have ever had (given the cost of the housing etc) they are well worth it. So lovely to go from nest to table in just a few hours.



The one down side is that the dogs think chickens look quite tasty so they are having to be kept in the paddock out of their way. During the heatwave we were spraying them with a mist of cold water every half an hour, dunking them in their water bath and

feeding them watermelon, kale, dandelion and lettuce all in the water to keep them hydrated. They were not keen on being dunked as you can imagine but it did cool them down. We needed the same treatment by the time we came indoors!! The heat wave has seen the earliest barley harvest on record here and many farmers concerned for their crops due to lack of rain. Our water butts were emptied weeks ago so we can understand their concern.

Keeping hydrated with a cool refreshing drink I was reminded how much we need God to refresh us and rehydrate us. Our spirits might be lifted by an unexpected call from a friend, by remembering the words of a favourite hymn or favourite stories from the Bible, taking time to sit and quietly reflect and remembering with gratitude all the awesome ways God shows his love for us. If you enjoy reading the Book Group have read some awesome books – they would be great for hot days ask Liz (WGC) for details. I hope you have a lovely summer and hopefully by the time autumn arrives the major work here will be done, and we can begin to plan ahead for next year at Kairos Days Retreat.

Keep hydrated! Every blessing Jane

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I hope you have enjoyed reading this magazine. If you have, please consider sending us an article, I'm sure we would enjoy what you have to say. If you would like to contribute and are not really sure what, please contact one of the people above, who I'm sure could give you some suggestions.

Please can I have any articles for the next magazine by the 20th September 2022. Please send by email or contact me by phone for WGC URC & Wheathampstead articles. For Harpenden URC articles please contact Sarah Connor Many thanks, Allison Giles

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WILD FLOWERS JUNE – CAMBRIDGE'S FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM GARDEN

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