

WELWYN GARDEN CITY
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER
MAGAZINE

I thought you might like to know what I am up to on my sabbatical. I am looking at spiritual formation and discipleship; what is it that opens our hearts to God to move us from simply coming to church on Sunday to consciously following as disciples of Jesus every day?

I thought I needed to balance talking with people and experiencing things myself so I will be doing a few things myself that I haven't done before. This will give me the opportunity to experience a new 'language' and new ways of doing things. I hope to include some art and music.

The first week will be winding down, meeting with my sabbatical supervisor and fitting in a couple of appointments I haven't had time for! Then off to Brecon Beacons for the Silent retreat in solitude.

Roger is taking me across as it is not very accessible by public transport and I need to take food with me as well as luggage. This is an Ignation Retreat, the first 10 days of the Ignation 30 days Spiritual Exercises.

In 16th century Inigo of Loyola was a 26 year old squire to the King of Castile when his leg was shattered. During the long painful recovery period he experienced conversion and began a journey with God journaling his insights which he realised could become a course of exercises for others. He went on to study and was eventually ordained and calling himself Ignatious he soon became Superior General of a congregation near Rome. His exercises were first published in 1548.

The first week of the exercises requires a scrupulous examination of our life history, seeing God's loyal and loving presence within it, but also acknowledging the sins, addictions, and predilections that hindered our possibilities. The first week ends with a meditation on Christ's call for us to follow him, with the promise that we will lead richer, happier lives. I will have a Spiritual Director to discuss things with but apart from that little respite each day I will be alone. It will be good to reflect afterwards on my experience and just to observe myself as well as any insights.

When Roger comes to collect me again we are going to spend a little while in Llanelli walking the dogs on the beach and reading, giving me time to return to normal life quietly!

I then hope to take the opportunity to talk to various people about spiritual formation – a missionary, a chaplain at a young offenders institution, prison chaplains, an author on the subject and various people I know to listen to their experience and go with them to work if I am able. There are also a number of churches I would like to visit to see how they are developing worship opportunities for people who have never been to church before and how the existing congregation is participating in that.

This will be accompanied by reading a number of books I have been collecting and reflecting on what the various authors have to say.

The sabbatical ends with a holiday to India travelling to a number of famous places by train, including the Taj Mahal which is on my Bucket List! Then we spend the last week in Nepal visiting contacts and looking at both Christian and work being done by other people of faith in different settings. So far have contact with a Christian who arranges treks, the possibility of a leprosy hospital and a Buddhist temple.

I hope this is a good balance of doing things differently with enough space to change gear and feel the benefit of that different rhythm in life. I will be praying that these three months are a fruitful time for all of you and would appreciate your prayers while we are away. Not least for my parents for whom it will mean quite a change of routine.

I look forward to seeing you all in October – I am sure there will be stories to tell!

Every blessing

Jane

Secretary's Notes

One of my tasks this month has been to send out requests for reports from various people to be published in our Year Book to illustrate the life of our church over the past twelve months. The Year Book must record true records on finance, weddings, baptism, new members and those who have died or moved away alongside the work of the various groups, events and activities which contribute to the life of our church. Each year we choose a theme and ask the authors to try to reflect on how they feel they have fulfilled the theme over the year and their aims to continue with the theme in the coming year.

This year the chosen theme is "Salt and Light".

In Matthew 5 13-16 we read;

You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.

In Mark 9. 50 we read

Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavour how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other.

We do share Salt and Light with all who enter our church to attend the various worship opportunities, groups and activities but are we Salt and Light outside these four walls?

We as Christian individuals must try to be the Salt and Light in our lives outside the four walls of our building. We must be on the lookout for

where we might serve God by loving and serving others. We must be ready to help the needy by giving of our time and resources in all aspects of our daily lives.

In our prayers we can ask God to open our hearts and minds and to make us into people who hear and respond to the spoken and unspoken emotional and physical needs of those we encounter in our daily lives. By taking an interest and making mental and jotted notes we can offer prayer for the situations they have to face in the coming days and weeks or simply bring pleasure by remembering a birthday or other important event in their lives. We can as individuals make a difference to the lives of those around us just by showing we care.

My mother used to say “You only reap what you sow.” Personally I feel this to be a very apt statement. In order to bring peace, joy, significance and fulfilment into our own lives, first we need to be concerned with bringing peace, joy, significance and fulfilment to others.

So please can we all endeavour to be the Salt and Light as we go about our daily lives. Remember at all times that we are doing this not in order to selfishly shout “Look at me!” but “Will you look at Him?”

By your example of living your life in Christ you can enable others to see and have faith in our Lord.

So please go out there, live by our strap line and **Let Your Light Shine.**

God bless you all.

Moving On

As I mentioned in the last magazine The Church Magazine is the platform alongside email where I try to keep you all informed. I also try to encourage you to support various events and challenges in any way you feel you are able. In this issue I feel a greater responsibility to encourage us all to work together in Jane's absence. So please continue reading and give consideration to the items which follow.

Projects

The Grounds

John Devane with help from Shaun and Tuesday Morning Coffee gentlemen have been working in our grounds and have done a wonderful job. Thank you all for making our grounds so perfect for our BBQ. However there is still lots to do and their next challenge is rubbing down, sanding, painting and erecting the Climbing Frame. John would appreciate some assistance with this task so if there are any folk out there who can offer some time please contact John at john.devane@gmail.com .

Car Park

In the interest of safety and insurance requirements the launch of the Barrier had to be delayed until the 1st August.

Anyone who has paid an annual subscription of £20 should have received their electronic pass along with their magazine. You will also receive a Member Card which you must display in your car to assist us when we carry out spot checks. Your subscription will be valid until the end of July 2018.

There are forms in church for those wishing to subscribe so please speak to Allison or one of the elders.

The car park barrier will be open on Sundays from 8am-1pm for you to use without a pass.

Church Windows

The window cost £2,827.20 to make and the installation cost was £1,728 making a total of £4555.20.

Our aim is to focus all our fundraising on growing the Window Fund enabling us to replace the windows one at a time.

The fund currently stands at £2631.57 which includes monies raised at the Tea Dances and on Change for Change Sunday.

We are hoping the profits raised at the Barn Dance will see us well on the way to ordering and fitting our second of six large windows.

If you have any fund raising suggestions to help us boost the fund, or would like to make a donation please let us know.

Save these Dates and get Involved

10th September Communion Service

In Jane's absence it has been necessary to move Communion to the second Sunday in the month of September. Robert Harvey will be presiding at this Communion Service.

Harvest Weekend

Decorating the church Friday 22nd September

I will be looking for volunteers to come along at 10am to help decorate the church for the Harvest Celebrations. Please come along and join in bringing your harvest gifts to put on display along with foliage, berries and your own pair of willing hands. You do not have to be an expert flower arranger as there are many tasks to fulfill in making the church look festive for this special weekend. Please don't be shy come along and join in you will be most welcome.

Harvest Barn Dance Saturday 23rd Sept. 7.30-10pm

(See Poster in Magazine for further details)

All profits from the tickets costing £5 each to go towards the Church Window Fund. Encourage your friends and relatives to join you for an evening of fun hosted by our Caller Terry Elvins.

Tickets available from the leader of the group you attend or Joyce on 07886392602

email joycen2@hotmail.com.

Harvest Getting to Know You Lunch

Sunday 24th September after Morning Worship.

I will once more be looking for help to prepare meats for a cold buffet, supplemented by a donated buffet selection to include, salads and desserts. We will also offer vegetarian and gluten free choices plus food suitable for young children. If you can help with cooking and slicing meats, or donating any of the above please let me know.

I will also need help with setting up, serving and general help in the kitchen before worship and after our meal.

Please let me know by the 9th September at the latest on how you can help with this event.

Please also sign up in Church in September if you wish to attend to help me with numbers for catering.

National Prayer Weekend

29th-30th September

See Christine's Item in the magazine.

Three Months in the West Bank

Lower Hall on Tuesday 17th October 7.30pm

Please save the date and see Rogers Poster and Article in this edition of the magazine

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 25th November

I know that this seems a long way off but could you please be thinking over the summer months how you could help. Perhaps you would like to run one of the usual stalls/activities or you may have a new idea of your own which you would like to include in this year's fayre.

Could you please let me know as soon as possible how you would like to be involved.

Over the summer you could be collecting or making items for the various stalls and activities.

eg Small Lucky Dip Items, Tombola and Raffle items, Children's Small Prizes, Bottles of wine for the Bottle Stall, Toiletries for men and women and food for Hampers and Home made preserves to name but a few.

Please be aware if you plan to run a stall you will need to put your appeal for items etc. in the next issue of the magazine dead line 20th September.

NB Stall holders are responsible for :-

- Advertising for items for their stall.
- Setting up their stall
- Staffing their stall
- Providing their own float
- Clearing away at the close of the day and disposing of unsold items when necessary.

I will be happy to look after catering on the day but would welcome volunteers to help.

I think this covers everything for the moment and I look forward to being swamped by your responses to my various requests. Enjoy your summer break and come back refreshed and ready to take part in our busy autumn schedule.

Love and Prayers

Joyce

Words for July newsletter 2017

Growth in our work with families

When is 3 or 4 not just 3 or 4? When it is 3 or 4 families of course! Some parents arrive at Breakfast Church with just one child, but others bring several family members with them. And at a recent session with 7 families, Jane thought we might need to open up a second room soon. Well, we were 26 people in the Lower Hall and some of them were riding on tricycles...

This term we held Breakfast Church on 7 Saturdays, with 4 to 7 families joining each time. (Average attendance 5.7) Compare with April to July 2016 when Breakfast Church ran 8 times, average attendance 3 families. And Margaret K and Adewale have joined Philip and Sandra on our team of regular helpers which is much appreciated. Many thanks to everyone for your prayers and support.

The growth in our families work was reflected at the BBQ, where 36 children and babies enjoyed the garden. They included 6 of our regular Sunday families, plus 4 families from Breakfast Church, and 7 families from our mid-week groups. If you took any photos, please let me have them for the website – I can check the permission signatures we have for using any photos of children. It was also the 2nd biggest morning for Junior Church I have seen here, with child numbers only exceeded on the baptism Sunday in June. Contrast last year's BBQ with 4 Sunday families and just 2 others.

Therefore, we are going to make our Harvest Festival service on September 24th short and lively with lots of content for children. Do come and join in!

Thanks too, to everyone who has been praying for Parents and Tiddlers (PAT) on Friday afternoons – our new group twice a month, usually hosting 12 families. Friday seems the most popular day off for working mums. It has been lovely to welcome back those I haven't seen since they moved on from Bumps & Babies to such a friendly, happy group. And it's great to see the babies progressing their toddling and practising a few words.

Please keep praying for the local NCT branch which urgently needs new volunteers. We are also seeing very low numbers at Bumps & Babies (B&Bs) and I will probably do some promotion myself. It is so helpful for new mums to have somewhere to meet others.

We are now an ecumenical team running PAT and B&Bs, with support from friends at Herts International and St Francis besides myself and Theresa. If any other ladies feel they could spare a couple of hours some Wednesdays or Fridays to serve drinks, do let me know. We would love to have you along!

God Bless, Wendy

CHURCH FAMILY CORNER

We have several birthdays to mention in August starting with Mary S. on 3rd, Hilda J. on 9th, Edie W. on 11th, Joyce N. on 15th and John M. on 30th, and a Golden Wedding Celebration for John & Ann M. on 5th.

August birthdays for our young people are Erin F. who will be 17 on 2nd and Lucas H. who will become a teenager on 16th. For September Aiden R. who will be 3 on 22nd.

Ted C's birthday on 24th is the only adult one I know about for September, so if your special day takes place then, please let me know.

So congratulations to all those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries and we all hope you enjoy your special days.

Congratulations to Skye who took part with 600 other children in the Spelling Bee and got to the last 45! Well done, Skye!

I hope you all noticed how clean the paved areas were at the front of the church and round the back for our Summer BBQ. This was entirely due to Shaun & John who worked wonders with the pressure washer - a brilliant job! We send our grateful thanks to them both.

We were very pleased to hear that Shaun has now moved from Howlands House into his own studio flat in Panshanger. Great News! We continue to pray that John will soon be offered a job by one of the companies he is currently in touch with.

If you watched the British Garden wildlife programme recently on BBC 4 you may not have known that it was filmed in several gardens in Barleycroft Road and that the family of foxes featured live in Norma & Ted's garden. Fame at last, Norma!

We were glad to hear that Jessie Cleese is now settling into her own bungalow in Chester, after a few weeks living with her daughter, Gillian. If you would like to write to Jessie, please send correspondence to her via Gillian at 65 Heath Lane, Great Boughton, Chester CH3 5SY.

We hear that Pam Bull is now home following a convalescent stay at QVM hospital after radiotherapy at Mount Vernon. Pam told me that she is having to learn to walk again after the damage caused to the nerves in her back. We send our best wishes to Pam & Don for good progress with the physiotherapy exercises she is undergoing.

We send our prayers of support to all our church friends who are in need at this time and ask that your concerns are added to our

Intersessions Book which you will find on the coffee table every Sunday.

Ann Meers, on behalf of our Pastoral Friends Team.

World Culture Day

One Saturday in June, our borough council launched a super new event in White Lions square Hatfield. The mains stage had a succession of music and dance acts with about 20 stalls around the square and lots of people came out to enjoy it.

Wendy helped the InterFaith Group to run a stall promoting our evening Interfaith meetings and schools project. We hosted simple activities useful for people of any age for a relaxing moment and reflection, and were pleased with the way people stopped by for a few minutes to chat with us. Their children enjoyed colouring mandalas and doodles of the golden rule 'Treat others as you want to be treated' and making 'diversity' bracelets, especially the young Bollywood dancers who spent a whole hour with us after their act.

It was also great to see Skye performing an exciting routine on stage with her dance troupe!





COME TO OUR

HARVEST SUPPER & BARN DANCE



• SAT 24 SEPTEMBER •

From 5pm for a 5:30pm start - at the
Welwyn Garden City United Reformed Church

Tickets available from Joyce Nicolson

Email: joycen2@hotmail.com or call 07886 392602

TICKETS JUST £5!

What's on in the Church Aug / Sept 2017

Group Name	Day	Time
Welwyn Hatfield U3A Creative Writing Group (4 Sept)	Mon	10am - 12noon
Freedom Programme (with crèche) commences 11 Sept	Mon	12.30pm - 2.30pm
Welwyn Garden Craft Club (11 Sept)	Mon	2pm - 4pm
Hatfield Tai Chi	Mon	7pm - 9pm
Pregnancy Yoga	Mon	7pm - 9pm
Community Coffee Morning	Tues	10am - 12noon
MIND Life Skills Course	Tues	10am - 11.30am
Lunchtime Discussion Group	Tues	12.30pm - 2pm
NHS Diabetes (1 & 29 Aug, 26 Sept)	Tues	1.30pm - 3.30pm
Slimming World	Tues	3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm
CBT Skills Group	Tues	5.30pm - 7.30pm
Friends of the Hertfordshire Way (11 July)	Tues	8pm - 9.30pm
Welwyn Hatfield Women's Outreach Service	Weds	9.30am - 11.30am
Knit and Natter (2 nd & 4 th Wed)	Weds	10am - 12noon
HomeStart Parent & Toddler	Wed	10am - 12noon
Carers in Herts (3 rd Wed)	Weds	12noon - 2pm
Bumps & Babies	Weds	1.30pm - 3.30pm
Christian Meditation	Weds	7.30pm - 8.30pm
Pregnancy Yoga	Weds	7pm - 9pm
Chatter & Tots	Thurs	9.30am - 11.15am
Sing & Sign	Thurs	11.15am - 2pm
Thursday Club Social Group for 50+ (1 st & 3 rd Thurs)	Thurs	2pm - 4pm
NHS Wellbeing in Retirement	Thurs	2pm - 4pm
Cellar - Food for the Homeless & Vulnerable	Thurs	4.15pm - 6.15pm

Zumba Toning Class	Thurs	5.45pm - 6.15pm
Zumba		6.15pm - 7.15pm
WGC Folk Dance Club	Thurs	8pm - 10pm
Trefoil Guild (2 nd Thurs)	Thurs	8pm - 10pm
Explore The Bible Group & Prayer Group	Fri	10am - 11.30am
Start to do Art	Fri	1pm - 2pm
Parent & Tiddlers (11 Aug, 8 & 22 Sept)	Fri	2pm - 3.30pm
Archaeological Society (2 nd & 4 th Fri)	Fri	8pm - 10pm
Tai Chi (1 st Sat)	Sat	8am-10am
Breakfast Church (1 st & 3 rd Sat)	Sat	10am - 11.30am
Tea Dance (1 st Sat)	Sat	2pm - 4pm
Chiltern West Gallery Quire (2 nd Sat)	Sat	2pm - 5pm
Worship Service	Sun	10.30am - 12noon

Key to Groups: Children & Families - from pregnancy to children 12yrs

Physical - exercise and social

General - open to all

Hobby - specific focus

Spirituality - includes worship and exploration of faith

CHURCH DIARY August 2017

Tuesday 1 st	10-12 noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Exploring the Bible Lower Hall
Wednesday 2 nd	1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Bumps & Babies Christian Meditation in Ministers' Vestry
Thursday 3 rd	4.15-6pm 7.30-9pm	Cellar Exploring the Bible at Sanjays
Friday 4 th	10-11.30am	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room
Saturday 5 th	2-4pm	Tea Dance
Sunday 6 th	9-10.05am 10.30-11.30am	Bible Study & Prayers Worship including Communion led by Robert Harvey
Tuesday 8 th	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Exploring the Bible Lower Hall
Wednesday 9 th	10-12noon 1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Knit n Natter Bumps & Babies Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 10 th	4.15-6pm 7.30-9pm	Cellar Exploring the Bible at Sanjays
Friday 11 th	10.00-11.30am	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room
Saturday 12 th	10-11.30am	Breakfast Church
Sunday 13 th	9-10.05am 10.30-11.30am	Upper Room Bible Study Worship Led by Mike Findley
Tuesday 15 th	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Exploring the Bible Lower Hall
Wednesday 16 th	1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Bumps & Babies Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 17 th	4.15-6pm 7.30-9pm	Cellar Exploring the Bible at Sanjays
Friday 18 th	10-11.30am	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room

Sunday 20 th Fellowship Lunch	9-10.05am 10.30-11.30am	Bible Study & Prayers Worship led by Worship Team
Tuesday 22 nd	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Exploring the Bible Lower Hall
Wednesday 23 rd	10-12noon 1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Knit n Natter Bumps & Babies Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 24 th	4.15-6pm 7.30-9pm	Cellar Exploring the Bible at Sanjays
Friday 25 th	10.00-11.30am	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room
Sunday 27 th	9-10.05am 10.30-11.30am 4pm	Bible Study & Prayers All Age Worship Show & Tell led by Jean Afternoon Communion
Tuesday 29 th	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Exploring the Bible Lower Hall
Wednesday 30 th	1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Bumps & Babies Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 31 st	4.15-6pm 7.30-9pm	Cellar Exploring the Bible at Sanjays

CHURCH DIARY September 2017

Friday 1 st	10-11.30am	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room
Saturday 2 nd	2-4pm	Tea Dance
Sunday 3 rd	9-10.05am 10.30-11.30am	Bible Study & Prayers Worship led by Worship Group
Tuesday 5 th	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Exploring the Bible Lower Hall
Wednesday 6 th	1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Bumps & Babies Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 7 th	9.30-11.30am 2-4pm 4.15-6pm 7.30-9pm	Chatter'n Tots Thursday Club Cellar Exploring the Bible at Sanjays
Friday 8 th	10.00-11.30am	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room
Saturday 9 th		Elders Meeting with Task Groups
Sunday 10 th Fellowship Lunch	9-10.05am 10.30-11.30am	Upper Room Bible Study Worship including Communion Led by Robert Harvey
Tuesday 12 th	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Exploring the Bible Lower Hall
Wednesday 13 th	10-12noon 1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Knit n Natter Bumps & Babies Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 14 th	9.30-11.30am 4.15-6pm 7.30-9pm	Chatter'n Tots Cellar Exploring the Bible at Sanjays
Friday 15 th	10-11.30am	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room
Saturday 16 th	10-11.30am	Breakfast Church
Sunday 17 th Fellowship Lunch	9-10.05am 10.30-11.30am	Bible Study & Prayers Worship led by Bob Little

Tuesday 19 th	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Exploring the Bible Lower Hall
Wednesday 20 th	1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Bumps & Babies Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 21 st	9.30-11.30am 2-4pm 4.15-6pm 7.30-9pm	Chatter'n Tots Thursday Club Cellar Exploring the Bible at Sanjays
Friday 22 nd	10.00-11.30am	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room
Saturday 23 rd	7.30-10pm	Harvest Barn Dance
Sunday 24 th	9-10.05am 10.30-11.30am 4pm	Bible Study & Prayers Worship led by Worship Group. Church Anniversary followed by Harvest Lunch Afternoon Communion
Tuesday 26 th	10-11.30am	Breakfast Church
Wednesday 27 th	10-12noon 1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Knit n Natter Bumps & Babies Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 28 th	9.30-11.30am 4.15-6pm 7.30-9pm	Chatter'n Tots Cellar Exploring the Bible at Sanjays
Friday 29 th	10.00-11.30am	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room