

Welwyn Garden City, Harpenden  
and Wheathampstead  
United Reformed Churches  
Magazine

October & November 2021

## Thank you.....

Where on earth can I begin in offering my thanks for all you all did and said towards my farewell from the churches? It was a very special time, and it will stay with me always.

I was very humbled first of all by the wonderful gift of money presented to me at the Farewell Tea along with beautiful flowers that are still going strong. Thank you so much for that gift. We will hopefully use it for something permanent for the garden in our new home, either raised beds or a new greenhouse. That way it will continue to be fruitful and will remind us of you all.

The Farewell Tea was a lovely happy occasion too. I had not really thought too much about it as my focus was on the Centenary celebrations for the church at WGC so I was a bit taken aback by the video greetings and kind words said by Jane, Joyce, and Norman. Thank you for everyone who worked to ensure that went off so well and for making me feel so special, underlining why I will miss you all.

Then there were the final services. We began a bit late at WGC with a technical issue and still managed to include everything in the service time we had. Joyce thank you for what you shared at the end of the service and what a lovely way to end my time with you by welcoming Claire into membership of the church. The Retirement rose will find a good home and I will treasure the cards and never forget leaving the church to such a round of applause! My only regret was not having a little longer to speak to you all.



We managed to arrive in Harpenden just about on time and the service there was lovely too. There I had the final privilege of presiding at Communion. Then you surprised me with gifts of mugs for and a lap tray and I just knew that picture of me and my feathered friend would turn up again – not sure if it

was mostly to do with me holding a chicken or the bright orange Stetson sun hat, I was wearing but

now it is immortalised on the tray for everyone to see! And I love the gifts, they are very special, and Norman thank you for your kind words. Thank you too to Sharon and everyone who helped with the lunch. It was every welcome as the day wasn't finished yet!

The afternoon venue was of course, Wheathampstead. Here the focus was twofold, my retirement but more importantly the church returning to their building for the first time since the building was closed 9 years 8 months ago. An amazing amount of work has been done by the community



and by Jane and Jackie to help get it ready for use again and the Worship Room, at the rear of the building is just the right size for their small but faithful congregation. The great thing was that the room was full and one of their most elderly Elders who had not been out much since coronavirus hit was able to join us, kindly bought by her son. Thank you all for your send off too and the final surprise present of the day, a lovely print of painting of Wheathampstead by which to remember you all.

What a day! It was quite exhausting but thanks to Roger we have lovely photos and videos to look back on and I was very glad I set myself that marathon as each service, though similar, was unique and special in its own way, as you all are.

In thanking you for all your kindness I thank God too for the journey we have shared individually, as churches and as a cluster. It has been a privilege to be your minister. I have so valued my time with you and the times when you have entrusted me with your grief as well as your joy. We have found our way forward when we couldn't really see which way to go and have found God to be faithful in blessing us abundantly along the way. I have had such interesting experiences too like my first double wedding and baptising toddler triplets!

The journey ahead might seem rather daunting just now, but I hope and pray that, by Gods grace you will find your rhythm and travel well. I hope you will find support in each other too. The commitment to working together as a Cluster will take the pressure off in sharing worship when needed and help

future proof the churches when a prospective minister sees your commitment to work together.

As I sign off as your minister, I put you all in Gods hands, entrusting God with your future and praying that all you do will bring God glory.

Thank you for travelling with me.

Every blessing

Jane

With love from Roger too!!



JUST LETTING YOU KNOW

# WE'VE MOVED TO A NEW HOME!

*We hope you can come visit soon*

## OUR NEW ADDRESS FOR ALL FUTURE VISITS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

The Weedon Family  
Court Row Farm Barn  
Littleworth Drove  
Heckington  
Lincs  
NG34 9NE

## Secretary's Notes

Thank you all so much for making the events of the weekend of Celebration and the Farewell Afternoon Tea for Jane a success. I was reminded of the verses written in the bible from Romans 12 verses 4-11 as written below.

**4** Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function,  
**5** so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. **6** In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. **7** If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. **8** If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. **9** Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.  
**10** Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. **11** Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

I think this past weekend illustrated this message from the bible. We depended on everyone pulling together by offering donations of money, time, skills and talents. So once again everyone thank you for your support. It is reassuring to know we can depend on you all answering the call and working together to make events such as last weekend successful.

I would like to offer special thanks to a few individuals who went "The Extra Mile" in the knowledge this can be dangerous so I hope and pray I don't miss anyone out.

So to:-

Liz and Allison for all their work in advance and over the weekend. We worked well as a team although things did get a little fraught at times but Allison's sense of humour saved the day and we are still friends.

Jane for her help and guidance in the planning and setting up for the weekend and her help on Saturday.

Philip for his help with planning and with Matt's help providing electricity outside for Sunday.

Roger as our resident photographer over the three days.

Michael for the extra hours he spent digging in preparation for the Tree Planting, capsule burying and setting out the Ichthus ready for planting plus the many hours he spent setting up tables and chairs, collecting and returning chairs to St Francis and putting everything away on Monday after the event. We would be lost without you Mike and we do appreciate everything you do for us above and beyond the call of duty. You are a star.

Shaun for his assistance in advance and over the weekend.

Janet and John who gave so much of their time in the preparation, setting up and dismantling of the event.

Mary for all her work on the displays illustrating the history of our church and her son and husband for their help with the preparation and dismantling.

Margaret R who in spite of her current mobility difficulties prepared the windowsill arrangements at home and set them up in church on Friday with help from her daughter. Dorothy for her floral arrangements in the Sanctuary and Margaret T and Barbara P for their work on the wicker wreaths which hung in the marquee. Carole, Joyce D, Linda and all who helped create the bud vases for the tables.

Hazel for all her help with floral displays and in the kitchen on Sunday.

Ann with her help in completing the planting of the Ichthus to be enjoyed in the spring when the crocus appear.

Robert for his help with the planning and with Joyce D their help with the washing up and Joyce for the hours she spent helping with setting up and packing away on Monday.

Ray, Claire and family for all their help on Sunday.

Last but not least all the folk who helped on Saturday, lent teapots, and those who cleared the marquee on Sunday of crockery, tables and chairs, and any I have missed God Bless you and thank you all.

Joyce Nicolson





## **Up And Coming**

### **Gift Weekend Saturday November the 13<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm**

#### **Gift Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Worship 10.30am**

This service will also be led by Wendy as a Family Worship Service.

Please bring your gifts of unwrapped toys, wrapping paper and gift tags on Saturday or Sunday. It would be lovely if you could come along and join with the children and young families in this special service.

PS the earlier date this year gives Liz time to distribute the toys. Closer to Christmas created a problem last year for them to be collected in time for Christmas.

### **Christmas Fayre Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November.**

We are planning to hold a Christmas Fayre this year depending on how restrictions pan out in the coming months. It may be scaled down but we are determined to open our doors to the community while raising money for Isabel Hospice and our own church. We may have to regulate numbers and modify our Fayre to comply with Health and Safety requirements but hopefully all will be well.

Please start saving items suitable for our Raffle, Tombola and Bottle Stall.

I will be collecting 25 small bottles of Craft Beers for a Raffle Prize so if you can help by providing one or two it would be appreciated. I will also be looking for help to run stalls so please keep the date free and let me know where you would be available to help on the day.

#### **Stalls we plan to have are:-**

Raffle, Tombola, Pick a Bottle, Craft (run by Knit and Natter), Garden Stall (run by Ann) Pre Loved, Bric-a-Brac, Children's books and toys, Books, Preserves, Home baking, Children's Activities and any you would like to add and operate on the day. Refreshments will be available throughout the day

Joyce Nicolson



Wheathampstead are very excited to announce two opening events back on site after ten years of the church and the hall being closed.

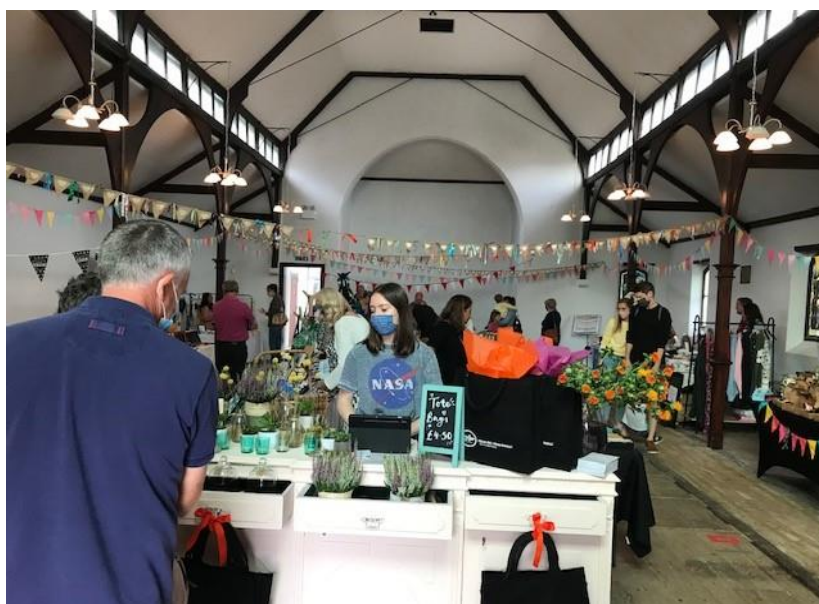
The most special one was our first service in our refurbished rooms at the back of the halls building led by Revd Jane, sadly her last service in the Cluster before her retirement(not quite sure about this!) to Lincolnshire. It was so well attended that the room was nearly not quite big enough.



The other occasion was the church opening up for another Pop Up Market, it looked amazing with all the bunting and the stalls set up by so many talented local run businesses and I was certainly very emotional to see it so alive once more. The Action Group for the Chapel Gym including church members sold refreshments and ran a raffle raising over £1600.

The church building needs a floor to be laid suitable for the gym and a new stained glass window fitted although two others need repairing and we hope these jobs will be completed soon. Our task then is to do more fund raising for the gym equipment before we can open up the gym. We are sure this will be a great asset to the village community and we hope a link to the church with some of the activities which we will be holding.

We would like to say a special thank you to Revd Jane for all her support both practically and spiritually over the past few years and wish her and Roger health and happiness in their new beginning where ever that may take them. I am sure that we will all be kept well informed about the progress of their new venture.



This is the prayer which our previous minister Revd Heather Kent sent us in anticipation of the first service back in our own buildings. (She was our minister at the time when the buildings had to be closed but has remained in touch over the past 10 years.)

Dear Jane,

If I remember correctly tomorrow is a special day for you all - a service in the refurbished church building? I wondered if I might offer a short prayer for you all:

Living God,  
with gratitude for all that has been made possible  
we commit this refurbished building to you,  
asking that through it you will help us -  
wisely, generously, creatively and lovingly -  
to speak of you and serve you more effectively.  
May these enlarged premises inspire us in turn  
to enlarge our vision,  
seeking a deeper understanding of your greatness,  
a fuller grasp of your love,  
a richer appreciation of your goodness,  
and a heightened sense of all you seek to do,  
in and through us,  
in the life of this church and neighborhood.

Amen.

Thinking of you and holding you all in  
prayer,

Love Heather xx



## Closer to You

During the pandemic Jane reminded us of Jesus' words: '*... the time is coming when true worshippers will worship the Father **in spirit and in truth**. The Father is looking for anyone who will worship him in that way.*' John 4:23.

Jesus did not focus on where we worship but **how we worship**. It has been reassuring during this pandemic that worship in spirit and truth has happened as faithfully in our homes and gardens, perhaps even whilst driving or walking, as it did in our church building.

We have helped, supported and encouraged each other to live Jesus' way every day, whether that has meant joining worship from home via Zoom or YouTube, over a telephone call, on a doorstep, reading the Corona Chronicles, listening, noon prayers and praying for one another in times of need. The Father has looked to us to worship and minister in that way, wherever we have been, and we have.

Indeed I feel closer to and have had more interaction with our congregation whilst not attending our church building over the last eighteen months or so, than previously. I have got to know new faces and existing friends even better and met many of us in the town centre or our church car park. Not seeing each other regularly on Sundays has meant people have wanted to chat for longer and had the time to do so.

Worshipping and ministering in this way has also been a reminder that Church is not just for Sundays, but every day of the week, which is important to remember now that our church building is open for Sunday services, and there is no longer a need to book, Saturday breakfast church and also to the community for various activities during the week.

Those short texts to check in on a friend, sending an email, picking up the phone, arranging a doorstep visit are just as important now as they have been during the pandemic. A church is not the building, or a place of gathering, **our Church is us, the people**.

Let us all continue to follow our calling and strive to keep in touch, especially with those unable to attend our Sunday services. Also, in our time without a minister, trusting in God to determine the way forward.

With every blessing, Laura



## Heartland Links Update - Save The Date!

John Bell will be visiting Wigmore Church on 7 May 2022 and tickets will go on sale January 2022. There will be two sessions on the day. £10 for one session or £15 for both sessions with a limit of 60 people per session, so do buy your ticket as soon as they become available, to secure your place. Refreshments will be available but please bring your own packed lunch and chair. It is hoped that churches will be able to hold fund raising events to help to contribute towards the costs which includes John Bell's fee, his travelling and accommodation costs.

## Centenary Celebrations

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making our celebration weekend such a great success. We were also blessed with good weather despite the forecast of rain for the early afternoon.

Here are some photos that were taken leading up to and including the weekend.









On Saturday we were joined by Deputy Mayor Barbara Fitzsimon and on Sunday we were joined by our Mayor, Councillor Peter Hebden.

We still have Recipe Books for sale at £5 each. The profit from all sales will be donated to the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance.

There was also a lovely article in the Welwyn Hatfield Times about our Centenary Year and also had a picture of the hut in the woodland near where the council offices now stand, where the first non-conformist service was held in May 1921.

<https://www.whtimes.co.uk/things-to-do/united-reformed-church-centenary-in-welwyn-garden-city-8316420>

### **Hall Hirers**

We have 3 additional hall hirers:

- The Sing and Sign group started 15 September. They help babies to communicate before they learn to speak.
- Scottish Dance Group starting 6 October from 8-10pm.
- Dementia Support Group starting 15 October from 2-4pm
- Terry Elvins will also be starting the WGC Folk Dance again on Thursdays from 8-10pm

### **Healing Ministry**

I will be attending courses on Healing Ministry on Saturday 9 October and Saturday 16 October.

### **Facebook**

Please like **The URC Community Group of Welwyn Garden City** Facebook page and feel free to share any of the posts that you feel may be of interest.

**Thank you for reading my article. God Bless you and your loved ones**

**Liz (Mission Developer)**

## Outside spaces and meeting God

Summer is coming to end, and autumn is arriving, there are so many colours outside, textures and forms, it is a great reminder of the provision of our creator God as we approach harvest. There are still a lot of changes to come with colour and shape as we head forward in this new season. The crops have started to be gathered in; the fields are filled with the haystacks.

We are very fortunate with our surrounding areas, there is so much beauty wrapped around us. The outside spaces appear to be the safer option for us with Covid still lurking around.



During Lockdown I had attended a webinar led by Rachel Summers via Zoom. It was great to hear some of the ideas and to be encouraged about thinking and rediscovering the outdoors for worship for everyone. It was great

when I saw another day being promoted in Moggerhanger woods in Bedford led by Rachel as it was so local.

I booked in and attended the retreat/ training day in Moggerhanger woods in Bedford, it was such a beautiful venue. The day started with coffee and an introduction, then the rest of the day was making and creating in the woods. We had rain and we had sunshine. I also met with a couple of people I knew from the past who had also booked after attending a webinar, I also met up with some new people.



Sometimes it is great just to stop without an agenda, to explore something new and create.

There was an opportunity to make a fire as well as meeting around the fire, toast marshmallows and chat, collect things from the woods and create, using the natural objects of creation we had collected.

When we explore without agendas we can meet with God in new ways, discover new things. I rediscovered weaving and crafting, using my hands in a practical way with natural objects but more importantly enjoying creation and the space.

Be encouraged to take time and a day out with no agenda, where can you go? where can a day lead? What new things will you discover? Moggerhanger woods was a lovely local place to discover (there is a coffee shop, or you can take a picnic).

Sometimes we have a routine which makes us feel safe, or we may be so busy, we cannot think of new things. Timeout can be so good for everyone, then we get the opportunity to come back fully charged and stronger! treat yourself to a retreat day and spend some time with God. What will the new season bring, God is with us all!!

Psalm 46 - Be still and know I am God play <https://youtu.be/ZugvUQ4m90U>

Sharon Sookrah

## HARPENDEN CHURCH HIRE

The elders have decided that our regular hirers who are non profit making organisations should use the church this term rather than the church hall in order to protect Pre-school. They are paying for exclusive use of the church during their hire period and at these times no-one else may use the church (Covid protection guidelines).

The main users currently are Harpenden Choral Society on Tuesday evenings and Perform on Saturday mornings and we are still awaiting confirmation from a couple of other groups.

All confirmed hires are / will be in the church calendar on our website if you want to check times.

Thanks for your patience with any potential disruption.

Norman Deas

## CHURCH FAMILY CORNER

October is fast approaching and first on the list is Jane, our retiring minister, on 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by Sophie R. who will be 10 on 5<sup>th</sup> and Cherylle C. also on 5<sup>th</sup>. Next up is Elliot C. who will be 9 on 14<sup>th</sup>, then Margaret R. on 20<sup>th</sup>, and Tim H. on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Moving on to November, we start with Carole T. on 10<sup>th</sup>, then Charlie S. who will be 8 on 15<sup>th</sup>, Jean H. on 21<sup>st</sup>, Margaret Ba. On 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Jay P. who will be 19 on 25<sup>th</sup> and starting a musical theatre course at Southampton University. Good Luck, Jay!

We wish all these friends a very Happy Birthday when their special day comes round and we hope they can have an enjoyable time with family and/or friends.

We send our congratulations to Margaret Harker on the birth of a second great grandson named Marley Allan, born to her grandson Ryan and his partner, Billi. Margaret is building up quite a collection of baby photos on her phone!

We all enjoyed a great weekend of celebrations to mark the church's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and Jane's retirement and move to Lincolnshire with Roger, Chantal and her husband. On the day we were very pleased to welcome back a number of our friends who have moved away and I enjoyed catching up with their news. Here's what I managed to note down!

Joanne and Andre Gibson are living in the old gardener's cottage in the precincts of Peterborough Cathedral as Joanne is now working as P.A. to the Bishop. She is really enjoying her new role and Andre is able to continue running their website business from their new home in the cathedral close.

John McKenzie was our Church Secretary for 4 years and in 2009 moved to Sutton, near Biggleswade with his family. Their daughter, Karen, lives in W.G.C. and they now have a grandson.

Keith and Gillian Thomas moved away to Milton Keynes twenty years ago and they now have 14 grandchildren!

Alan and Evelyn Tyler's eldest granddaughter, Helen's daughter, Kirsten, has just moved on to secondary school in Hampshire.

Stephen Orchard was our minister before John Campbell and he and his wife Linda drove all the way down from Derbyshire to be with us and also meet up with their son Lewis who now lives in Sussex. Lewis was a lively teenager during Stephen's time with us and I wasn't at all surprised that he is now working as a Fabric Designer as his choice of outfits was often interesting!

We were very happy to be back in church for the Anniversary Service with so many of our friends as we have missed our usual Sunday services for so long and hopefully now we will be able to continue meeting in person every week.

We pray for God's Blessing on our church congregation and its community outreach as our usual activities continue to resume in the coming weeks.

Ann Meers, on behalf of our pastoral teams.

### LOVE IN A BOX

Carole Tucker has again been spending the last months preparing the shoeboxes that will be sent to deprived children in Eastern Europe and there are already nearly 63 piled up in our spare bedroom. Well done, Carole!

Carole is willing to prepare more boxes using your donations to buy suitable items to include so if you would like to join in, Carole would be very grateful for any contributions towards filling the boxes and the shipping costs. We are very grateful to Carole who is yet again the driving force behind the project so please support her efforts by joining in if you can. If you would prefer to prepare your own, please cover a shoe box with Christmas paper and fill it with toys, toiletries, stationery items, sweets etc, and seal the box with tape. Please hand the £4 shipping cost in separately as the Covid restrictions are still in place due to the charity's inability to use the large numbers of volunteers they used to have. We haven't got the pick-up date yet but it is likely to be early in November so we will need to organize collecting the boxes to have them at my house by then. The children who receive our boxes in time for Christmas are from schools and orphanages in Moldova where volunteers from the Mustard Seed Charity have built up relationships with the teachers and pastors over many years so it is a very worthwhile charity to support.

If you have any questions Carole or I would be very happy to answer them.

Ann Meers (01707 327277) Carole Tucker (01707 880760)

Thank you in anticipation of your support.



“Here is Elvis who we were surprised to meet hanging out in the church carpark one summer Sunday lunchtime, on top of his keeper’s van, and our young people were keen to say hello. Not quite a year old, Elvis the Harris Hawk is already a working bird, scaring away pigeons and seagulls etc. from office buildings and the like where they are a nuisance. It’s not hard work – all Elvis needs to do is fly around nearby! The breed is originally from North America and Elvis was bred in captivity to live alongside 16 other birds of prey in the bird control business. But we found him very chatty, rather beautiful and not at all scary.

“



## HARPENDEN CHURCH HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year's harvest festival service will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Breaking from tradition, we will be decorating the church and arranging flowers on the afternoon of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 1.00pm. I know many members of the church will be away that weekend, so this is a plea for any helpers who are available to come to help set up on the Friday afternoon. All donations of flowers, foliage, fruit and veg for decoration will be extremely welcome. If you are unable to bring items to the church on that afternoon, I would be happy to collect them from you at an agreed time. In the past this has always been a happy time of fellowship, which we sorely missed last year. Please help in any way you can. I can be contacted by email:

[bronwen.davis@btopenworld.com](mailto:bronwen.davis@btopenworld.com) or tel. 07803 895741

Kind regards, Bronwen

### Harpenden URC Service of the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Today we had a special service that included the presentation of a Lundie award to Mae Vallé for her youth work through the Church, Brownies and Pre-School as a helper. Mae works very hard despite her Autism, to further Gods Kingdom here on earth. Sharon suggested Mae for the Award and helped us to apply for this prestigious award that will only have 100 lucky applicants and Mae is number 15 and the first from Thames North to receive it from Lorraine Downey the Thames North Synod Children's and Youth Development Officer. You can find out more about the award here; <https://urc.org.uk/news-from-the-lundie-memorial-award>. Thanks to Sharon and Mae for all their hard work and Lorraine for making the Journey up to present the award!

We also had some special long service awards presented to both Tom Pattie and Gill Morris for their many years working here at Harpenden as Elders (and many other positions). Jane our Minister and Norman Deas our Treasurer and long standing Elder, conducted the speeches and presentations for the great work they have done, and continue to do, for our Church Family. Thanks guys!

This was the second from last service to be taken at Harpenden by Jane before she moves on to pastures new; we all wish Jane, Roger and the family all the very best in their new adventures and they will be missed by us all here at Harpenden.

Phil Vallé on behalf of the Elders.



## Grateful

I have been trying to put a name to all these past months and the word that comes to mind is "grateful". God has done so much in our lives since June and we have seen so much of how present is He in our midst.



This month we are finishing a new season and entering another one, just as summer is coming to its end and we start getting ready for autumn.

Our summer was full on. We managed to host 80 - 90 people who came to bless the county of Cornwall and also we managed to host missionaries that needed a break and have sometime to rest and enjoy the beautiful county.



**Tour Bus** - Sovereign was born out of the vision of a local church to serve the wider community in Cornwall. The heart and vision is share the good news of Jesus by resourcing, serving and connecting local communities. Wavehouse church in Newquay planned to convert a double decker bus into a mobile community space with coffee machine, sound system, screens, seating area & WiFi.

The idea being that it can be used by various community activities, e.g. Youth Work, Parent Toddler groups, OAP coffee mornings, Surf and Music festivals, Life Skills Courses etc. We managed to mobilize 42 YWAMers to help and be part of the vision and were witness of many salvations, baptisms, healings, etc. God was so much on the move seeing churches and charity leaders coming together to make it happen.

More info [wavehouse.org.uk/sovereign/](http://wavehouse.org.uk/sovereign/)



**Creation Fest** - This year creation fest was over 3 days and it was so amazing to see how many local people came in unity to help and make it happen. We love creation fest and feel so inspired by seeing how much financial challenge was going to be to make it happen, but as they prayed they felt to go for it. We love seeing how they

have been so obedient to His voice.

We had the opportunity to share and support through media and bring some volunteers to help support.

**Mission Adventures** - We felt so blessed by hosting for first time Mission Adventures in Cornwall. We had 21 people (12 teenagers) joining to serve in different ways. It was so inspiring and amazing to see teenagers hungry for Jesus and wanting to share about Him wherever they go. They inspire us and serve so well.

### **New Staff**

We are so excited to have one new staff and one new volunteer as Mission Builder that join us and have been such a blessing to our team.

Caleb our Mission Builder has been such a blessing by using his carpentry skills in the house. This has been an answer to prayer for a few projects in the house that we needed to have them done.

Tara has joined us since June and she will be serving us by connecting with one of our local churches by helping in youth cafe, school youth work, attending services on Sunday and serving in any other area that the church needs. She also will be supporting us as staff in DTS.

What is coming

**DTS** - We are getting ready to run the Discipleship Training School that will start the end of September with the next three months being the lecture phase. We



have 4 applicants accepted and we are very excited to get to know them and still praying for more applicants to join this adventure.

**Seminars-** We will be running three seminars alongside the DTS. Counselling, Living Word Seminar and Discipleship Seminar.

Prayer points

For one of our DTS trainees who is from Ecuador that the visa will be granted sooner and provision for him to quarantine in a hotel as he join us.

For wisdom and strength as we lead the DTS and the base at the same time and get new ministries birthing.

For wisdom as we run the Discipleship Seminar

For the counselling seminar that we will be running for first time to bring Jesus to people who struggle with depression and mental health

For the Living Word Seminar that will impact and make people come more to the word of God.

Daniel

### **Letter from the Powers (Harpenden)**

Dear All,

Greetings to you all. We hope that all is well at Harpenden. We have been following your services on YouTube after either our Zoom service with our old Mid-Somerset group of churches (Middle Lambrook, Martock and Templecombe), or a service back at Middle Lambrook, where it has been good to soak up the spiritual atmosphere of the old building after such a long time without regular church attendance. Last Sunday (12th September) was in fact our Harvest Festival. We held this in the afternoon, which attracted a few more folk than our usual 11am service. So my father and I ended up having a packed day of services as follows:

1. 8am: listened to the local radio service.
2. 11am: Zoom service with our old URC group
3. 12-30pm: Harpenden service on Youtube
4. 3pm: Harvest Festival at Middle Lambrook

We just needed an Evensong service to go to to finish off the day! In normal times we all donate fruit and vegetables to be auctioned for charity at a harvest sale and buffet supper on the Monday night as well as items for the local Lord's



Larder in Yeovil, but this year (as was also the case last year) we decided to cancel the harvest sale and just take goods for the Lord's Larder. Hopefully the situation will be better next harvest and we'll be able to go back to having a social occasion, but for now we decided that 20-25 folk packed into our smallish hall behind the chapel was not the best idea.

On the farm, calving has finished and bales of straw have been collected from a neighbouring arable farmer's field. So we are now looking at the various other, largely harvesting, jobs that need doing before the weather turns. This last week I have been digging our half-acre of potatoes. Also, some store cattle have been separated off for market and others (heifers) have joined the group of cows and calves in readiness for October when an Aberdeen Angus bull will hopefully arrive! I keep looking at the apple and pear trees in the orchard to see what size harvest from them might be forth-coming. I think it will be quality rather than quantity this year, but sufficient to see us good for desserts for a few months over the winter.

Down at Sandwich, Sarah and Rose have weathered the recent influx of golfers, but apparently it wasn't too bad as the majority of traffic was diverted away from the centre of the town which has streets so narrow that they have to be one-way only! So now things are back to normal, with Rose having started her second year at school and Sarah working hard in the lab where she tests samples of wheat and potatoes sent in by the companies that process them.

At Harvest we remember God's hand in providing us with all our food but we can also think of our personal harvests of love and friendship, of peace and joy, and of times when God has been there for us in times of trouble. We cannot quantify these things as we might count bags of potatoes or boxes of apples, but we can rejoice and praise God for what their provision means to us.

Best wishes,  
Steve, Sarah and Rose

## I AM FINE

When asked 'how are you', it is not unusual to respond, 'I am fine'. It is a phrase I have tried to avoid using, and have been very cautious about saying, since being presented with an acronym for FINE at a workshop many years ago. I endeavour now to take a moment to talk to someone a little more when they say, 'I am fine'.



Fine is an appropriate term to use when someone has expressed a concern about another's health. Its subsidiary meaning in this context is healthy and well, not sick or injured. However, it may not always be a synonym for good, well or OK, it can be a secret code.

The acronym typically stands for **F**reaked out, **I**nsecure, **N**eurotic and **E**mootional, or '**F**eelings **I**nside **N**ot **E**xpressed'.

The words we use convey so much more meaning than what we are actually saying. I have seen and heard Freaked out being replaced with Fed up, Frustrated and Frantic, and Neurotic replaced with Numb and Needy.

When *bereaved* FINE could mean Feeling Insecure, Numb and Empty.

When *struggling* FINE could mean Feeling Inadequate and Needing Encouragement.

When *encouraged* FINE could mean Finding Inspiration Now Everywhere.

When *enthusiastic* FINE could mean Free, Independent, New and Energetic.

When *feeling great* FINE could mean Fabulous, Intelligent, Nice and Exceptional.

When *desperate* FINE could mean Frantic, Insane, Nuts and Egotistical.

When *celebrating* FINE could mean Festive, Inspired, Nervous yet Excited.

If used at the end of an argument, when a person feels they are right but cannot stand to argue any more, it simply could mean that **you should be quiet**.

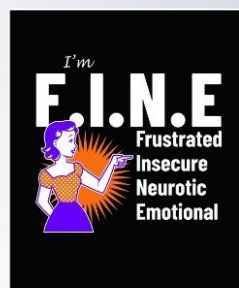
### A Challenge for you

**So are you *FINE* today? What acronym could you use to describe accurately how you really are?**

Every blessing to all, Laura

The Italian Job (2003)

John Bridger: "How **do you feel?**" Charlie Croker: "Fine." John: "Fine? You know what fine stands for, don't you?" Charlie: "Yeah, unfortunately." Together: "Freaked-out, insecure, neurotic and emotional."



How are you doing today?

**F**'d up  
**I**nsecure  
**N**eurotic  
**E**mpy

Allison's Admin

Hi everyone, I would just like to apologise for the lateness of this edition of the magazine. Some of you may know, but I have been having some health issues, that have meant I haven't been up to full speed. So thank you for your patience.

Normally the magazine is prepared earlier, but due to the centenary celebrations and afternoon tea, which I took a week as holiday, everything was put on hold. I fully expected to get straight back to it and nobody would have been any the wiser..... I should have known.... "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley." Robert Burns.

As we are being able to come back into Church on a more regular basis, we will be having printed copies of the magazine available for those that prefer. But, if due to printing costs and environmental issues, you are happy to continue to receive the magazine via email, can you please let me know.

I will be taking over the reading list/rota as we return to more regular services, rather than me ringing people and putting them on the spot. That's my hope anyway, so could you please let me know if you are happy to read during the service, or I may have to continue with random ringing!!

We have started a list for Centenary Cook books, before starting a second print run. So if you would like to add your name, please let either myself or Joyce know. Anyone still waiting that has already put their name down; we will get them to you as soon as possible. Many thanks to all that contributed.

I would like to add my thanks to everyone that helped over the centenary and afternoon tea weekend, but am not well/stupid enough to try and remember everyone's names! It was a lovely weekend and everyone pulled together.

Allison.x

# Harvest Festival Puzzle Sheet

H	P	E	A	R	L	L	W	T
C	A	M	S	S	A	A	H	P
C	O	R	N	P	V	A	E	A
P	A	P	V	R	I	S	A	P
E	N	U	R	E	T	R	T	P
C	R	O	P	S	S	V	E	L
R	B	Y	M	M	E	T	A	E
S	I	B	I	T	F	I	R	S
I	O	N	I	O	N	S	S	B

## Word Search

HARVEST  
FESTIVAL  
CROPS  
WHEAT

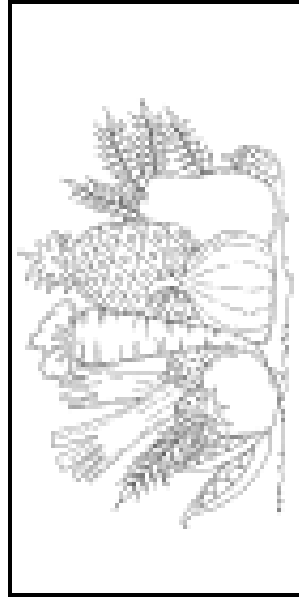
APPLES  
ONIONS  
PEAR  
CORN

## Harvest Sudoku

4	2	3
2	1	
		4

3	1	
	3	

		2
2	4	3
3		



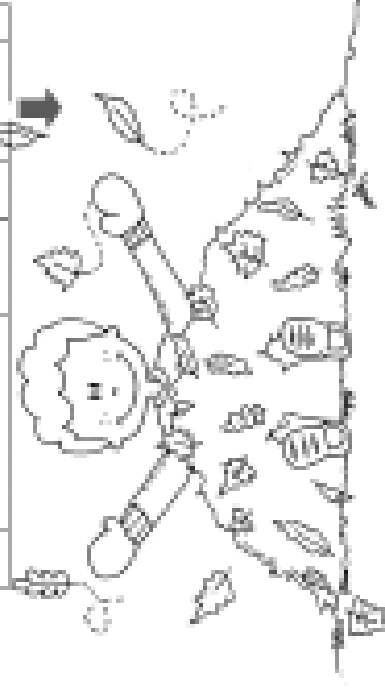
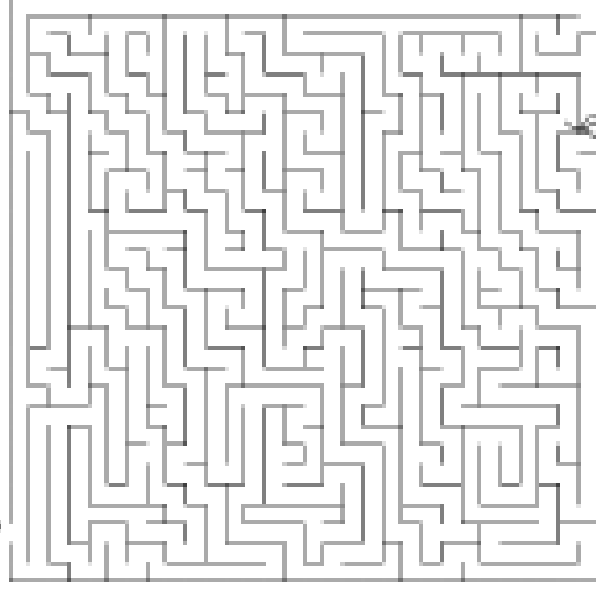
## Word Finder

V	R	S
A	H	T
E	O	C

How many words  
can you find?

# Autumn Leaf Maze

This field has water so join his friend playing  
in the lake. Can you find what way through  
the maze so what can join his friend:



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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 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021.  
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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