

Welwyn Garden City
United reformed Church
October & November 2019
Magazine

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.



Roger's birthday treat this year was a day learning about running a smallholding at Appleby Cottage in Waltham Cross

<https://applebycottage.co.uk/>. When we were in our 20's we dreamed of the good life and owning a patch of land where we could be self-sufficient. At Appleby Cottage we had the opportunity to spend the day in the open air learning about their journey reclaiming a 3 acre patch of brambles and thistles to house their rare breed sheep, chickens and ponies. We learned about their care and how to rotate use of the land to gain most advantage. I was also able to try my hand at spinning wool.

It was good to learn about their encouragement of a sense of community around their smallholding. Inviting local people to picnics, BBQ's, bonfires and Christmas walks. The community are important to them because, despite the name there is no house there, they live a distance away, visiting every day but it is the local people who use the footpath running through the property regularly who keep their eyes open for any problems and let them know.

It was a gift of a day with lovely people and a glimpse of the reality of working the land and being at one with nature. It was also fantastic to find people with similar values who were giving back to their community by opening two days a week to a special needs group. They help one another. Having the young people there keeps them motivated to continue their clearing of the land and creating new projects in building raised beds and experimenting in what they can grow. Volunteers bring their own ideas and skills (as they do in our church) and make the burden lighter.

One of the joys and blessings of the day was the opportunity to press pause on our usual daily lives. I mentioned the importance of this last time and it has continued to come up in our Friday group as we explore the Bible together. We have seen how Jesus regularly pressed pause by rising early and going into the hills to pray. How in the story of Mary and Martha, when Martha was agitated about Mary not helping her prepare the meal Jesus told her "Mary has chosen what is best, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42)

We had several ideas about what that might mean. Perhaps Mary had learned to listen, not to be agitated about things, that the most important thing was to be with your guests and not fuss about food, that sense of pressing pause, letting go of our feeling of hurry, to sit at Jesus feet and

listen to his teaching is maybe something we all need to learn and discover how important it is for our sense of wellbeing and peace.

We were encouraged to think how we could decelerate and avoid hurry even when we are busy? And were challenged to

1 Press Pause

Each time you put on the kettle to make a drink, be still and quiet while you wait for it to boil and remember that God is with you.

2 Evening Rush Hour

Stop rushing your children through bath time and into bed. Enjoy spending time with them, listen to them and watch them and then read a bedtime story slowly (and again if they want it!).

3 Inside Lane

Over the next week, deliberately drive in the slow lane. Instead of trying to overtake everyone, enjoy the feeling of taking it slowly.

4 Slow Food

For a week, eat slowly. Enjoy the taste and texture of every mouthful of food. Chew it thoroughly before you swallow and take the next mouthful.

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/lyfe/still-lyfe-decelerate/>

Our day on the smallholding gave us the opportunity to breathe in the peace and tranquillity of the pastoral setting. To enjoy the wonder and beauty of nature, to talk with likeminded people and share stories and ideas. It was refreshing and renewing and at that moment – just what we needed! We cant do that every day but taking up the challenge to press pause each day will surely help.

Why don't you take up the challenge and see what difference it makes for you?

Every blessing

Jane



Secretary's Notes

I often have people comment that I am doing too much and need to cut down which is easier said than done. A Church Secretary must be a Serving Elder and as we are at present an Eldership of just four with Helen as Treasurer, Matt living in London and Jean involved in so many good volunteer roles within Church it doesn't leave anyone in a position to take on the role of Church Secretary at present.

I am in September going into my 11th year as Church Secretary. My loyalty and fondness for the church and it's family where I have been a member since the 1970's combined with my loyalty for Jane will not let me consider resigning without someone ready to step into the role.

I have learned a great deal in this time for which I am truly grateful especially my greatly improved computing skills which were negligible when I started and the thing that frightened me most of all when I agreed to become Church Secretary.

Over the years I have picked up several tasks which are not specifically Church Secretary's roles. I have taken these on when people have passed away, left the area or felt it was time to retire and volunteers have not come forward to fill the gaps. It is with some of these tasks that I am asking for your help alongside asking for volunteers to offer support to loyal team leaders who are also finding it difficult to enlist volunteers.

People willing to undertake painting and small maintenance jobs inside and out and someone with IT skills we can call upon would help to take the pressure off our already stretched finances.

We all expect to be welcomed on a Sunday Morning and that we can enjoy our coffee together at the close of worship along with many other things we just take for granted but they don't just happen, they all need people to make them happen. Helen, Jean and I have prepared a Volunteer List which you will have received with this magazine. We

hope that you may find something you would be prepared to help with which will enable our church to continue with everything we provide whilst easing the burden on the few.

When you look at the list please try to find something you can offer to commit to however small. Our Church is just like a jigsaw puzzle, a piece missing spoils the picture. Your offers of help could make our church picture complete.

I would like to share with you part of an article I came across recently by a lady called Veronica Sexton titled

The Blessings We Get From Serving

She says:-

1. Serving allows us to discover and develop our spiritual gifts

Corinthians 12 compares the church to a human body. Just like our bodies are made up of many parts each with its own specific function, the church family is made up of people with different skills and abilities. On their own they aren't very useful but together they can create something beautiful

2. Serving surrounds us with other Christians who can help us follow Jesus.

When we work alongside each other a bond inevitably forms. This was part of God's plan for how the church was supposed to work. That's why in Hebrews 10 v 24-25 he instructs us to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together but encouraging one another."

3. Serving is good for your soul

Studies have shown that volunteering is good for the mind and body as it can ease symptoms of stress and depression. By using our personal gifts and skills we build our self confidence, energy and strength. Serving others can be the best distraction from our own worries.

Veronica Sexton also lists some of the typical excuses used for not serving

I don't have time

They don't need me

I don't have any special skills

I am too old

I don't know what I could do

She reminds us that the reality is that the Lord doesn't call the equipped; he equips the called. There are so many examples where men and women with similar doubts have changed the course of history and in the bible there is Moses who didn't think he was a leader and David who defeated the giant to name only two.

Peter wrote in Peter 4 v10-11

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully administering God's Grace in its various forms

And in Galatians 6 v10

So then as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially those who belong to the family of believers.

So please give prayerful consideration as to how you could serve before completing the form and placing returning it to your Pastoral Elder or Pastoral Friend.

For now can we all help by being aware of the general TLC our church needs. By litter picking outside, tidying the clutter from the windowsills, bookcase and other surfaces inside we can all take responsibility and a pride in our Church and its grounds. Together we can share the load.

God Bless

Joyce

New Initiatives

To assist the smooth running of our church from day to day the following new initiatives are now in place.

A5 folder on the bookcase

Enter any items you may come across in need of attention.

Eg. No hot water, Light bulb in the quiet room required.

This will help Michael to attend to issues as they occur or alert an Elder who will contact a tradesman.

A5 Folder for Booking Items Borrowed

We are always happy to oblige our church family by lending tables and some other items from church. Our difficulty is in keeping track of where they are and for how long we can expect them to be out of the building.

Please ask Mike, Allison, or an Elder if you wish to borrow items. They will log it in the folder in the office signing it out and returned.

Christmas Preparations

On Friday the 29th November 10am

Please come and join me to work on the 1st Phase of preparing the Church for Christmas. We will be :-

Setting up the Advent Wreath Decorating the Christmas tree

Hanging the wall wreaths

Decorating the windowsills

Preparing the Candle pedestals

Hanging Christmas Lights and more

Please put this date in your diary and come along to help laden with holly and foliage if you can. I will provide the Christmas Pies. Expertise is not a requirement just a willingness to help.

It's a busy enjoyable social occasion so do try to come and join in. Looking forward to seeing you all on the day.

Joyce

Flower Rota 2019

It is time to compile the 2020 Flower Rota. Your generosity has enabled the team to provide Sunday and special occasion flowers throughout 2019.

These flowers are distributed after the service to elderly who are housebound or in Care Homes, the sick or bereaved, those coping with difficult situations or those celebrating special events.

They are greatly appreciated and I receive many letters of thanks so to ensure this continues in 2020 I need your help. You may not have contributed before but all are welcome to donate for the flowers in church on a Sunday which has special meaning for them so if you would like to be included on the Rota please contact me before the end of November. Please give me a choice of at least two dates and I will try to accommodate your first choice.

The new rota will be displayed in the Rota Folder at the back of the Church. If there are any blank Sundays, please try to fill them. A group of friends, for instance, may wish to subscribe jointly.

On your dedicated Sunday you can opt to arrange the flowers yourself or make a donation and one of the team will take care of the rest.

Extra donations, regardless of the amount, are always welcome throughout the year. These help with special occasions, baptisms, sundries, and when necessary, blank Sundays on the rota.

Making a Donation

Please let me know if you would like your donation to be Gift Aided

Thank you in advance for your help.

Joyce Nicolson – 01707 326829 mob.07886392602

email joycen2@hotmail.com

(On behalf of the Flower and Décor Team)



The Peace Gathering

Saturday 21st September was World Peace Day. Wendy was able to collect 150 Pinwheels made by school children, and others were brought on the day from the Potential Kids Play morning in Hatfield for children with autism, and from St Francis Cellar

project. The pinwheels looked wonderful in the sunshine lined up in front of the ornamental hedges around the War Memorial in Howardsgate. WH Borough Council provided a tent on the grass where we hosted arts and crafts and a simple programme during the afternoon. Thanks to Allison for preparing lots of the craft materials, Joyce for the inspiration to display the pinwheels in florists oasis and to Janet and John for arriving early to help set up and host the tent and bang more pinwheels into the ground!

During the afternoon the musicians from Bhaktivedanta manor provided some music, the Circle Dancers encouraged lots of people to join in their beautiful steps including some children and our own Pat Davey. Then Thippi from Thailand, Buddhist, led some friends in a family yoga session (Thippi is friends with another Thai family who have attended Chatter and Tots).

The tent was busy all afternoon, with over 30 children making peace pinwheels and/or doves, and 200 or more visitors in total, amongst whom we recognised friends from the Synagogue, Focolare, the catholic congregations, Christchurch, St Francis, and several families from WGCURC.

You can see the pinwheels on display in Humphreys Café at Campus West until October 8th. Peace, Wendy



Christmas Card 2019



It might seem a bit early, but Christmas has already arrived in our shops and our minds turn to buying Christmas cards.

Our One card for All experiment last year went down very well. If you remember the idea is to add your greetings to our single Christmas card and make a donation to charity.

We alternate our Christmas donations between a charity at home and away. This year we are supporting Embrace the Middle East to help people living near the birthplace of Jesus.

We have chosen their **Away in a Manger** alternative gift which goes to help new mothers in Palestine. They may no longer need to make the journey on a donkey, but it is still often a long tiring journey for new mothers to face to access healthcare for themselves and their babies. Our gift will help support a community clinic, so mum has somewhere to go for her check-ups, for treatment and advice. Please give generously to this worthy cause.



At Carols by Candlelight our retiring collection will help Christian partners in Palestine provide clean water for the many poor people and refugees who do not have that basic life giving supply.

Dirty water causes disease and makes life even more difficult for people living in the occupied West Bank. Please give generously to make every day like Christmas for those who have so little.

Christmas Fayre

An entertainer has been booked, appeals for support are being sent out to local businesses/organisations, some outside stallholders have already booked their tables and Matthew is designing our poster so plans are already in full swing.

Some members of our congregation have already agreed to run stalls and you will find their personal appeals for donations in this magazine.

Stalls/Activities we would like to include

Stall/Activity	Organiser and Items Required
Lucky Dip	Small items suitable for Girls and Boys
Pick a Card we have the game	Small items as prizes suitable for Girls and Boys
Face Painting	Volunteer
Children's Tombola	Items which will appeal to children
Chocolate Tombola	Chocolate and lots of it including boxes

We are also open to **your** ideas and suggestions for stalls and activities so please get in touch if you think you can offer new ideas or help with any of the above. Boxes will be at the back of the church from the middle of October for your donations or you can give them directly to the stall organiser if known. We are happy to organise collection of items you wish to donate.

Stalls Already Agreed

Stall/Activity	Volunteer	Item/ Help required
Plants & Garden Items	Ann Meers	Small Planters Plants etc.
Crafts	Jean Hughes	Hand crafted items
Philip Read	Bric-a-Brac	Good quality items
Home Baking	Kathleen Muir Kathleen has specially requested Savoury items which sell well	Cakes, shortbread, scones & Savoury items ie sausage rolls, quiches, soups etc. or similar. Please label if fresh & suitable for freezing
Books	Robert Harvey & Jonathan Bottoms	Books DVDs & CDs NB no video tapes
Christmas Bits & Bobs	Barbara Palacio	cards wrapping paper decorations etc
Preserves	Dorothy Tulloch	Homemade chutneys and jams Dorothy will make preserves with any fruit you can offer as her personal fruit harvest has been poor this year.
Jewellery&Nic Nacs	Linda Sutton	Small good quality items
Catering & Refreshments	Sandra Read Joyce Nicolson Allison Giles	Soup Makers Cakes, Christmas Pies, Cookies & Tray Bakes
Raffle	Helen Kaye	Suitable Raffle Prizes
Face Painting	Christine Novelli	
Tombola	Joe Palacio	Prizes for all ages Star Prizes plus Toiletries & Foods suitable for making up into gift hampers

Pick a Bottle	Derek Groves	Wine & large bottles of Water
Children's Activity	Wendy Lidgate	
Santa's Grotto	John Mortimer Santa	1 Volunteer required to sit and take the money 2 Santa's Elves as helpers

NB Stall holders are responsible for :-

- Providing items for their stall and 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.

We also need

4 pairs of volunteers to man the door in shifts of an hour.

2 people to set up and serve teas & coffees from 9.30-12.30

2 people to serve teas & coffees from 12.30-3.30

Able bodied adults at 3.30pm to pack away, take unsold items to charity shops and set up for our Sunday Worship

Please let me know where you would be willing to help ASAP

Joyce Nicolson

Remembering Joan Marshall



Joan Sprott was born into a close and loving family in Willesden, London – near Hampstead (as she was fond of pointing out) where her father owned a chain of grocery stores.

She went to the Henrietta Barnett grammar school for girls, where she gained a sound education – and some good friends. She always loved children and went on to train as a nursery nurse. She met Frank Marshall in a coffee bar, recently returned from national service

with the RAF, he was a young printer, they fell in love –within months they were married and set up their first home in Wembley. They had three children Lesley, Gavin and Elspeth.

Joan was kind, considerate, a good listener and had many other endearing traits. Times were hard in those early days but life improved when the family moved to Potters Bar. They joined the local Congregational Church – which later became the United Reformed Church – and when a nursery school was set up in the church hall she became one of its teachers. The family moved to Brookmans Park and Frank had moved into print sales, where eventually became sales manager and director which sometimes meant her laying on drinks and supper for people like Gerry Marsden (of Gerry & The Pacemakers) and Eurovision hopefuls The Brotherhood of Man!

Family was what mattered most to Joan and she was very proud of her family. She was a stalwart member of the staff team at Hatfield House for more than 25 years. A committed member of the WRVS, running the Meals on Wheels service and when a train crashed at Hatfield Station in 2000, she was among the team who rushed to help, spending hours making tea and coffee into the night for those involved.

She loved helping out at the local baby clinic and was a regular volunteer in the QEII Hospital shop until that closed. She also helped to run the tea trolley for several years and helped serve refreshments at Chatter n Tots.

She kept fit too, was a keen Scottish dancer and music was always a big part of her life. As a child she learned the violin and the piano – which she continued to play even when her fingers grew crooked from arthritis. She loved a classical music concert and her latter years were lived to a constant background accompaniment of Classic FM.

Her mind was always pin sharp... She signed up for groups including NADFAS (the Arts Society) and the U3A, as well as a number of bridge clubs.

Her life changed after Frank's illness in 2002, and later his death and her stroke brought further challenges. Her family said of her: 'For us, she remained a good listener and a constant source of advice, using good old-fashioned, down-to-earth logic... and she wasn't opposed to giving her views on politics or current affairs...

The end came suddenly and was a shock to all of us, but we take comfort from the fact that she didn't suffer and was ready to go. Her faith has always sustained her and now she is reunited with her beloved Frank.'

From the family eulogy shared at Joan's funeral.

How to keep your computer safe

Many of you use computers but are concerned about viruses etc. It is very rare that this is a problem if a few simple steps are taken. I have never had a virus manage to get into my computer and have fixed problems for others, again it has never been a virus that caused the problem so no need to be overly concerned.

Here are a few tips however: -

- Always keep your computer up to date with the latest version. This is probably the most important advice as most updates add protection against the latest known problems.
- Most people use Microsoft Windows. If so, you would be strongly advised to make sure you are on Windows10. Many of the horror stories we hear about companies being affected are because they keep using older versions from several years or so ago to avoid the cost of upgrading.
- If you get a phone call from 'Microsoft', 'BT' or whoever telling you there is a problem with your computer or internet, then it is certainly a scam. These companies will NEVER call you. It will be someone trying to sell you unnecessary and risky software or to get you to pay them to 'fix' your computer.
- Ensure you have virus protection software. If you use Windows 10 it has adequate protection built in. You don't really need to pay for any other software.
- Using mobile banking is very safe nowadays so don't be put off if you think it will be an advantage to you. It can be quite complicated until you get used to it though.
- Windows has a nice feature called 'One Drive' which will automatically back up your data if you are concerned about losing data (e.g. Family Photos).

- Virtually any site you visit will gather details about you for advertising. That is almost impossible to stop but is not malicious.

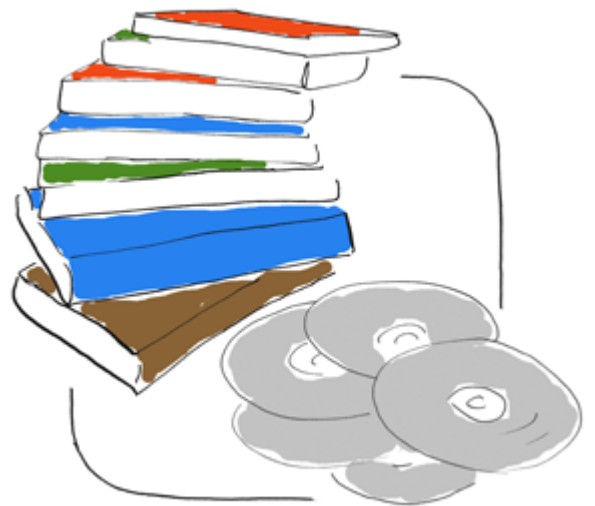
The other major risk is with 'spam' phone calls and emails. Your bank, Inland Revenue, Police etc will never contact you in this way. It is always spammers trying to trick you to transfer money, click on a link in an email or something. They can be very persuasive and sound genuine. The best way to stay safe is to never respond directly. If you think it might be genuine then contact the firm concerned on a number or email that you KNOW is right and not one from the spammers. Be aware that phones do not always clear down just because you have hung up, you could still be talking to the spammer so wait an hour or so at least.

John Meers

WANTED! Books, DVDs, CDs.

Jonathan and I would again be very glad of any books etc. in goodish condition for us to sell on the Bookstall at the Christmas Fayre. Please ring me to collect them (322339). Thanks very much.

Robert





Holiday Club

WGC United Reformed Church

Thursday 31st October 2019, 10am to 12noon

Ages 5 to 10, Reception to Year 5

Donation suggested £4

Community Cafe

Thank you to all the volunteers that make it possible for our 40 odd visitors to enjoy so much love and hospitality on a Tuesday morning.

A few weeks ago we had a karaoke morning and although the majority were too shy to sing, there were a few budding artists who sang to their hearts content. Hazel has also organised some innovative ideas for our fortnightly craft workshops and the group have really enjoyed taking home their 'works of art'.

We held a Forum Meeting to discuss the do's and don'ts regarding behaviour in the Community Cafe' and items that everyone felt were important. From the feedback received we drew up a Code of Conduct which is now displayed on a weekly basis. This will continue to ensure that our Community Cafe' remains a safe place where people know they will be welcomed in a non-judgemental way.



We are also very proud of our new A3 A-Frame Display board which creates more awareness of our Community Cafe'.

Hall Hire

We welcome Karina Ridgewell who will now be facilitating the Saturday morning Slimming World groups here at the URC. There was also an article in the Welwyn Hatfield Times about Karina and her motivation for joining Slimming World.

Training

We recently received a grant for Volunteer Training. Thank you to Vicky and the volunteers from the Cellar Group, for registering for the Food Hygiene Level 2 and Safeguarding courses. I have now booked 12 courses through Virtual College for the Cellar Group.

I recently attended a Grant Writing course in London. It was very well presented and a lovely opportunity to network with like minded people.

BID Welwyn Garden City

I am very proud of this wonderful relationship that I have formed with BID. The Business Improvement District (*BID*) is a not-for-profit company set up by the businesses to improve Welwyn Garden City. BID supported us over Easter when they collected Easter Eggs from the businesses in WGC which we were able to distribute amongst our chosen charities. BID will be supporting us once again when they will be asking businesses, residents, visitors, and the local community to donate advent calendars from 14th October – 22nd November. These donations we will once again be distributed amongst those in need.

Please remember the BID team in your prayers so that they may receive an abundance of blessings with this wonderful project.

Sainsbury's

I feel so blessed to have had an opportunity to partner with Sainsbury's during 2018. Sainsbury's objective is to get one million food items donated by customers in their stores nationwide. With the success of last year's campaign, Sainsbury's expect volumes to increase significantly during the campaign and this will likely mean that I will need to make additional collections during this period. WE, WGC URC,

have been chosen to participate in the wonderful project. The main drive will launch between 12th November and 8th December. I will continue to collect the donations until 31 December. I feel so blessed to be chosen for this wonderful initiative. Christmas can be a very challenging, so if we can make a difference in people's lives, I feel that God has blessed us all. Thank you for all your prayers for our Community Outreach.

Facebook:

Please like our page if you have Facebook

The URC Community Group of Welwyn Garden City.

Forthcoming Events:

■ 1 December Gift Sunday – kindly support if you are able too.

Once again we will be supporting our chosen charities and “Let our Light Shine” in our Community. Please read all the letters of thanks we received during 2018 on the notice board, from our supporting charities.

COULD WE POSSIBLY IMPROVE ON THIS? LET'S HAND THIS OVER TO GOD IN PRAYER:

In I John 5:14-15, John writes,

“This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

I pray because God hears us. And when our prayers are aligned with God's will, it unlocks the resources of heaven. The storehouses of heaven are available to resource every person and ministry that will steward those resources for His purpose and not their own.

Cor. 9:8

“Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.”

Prayer:

Good and gracious God,

We recognize all life is a gift and a blessing.

We thank you for your most generous love.

Encourage us to be persons of honesty and integrity, worthy of proclaiming the Gospel,

In this sacred ministry of Community Outreach

Give us openness to listen to the needs of others.

Give us joyful spirits, and an eagerness to engage.

Give us hopeful imagination and creative vision,

Recognizing generosity, even in the smallest gift.

Remind us always that what we do for the least of our sisters and brothers,

We do for you.

We ask this in Jesus' name and in unity of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Thank you for reading.

God Bless you and your loved ones

Liz

A new Rabbi for Welwyn and Hatfield

Congratulations to Rabbi Yacov Tatz who was inducted at the synagogue in Handside Lane on Sunday Sep 22nd, after a year of getting to know the area and the congregation.

Still under 30 years old, Rabbi Tatz is an inspirational speaker with a gift for communicating with the young – which he may need as he and Eliana (far left) already have four children!

Wendy attended the event as Chairperson of Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith, and she is here in the photo next to Reynold Rosenberg, Vice-Chair, and Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis who gave a stirring address about the need for Unity amongst God's people.



LOVE IN A BOX

It's that time of year again when we prepare our shoe boxes before they are sent off to give deprived children in Eastern Europe perhaps the only present they will receive at Christmas.



If you have not taken part in this project before, there are leaflets on the bookcase which explain how it works. Basically, we fill a shoe box with toys, toiletries, stationery items, sweets etc, and include a donation of £4 to cover the shipping costs.

The boxes will need to be in Church by **Sunday 10th November** when we will be transferring them to my house in time for the pick up on **Thursday 14th November.**

We are very grateful to Carole Tucker and her friend Barbara Gale who are yet again the driving force behind the project so please support their efforts by joining in if you can.

The children who receive our boxes 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 I would be very happy to answer them.

Ann Meers (01707 327277)

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Magazine donations

Many thanks for your generous donations to the fund to support the printing of our church magazine. To date the total amount donated is £435.00

Helen Kaye

Wedding

Many of you will remember Chris Ewer and her daughter Emily who were members of the church for many years until Emily went off to Cambridge University and Chris moved away.

Emily is now living and working in Sheffield and it was a real joy and privilege to be asked to participate in her wedding as she and Stephen Henthorn were married at St Francis Church in August.

Stephen was a member of the choir at St Francis until he went to university and he now sings in Sheffield Cathedral choir, some of whom came to augment the choir for their superb contributions to the service.

I remember Emily as being a skilled dressmaker and she made her own dress, her bridesmaids dresses and a dress for her Mum. They all looked lovely and were certainly a credit to her skill. You may remember Emily's love of Doc Martins! Remembering her Goth period, she wore black lipstick and managed to find a sparkly blue pair of Doc Martin shoes which she wore with her dress. The result was quite stunning, and she was a beautiful bride.

The reception was held in our grounds and the weather held for the picnic in the garden. It was a lovely relaxed and enjoyable day.

I am sure you join me in wishing Emily and Stephen well in their future life together.

Jane





I enjoyed reading both Graham's and Shaun's life stories and now it's my turn, so here goes: -

I was born in St. Neots during the war as we were evacuated and lived with my granny in Norfolk, while my father stayed in London, working as an electrician at the docks. After the war we returned to live in Wood Green, North London and my mother, who had

trained as an infant teacher, was asked to return to teaching as soon as possible as there was a shortage. My brother, Peter, was only three years old at the time, so White Hart Lane school provided a nursery place for him and I joined my mother's Reception class.

When I was nine, our parents bought their first home in Bounds Green and my brother and I moved to Bowes Park Junior School. The local Methodist Church had a Sunday School in the afternoon which we attended, later joining the Scout and Guide groups there. I didn't last long as a Guide but moved on to join the Youth Club which met every Thursday in the church hall. The Methodist Association of Youth Clubs (MAYC) held a rally at the Albert Hall which we attended every year, hosting a group from another club who slept in the church hall for the weekend.

Following in my mother's footsteps, I did my teacher training in Nottingham and spent three very enjoyable years there. During one long vacation I was able to work as a volunteer with a charity taking a group of deprived children from London to the seaside for a holiday and that was an interesting experience! The following summer I lived in a hostel attached to the new Coventry Cathedral and became a voluntary guide taking visitors around the Chapel of Unity - another interesting but completely different experience!

I returned home to North London and took up my first teaching post with a class of 44 seven-year-olds and was working at a school in Barnet when I met John at the Church. We got married there in 1967, living in a flat in Barnet, until we moved to WGC in 1972, and where we still live in the same house 47 years later! Our two sons were brought up there, along with an assortment of rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs which was great fun! When we discovered that the Free Church had a creche we changed allegiance as the Methodist Church was too far to walk to each Sunday!

In 1977 Oxfam opened their charity shop in the Town Centre and for many years it was the only one! I became a volunteer on the first day and have been involved ever since. We have volunteers of all ages and many nationalities and my session on Tuesday afternoons working in the shop is always interesting.

In 1992 I applied for a part time teaching job supporting Special Needs children and spent 10 happy years in a very enjoyable and rewarding role at a local primary school.

We have been greatly blessed with our two sons both happily married, Steven & Christine with two daughters, living in Hampshire and Kevin & Elise with a son & daughter, living in Norfolk.

Since retiring, John and I have had more time to enjoy our respective passions, mine for gardening, his for computing! However, when I manage to drag John away from his computer, we still find time to enjoy holidays, especially exploring Britain and Europe from a very small cruise ship or river boat. Not having owned a car, it's the perfect way to get around!

We also really appreciate the friendship and fellowship we have found in our Church Family and thank God for all the blessings we have received.

Ann Meers

PRAYERFUL HYMN.

This hymn has been chosen by Brenda, our pianist. It is an unknown hymn as far as our hymn books and even Google is concerned, but Matthew and I will do our best to look at the amazing words and the type of prayers included in it.

The first verse giving glory and adoration to the Lord of all our being, takes us on a journey of sheer devotion and adulation. A prayer of pure reverence, which reminds us of the omnipotence of God, the *Lord of all our Being*, and reminds us that no matter what problems face us, a relationship that seems to have broken down irretrievably, or an issue to do with health, finances or something else where change seems impossible, that there is always hope, no matter how bad things look. Nothing is impossible with God. His love, *power, and might* makes all things possible.

*GLORIOUS Lord of all our Being,
Perfect in THY Regnancy;
All enfolding, All revealing,
Radiant in THY Majesty!
THOU dost reign in all THY Kingdoms,
Through THY serving Hosts of Light:
From THY Throne in highest Heaven
Love goes forth in Power and Might.*

Here we have the second verse, offering ourselves to be God's servant. Surely our prayers should always contain an element of servitude and humility. Offering ourselves in the innocence of childhood. If we serve God diligently (We, in earnest application), we will enter into a golden age – i.e. a time of peace, prosperity, and happiness, would show forth the Age of Gold.

*We would Worship and Adore THEE;
At THY Feet our offering lay.
We would serve THEE and reveal THEE
As we tread the Homeward Way.
Sacrificing, praying, praising,
As THY Children did of old.*

*We, in earnest application,
Would show forth the Age of Gold.*

This is a prayer of admission where we are telling God that we know He is calling us and we are aware of His love, causing us to bow before Him. But we are also asking Him to lift us up and draw us closer to Him. We know the road will be steep and we are asking for His power to carry us on, in the knowledge He will always be looking over us (*in thine overshadowing motion*) into His realms of love and wisdom.

*THOU dost call us to THY Presence,
Stooping in THY Love sublime
To updraw us and sustain us
As THY Mount we seek to climb.
In THINE Overshadowing motion
THOU dost give us power to rise
Into realms of Love and Wisdom
By the Path of Sacrifice.*

This final verse, a prayer of sheer glorification. The joy and honour of being a part of this wonderful love. Asking to be raised to the exalted heights of heaven. A beautiful hymn that can be used as a prayer to God offering adulation, service, and love. I'm not able to read music so I have no idea of the tune or tempo, but I would hope that we can have Brenda play it for us, so we as a congregation, can sing this prayer together.

*Oh! the wonder of the Glory
And the beauty of THE Love!
Oh! the radiance of THY Wisdom
Seen within, unveiled above!
We would have our inward vision
Raised to this exalted height.
That in volleyed scenes of service
We may move as stars of Light.*

OLIVE MARY HUGHES (1886-

Dissected by Matthew and Jean.

The Ministry and Mission Fund Annual Communication

As we discussed at the last church meeting the URC has sent out their annual communication which is reproduced below:

From: The United Reformed Church Finance Committee

Date: August 2019

To: The members and friends of each local URC congregation

‘THANK YOU’ for what you help us achieve together in God’s name

The purpose of this letter is to say **‘thank you’** to each and every one of you for all that you do for the Church and, especially, for your help in **raising over £19 million in 2018 for the URC Ministry and Mission Fund**. For Christians, any giving of ours is in response to the amazing generosity of God in pouring out his love through the life death and resurrection of Jesus and through his risen life in the world and the church today, through the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, it is important to say ‘thank you’.

The United Reformed Church is like a big family – about 46,000 members in 1,400 churches served by just under 400 ministers. In any thriving family, the members support each other and want the best for each other. In the URC, we are all seeking to ‘Walk the way: live the life of Jesus today’ – and to enable others to do so as well.

For most of us, this idea of the church as family is most easily seen in the life of our own local church. That is where we regularly worship God and also seek to serve our own community and share God’s love with them. There are 1,400 different ways in which this is happening and a colossal amount of worshipping and witnessing and working for the kingdom happening in URC congregations across our three nations. ‘THANK YOU’ for all you do for the kingdom in your local churches.

A crucial part of what your local church does, like any family, is support you in all that you do in your daily lives. That is where we all *‘Walk the*

way'. **'THANK YOU' for all you do for the kingdom in your daily discipleship.**

But the wider family of the United Reformed Church is more than the sum of its parts. We belong to each other under God and through our sharing of resources as well as burdens, opportunities as well as challenges, we achieve more together. You can get a flavour of this from the reports of the last Mission Council on the URC website – from new resources for Pilots and children to disinvesting in fossil fuels; from the challenge to be better at safeguarding to the need for a new General Secretary. **'THANK YOU' for all you do for the kingdom through the wider Church, including your giving which enables your church to give to the Ministry and Mission Fund.**

You might ask 'how much should I give?' That is a matter for you. The Church has sometimes suggested 5% of after tax income, but that is only a guide. If your church is looking at 'Holy habits' then one of those covers giving. If not, there are other resources on the stewardship pages of the URC website.

The URC Finance Committee is responsible for the oversight of the finances of the central United Reformed Church. Each year, our local churches raise almost £20 million for the Ministry and Mission Fund. Over 80% of this money is used to pay for stipendiary ministers and church related community workers and their training.

For a long time, the number of ministers in the United Reformed Church has been falling at roughly the same rate as the number of church members. What has fallen more dramatically over the years has been the average size of URC congregations – now around 35. So, the challenge which is exercising people across the Church is not so much a shortage of ministers, but how to make the best use of the ministers we have got in the context of small, often widely dispersed, congregations.

It is an extraordinary demonstration of commitment and generosity that the average giving per member to the Ministry and Mission Fund continues to go up each year. Although the number of URC members has been going

down by a few percent each year, the total amount raised has been going down much more slowly. The total raised in 2018 was less than 0.5% lower than the total for 2017. These contributions are voluntary but they are not optional. They are an expression of our commitment to each other. The United Reformed Church could not function without them. **‘THANK YOU’ for your church’s contribution to the Ministry and Mission Fund.**

NB: the contribution to the Ministry and Mission Fund requested from each local church is a matter for its Synod. The central Church is not directly involved.

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

Yours sincerely,

Ian Hardie
Treasurer

John Piper
Deputy Treasurer

We will gather together on Remembrance Sunday, just as many of us do every Sunday, to worship God: to praise and honour him, to proclaim our love for him and to celebrate his love for us. But it will be within that worship, before God, that we offer our Remembrance of the evil days of war, with their suffering, their losses and their deaths. Some of us may still have heavy hearts at this time; for many families it will still hold some very sad memories. For a lot of people the pain and reality of war is still very vivid. But for many, world war is something almost totally unreal, something to be read about or to see on the television. Perhaps, some of us are cushioned from the reality and effects of war. BUT we must remain aware of the perils and evils of war.

I am one of the lucky ones, I personally have no first hand experience of the horrors of warfare. Like many children of the Sixties I have parents who have childhood memories of the second world war, and surviving friends who were involved in the action. I have memories of parents recalling their childhood experiences, which at the time seemed to be a great adventure (they were lucky, they did not live in places that were bombed out, and they did not lose any immediate family in battle). Thousands did..

As I grew up, I had no great feelings about warfare or Remembrance. As a Cub Scout I would attend services such as happen on Remembrance Sunday and not really have a clue as to what they were about. War was probably something glorified by Hollywood and comic book heroes. At the time that was probably just as well. The trouble was that as I and many of my peers reached early adulthood, had no understanding of the importance of Remembrance, to the point that it became meaningless to us. Services and ceremonies such as will be held on the 11th meant nothing, they were for those who for some strange reason wanted to hang on to experiences of years ago, to us they even seemed to glorify war, many of us even as far as saying we would have nothing to-do with Remembrance... HOW WRONG WE WERE!

Its hard to talk about the real costs. About how your comrades died. About how your parents, your brothers, your sisters, your friends paid the costs of war. About the vice-like grip of sheer terror. About how your own mind and heart were deeply affected and were never quite the same again.

It's important too that those of you who were there, those of you who fought, and those of you who served and waited here while friends died across the seas, feel that all that happened was worth while. That it made a difference. And that those who sacrificed so much, are honoured and rewarded.

So Remembrance Sunday is a day for memories. And we gather together particularly to remember and honour those who fought in the wars of this century. To remember what it was like. How awful it really was. To remember those who were there. And to remember those who never returned.

And mingling with those memories is a little red flame - the poppy, the symbol of Remembrance. I remember seeing a documentary of veterans standing at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium, speechless as they surveyed the names of 54,896 missing British Soldiers who fought on the fields of Flanders all those years ago. I had a Great Uncle who fought on those fields, and did not return home. Not until I saw that documentary, did I have any idea of what he must have been through...where the symbol of the poppy comes from - my feelings whilst sitting in the comfort of my armchair overlooking fields where thousands died are indescribable. The red and black of the poppy remind us of the blood and death, symbol of life wasted. But the poppy is also a symbol of hope, green for peace and red for life.

But what of their deeper message? We can't sit back and say "they died for us to give us freedom and peace and now all is all right" patently it is not. Wars go on: the Falklands, the Gulf War Iraq, unrest in the Holy Land, Africa, Northern Ireland, and Afghanistan at present to mention just a few. Peace is never secure. Those who lost their lives and those who survived on battlefields, in bombings, the hideous extermination camps, at Sea and in the air - all links in the long chain of history, a chain being bitterly forged even now. To make sense of their sacrifices, we must carry on the struggle against evil, whenever it is found, wherever it is found and in whatever shape it takes.

Let us on this Remembrance Sunday and everyday continue to honour our dead and to hold high the torch which they can no longer carry.

Rev. Canon Stuart Ansell (From The Parish Window)

CHURCH DIARY OCTOBER 2019

Tuesday 1 st WGC	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Lunchtime Discussion Group
Wednesday 2 nd WGC	1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Baby Group Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 3 rd WGC	9.30-11.30am 11.30am 2-4pm 4.15-6pm 8.00pm	Chatter'n Tots Staff Meeting Thursday Club Cellar Bible Study at Sanjays
Friday 4 th WGC	10-11.30am	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room
Saturday 5 th	10.00-11.30am 2 – 4.30pm	Breakfast Church Tea Dance
Sunday 6 th WGC	10.30-11.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Jane. New Members & Elders Ordination
Tuesday 8 th	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Lunchtime Discussion Group
Wednesday 9 th	10-12noon 1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Knit n Natter Baby Group Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 10 th	9.30-11.30am 4.15-6pm 8.00pm	Chatter'n Tots Cellar Bible Study at Sanjays
Friday 11 th	10.00-11.30am 2pm	Exploring the Bible Parents & Tiddlers
Sunday 13 th	10.00-10.45am 11.00-12 noon	Family Friendly Service Led by Wendy Morning Worship Led by Wendy
Tuesday 15 th	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Lunchtime Discussion Group

Wednesday 16 th	1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Baby Group Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 17 th	9.30-11.30am 11.30am 2-4pm 4.15-6pm 8.00pm	Chatter'n Tots CYF Steering Thursday Club Cellar Bible Study at Sanjays
Friday 18 th	10.00-11.30am	Exploring the Bible
Saturday 19 th	10.00-11.30am	Breakfast Church
Sunday 20 th	10.30am Fellowship Lunch	Morning Worship led by the Worship Group
Tuesday 22 nd	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Lunchtime Discussion Group
Wednesday 23 rd	10-12noon 1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Knit n Natter Baby Group Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 24 th WGC	9.30-11.30am 4.15-6pm 8.00pm	Chatter'n Tots Cellar Bible Study at Sanjays
Friday 25 th WGC	10.00-11.30am 2pm	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room Parent & Tiddlers
Sunday 27 th WGC	10.30am	All Together Worship led by Jane followed by Church Meeting
Tuesday 29 th WGC	10-12noon 12.30-2pm 7pm	Community Coffee Morning Lunchtime Discussion Group Elders
Wednesday 30 th WGC	1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Baby Group Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 31 st WGC	4.15-6pm 8.00pm	Cellar Bible Study at Sanjays

October dates Jane will be available at WGC (Subject to change)

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 24th, 25th, 27th, 29th, 30th, 31st

All other working days at Harpenden/Wheathampstead & Synod

CHURCH DIARY NOVEMBER 2019

Friday 1 st	10-11.30am	Exploring the Bible In the Quiet Room
Saturday 2 nd	10.00-11.30am 2 – 4.30pm	Breakfast Church Tea Dance
Sunday 3 rd	10.30-11.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Robert Harvey
Tuesday 5 th	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Lunchtime Discussion Group
Wednesday 6 th	1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Baby Group Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 7 th	9.30-11.30am 2-4pm 4.15-6pm 8.00pm	Chatter'n Tots Thursday Club Cellar Bible Study at Sanjays
Friday 8 th	10.00-11.30am 2pm	Exploring the Bible Parents & Tiddlers
Sunday 10 th	10.30-11.30am	Remembrance Sunday Worship led by Wendy
Tuesday 12 th	10-12noon 12.30-2pm	Community Coffee Morning Lunchtime Discussion Group
Wednesday 13 th	10 am– 12 noon 1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Knit n Natter Baby Group Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 14 th	9.30-11.30am 4.15-6pm 8.00pm	Chatter'n Tots Cellar Bible Study at Sanjays
Friday 15 th	10.00-11.30am	Exploring the Bible
Sunday 17 th	10.30am Fellowship Lunch	Morning Worship led by the Worship Goup
Tuesday 19 th	10-12noon	Community Coffee Morning

	12.30-2pm	Lunchtime Discussion Group
Wednesday 20 th	1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Baby Group Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 21 st	9.30-11.30am 10am TBC 11.30am 2-4pm 4.15-6pm 8.00pm	Chatter'n Tots Exploring the Bible in the Quiet Room CYF Steering Thursday Club Cellar Bible Study at Sanjays
Friday 22 nd WGC	10.30am	Setting up for Christmas Fayre
Saturday 23 rd	10.30am – 3pm	Christmas Fayre
Sunday 24 th WGC	10.30am	All Together Worship led by Jane including Baptism
Tuesday 26 th WGC	10-12noon 12.30-2pm 7pm	Community Coffee Morning Lunchtime Discussion Group Elders
Wednesday 27 th WGC	10-12noon 1.30-3.30pm 7.30-8.30pm	Knit n Natter Baby Group Christian Meditation in Vestry
Thursday 28 th WGC	9.30-11.30am 10.00am TBC 4.15-6pm 8.00pm	Chatter'n Tots Exploring the Bible in the Quiet Room Cellar Bible Study at Sanjays
Friday 29 th WGC	10.30am	Setting up Christmas Tree, Advent Wreath and Phase 1 of decorating the Church for Christmas in preparation for the first Sunday in Advent and Gift Sunday

November dates Jane will be available at WGC (Subject to change)

22nd, 24th, 26th 27th, 28th, 29th

What's on in the Church

October/Nov/Dec 2019

Group Name	Day	Time
Strong Zumba	Mon	4.15pm-5.15pm
Men's Games Club	Mon	7pm - 10pm
Hatfield Tai Chi	Mon	7pm - 9pm
Pregnancy Yoga	Mon	7.30pm - 9pm
HomeStart Parent & Toddler Group	Tues	10am - 12noon
Community Coffee Morning	Tues	10am - 12noon
Lunchtime Discussion Group	Tues	12.30pm - 2pm
Slimming World	Tues	3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm
CBT Skills Group	Tues	5.30pm - 7.30pm
Knit and Natter (2 nd & 4 th Wed)	Wed	10am - 12noon
Carers in Herts (3 rd Wed)	Wed	12noon - 2pm
AA Meeting	Wed	12.30pm-1.30pm
Baby Group	Wed	1.30pm - 3.30pm
Zumba	Wed	4.15pm-5.15pm
NHS Carers (1 st Wed)	Wed	6pm - 7.30pm
Christian Meditation	Wed	7.30pm - 8.30pm
Pregnancy Yoga	Wed	7.30pm - 9pm
Chatter & Tots	Thurs	9.30am - 11.15am
Thursday Club Social Group for 50+ (1 st & 3 rd Thurs)	Thurs	2pm - 4pm
Cellar Club - Food for the Homeless & Vulnerable	Thurs	4.15pm - 6.30pm
Slimming World	Thurs	5 - 9pm
WGC Folk Dance Club	Thurs	8pm - 10pm
Trefoil Guild (2 nd Thurs)	Thurs	8pm -10pm
Explore The Bible & Prayer Group	Fri	10am - 11.30am
Start to do Art	Fri	1pm - 2pm
Parent & Tiddlers (2 nd & 4 th Fri)	Fri	2pm - 3.30pm
WelHat Council Dance Class	Fri	6.30pm -7.30pm
Archaeological Society (1 st & 3 rd Fri)	Fri	8pm - 10pm
Slimming World	Sat	7.30-12.30pm
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

Contact Details

Minister	Rev'd Jane Weedon	01707 375133	janewgcurc@gmail.com
Lettings	Liz Laing	01707 333326	officewgcurc@gmail.com
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Admin	Allison Giles	01707 333326	officewgcurc@ gmail.com
Caretaker	Michael Cooper	01707 896248	caretakerwgcurc@gmail.com
Children, youth & family worker	Wendy Lidgate	07904 517384	wendy.lidgate@outlook.com
Mission coordinator	Liz Laing	07728044471	wgc.urc.community.01@gmail.com

Please can I have any articles for the next magazine by the 18th Nov. You can either give them to me, leave in the office or e-mail them to office@wgcurc.org.uk Many thanks, Allison Giles

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