



**Welcoming,
Caring,
Sharing**

**April and May
2011**

MINISTER

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The Sunday Plan



Sunday 3rd April
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 10th April
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Individual glasses

Conducted by Rev David Ryan
Coffee after the service

Sunday 17th April
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 24th April
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Common Cup

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 1st May
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 8th May
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Individual glasses

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 15th May
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 22nd May
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Common Cup

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 29th May
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

From the Manse



Dear Friends,

Spring is most definitely in the air. Lynne and I have just come back from two weeks in Dorset where the weather was wonderful – wall to wall sunshine (mostly!). There's a lightness in the step and in the heart as we begin to put the death of winter behind us and look forward to the resurrection that is Spring. We look forward to shaking off the gloom of Lent with all its self-imposed disciplines and basking in the glory that is Easter. With Christians around the world we can proclaim:

Let the angelic choirs rejoice!

Let the divine mystery rejoice!

Let the trumpet of salvation resound for so great a king!

Let the earth also rejoice; illuminated with splendour and enlightened by the brightness of the eternal king; let it feel that the darkness of the whole world is dispersed!

(from The Exultet)

Divine mystery it is. Darkness into light, death into life culminating at the cross of Calvary where Alpha and Omega combine to bring an end to darkness.

While browsing recently in Waterstones I came across a children's book about Easter. The left hand page had texts from the bible together with a little 'homily'. The opposite page had a picture and the last page naturally dealt with the crucifixion. The picture showed Christ on the cross and underneath it were the words 'It is ended' which is only part of the truth.

It's an end to the old life, and end to the old covenant but most definitely it is not the end of the story. Clouds of darkness filled the sky and a violent storm assaulted the city. Jesus was killed and was buried and a few bystanders mourned his passing. The end. At least that's what the book suggested.

And in finishing there it misses out the most important part of Easter. Instead of 'It is ended' the caption under that picture should have been 'To be continued...'

As you meet with the Alpha and Omega this Easter may you know that the divine mystery is continued in you!

With love and best wishes,

Jim

God - According to Kids

God is like ASPIRIN ... He works miracles.

God is like a FORD ...He's got a better idea.

God is like COKE ... He's the real thing.

God is like HALLMARK CARDS ... He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like TIDE ... He gets the stains out that others leave behind.

God is like GENERAL ELECTRIC ... He brings good things to life.

God is like ALKA- SELTZER...Try Him, you'll like him.

God is like SCOTCH TAPE ... You can't see him, but you know He's there.

Pause for Thought

from the Worship Group



This month the following extracts have been taken from Child's Dream association Charity.

For further information on any of these stories visit the web-site
<http://childsdream.org>

Child's Dream was established in 2003 as a charitable organisation dedicated to unconditional help for underprivileged children in the 'Mekong Sub-Region'. This region is at the core of many humanitarian crises and children are suffering the most. We focus on extremely remote and neglected areas in this region.

Our offices in Chiang Mai, Thailand and Siem Reap, Cambodia serve as bases for our humanitarian and community development activities. Our 30 staff members are dedicated to working in the most efficient and effective way to achieve our mission.

Our mission is to empower marginalised communities to shape their own future. We achieve this by working with communities to improve health care and education for children and provide socioeconomic opportunities for families. We are working towards the second and fourth UN Millennium Development Goal which are universal primary education and reduction of child mortality respectively. Please visit How we help to find out more about our strategies.

Strategy

We focus on education because it is proven to be one of the most important factors for sustained social and economic development. Education also promotes a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding and builds the foundation of diversity, human rights and freedom. Children and youth can only truly benefit from education if it is offered in its entirety, ranging from nursery school all the way to either vocational training or university programmes coupled with internships. The objective of this complete educational path is to allow the beneficiaries to gradually acquire the knowledge

and skills that would enable them to make the right decisions for their lives, to find employment and to set the foundations for a self-determined life. We also encourage them to contribute directly or indirectly back to their origins and help us to sustainably develop their communities.

One of the most important reasons why children and youth in the Mekong Sub-Region cannot complete their education is feeble health. In certain geographical areas of our mandate we therefore have to start on basic health interventions to reduce childhood mortality and to allow children to participate in education.

Health

Our focus group 'Health' addresses various health and hygiene problems to reduce childhood mortality and allow the children to participate in education. Our health programmes range from malaria control to basic health intervention such as immunisation, deworming and the provision of Vitamin A. Our Children's Medical Fund provides life saving operations to hundreds of sick children who are unable to afford treatment.

Basic education

Our focus group 'Basic Education' (BE) represents the core competence of our organisation. This group builds educational facilities such as schools and boarding houses to offer basic education to all children. We also improve our basic education projects with drinking water systems, playgrounds and organise extracurricular activities. In addition, we run a high school scholarship programme for underprivileged youth.

Higher education

Our focus group 'Higher Education' (HE) creates opportunities for employment and income generation, knowledge and skills transfer as well as community capacity building. This group runs a university scholarship programme for young adults and employment centres, provides vocational training and holds a number of higher education programmes in refugee camps along the Thai-Burmese border.

Dear Friends

I have received some correspondence from The Rev Roy Lowes, Moderator URC West Midlands Synod in February of this year which relates to property matters and which they would like brought to the attention of church members and attendees. Please do get in touch if you think you could assist in any way.

Many thanks
Your Secretary! (Helen M)

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH URGENTLY NEEDS YOUR HELP
WM Synod are looking for volunteers to work alongside churches and help them work with paid consultants as appropriate, not replace them, but they do need people with any property knowledge who are able to give a little time to help with any of the following –

- * Manse visits
- * Maintenance advice
- * Assistance with re-development schemes
- * Advice on the sale and purchases of manses
- * Assistance with the management of let properties
- * Management of quinquennial inspections
- * Assistance with the property database
- * Willing to join the Property Committee

Please refer any offers of help, no matter how small to either Rachel Vernon or Rachel Wakeman at the Synod Office tel: 0121 783 1177 or

email: trust-property@urcwestmidlands.org.uk

Equally if anyone wants further information, or just to talk through what would be required without any commitment, again give either Rachel a ring at the office and a meeting can be arranged to discuss things if that would be helpful.

This help is required to help the Synod to be able to serve us all and we are asked to give this request serious consideration.

Silver Wedding

Please try and keep Sunday 15th May free. It is Jeremy and Liz's 25th Wedding Anniversary on the 17th May and they will be re-newing their vows during the Service. This will be followed by a Celebration buffet. All are welcome at the buffet which is a celebration for their Silver Wedding but also a thank you for all the love and support given them whilst Liz has been going through her cancer treatment.



A list will be put at the back of the church nearer the time for you to put your names down if you are able to stay for the buffet. If you are able to provide anything for the buffet it would be appreciated but not necessary, it is not a bring and share lunch. Please speak to Liz if you would like to bring something.

Please no presents, just having you there is enough. If you feel that you would like to make a donation it will go to the breast care unit.

Liz and Jeremy

Christan Aid week is from
May 15th-22nd 2011
If you can help with the collection,
please contact Roger Morris.



Here is a News Article from Christian Aid describing their work in Nicaragua.

Christian Aid Week

15–21 May 2011

Christian Aid/Tom Pfeiffer

'I hope one day we will have a school on this land, clean water and latrines'



Eladio stands on the site on where his community hopes to build a school

For the people of Jinotega, Nicaragua, coffee isn't just a caffeine kick – it's a means of transforming the lives of entire communities. By getting involved in Christian Aid Week, you can help to make this transformation possible.

Five years ago, Eladio Simeón Pineda's community was a group of poor farm labourers. Then Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka) offered them credit to establish themselves as coffee farmers and supported them to work together as a cooperative. Eladio and the other members of the La Paz del Tuma cooperative now hope that together they will transform their own community.

Even though the coffee farmers of La Paz del Tuma have only been working with Soppexcca for a short time, their lives are already changing for the better. The credit which Soppexcca gave to Eladio and the other farmers has been vital in getting them started. The cooperative has a community fund that will be used to achieve the dreams which Eladio and his fellow farmers once thought were out of their reach.

Childrens Pages

Find the 12 differences between the two Easter pictures below.



Easter Word Search

by Philologus

© BibleQuizzes.org.uk 2009

Once you have completed the puzzle the remaining letters spell out a verse from the Bible.



ANGELS

APOSTLES

BETRAYAL

BLOOD

CALVARY

CROSS

CROWN OF THORNS

CRUCIFIXION

DARKNESS

DEATH

EARTHQUAKE

EASTER

GOLGOTHA

HIGH PRIEST

JESUS CHRIST

JOSEPH

JUDAS ISCARIOT

KING

LAMB

MARY

NAILS

PASSOVER

PIECES OF SILVER

PIERCED

PILATE

RESURRECTION

ROBE

ROMANS

SACRIFICE

SIMON OF CYRENE

SOLDIERS

SON OF GOD

SPEAR

STONE

TEMPLE

THIEVES

THREE DAYS

TOMB

Recollections of Whaley Bridge Boys Home from Pat Smith

The House Children, who were on probation, came from deprived areas in Manchester and Liverpool and were under the care of the Childrens Department of Social Services.

The smell of boys toilets put us off the first time around, with boys suffering from malnutrition and other diseases. After we declined the first time, a letter was sent to us saying we were just what they were looking for, so we sold our house in Sutton and moved to Whaley Bridge as Assistant Warden and Matron. When the existing staff left we were made Warden and Matron.

It was pitiful how the boys came to the house. A Childrens Officer said one boy was found wearing just a vest and an army coat between two armchairs, no other furniture and no food. The older boys at the home were nearly all on probation.

The house itself was Victorian. When we arrived it had holes in the lino, no lightshades and no curtains. To improve the furnishings we went around local businesses and requested help, This they did by donating material by the bolt We had a lot of help from Sutton Church in Surrey. They gave us jigsaws, toy trains, and allsorts for the boys -our car was overflowing.

Food had to be provided with an allowance of 2 shillings and 9 pence per day per child. We had to over come a lot of prejudice. One little coloured boy wanted to wash himself white.

At Christmas time George would decorate the house up including a

Nativity set. Many of the boys had never seen anything like it.

One year we put on a Nativity play for the staff and local people. It was commented that "boys would not do that sort of thing". The boys thoroughly enjoyed it and gave a wonderful performance.

The local Rotary Club took the boys to Southport for a day each year. We had to provide sandwiches for a picnic, but Rotary took them to a Fish and Chip Restaurant. Before they came back to the home the lady from the Restaurant contacted us and told us that they were so well behaved that they were a credit to us.

We took them to the village once a week to spend their sixpence pocket money. We had no help from the Home Office except criticism for dressing the boys all alike, even though the boys liked it as it made them feel like they belonged. Although the boys were used to shoplifting, breaking and entering, and probation, we never had the police call or any go off the right track.

Although it sounds, and was, hard work we had many laughs and a lot of reward out of the work. We felt really proud when we took them out, especially when they called me mum.

After George had passed away I had a letter from the childrens officer in Salford which stated "it was where he sent his most naughty boys and they became good overnight".

To find out more, ask Pat Smith.

A handwritten-style word "Thanks" in black ink, with the "T" having a decorative flourish at the top.

Both Pat Smith and Eileen Barnett would like to thank members of the congregation for their prayers, good wishes, visits and gifts during their recent illnesses.

Walking Dates 2011

The Church Walkers had a very enjoyable walk on Sunday March 6th, which was re-arranged from the previous wet Sunday.

Helen and Martyn are planning the next walk in April. Here are a reminder of the dates we have pencilled in.

April 16th, Saturday

June 26th After Church

Skip August

September 25th after Church

November 19th, Saturday



Teresa and Tim

Church Rotas

Rob Peachey will cease to manage the duty rota at the church annual meeting on 25th May this year. Please will members consider taking on this role and those willing contact Helen Moore to advise before the AGM.

Table Tennis

Table Tennis continues on Friday evenings in the hall at 7:30 pm.

All are invited to come and join us.

We will not be meeting on the following dates:

April 8th

April 15th

April 22nd



Albany Fellowship



Many thanks go to all who attended our last meeting on 3rd of March where we enjoyed a talk about a trip to the Holy Lands that had been made by Rita's friends Josie and Pam.

We heard about places they had visited that Jesus went to and how far apart some of them were. We were told about how you could still see some of the original steps and footpaths that he trod. A trip was made to the shepherds fields and they were found to shepherd in the same way as they had for the past two thousand years or more. Many visits were made to Bascillica's which were resplendant in their décor and we learnt that you had to almost go down on all fours to enter the place where Jesus is said to have been born. There was a journey to the sea of Galilee where Jesus preached to the fishermen. They visited the place where Jesus was crucified and how moving the whole experience had been.

Josie and Pam brought many books, photo's, postcards and such for us to have a look at.

I could go on and on but this gives you just a flavour of what they talked about.

Many thanks to Josie and Pam for this enlightening talk of their visit.

We look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting which is on April 7th when Tom Cheesbrough will entertain us.

Love

Jean and Teresa

Dates for you Diary

Here is a reminder of a few dates from the Church Calendar



April 7th - Albany Fellowship

April 9th - Church Spring Clean - See Rob Peachey for details

April 18th - North Worcester Wedge Holy Week Service at Albany Terrace - 7:30 pm

April 21st - Maundy Thursday Service at Ombersley, 7:30 pm

April 22nd - Good Friday March of Witness from the Cathedral, 10 am

April 24th - Easter Sunday

Easter Bonfire at Ombersley, 06:00 am

Communion, Albany Terrace, 08:00 am

Breakfast, Albany Terrace, 08:45 am

Family Service, 10 am

May 5th - Albany Fellowship

New Session of WURC Out Starts

May 25th - Church AGM, 7:30 pm

June Deadline



Items for inclusion in the April Newsletter should be given to Tim Dunn. 27a Cornmeadow Green, Claines, Worcester. WR3 7PN. Tel 01905 457909, Email newsletter@worcesterurc.org.uk by Sunday 15th May at the latest please.

commitment for life

APRIL

Luke 16:19-31

Lord, in a world of obscene wealth and scandalous poverty, remind us that the gap is not inevitable. Challenge our perception of the world with a holy discomfort; Forgive our failure to notice the starving people at our gates. Help us to break down barriers, to open doors, to heal divisions, to recognise all your people as loved and precious.



MAY

James 2: 14

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?

Giving God,
Make my faith strong enough to take action.
Make my faith strong enough to knock on doors and face rejection.
Make my faith strong enough to keep on knocking.
With campaigning,
with lobbying
with..... a heart yearning for an end of poverty and injustice.

Milking the Cow



Guess the Author!

Before School, at early morning, the cow had to be milked.

To Milk the Cow

1. Tie the Cow Up - we had about 6 or 7 in the cow house.
2. Sit on a 3 legged stool with a bucket between your knees at the Udder end of the cow - I was about 8 years old
3. Then persuade the cow to part with her milk by teasing her teats.

Thats where milk comes from, and not out of a carton at the supermarket.

After this was done I had 2 miles to walk to school.

Also, on returning home after school, the cow had to be milked again.

In the Summer the cows would get into the River Wye and were bitten by the gnats. If the cows had bitten their teats, up went their feet in the bucket in the middle of milking, kicking me out of the stall. One night I forgot to chain the cows up, so there was I, on the floor, milk upset and cows loose all around me. Its a wonder I am alive to tell the tale.

We had one cow, Blackie, who had hairs on her udder and if I caught her and pulled her hair then up went the bucket, up came her feet, and off the stool went I. She was not happy - both Blackie and I. There was a cow called Mary, this cow I drenched. This entailed sticking my fingers up her nose, tipping her head back and pouring a bottle Drench down her throat. Believe it or not this cow was my favourite.

JON MORGAN
SAM WALTER

SONGS OF

WAR AND PEACE

Jon Morgan

'... one of Jon's greatest strengths, the ability to communicate not just his gifted brilliance but to invite people to be changed through his music and words.' Mike Scott-Tracy [Composer and musician]

[Jonnorganmusic.com](http://jonnorganmusic.com)

Sam Walter

'Before your very eyes, Sam is teleported back two hundred years to the decks of the Victory, or to Boney's blood soaked battlefields, where he compellingly, emotively inhabits the body and soul of the deck hand or the poor, bloody infantryman.' Jon Cleave [Fisherman's Friend]

[Samfolk.com](http://samfolk.com)

AN EVENING OF TRADITIONAL AND
CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

7.30PM SATURDAY 16 APRIL 2011

HOLLY MOUNT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
QUEEN'S DRIVE
GREAT MALVERN



Jon's early career as a successful professional musician, composer, performer and teacher has provided him with a wealth of experience and gifts that he now brings to his ministry. He returns to his roots this evening with some old and new songs.

'From music to ministry and back to music'

In June 2011 Sam will travel to India with the charity Raleigh International to help create more sustainable communities in rural India. This concert is part of Sam's Fundraising tour, which includes performances at Glastonbury and Birmingham Symphony Hall. He has previously supported such acts as Martin Carthy and Bellowhead's Rachael McShane.



'Sam sings war songs'

TICKETS: £5 / £3 UNDER 26 AND CONCESSIONS

AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR OR EMAIL: EVENTS@URCINMALVERN.ORG.UK OR TEL:
01684 565708

urcinalvernon.org.uk/events

Duty Rotas

	3-Apr	10-Apr	17-Apr	24-Apr	1-May
Carry in the Bible	Len Berryman	Jean McCluskie	Sarah Lodge	Carol Hardyman	Lynne Brown
Books & Offertory	June Barber Betty Forrer	Pat Berryman Len Berryman	Michael Clarke Rosemary Clarke	Pat Williams Rita Michelman	Tim Dunn Teresa Dunn
Reading	Brian McCluskie	Helen Yare	Bryan Neville-Lee	Betty Forrer	Michael Clarke
Prepare Table		Nicky Neville-Lee		Margaret Morgan Lynne Brown	
Serve Communion		Rob Peachey Sarah Lodge Paul Denham Teresa Dunn		Brian McCluskie Helen Moore	
Beadle	Paul Denham	Paul Denham	Paul Denham	Paul Denham	Sarah Lodge
Foyer	Margaret Morris Roger Morris	Margaret Morris Roger Morris	Margaret Morris Roger Morris	Margaret Morris Roger Morris	Allison Hall Carol Hardyman

	8-May	15-May	22-May	29-May	5-Jun
Carry in the Bible	Betty Forrer	Carol Hardyman	Rita Michelman	Pat Williams	Len Berryman
Books & Offertory	Bryan Neville-Lee Nicky Neville-Lee	June Barber Rosemary Clarke	Doreen Cheesbrough Tom Cheesbrough	Len Berryman Pat Berryman	Brian Jones Jean McCluskie
Reading	Paul Denham	David James	Carol Hardyman	Rob Peachey	Bryan Neville-Lee
Prepare Table	Jean McCluskie		Lynne Brown		
Serve Communion	Sarah Lodge Michael Clarke Teresa Dunn Rob Peachey		Paul Denham Helen Moore		
Beadle	Sarah Lodge	Sarah Lodge	Sarah Lodge	Sarah Lodge	Rob Peachey
Foyer	Allison Hall Carol Hardyman	Allison Hall Carol Hardyman	Allison Hall Carol Hardyman	Allison Hall Carol Hardyman	Len Berryman

	12-Jun	19-Jun	26-Jun	3-Jul	10-Jul
Carry in the Bible	Michael Clarke	Rosemary Clarke	Nicky Neville-Lee	TBA	TBA
Books & Offertory	Alison Hall Betty Forrer	Carol Hardyman Sarah Lodge	David James Barbara James	TBA	TBA
Reading	Rosemary Clarke	Lynne Brown	Brian Jones	TBA	TBA
Prepare Table	Jean McCluskie Doreen Cheesbrough		Margaret Morgan Lynne Brown	TBA	TBA
Serve Communion	Brian McCluskie Sarah Lodge David James Rob Peachey		Michael Clarke Helen Moore	TBA	TBA
Beadle	Rob Peachey	Rob Peachey	Rob Peachey	TBA	TBA
Foyer	Len Berryman	Len Berryman	Len Berryman	TBA	TBA