



**Welcoming,
Caring,
Sharing
December 2011**

CHURCH ADDRESS:

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www.worcesterurc.org.uk

CHURCH SECRETARY

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GROUP MINISTERS

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The Sunday Plan



Sunday 27th November
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Common Cup
6.30 pm Advent Service

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

St. Stephens, Droitwich Road

Sunday 4th December
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Helen Moore
Coffee after the service

Sunday 11th December
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Individual glasses

Conducted by Rev David Ryan
Coffee after the service

Sunday 18th December
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Duncan Tuck
Carol Service
Coffee after the service

Sunday 25th December
10 am Christmas Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown

Sunday 1st January
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Lynne Brown
Coffee after the service

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

Conducted by Rev Duncan Tuck
Coffee after the service

Sunday 15th January
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Duncan Tuck
Coffee after the service

Sunday 22nd January
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Common Cup
6.30pm ecumenical service of prayer
for christian unity at the Cathedral

Week of prayer for Christian Unity-
Pulpit exchange with a preacher
from Old St Martin's
Coffee after the service

Sunday 29th January
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by the Worship Group
Coffee after the service

From the Manse



Dear friends

One of the issues taking up a lot of time in URC circles is an initiative called 'Radical Welcome.' This is being plugged together with an advertising campaign called 'Zero Intolerance.' It is proving controversial. And there are worries that it may yet cause more problems than it hopes to solve. But, as a church, Holly Mount have agreed to begin to explore what that means. And you will hear a lot more about that over the next few months.

Radical Welcome is both interesting and puzzling at the same time. On the surface it says a Christian church should welcome everybody, no matter who they are, what they've done, or what they look like. We can all agree with that, can't we? Jesus welcomed prostitutes, tax-collectors, thieves, lepers, all sorts. So the campaign wants churches to look at how they welcome people, and how they operate, in order to help that welcome be greater.

There are, of course, problems that go with that. These things are never as simple as they first seem. And, in our group of churches,

both Malvern Link and Worcester URC's have decided – for different, but legitimate reasons – not to take part in the campaign, whereas Holly Mount will begin exploring what this campaign means. But it doesn't stop any of us beginning to explore how well, or badly, we welcome other people.

There are obvious things we can make sure we do. For a start, we can make sure we don't put the most miserable person in the church on door duty. We can make the church itself warm, welcoming and attractive. We can make sure our notice boards are up to date and give the information that's needed. We can invite new faces to events that are going on. We can be 'friendly.'

They are all good things the church, as a whole, can do. But an attitude of welcome can only flow out of an understanding of how much we are welcomed and loved. When you really know that God loves you, and that, no matter what, that love does not end, it can change your heart. When you know that Christ came as a baby in the manger, for you; that he lived for you, and died for you, not just because he had to, but because he really wanted to, then perhaps you can begin to live in that joy. And when we live in the joy of the good news of Jesus, then our lives begin to reflect an even greater welcome.

'Smile,' goes the old saying, 'And the world smiles with you.' The world wants everyone to pretend to be happy at Christmas. That's not right or possible. You can only smile properly when you really know, deep down, that, despite everything this world throws at you, you still have a lot to smile about. Real smiling can't be faked. It's something to do with the eyes. And when our eyes are fixed on Jesus, then we have a real smile.

So, can I encourage all of you, not just the Elders and officers, to try to make others welcome. If a new face turns up in your normal pew at worship, make a fuss of them. Welcome them.

Help them feel at ease. Just think what you would feel like if you were in their shoes. But also, begin to live in the joy of knowing that the real Radical Welcome is the one that God has given you, when you don't deserve it. Live in that. And then others may catch it from you as you go along. As we head towards Christmas, don't go, 'Bah, humbug!' but say thank you, and let others feel your gratitude.

Carol shares with me in wishing you every blessing

Duncan

Christmas Services



Sunday December 18th - Carol Service
11 am

Saturday December 24th - Christmas Eve Communion
11:30 pm

Sunday December 25th - Christmas Morning Service
10 am

January Deadline



Items for inclusion in the February Newsletter should be given to Tim Dunn. 27a Cornmeadow Green, Claines, Worcester. WR3 7PN. Tel 01905 457909, Email newsletter@worcesterurc.org.uk by Sunday 22nd January at the latest please.

Pause for Thought

from the Worship Group



This month the following extracts are from Whizz-Kidz.

For further information on any of these stories visit their Website: [http:// http://www.whizz-kidz.org.uk](http://www.whizz-kidz.org.uk)

About Us

Our aim is to ensure that every disabled child has an opportunity to be something special...a kid.

There are an estimated 70,000 disabled children and young people in the UK waiting for a wheelchair that fits their young lives. That's where we come in. Whizz-Kidz provides disabled children with the essential wheelchairs and other mobility equipment they need to lead fun and active childhoods.

The wheelchair is just the start...

Giving a disabled child a wheelchair is just the start of their journey with Whizz-Kidz. All around the country disabled children and young people are meeting and making friends at our growing network of local clubs. They're having fun whizzing around obstacle courses, knocking over skittles, doing wheelies and learning about boring but important things like road safety at our wheelchair skills courses. They're forming campaign groups and meeting MPs, contacting the press, and designing campaign badges and posters. And because growing up can be a bit scary, they're taking part in our work placement programme and building confidence at our life skills events.

Facts

Here are some key facts about disabled children that not only reinforce the need for our service, but also highlight the importance of ensuring we meet every disabled child's individual needs.

There are an estimated 70,000 disabled children in the UK who could benefit

from appropriate mobility equipment. This is approximately 10% of the total disabled child population.

29% people with a disabled child in the household live in poverty, compared with 21% of households with no disabled children.

84% of families with a disabled child are in debt compared to 47% of households with no disabled child.

It costs on average 3 times as much to raise a disabled child as a non-disabled child.

1/3 of parents with a severely disabled child aged 2 and under use more than 3 pieces of equipment daily.

Disabled young people are over twice as likely as non-disabled young people not to be in education, employment or training.

The levels of unmet need for services by families with disabled children from black and minority ethnic communities (BME) have been found to be higher than for white families.

Since 1975, the fastest growth in numbers of disabled people has been for children – from 476,000 disabled children under the age of 16 in 1975, to 772,000 in 2002. This represents an increase of 62%.

Nathan

Hello, my name is Nathan.

I am a 14 year old boy who likes watching and playing sport, especially football, as well as playing computer games. The only difference is that my legs and arms don't work as well as other children. That's why I needed the help and support of Whizz-Kidz.

I have a powered wheelchair. This is really great.

As I cannot self propel a manual wheelchair, my powered wheelchair allows me to go where I want to go.

Albany Fellowship



In November we were kept busy with a quiz, which Lynne Brown had organised for us. There was a bring and buy table along with mince pies, biscuits and cups of tea and a good chat.

Many thanks go to Lynne for her quiz, and to all of you who contributed to the bring and buy.

It hardly seems twelve months ago, but our Christmas lunch will take place on December 1st. We are off to the Wagon Wheel at Grimley again as we were very impressed at their service. We need to be at The wagon Wheel by 12.15 for ready to be seated at 12.30 on the 1st December.

Our grateful thanks go to all that have helped with transport, washing up, putting away the tables and chairs, also to you all for turning up each month and anything else I have left out.

We will resume our meetings on Thursday 2nd February.

Jean and Teresa would like to send all of you our very Best Wishes for a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

See you all in February

Jean and Teresa

Church Directory



The email address for me in the church directory is some years out of date.

It should be: brian@brianjones.plus.com
Brian Jones

SONshine CAFE



Church with a difference

10.30 a.m.

SUNDAY, 11th December, 2011

at the

United Reformed Church Hall,
Worcester Road, Malvern Link
Carols & Seasonal Refreshments



Special Guest

Richard Hasnip

Performing Arts Director at Regents' College



ALL AGES WELCOME!

"Excepted Charity"

An African Christmas?

Visiting Africa back in September made me realise just how fortunate we are in the Western World.

When we arrived in Nairobi it was just about time to finish work. There is not a lot of work in this city but those who are fortunate to have a job are glad of it.

We watched them come out of work and cross the road to find a small area of mud, dirt...call it what you like, make a small fire then, if they can find something to sit on. A spare piece of plastic sheeting is a luxury as this can be used in the same way we use a windbreak at the seaside. As time passed the other members of their families came to join them often, just sitting on the ground. This was where they rested for the night until they could go to work again the following morning.

What did they eat??? If a few ears of maize was found it would be cooked on the fire and attempts made to sell this to passing motorists for a few Kenyan shillings. If the people were able to sell any then the family may be able to go and buy some bread or other foodstuffs to make a hot meal....but we did not see much evidence of this happening. The water was collected from a nearby river or stream.

As Christmas approaches I do wonder what these people will do over this period....I suspect the same as any other day. Will the children have gifts...I doubt it. Will they eat their equivalent of a Christmas diner...I don't think so. Will they sit in a comfortable chair to rest....no.

The one thing they all do is something we do not do enough of and that is smile. They always have a smile on their faces wherever they are going, whatever they do they are joyful in Spirit. The love of our Lord is evident all around with Churches every few miles. Services are taken buy the side of the River and they thank God for all they have.

As we sit at the end of Christmas day, full from all the food we have eaten, surrounded by gifts galore with more chocolate and fruit that we can eat, please spare a thought for these people of Nairobi who will probably have nothing more than an ear of maize.

Teresa Dunn

Thanks

THANKYOU

This last year has been difficult with my kidneys failing fast. I was upheld by your Prayers, care and kindness in so many ways. Once on dialysis the driving rota was such a help until eventually in August I regained health enough to be allowed to drive In and Out. The routine is 3 four hourly sessions every week for the rest of my life.

As I feel so much better I cannot stop daily thanking God for all the kind supportive people and the skill and knowledge of the doctors. The cheerful care and attention to detail of the nurses in the NHS who have made this possible.

God is Good.

Carol

Table Tennis

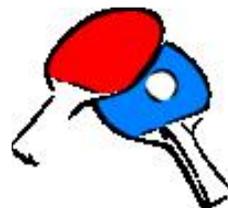
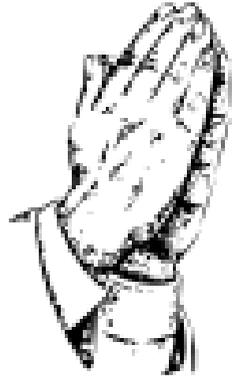


Table Tennis will be taking a rest in December as we all get ready for Christmas.

We will start again in January. Maybe this is a good time to make that New Year Resolution to come and join us in 2012?

Please do come along and have a go.

Believe in the power of prayer. Use these prayers to pray for those supporting and supported through Commitment for Life.



DECEMBER

Light of the world, we wait for your coming:
Transform our darkness.

We remember Mary, surrendered to your will,
eagerly waiting for you.

We think of a mother's hopes.

We think of a mother's fears- conflict, danger, hunger, illness,
poverty which traps and mars her child's future.

We pray for the work of all those who bring light to children,
and renew their mother's hopes.

God with us, be with them.

Amen

© Christian Aid



If you didn't hear it announced in church
there is some news from Rosalind Selby.

"Folk at Worcester might like to hear the news that I shall be leaving my pastorate in Wanstead and Gants Hill in the summer of 2012 as I have been appointed as the next Principal of Northern College, Manchester.

My very good wishes to everyone."

Rosalind

Worcester URC Duty Rotas

| | 4-Dec | 11-Dec | 18-Dec | 25-Dec | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------|--|
| Carry in the Bible | David James | Brian McCluskie | Helen Moore | | |
| Books & Offertory | Doreen Cheesbrough Tom Cheesbrough | Pat Berryman Len Berryman | Michael Clarke Rosemary Clarke | | |
| Reading | David James | Brian McCluskie | Helen Moore | | |
| Prepare Table | | Lynne Brown Margaret Morgan | | | |
| Serve Communion | | Tom Cheesbrough Michael Clarke Jeremy Davies Liz Davies | | | |
| Beadle | Teresa Dunn | Liz Davies | Nicky Neville-Lee | | |
| Foyer | Len Berryman | Rob Peachey | Teresa Dunn | | |

| | 1-Jan | 8-Jan | 15-Jan | 22-Jan | 29-Jan |
|--------------------|-------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Carry in the Bible | | Bryan Neville-Lee | Doreen Cheesbrough | Jean McCluskie | Sarah Lodge |
| Books & Offertory | | June Barber Brian Jones | Brian McCluskie Jean McCluskie | Alison Hall Betty Forrer | Carol Hardyman Pat Williams |
| Reading | | Betty Forrer | Michael Clarke | Paul Denham | Rob Peachey |
| Prepare Table | | Doreen Cheesbrough Tom Cheesbrough | | Len Berryman Pat Berryman | |
| Serve Communion | | Paul Denham Brian Jones Brian McCluskie Nicky Neville-Lee | | Bryan Neville-Lee Sarah Lodge | |
| Beadle | | Helen Yare | Rob Peachey | Brian McCluskie | Sarah Lodge |
| Foyer | | Hannah Lodge | Liz Davies | Brian McCluskie | Brian Jones |

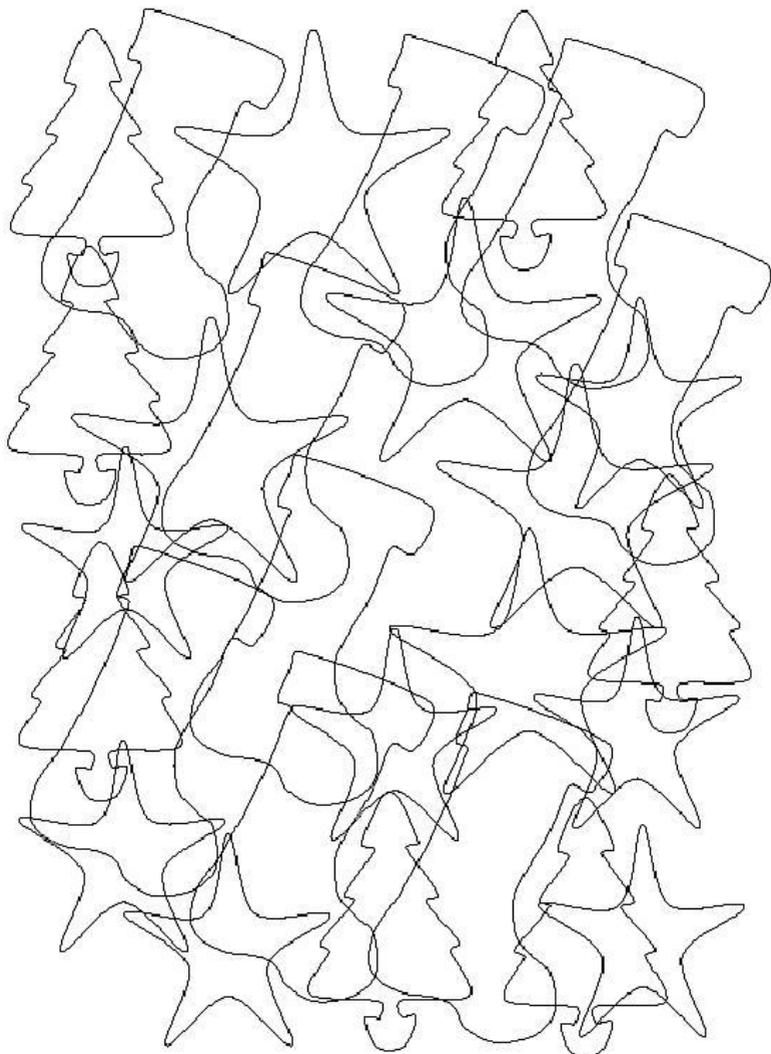
| | 5-Feb | 12-Feb | 19-Feb | 26-Feb | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Carry in the Bible | Carol Hardyman | Betty Forrer | Lynne Brown | Rita Michelman | |
| Books & Offertory | Hannah Lodge Robert Lodge | Lynne Brown Margaret Dodds | Jeremy Davies Liz Davies | Roger Morris Margaret Morris | |
| Reading | Bryan Neville-Lee | Rosemary Clarke | Lynne Brown | Brian Jones | |
| Prepare Table | | Nicky Neville-Lee Bryan Neville-Lee | | Sarah Lodge Rob Peachey | |
| Serve Communion | | Helen Moore Rob Peachey David James Lynne Brown | | Roger Morris Margaret Morris | |
| Beadle | Teresa Dunn | David James | Nicky Neville-Lee | Liz Davies | |
| Foyer | Carol Hardyman | Sarah Lodge | Robert Lodge | Pat Williams | |

Please arrange your own duty swaps as required



Childrens Pages

How Many Christmas Shapes?



How Many Presents?

