



Welcoming,  
Caring,  
Sharing  
**June/July 2014**

**MINISTER**

Rev Duncan Tuck  
71 Lower Howsell Road  
Malvern Link  
WR14 1DN

Tel 01684 562404

**LAY LEADER**

Mrs Helen Yare  
117 Droitwich Road  
Worcester  
WR3 7JE

Tel. 01905 453281  
email: [helen@yare.org](mailto:helen@yare.org)

**CHURCH ADDRESS:**

Albany Terrace  
Worcester  
WR1 3DU

[www.worcesterurc.org.uk](http://www.worcesterurc.org.uk)

# The Sunday Plan



Sunday 1st June  
11 am Worship

Conducted by Helen Yare  
Coffee after the service

Sunday 8th June  
10:30 am Worship & Holy Communion  
Individual glasses

Conducted by Des Robson  
Coffee after the service

Sunday 15th June  
10:30 am Worship

Conducted by Robert Apps  
Coffee after the service

Sunday 22nd June  
10:30 am Worship & Holy Communion  
Common Cup

Conducted by Rev Duncan Tuck  
Coffee after the service

Sunday 29th June  
10:30 am Worship

Conducted by Margaret Mandrell  
Coffee after the service

Sunday 6th July  
10:30 am Worship & Holy Communion  
Individual glasses

Conducted by Helen Moore  
Coffee after the service

Sunday 13th July  
10:30 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Roy Lowe  
Coffee after the service

Sunday 20th July  
10:30 am Worship & Holy Communion  
Common Cup

Conducted by Rev Duncan Tuck  
Coffee after the service

Sunday 27th July  
10:30 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Helen Yare?  
Coffee after the service

Sunday 3rd August  
10:30 am Morning Worship

Conducted by TBA  
Coffee after the service

## From the Manse

Dear friends



Isaiah 6 opens with: 'In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted.' Then angels shout, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.' Isaiah was fine up to then, doing 'church' work, when the real God came into the temple. It shattered every idea Isaiah had about God. His response was: 'Woe to me!... I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King...'

For Isaiah to laugh would have been inappropriate. God, after all, is God. But there is something about laughter. Thinking about God's grace and love makes me joyful. I've tried to be more serious, but I can't do it. Maybe things are funnier in a serious church setting. Or maybe the pressure is getting to me. But I think there's much more laughter in this thing called Christianity than we imagine.

For instance, when Isaiah first met God, he had to proclaim judgement, calling the people to repentance. But afterwards, a flood of laughter rushes out: 'The ransomed of the Lord will return.

They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, sorrow and sighing will flee away.' (35:10) Then, when God's people have been redeemed: 'Burst into songs of joy... for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.' (52:9)

Jesus quotes from Isaiah: 'He has sent me to... comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.' I like to laugh - even in church. And I think that one of our ministries is laughter. Not laughter of derision or cynicism, but rather the free, uninhibited laughter of the redeemed.

A woman wrote to a friend about how she had lost her husband. She described her loneliness and how she felt there was no reason to live on. Then she said, 'But when I hear you laugh, I laugh too. I just want you to know that it helps a lot.'

This world is hard. There's probably more reason for tears than laughter in most lives. So maybe there's a place for a church that doesn't take itself too seriously, that lightens the landscape. God has given his people laughter and that laughter has great healing power.

A man went to the doctor for a check-up. The doctor got all the results and told him, 'Mr. Jones, your health is very good. There is no reason why you can't live a completely normal life as long as you don't try to enjoy it.'

Don't we sometimes give the same message? We say, in effect, 'Now that your sins are forgiven, and you're sure of Heaven, and have meaning in your life, you ought to be able to live a normal Christian life - as long as you don't try to enjoy it.' Of course, we must help others in their troubles, and we have a profound truth to proclaim. But that doesn't exclude laughter - it includes it, transforms it, sanctifies it, even glorifies it.

So, this summer, let's throw back our heads and laugh. God's riches are ours in Christ. What other reason could we need to laugh?

Duncan

## **Diary Dates**

Tuesday, June 24th

Elders Meeting, 7pm

Sunday, June 29th

Church Meeting after the Service

Thursday, July 17th

Elders Meeting, 7pm

Monday Evenings : Singing Group : Contact Margaret Morris

Friday Evenings : Table Tennis : Contact Tim Dunn

Monthly Book Group : Contact Tim & Teresa Dunn

Monthly Albany Fellowship : Contact Jean McCluskie/Teresa Dunn

## **Change of Sunday Morning Service Time**

Following the Poll of the congregation the starting time of the morning service has been moved to 10:30 am from Sunday June 8th.

## **Items for the August Newsletter**

If you have any items for inclusion in the June Newsletter please give them to Tim Dunn. 27a Cornmeadow Green, Claines, Worcester. WR3 7PN. Tel 01905 457909, Email [newsletter@worcesterurc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@worcesterurc.org.uk) by Sunday 20th July at the latest please.

# Invisible Illness Awareness Month

We guess that few, if any of you will know that May was 'Invisible Illness Awareness Month'

Last December our carol singing group 'Minor Tremors' completed its 8th season. Each year we have sung in local pubs, largely for the joy of singing but also using the opportunity to raise funds for various local charities.

Last year our chosen charity was ReActive, a local fund based at Worcester Royal Hospital which helps people with therapies for a variety of neurological disorders.

On nearly all the occasions when we sang we were supported by a delightful young girl, Kelly Williams who, with her mother, shook a bucket for us. Kelly has benefitted hugely from the work of ReActive. She has kept in email contact with us since and recently has sent us her story as her contribution to Invisible Illness Awareness Month.

We felt it to be so poignant and yet so encouraging because of Kelly's positive response that we wanted to share it.

A copy is included with the emailed version of the Newsletter and there are copies of her story at the back of the church for those of you who would like to read it.

Thank you, Margaret and Roger

ps.

There is more about ReActive in the December 2013 Newsletter if you still have a copy, it is still available on the Church website

## Book Club

Due to the holiday season our next Book Club meeting will not happen until the end of July, listen out for an announcement in the church notices.



At our April meeting we had a very enjoyable hour over a cup of coffee discussing, firstly, books that we had recently read, or were reading. We then had a fascinating discussion under the title "I wish I'd never bothered!" when we all talked about books which we had read that turned out a big disappointment to us, or where we thought the author had cheated us.

More people are warmly invited to join us at our next meeting to tell us what you have been reading.

## Christian Aid Week



This year £504.81 was raised from our area, which will be increased to £571.19 once Gift Aided Donations have been processed. May I say this was a great effort and may I thank on behalf of Christian Aid all those who were able to give of their financial resources and or of their time.....Thank you.

Jeremy Davies

Nb: We are still looking for a new co-ordinator please.

# Childrens Pages

## Hand Painted Rock Bugs

### Materials:

Several rocks, different shapes

Paint brush

Stylus or toothpick

Acrylic paint shades: pink, red, black, brown, antique gold, antique white, mauve, pink, orange, and several shades of green



### Instructions:

Wash the rocks and allow them to dry completely.

Simply paint the rocks to resemble different animals and bugs, such as ladybugs, butterflies, bees, frogs and turtles.

### Ladybug

Use a flat oval shaped rock, paint it red and let dry.

Paint a black line down the center of the rock.

Paint a black oval on as the face.

### Bee

As with the ladybug, use a flat oval shaped rock, paint it antique gold and let it dry.

Paint the ends of the rock with antique white for the wings.

Paint a criss cross pattern on the wings with antique gold.

Use brown to paint on a few strips and dot on two eyes with black paint using a stylus or toothpick.

### Butterfly

Odd shaped rocks are good for butterflies. Paint the rock pink and let it dry.

Paint two strips up the center to make the thorax.

Use a stylus or toothpick to randomly dot on spots and create squiggly lines in different colors such as mauve, light blue, and light green.

Dot on black eyes.

## Frog

Paint a larger oval shaped rock with light green and let dry.

To paint legs and head, use a darker green and paint "C" shapes as seen in the photo.

Use the end of a paintbrush handle to dot on large orange spots on the frog's back.

Optionally, you can shade around the spots with a different shade of green.

Use stylus or toothpick to dot on black eyes.

## Turtle

Use a smooth, large rock for the turtle.

Paint rock light green and let dry.

To make the shell, paint ovals over 3/4 of the top of the rock with a lighter shade of green.

Use a yellowish green to fill in the areas around the ovals, creating the shell.

Dot on two black eyes.

## Flowers

Paint any shaped rock with dark green, sponge on a lighter green.

Use mauve to paint on the flowers, use pink to shade the outside of the petals.

Shade the center of the flowers with light blue.

by TaboolaSponsored ContentFrom The Web

Read more at <http://www.favecrafts.com/Easy-Kids-Crafts/Hand-Painted-Rock-Bugs#dZVRIufcctoGte8z.99>

# WW1 Commemoration

2nd-3rd August 2014

As you all know there are many events to commemorate the beginning of the First World War this year.

I felt that we should make an effort to do this based around our Church and how the War affected the day to day life of this Church. Also how the war has affected the Families of today and how the war has 'shaped' us.

Tim and I have begun to look at the Archives of the Church Minutes and other documents at the Hive to obtain information from that time. We also plan to look at Newspapers and other media documents. In doing this we can get an idea of how the Church was affected.

The idea is that a display be erected in the hall and the Church be opened for the weekend to enable anyone who would like to come and view the display to do so.

If anyone knows of a family who was attached to the Church and you can remember if they had any stories of how the War affected them the please speak with us.

I would also like to put on a Flower Festival at the same time. The idea for this is to ask you to use all those talents you have, young, old and the inbetweeners alike to adopt a window or a space in Church that you would like to make a flower arrangement for. The theme would be 'WW1'. You can make a display of anything to do with the war, all I ask is that you incorporate some flowers.



We could then either charge an entry fee or have a basket for donations (which I think is better) which could be given to an appropriate charity connected with the Armed Forces. On the Sunday afternoon we could either auction the flowers off or simply ask for a donation for them so they can be taken away and enjoyed instead of sitting in Church for no-one to see.

The other thing I would like to do is to ask for some 'War Time' little cakes. We can then offer refreshments of tea, coffee and cakes, all this being in the same auspice of the First World War.

The area will be leafleted and I will try to get an insert in the local papers to advertise this event.

So I ask you, if you can, to keep this weekend free, please adopt a space in Church and please make a flower arrangement to commemorate this event, and finally if you could make some little cakes to sell as we offer refreshments.

We should never be allowed to forget the terrors that men on all sides of this conflict suffered and it is right that we should mark this occasion.

Please talk to Teresa Dunn for more details on the Flower side and both Teresa and Tim Dunn for more information about the event.

# Albany Fellowship



At our last meeting we had Margaret Mandrell entertain us with her talk about the Great Wall of China. The group she was walking with were given special dispensation to walk some of the 'non tourist' bits. We were amazed at how up and down it was and also how many steps that had to be climbed.

Margaret, many thanks for your very enlightening talk which was enjoyed by us all.

Our next meeting on 5th June we will entertain each other. The idea is that we bring something along that holds a story for us. We will then each have a few minutes to tell our story to the others.

We will round off our afternoon with Strawberries, Cream, shortbread and cups of tea.

In July we will have an outing but we have still not decided where we are going so once we know we will let you all know.

Thank you to you all for continuing to support Albany fellowship and we look forward to seeing you on the 5th June at 2.30pm.

Our very best wishes to you all,

Jean and Teresa

# **Please Beware of this Scam**

Thanks to Rob Peachey for the information

Elderly residents are being warned about a phone fraud where victims are being duped out of cash by people posing as police.

West Mercia and Warwickshire Police have recorded 70 of these offences across Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Warwickshire since March this year with unsuspecting victims falling for the scam.

The offenders are targeting older people across both Forces, as part of a national scam which is commonly known as a 'courier fraud'.

In many cases a person claiming to be a police officer will contact an elderly or vulnerable victim by telephone and inform them that their bank card has been used fraudulently. The victim will then be tricked into thinking they are either calling or being put through to their bank, but in fact they are still speaking to the fraudsters. The victim will then disclose banking information and will be instructed to either place their bank cards in an envelope for a courier to collect or attend the local branch of their bank to withdraw a sum of money and pass it to a courier sent by fraudsters. Sometimes the fraudsters use legitimate Taxi companies to make the pick up.

Often elderly victims are unwittingly defrauded of their entire life savings, being left distraught and traumatised in many cases.

Over the last couple of months, the number of offences has escalated, with West Mercia and Warwickshire Police receiving numerous reports from victims across both Force areas.

Detectives are working with local banks/buildings societies and taxi firms as part of the investigation into the fraud and are urging anyone else who may have been a victim to come forward.

They are also repeating warnings to the public, particularly older residents, not to go along with the scam and to report any attempts to police.

This is a national problem which has reached West Mercia & Warwickshire policing areas.

# Prayer Partners 2014

June – Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory



We pray for

- all the people of Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory who suffer - Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, Israeli and Palestinian - all those who have been victims of violence, who are bereaved, who are isolated by checkpoints and the separation barrier, who are in prison, and all those who live in fear.

- Hamdan and Suadahmed Abdellatif and their three sons and twin daughters, who are dependent on their land for income now Hamdan is no longer a teacher.

- for PARC who have worked with Hamdan to help him build a water reservoir that has transformed the way he collects water. He is now able to use it to water his crops, which he sells at market.



July – Guatemala

Evelin, age 7 being treated for acute malnutrition.  
CA Partner Bethania credit Christian Aid

We pray for

- Guatemala, a country of contrasts: with flooding and drought, wealth and poverty, agricultural exports and food shortages.

- the two-thirds of the country's children do not complete primary school on time and where illiteracy levels are closer to the average for sub-Saharan Africa than to that for Latin America: that all children may have access to education.

URC address TEL 020 7691 9867 Email: lmeadcforl@gmail.com

CforL Logo CA Logo WDM logo THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

## Worcester URC Duty Rotas

	1-Jun	8-Jun	15-Jun	22-Jun	29-Jun
Preacher	Helen Yare	Des Robson	Robert Apps	Rev Duncan Tuck	Margaret Mandrell
Books/Foyer & Offertory	Paul Denham Rob Peachey	Pat Berryman Len Berryman	Michael Clarke Rosemary Clarke	David James Barbara James	Brian McCluskie Jean McCluskie
Reading	Jeremy Davies	Liz Davies	Margaret Dodds	Carol Hardyman	Brian McCluskie
Prepare Table		Len Berryman Pat Berryman		Sarah Lodge Rob Peachey	
Serve Communion		Nicky Neville-Lee Bryan Neville-Lee David James Jeremy Davies		Liz Davies Tom Cheesbrough	
Beadle	Paul Denham	Liz Davies	Helen Yare	Nicky Neville-Lee	David James

	6-Jul	13-Jul	20-Jul	27-Jul	
Preacher	Helen Moore	Rev Roy Lowes	Rev Duncan Tuck	Helen Yare?	
Books/Foyer & Offertory	Russell Needham Jo Needham	Chris Taylor Les Kease	Chris Harris Roger Harris	Val Geddes Ann Cook	
Reading	Teresa Dunn	Sarah Lodge	Roger Morris	Tim Dunn	
Prepare Table		Teresa Dunn Jean McCluskie		Doreen Cheesbrough Tom Cheesbrough	
Serve Communion		Nicky Neville-Lee Bryan Neville-Lee Paul Denham Brian McCluskie		Sarah Lodge Helen Moore	
Beadle	Helen Moore	Chris Harris	Brian McCluskie	Paul Denham	

	3-Aug	10-Aug	17-Aug	24-Aug	31-Aug
Preacher		Rev Richard Alford	Rev Duncan Tuck		
Books/Foyer & Offertory	Carol Hardyman Betty Forrer	Bryan Neville-Lee Nicky Neville-Lee	Jeremy Davies Liz Davies	Sarah Lodge Margaret Dodds	Roger Morris Margaret Morris
Reading	Helen Moore	David James	Bryan Neville-Lee	Betty Forrer	Penny Peak
Prepare Table		Nicky Neville-Lee Bryan Neville-Lee		Len Berryman Pat Berryman	
Serve Communion		Rob Peachey David James Roger Morris Margaret Morris		Tom Cheesbrough Michael Clarke	
Beadle	Nicky Neville-Lee	Liz Davies	Helen Yare	David James	Helen Moore

**PLEASE ARRANGE YOUR OWN DUTY SWAPS AS REQUIRED**

