



**Welcoming,
Caring,
Sharing**

September 2012

CHURCH ADDRESS:

**Albany Terrace
Worcester
WR1 3DU**

www.worcesterurc.org.uk

GROUP MINISTERS

**Rev Jim Brown
13 Ogilvy Square
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WR3 7LU**

Tel 01905 453373

CHURCH SECRETARY

**Mrs Helen Moore
8 Partridge Close
St Peter the Great
Worcester
WR5 3SG**

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

Tel 01684 562404

The Sunday Plan



Sunday 2nd September 11 am Worship	Conducted by Rev Duncan Tuck Coffee after the service
Sunday 9th September 11 am Worship & Holy Communion Individual glasses	Conducted by Rev Jim Brown Coffee after the service
Sunday 16th September 11 am Morning Worship	Conducted by Helen Yare Coffee after the service
Sunday 23rd September 11 am Worship & Holy Communion Common Cup	Conducted by Rev Tom Cheesbrough Coffee after the service
Sunday 30th September 11 am Morning Worship	Conducted by Helen Yare Harvest Festival Coffee after the service
Sunday 7th October 11 am Worship	Conducted by Helen Yare Coffee after the service
Sunday 14th October 11 am Worship & Holy Communion Individual glasses	Conducted by Rev Duncan Tuck Coffee after the service
Sunday 21st October 11 am Morning Worship	Conducted by Mr Robert Apps Coffee after the service
Sunday 28th October 11 am Worship & Holy Communion	Conducted by Rev Duncan Tuck Coffee after the service

From the Manse



Dear Friends,

My 'letter' this month takes the form of a prayer which I hope you can make your own and which I hope will help you reflect on your own pilgrimage of faith and on what it is God has in mind for all of us as we prepare to go our separate ways. The prayer is based on Jeremiah 6 verse 16:

'The Lord God says this: stand at the crossroads, look down the ancient paths and ask yourself, which is the way God comes!'

Lord God, you have brought us to where we are by many roads ...
down old avenues

Sunday School where once we heard the stories of your patient love,
Homes, where we agreed to our parent's persuasion;

Ancient churches with historic traditions;

Sabbath days when we were feeling bad and needing Good.

Through newer streets...

Responding to a neighbour's hurried invitation;

Understanding the need for a baby to be given a name;

Finding a conscience, seeking reality;

Moving with the rhythm of a popular tune;

Hearing rumours that Jesus was drawing the crowds again from
inner city hurley-burley and from rural tranquillity;

From all the ups and downs of life together;

From knowledge and from ignorance, from crevasses of despair,
along thin ledges of anxiety;

From stony faces or smiling fields, elated or cast down,

But all rising to glorify the same living God.

Lord we know there have been times when we have been uncertain
of the road,

We have been ashamed to ask directions after so long a time away,
Disorganised in ourselves, we have been a barrier to others,
Lacking the vision to see ahead we have blinded others by our
prejudices.

Help us now to look down the ancient path your word has travelled,
To see it come to us not as lines of black marks on the white pages of
an old book,

But as a living message, passed down from to us from time's
beginning,

Once shouted by crowds, now carried by a thin and lonely voice,
Once a gift of old men, and then the discovery of children,
Once hidden in the mountain's mist, then bill-boarded for all to read
On a sign-post Cross where all our roads converge.

Maybe you would like to reflect on these two questions in terms of
your own particular journey of faith.

Which is the road that God comes down?
Where is the way that God leads on?

As we prepare to go our separate ways, me towards the sunset of
retirement and you into a future that will inevitably be different, we
will both travel roads that will be (I hope) filled with interest,
excitement, hope and trust. There will be fear and uncertainty but
we've dealt with those before and will do again. The roads we travel
are never lonely, there are always memories to keep us company.

So, as the songwriter has it: 'Time to say goodbye'. Over the last 20
years I've had a blast and that is down to you, your love, your
encouragement, your support and a whole host of other things as
well. And along the road we have shared together I hope we've
taught each other what it is to be God's people.

With all my love and thanks and God's blessing

Jim x

Lynne's Farewell Salad..

Many of us enjoyed this salad at one of the super lunches hosted by Jim and Lynn this summer. The recipes kept being requested so here it is. Lynn tells me she got it originally from a friend who shared it because it was so good. So thank you for sharing it with us!

Broccoli Salad

2 large heads of broccoli cut into tiny florets
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 cup of nuts (salted peanuts or walnuts or cashews or pinenuts)
1 cup of fruit (sultanas & raisins or fresh peaches & apricots finely chopped)
10 rashers of bacon, finely chopped and fried until crisp – omit for veggies

Dressing:

1 cup mayonnaise (can use 'light')
1 cup plain yogurt
2 dessertspoons of white sugar (or to taste)
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar

Mix all the salad ingredients in a large bowl. Mix the dressing together starting with the vinegar and sugar and add salt and pepper to taste, not forgetting that there is salt in the peanuts if you have used them. Pour dressing over the salad and stir. Decorate with the bacon if using.

Clingfilm and put in the fridge overnight. This keeps for a couple of days if there is any left over.

Notes from Church Meeting

Minutes of an Informal Experimental Church Meeting held at Albany Terrace on Sunday 1st July 2012 - Chaired by Helen Moore, Church Secretary

No record was made of attendees as this was an informal meeting held over coffee after the Sunday Service.

It was proposed during our away day on 19th May 2012 at the YMCA that we might try to have more frequent, but shorter church meetings to be held after services in the hope that there would be greater input and participation from a wider representation of the church here at Albany Terrace. Today's meeting was a trial – The plan was to keep it to just one or two items in an informal style over coffee and see how it goes.

Re Pastorate Profile Questions to Each of the Three Churches
- What are we here for?

Friendship / helping each other / caring for others worldwide. Our 'welcome' was discussed and although we are generally commended for the welcome we give to visitors not all were in agreement on this 100%. At times our welcome is limited – it may be good on first visit but it was felt there was room for improvement in how we communicate with newcomers about what's on offer at our church and our general level of communication can have some 'holes'. If one is away for a while and does not have easy access to the internet then things can be missed.

- What is our Mission Statement?

We just re-iterated our "strap line" as displayed on the URC board outside church. Not exactly a Mission Statement but we didn't spend any time trying to work one out!

- What is the Biblical Basis for our Mission Purpose? Not discussed.

Other Matters / Ideas / Points of View

- Our intention to update the "Visitors" list – there were lots of opinions expressed about this! Alison Hall is currently updating the address book but we would prefer not to publish until we can sort out the Visitors as there are a few gaps at present and there will be more after the Browns finish in September.
- A "phone chain" idea was mentioned whereby everyone in the church has one contact point to ring so that important news can be got around speedily. It would work like a prayer chain.
- Greeting one another during the service- some find it helpful, others don't whether or not it's in the format of "sharing the peace" is irrelevant.
- Holistic Small Groups – Mention was made by Duncan on our away day that those church that our really growing are usually those who have a strong support network in terms of "cell groups". WURC Out was one way of achieving this but in the future it will need to be reviewed, how, who, where and when. Marianne Wade offered her home to host a daytime group to meet for this purpose. The question was asked whether a small group would wish to get together to brainstorm this point and bring some clear recommendations to the Elders. No one specifically came forward to volunteer.

We mentioned what existing small groups exist in the church.

Business & Property - Active, Serving Elders - Active,
Church Life - Needs Reviewing, Worship Group - Need New convenor,
WURC Out - Will need revising, Singing Group - Active,
Prayer Partners - Helen M & Teresa – active,
Albany Fellowship - Active, Tabletennis / Pool - Active

Minutes produced by Helen Moore, Church Secretary
Sunday 29 July 2012

Albany Fellowship



Our next meeting will be on 6th September 2012, when we have Jim and Lynne joining us. We look forward to seeing you all at 2.30pm at Albany Terrace on the above date.

We hope you have all had a wonderful summer break in spite of all the rain.

Best wishes
Jean and Teresa

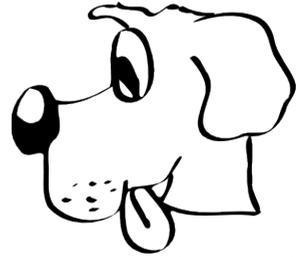
Items for the October Newsletter

In October we will be reverting to the normal bi-monthly Newsletter.

If you have any items for inclusion in the October Newsletter please give them to Tim Dunn. 27a Cornmeadow Green, Claines, Worcester. WR3 7PN. Tel 01905 457909, Email newsletter@worcesterurc.org.uk by Sunday 16th September at the latest please.

Paws for Thought

from Tim & Teresa



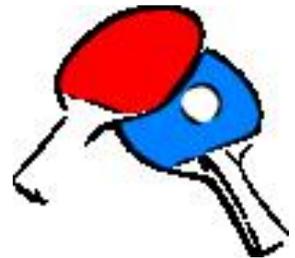
We have a Dog Sitting problem when we go on holiday at the end of September. We have discovered that the people that normally look after Dotty when we go away are having some building work done and will not be able to help us out. If any of you are able to look after a well behaved Golden Retriever for two weeks (or know somebody else who could) then please let us know.

Thanks,

Teresa and Tim (and Dotty)



Table Tennis



Our Table Tennis evenings have been a little erratic lately due to Summer Holidays. We still aim to play whenever we can get enough of us together on a Friday night, but with dwindling numbers this is becoming more and more difficult. If you don't fancy playing yourself, is there a son, daughter or grandchild that you could encourage to come along for a game? Standard of play is unimportant, willingness to have a go is all that is required.

....and don't forget we have a pool table too.

Tim

Pause for Thought

from the Worship Group



This month the following extracts are from FARA. For further information on any of these stories visit their Website: www.faracharity.org

FARA is a registered charity in the UK and in Romania and has been working with some of the thousands of orphaned and abandoned children and young people since 1991. FARA was founded after the fall of the Ceausescu Regime when the appalling conditions of Romania's state orphanages were first revealed to the world. In Romanian FARA means "without". Many of Romania's children are still living without the care, nurture, education and individual attention that all children are entitled to according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We work in Bucharest and the poor and rural North-East (Suceava) and North-West (Satu-Mare) of Romania

In two family style homes FARA looks after abandoned and orphaned children and in three residential recovery, training and integration centers we integrate young people from institutions, many of them with intellectual disabilities and some with mental health problems into society. With specialist therapy and special needs education we also assist children with complex needs (mental and physical disabilities) and their families in three centers and via two outreach programmes the younger children are visited and helped at home. A prevention of school abandonment programme helps children living in extreme poverty to finish their education and break the poverty cycle.

Our Mission...

FARA is dedicated to transforming the lives of some of the poorest and most marginalised children and young people in Romania by providing care, recovery, training & integration, (special needs) education and social support whilst giving Christian values and hope for the future. Together with Bulgaria Romania is the poorest country in Europe. FARA fights poverty at grass roots level; we not only restore the lives of the children and young people in our care but also the communities in which they live – this means that thousands more benefit from our investment in their future.

Our mission is to develop and provide services for the most vulnerable children, young people and their families, enabling them to live a normal life, reach their potential, giving them a way out of poverty and promoting social and economic inclusion whilst giving Christian values and hope for the future.

Our Objectives...

The objectives of our programmes are:

To care for abandoned children in family style homes

To provide specialist therapy and special needs education in day centres and outreach activities for children with complex needs (children with mental and physical disabilities)

To prevent children living in extreme poverty, many of them from the marginalised Roma population from dropping out of school at an early age by providing social and educational support.

To offer recovery, training & integration to young people, many of them with intellectual disabilities coming from state institutions or broken homes

To advocate for social and economic inclusion of disabled children, young people and their families.



commitment for life

COMMITMENT for LIFE 2012

Dear Friends

Harvest time is drawing near when traditionally we make our contributions to Christian Aid through Commitment for Life. This is the URC's programme of support for the ongoing work of Christian Aid in 4 selected partners, ours being Zimbabwe (thus you find reference to Zimbabwe in our Newsletter from time to time) Much is being achieved but the political situation remains extremely turbulent and our support in prayer & financial giving is vital.

Please use the envelopes which will be available in church for making your prayerful contribution to the work the URC supports in Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Jamaica & the Palestinian occupied territories & please place it in Offering plate at the Harvest service or any time soon after.

Thank you & may the Lord bless you.

Prayer Partners 2012

September

Comforter Lord,

I thank you that I live in comfort
with food, shelter, healthcare and education.
Help me bring your comfort to those without;
by stepping out of my comfort-zone
and challenging unfair systems.

Lord of Peace,

I thank you that I live in peace
under the rule of law and justice.
Help me bring your peace to those without;
by breaking the peace
and shouting until their voices are heard.

Life-giving Lord,

I thank you that I am free
to worship you and express my opinions.
Help me bring your freedom to those without;
by freely giving of myself
and breaking down barriers of hatred.

Prayer Partners 2008: © Melanie Smith, Convenor of
Commitment for Life Reference Group 2005-2009





commitment for life

2012 is the 20th anniversary of CforL, today more than 600 United Reformed Churches are CforL churches, and between them they have raised over half a million pounds each year for the past several years.

This means that the URC is Christian Aid's biggest denominational giver. The current partner countries are Bangladesh, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Jamaica and Zimbabwe, and there are more than 25 advocates across the country going out and telling people what we are fighting for.

Future plans

So what are the future plans for CforL? We want to raise the profile of the programme. With 42% of United Reformed Churches in the programme, increasing the number of churches involved could make a major impact on global poverty in our partner countries.

The programme is reviewing and re-energising its relationships with Christian Aid and the World Development Movement. It continues to strengthen FURY's relationship with CforL and is encouraging greater involvement through the intern and the annual United Reformed Church Youth assembly.

Commitment for Life wants churches to be more motivated and concerned about injustice, we want to improve our relationships and work together for a better world. To read more visit www.cforl.org.uk

YOUR CHURCH SECRETARY

Dear Friends

We have all known for a long time that Jim and Lynne would be going and we all know this place will not be the same without them! And now the time is here.

What most people know by now but maybe not everyone, is that when I took over as Church Secretary just a couple of months before Jim went on his Sabbatical, I stated categorically at the time that I planned only to do the job until the time of Jim's retirement and now that time has also come. I have done two, four year back to back stints as Elder without a break as well and I too am in need of a break! Martyn and I are not planning to move away from the church at the present time but we will not necessarily be around on as many Sundays as we have been for the last few years.

Obviously there are lots of jobs that the Church Secretary does and the Elders have met last night (24 July) and made some provisional arrangements for how the specifics will be covered.

I would ask that you please support the Elders in this and be patient if and when teething problems occur. Helen Yare is continuing to make sure we cover Pulpit Supply for which we are immensely grateful. Do contact her if you have ideas about people you know who we could invite to lead a service or to preach.

I have enjoyed the role to a large extent but it is time consuming and not something anyone should have to commit to as a life sentence! We rely on the goodwill of each other to get the many jobs done. I believe Albany Terrace can have a future but it does and will rely on active participation by all members.

We could do with somebody please who can make sure that we have someone to play the piano or organ on a Sunday each week. Jim has been doing that for a while so is there a volunteer out there please? If so, speak to one of the serving Elders who are currently: Sarah Lodge, Liz Davies, Helen Yare, Paul Denham, Rob Peachey, Alison Hall, Brian McCluskie, Nicky Neville-Lee.

Thanks for all your kindness and support to Martyn and I over these years but most especially following the very recent bereavement I've been through when we lost my Mum, Uta, on Sunday June 10th very suddenly. We were in church when it happened and the news came through over coffee. Those of you who were here at the time were a great comfort and as you always are at these times, very loving and caring.

May we continue that as a church family but at the same time, be realistic about our expectations of each other. We can't be all things to all people. On this note, the Elders will be reviewing the "Visitors" and "Contacts" shortly as there will be a lot of gaps left by the Brown's leaving. We also need to refresh this so bear with us please while we try and work out the best method of tackling it! One of two have mentioned a phone chain whereby when there is news that needs to be passed on (not gossip!) it can be done so fairly speedily. It's a good idea and another for the melting pot so watch this space...

God Bless You All

Love Helen M

Worcester URC Duty Rotas

	2-Sep	9-Sep	16-Sep	23-Sep	30-Sep
Carry in the Bible	Michael Clarke	Rosemary Clarke	Nicky Neville-Lee	Hannah Lodge	Robert Lodge
Books & Offertory	Hannah Lodge Robert Lodge	Bryan Neville-Lee Nicky Neville-Lee	June Barber Margaret Dodds	Jeremy Davies Liz Davies	Roger Morris Margaret Morris
Reading	Sarah Lodge	Teresa Dunn	Roger Morris	Brian McCluskie	David James
Prepare Table		Len Berryman Pat Berryman		Teresa Dunn Jean McCluskie	
Serve Communion		Teresa Dunn Paul Denham Sarah Lodge Brian McCluskie		Nicky Neville-Lee Bryan Neville-Lee	
Beadle	Rob Peachey	Sarah Lodge	Brian McCluskie	Alison Hall	Nicky Neville-Lee
Foyer	Len Berryman	Rob Peachey	Teresa Dunn	Liz Davies	Hannah Lodge

	7-Oct	14-Oct	21-Oct	28-Oct	
Carry in the Bible	Rob Peachey	Jeremy Davies	Liz Davies	Paul Denham	
Books & Offertory	Carol Hardyman Sarah Lodge	Doreen Cheesbrough Tom Cheesbrough	Tim Dunn Teresa Dunn	Barbara James David James	
Reading	Helen Moore	Bryan Neville-Lee	Nicky Neville-Lee	Betty Forrer	
Prepare Table		Sarah Lodge Rob Peachey		Doreen Cheesbrough Tom Cheesbrough	
Serve Communion		Helen Moore Rob Peachey David James Roger Morris		Margaret Morris Teresa Dunn	
Beadle	Helen Yare	Liz Davies	David James	Rob Peachey	
Foyer	Nicky Neville-Lee	Brian McCluskie	Carol Hardyman	Sarah Lodge	

	4-Nov	11-Nov	18-Nov	25-Nov	
Carry in the Bible	Teresa Dunn	David James	Brian McCluskie	Helen Moore	
Books & Offertory	Paul Denham Rob Peachey	Pat Berryman Len Berryman	Michael Clarke Rosemary Clarke	Brian McCluskie Jean McCluskie	
Reading	Michael Clarke	Paul Denham	Rob Peachey	Rosemary Clarke	
Prepare Table		Teresa Dunn Jean McCluskie		Nicky Neville-Lee Bryan Neville-Lee	
Serve Communion		Nicky Neville-Lee Bryan Neville-Lee Tom Cheesbrough Michael Clarke		Jeremy Davies Liz Davies	
Beadle	Sarah Lodge	Brian McCluskie	Alison Hall	Nicky Neville-Lee	
Foyer	Tim Dunn	Doreen Cheesbrough	Tom Cheesbrough	David James	

Please arrange your own duty swaps as required

