Welcoming,

Caring,

Sharing

September 2010

Newsletter

MINISTER

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The Sunday Plan

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Sunday 29th August	
11 am - Morning Worship	Conducted by the Prospective Minister
	Coffee after the service
Sunday 5th September	
11 am - Morning Worship	Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
	Coffee after the service
Sunday 12th September	
11 am Worship & Holy	Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Communion	Coffee after the service
Individual glasses	
Sunday 19th September	
11 am - Morning Worship	Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
	Coffee after the service
6:30 pm - Evening Service	Pump Street Methodist
Sunday 26th September	
9:30 am at Ombersley	Rev Jim Brown
11 am Worship & Holy	Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Communion	Coffee after the service
Common Cup	
Sunday 3rd October	
11 am - Harvest Festival	Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
	Coffee after the service
Sunday 10th October	
11 am Worship & Holy	Conducted by Rev David Ryan
Communion	Coffee after the service
Individual glasses	

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

In the book of Ecclesiastes you will find some very sound advice and a lot of common sense. He reminds us that there is nothing new under the sun; he tells us that the wise have their eyes open while fools walk in the dark. His poem which begins 'There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven' is probably his best known passage.

But I want to take you to chapter 5 where 'The Preacher' imparts some simple words of wisdom: 'When you make a promise to God, do not delay in fulfilling it – it is better not to make the promise than to make one and not fulfil it.' You won't be surprised to know that with these words comes a story!

Once upon a time (at the start of the 12th Century to be precise), a strange oddly shaped little man was visiting Rome. His name was Rahere and his occupation was Jester to the court of Henry 1. While in Rome he became ill and was convinced he was going to die – no NHS for him! He waited for death and as he waited, like many others in his situation, he decided to call on God for help, after all, what had he to lose?

He promised God that if he recovered he would show his gratitude by helping others who were ill. In time Rahere recovered – but what to do about his promise? One night he had a dream and in the dream he was back in London at the king's court. He saw himself ask the king for a swampy bog called Smooth Field – end of dream. And so Rahere journeys

back to London, back to his old employer to ask for the plot of land. After much abuse and perseverance the king eventually gave him the land.

As is the way with good stories, it wasn't long before the little man won the hearts of the children who lived near Smooth Field. They began to help him collect stones and soon their parents were helping too. Rahere explained his simple plan to anyone who would listen. Most treated him like the jester he once was, but some were impressed. A few gave money, others handed over building materials and many gave of their time and effort which was all they had.

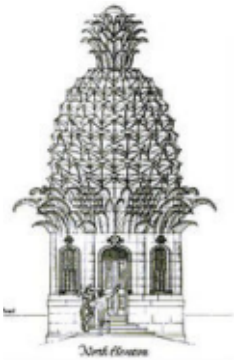
Gradually a building began to rise up on the Field. First a tiny church and then alongside it, a much larger building were completed. You've no doubt realised by now that this is no fairy tale. The buildings became known as St Bartholomew's and a modern, well equipped and world famous hospital now stands on that same site, still caring for the sick just as it did 800 plus years ago.

And it all began with a promise – a promise made and a promise kept. Rahere had probably never heard of Ecclesiastes or The Preacher or those words from chapter 5 but he knew instinctively that when you make a promise to God, don't delay in keeping it. It's a message that's a true for us today as it was for Rahere all those years ago, for haven't we all made our promises to God?

With love and best wishes,

Jim

A Pineapple House



If you have been watching 'Secret Britain' on BBC1 you may have seen (or will see) an item on the 'Dunmore Pineapple'. Below is a letter that Alison Hall wrote to the Peoples Friend after the building was pictured on the front cover.

"Thankyou for featuring the Pineapple on your cover. It was so good to see it there.
My mother was brought up in Dunmore Village and, as a family, we spent many holidays in the area, staying with my grandmother. We would often go to see the Pineapple Summerhouse when we were there.
My godmother was Peggy Gray, who was a friend of my mother's
Peggy became the Factor of the Dunmore Estate in the 1950's, and she held this job for many years."

Thanks to Alison for sharing this with us.

October Deadline

Items for inclusion in the October Newsletter should be given to Tim Dunn. 27a Cornmeadow Green, Claines, Worcester. WR3 7PN. Tel 01905 457909, Email newsletter@worcesterurc.org.uk by Sunday 26th September at the latest please.

commitment for life

The United Reformed Church has always taken its global responsibilities seriously.

One important way we express this is through Commitment for Life. Commitment for Life is about helping bring fullness of life to all people through generous and just stewardship. But it is also about understanding the roots of poverty and taking action against injustice. We hold the Bible imperative to 'love our neighbour as ourselves' at our core.

Today more than 40 per cent of United Reformed Churches support Commitment for Life. But with the economic crisis still being felt around the world, we need to encourage others to join us so that the great work of Christian Aid and the World Development Movement can grow.

John Marsh, Moderator of the General Assembly, visited Zimbabwe earlier this year. He travelled to Nyampanda, near the Mozambique border, to visit a vocational training project run by Silveira House, one of the many partners supported by Commitment for Life.

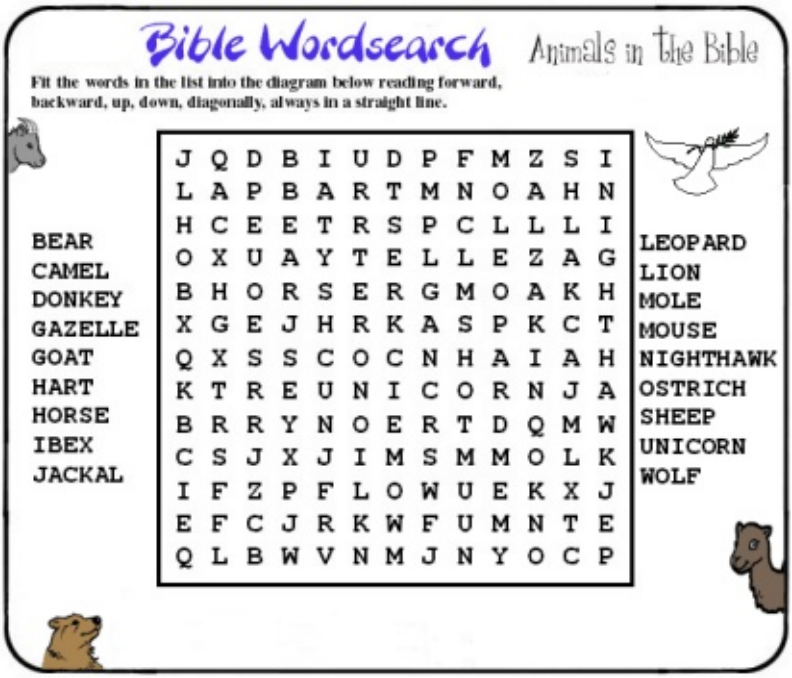
Those involved in the project were keen to show what they had achieved.
John says " It was great to see people who were living examples of what can be done through Christian Aid partners. Without our support projects like this cannot flourish. We need to be committed in the long term so that plans for development can be made and people can see the results of their hard work"

Childrens Page

I thought this might be a good idea for our young people (or young at heart). Let me know if you like it - Teresa Dunn

Ruth and Naomi

When a picture is held up to a mirror, everything looks the same, but is reversed. However, in these mirror images not everything is the same in both pictures. Can you find 20 things that are different?



Any one for (Table) Tennis?

Well, 12 months after I first mentioned it, it is still my hope to start a Table Tennis session once a week for anybody who is interested. We have a table stored away in the old shed that we need to move over into the hall, and then we should be away and running.

I initially suggested we play on a Friday evening, if you'd be interested (or anyone else in your family) let me know. Its a great way to get (or keep) fit as well.

Thanks,
Tim Dunn

Christian Aid Update

Roger Morris has received the following update from Christian Aid.

You will be pleased to know that Worcester churches raised a lot more money for Christian Aid in 2010 than we did last year. The total was £28,037.60 - compared with £25,525.82 collected in 2009.

In addition, we sent about £860 that had been given slightly earlier (some people can't wait for Christian Aid Week!!) to buy wells, and a further small sum was sent later.

All the money mentioned above was further increased by gift-aiding. So I am writing to thank you for all your hard work in organising this year's collection in your local Church. Please pass on the thanks of Christian Aid to your team of collectors, and do let your minister know the amount raised by your church (see below).

The world has some terrible problems, so although England had an austerity budget this year, many people overseas would welcome a bit of our austerity!

The total raised by your Church was £526.90.

The dates for Christian Aid for 2011 are May 15 to 21. I look forward to working with you again in 2011.

Albany Fellowship

For some time now I have been thinking that it might be a good idea to re-start the Albany Fellowship, and wondered if anyone would be interested.

Initially I would propose to meet on the first Thursday of each month starting on 2nd September at 2.30 p.m. in the church. The meetings would probably take the form of a social get-together/discussion with tea, perhaps inviting a speaker sometime in the future.

If you would be interested could you please let me know either at church or by telephone.

Hope we can find enough interested people.

Love Jean x (McCluskie)

P.S. Hopefully transport can be arranged for those who require it

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be celebrated at the morning service on Sunday 3rd October.
Further details of this will be given out during the Sunday Church Notices during September.

Multicultural Celebration 2011

I have had correspondence from the Secretary for Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministry last month to inform us of an event in September next year that we might wish to participate in.

It's to be held on Saturday 24th September 2011

",,,,,, the URC wants to gather together a special group of people for a MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION at Carrs Lane Centre, Birmingham. The feast will celebrate our life together in all its diversity. There will be inspirational stories to share, cultural presentations, workshops (dance, storytelling, garland making, drumming ...), a meal, activities for all age groups and worship.

if you have a group / individual that would prepare an item / performance that expresses your culture and faith (approximately 5-10 minutes). It can be drama, dance, music, song, poetry etc. Please give a short explanation for the programme."

I realise it's way ahead but if there's anyone out there who is really keen on being part of this perhaps they would let me know so I can give some indication to synod office. Carrs Lane Centre can only hold a certain amount of people. Churches are already giving an early response based on 2009's celebration hence this notice now! If you are unsure but would like further information when it's available let me know too.

Thanks everyone

Helen M

Malvern Update

Following the statement announcement in the August Bulletin re a prospective new minister, we are able to inform you of the following arrangements:

Sunday 29 August 2010 - Our prospective minister will preach with a view at our 11:00 am service in Worcester and then go onto Holly Mount URC at Malvern for a joint Malvern URC service to preach with a view at 3.00pm.

Saturday 18 September 2010 - The 'social' which had been earmarked for Saturday 28 August has now been changed. It will take place at Malvern Link URC from 4pm - 7pm and will probably take the form of a presentation and discussion. Obviously members from all 3 churches will be welcome and encouraged to come along. It's possible that we may be asked to contribute to the proceedings by bringing along some cakes but I will advise on that nearer the time.

Monday 20 September 2010 - 7:30pm -There will be a combined meeting for all members and regular attenders of all 3 churches in order to vote on whether the minister will be issued with a call. It has been agreed that there will be a single vote by the 3 churches by a show of hands. There will not be an opportunity to vote by proxy so if you want to vote it's important that you try and attend!
This meeting will take place at Malvern Link URC.

In view of the importance of this decision for the future of our 3 churches we do hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend and have the opportunity to meet the candidate!

At this moment in time we cannot divulge information regarding the candidate's name and where they are presently in ministry. Even after you have had the opportunity to meet this person we would ask folk to respect their wishes and not broadcast details until if and when a call has been made and accepted.

We will try and arrange transport for those who want to go across to Malvern as long as you let us know. I will create a list at the back of church for those who want to go and require transport

Both Jim, Rev Roger Woodall (Interim Moderator) and the elders here in Worcester and at Holly Mount and Malvern Link would be grateful for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

Thank you

Helen Moore
Secretary

Coffee News

I thought it would be appropiate for the congregation to know that the new coffee percolator has been bought with profits from Traidcraft. This seemed a good use for the money left in the Traidcraft account. The coffee after church is being bought from this account and there is enough money left to pay for coffee until the end of this year.

Nicky.

CHRISTIAN AID WORCESTER

Come and join us at our end-of–summer

TEA PARTY

at

St John in Bedwardine Church

Bromyard Road, St John's,
Worcester

SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER
2.30- 5.00 p.m.

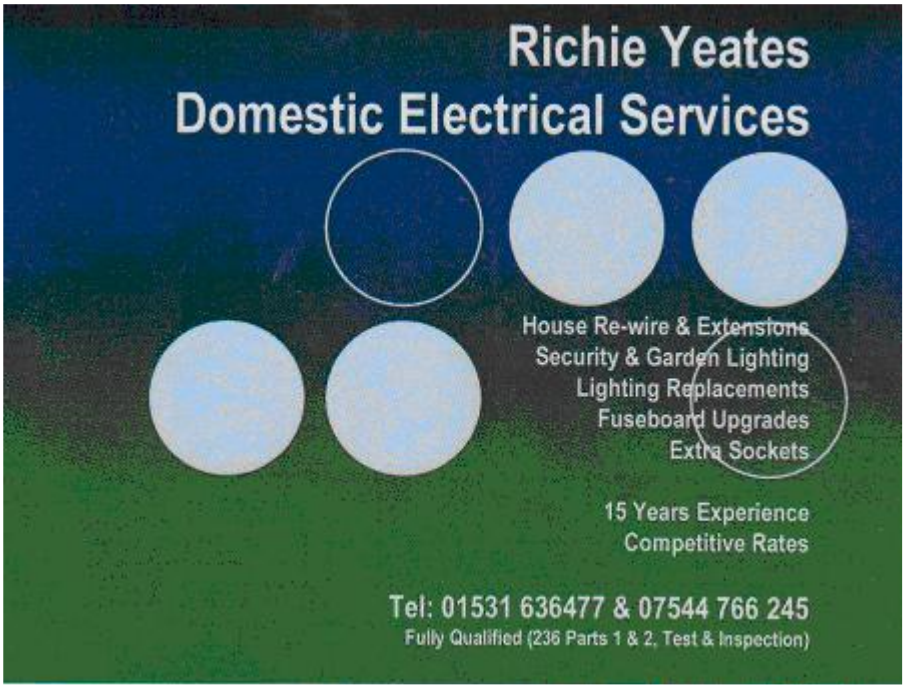
For just £4.00 enjoy home-made tea, scones and cakes and help us to raisefunds for Christian Aid and support the fantastic work being done around the world in over 40 different countries. There will be FairTrade and other stalls, music and, at 5pm, the opportunity to join in a short service of hymns and thanksgiving for the work of Christian Aid.

Church Family News

Brian Jones would like you to update your current Church Directory to include his new e-mail address which is: brian@brianjones.plus.com

Teresa and Tim would like to share the news of their fourth Grandchild named Jake, born to Richard and Emma, and also the Marriage of thier son Matthew to Sue.

If you have any news you would like to share with your church family please let us know.



Duty Rotas

	August 29th	Sept 5th	Sept 12th	Sept 19th
Carry in the Bible	B. Jones	M. Clarke	L. Brown	P.Williams
Books / Offertory	B. McCluskie J. McCluskie	T. Dunn T. Dunn	M. Morgan R. Michelmann	L. Davies J. Davies
Reading	M. Morgan	B. Neville-Lee	D. James	N. Neville-Lee
Prepare Table			L. Berryman P. Berryman	
Serve Communion			B. Jones S. Lodge B. McCluskie H. Moore	
Beadle	D. James	P. Denham	P. Denham	P. Denham
Foyer	P. Williams A. Hall	R. Peachey	R. Peachey	R. Peachey

	Sept 26th	Oct 3rd	Oct 10th	Oct 17th
Carry in the Bible	B. James	P. Williams	R.Michelmann	L. Berryman
Books / Offertory	M. Moore H. Moore	P. Smith J. Barber	P. Denham R. Peachey	M. Clarke R. Clarke
Reading	P. Denham	D. Cheesbrough	B.Jones	R. Peachey
Prepare Table	R. Clarke M. Clarke		C. Hardyman L. Brown	
Serve Communion	N. Neville-Lee B. Neville-Lee		T. Cheesbrough N. Neville-Lee B. Neville-Lee S. Lodge	
Beadle	P. Denham	J. Davies	J. Davies	J. Davies
Foyer	R. Peachey	C. Hardyman	C. Hardyman	C. Hardyman