



Welcoming,
Caring,
Sharing

February/March 2012

CHURCH ADDRESS:

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www.worcesterurc.org.uk

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The Sunday Plan



Sunday 29th January
11 am Worship

Conducted by The Worship Group
Coffee after the service

Sunday 5th February
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Peter Foster
Coffee after the service

Sunday 12th February
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Individual glasses

Conducted by Rev David Ryan
Coffee after the service

Sunday 19th February
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Tom Cheesbrough
Coffee after the service

Wednesday 22nd February
7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Ombersley

Sunday 26th February
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Common Cup

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 4th March
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Duncan Tuck
Coffee after the service

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

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 18th March
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Helen Moore
Coffee after the service

Sunday 25th March
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Common Cup

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown
Coffee after the service

Sunday 1st April
11 am Morning Worship
Palm Sunday

Conducted by Helen Yare
Coffee after the service

Thursday 5th April
7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Ombersley

Friday 6th April
Good Friday Walk of Witness

Details to be advised

Sunday 8th April
6:30 am Dawn Service
8 am Reflection
8:45 am Breakfast
10 am Easter Sunday Communion

Ombersley
Albany Terrace

Conducted by Rev Jim Brown

From the Manse

Dear Friends,



You may not have thought so but the Book of Nehemiah is a wonderfully uplifting and encouraging one. It may not be the page-turner book at bedtime sort of book, but with a nice cup of tea and a biscuit it will help while away at least a couple of those dark, wet winter afternoons. Try it for yourselves and see!

Nehemiah (just to remind you) was a cup-bearer in the palace of King Artaxerxes when, out of nowhere, God 'put it into his heart' to do something for Jerusalem, the city of his forefathers and his spiritual home. Together with his people, Nehemiah was in exile and he had heard from travellers and visitors to the palace that Jerusalem was broken down and desolate. And so, with the king's permission, he set off for the holy city to repair the walls and begin

the rebuilding of the city.

When he arrived at Jerusalem he found chaos worse than he had imagined. The walls were certainly down and the gates consumed with fire. Surveying the destruction he found that there wasn't enough flat even ground for his donkey to walk safely let alone his workforce. The task was already far greater than he had ever expected but he wasn't discouraged by its magnitude. He set about his task with energy and conviction.

2011 hasn't been a particularly easy year. Our 'walls' may not be broken down and destroyed but it feels like they are at least a bit cracked. It's up to us to strengthen them and to rebuild them. Nehemiah's prime purpose was to carry out the work with the help of the people who were already there. 'The God of heaven will prosper us', he declared, 'therefore we, his servants, will arise and build'. It was the locals who must carry out the task and its Christ's people on the spot who are called to be the agents of rebuilding today.

Nehemiah's second aim was to use everybody's diverse abilities and talents in the operation and so some built, some fetched and carried, some worked at the lathe, some at the forge, some stood guard, some cooked and others carried out the myriad jobs that were left. What was important was that everybody should pool their talents for the common cause.

So must it be for us as we start this new year of 2012. Some will preach, some will teach, others will sing, and some will cook and some will be administrators and treasurers. But there will be many less public and no less important contributions as well - the capacity for friendship, a sense of humour, the time to pray to name but a few.

The important thing for us this year is to continue our rebuilding and to plan and carry out that plan together. 'The work is great and large,' Nehemiah reminded his people, 'and we are separated upon the wall, one from another.' He recognised the dangers in the lack of unity – togetherness is the key word.

Finally we must set about our task prayerfully as Nehemiah did: 'Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build

it.' God is the source, the reason for our work; we are the tools. I hope and pray and trust that together we will make 2012 a year of growth for God's church and for God's people.

With love and best wishes for this New Year,
Jim

The logo for 'Commitment for Life' features the text 'commitment for life' in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. Above the text is a thin, orange, curved line that arches over the word 'commitment'. The entire logo is set against a background of a light blue dotted pattern.

commitment for life

Commitment for Life celebrates 20 years of action and being there for the long haul

What were you doing in 1992?

In 1992 DNA Fingerprinting was invented and in France Euro Disney opened. In the US Bill Clinton became President. The Average House Price was £68,634 and a gallon of petrol £2.13. There was no internet or email. The URC opened its National Youth Resource Centre in Yardley Hastings and at the York General Assembly Commitment for Life came into being.

Throughout the last 20 years it has tried to inform and inspire people to have an active and engaging faith listening to the words of Jesus to 'love our neighbour as ourselves'. Today churches choose to become a Commitment for Life church, promising to learn more about their chosen country and give each year so that long term development can happen. The original Provincial Advocates, as they were known, did a great job in getting churches on board and encouraging them. Some of them are still with the scheme today and we celebrate all their hard work in making Commitment for life the success it is.

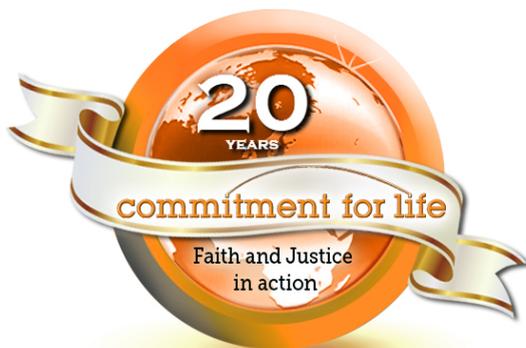
Early stories told of child mortality rates dropping in Bangladesh because of The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh's traditional birthing attendant training scheme. In Zimbabwe new farming methods were being tried out.

In 1992 the idea of giving 1% of your disposable income for development was high on the agenda. Today many still give that way but others do so by regular envelope giving or holding educational events. It is still personal giving.

Our partnerships with Christian Aid and The World Development Movement have developed too. We are indebted to them for their help towards bringing an end to poverty through producing resources, information and organising visits to partner countries.

With the world still in economic crisis, those who suffer the most are those least able to absorb the shortages. Today many are suffering the effects of changes in climate. Our job is not done; we need to walk with those who have no voice or hope.

If you are a Commitment for Life church, then thank you on behalf of those you have never met. If you are not, why not learn more about this life changing scheme at www.cforl.org.uk, email Imeadcforl@gmail.com or ring 01702 315981 for more information.



Pause for Thought

from the Worship Group



This month the following extracts are from The Prince's Trust
For further information on any of these stories visit their
Website: <http://www.princes-trust.org.uk>

About The Trust

The Prince's Trust is a youth charity that helps change young lives. We give practical and financial support, developing key workplace skills such as confidence and motivation. We work with 13 to 30-year-olds who have struggled at school, have been in care, are long-term unemployed or have been in trouble with the law.

We have helped more than 600,000 young people since 1976 and support 100 more each working day. More than three in four young people we helped last year moved into work, education or training.

Our history

The Trust has become the UK's leading youth charity, offering a range of opportunities including training, personal development, business start up support, mentoring and advice.

The Prince's Trust was founded in 1976 by The Prince of Wales. Having completed his duty in the Royal Navy, His Royal Highness became dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged young people in the UK, and began The Trust to deliver on that commitment.

What we do

The Prince's Trust helps change young lives.

Around one in five young people in the UK are not in work, education or training. Youth unemployment costs the UK economy £10 million a

day in lost productivity, while youth crime costs £1 billion every year.

We address this by giving practical and financial support to the young people who need it most. We help develop key skills, confidence and motivation, enabling young people to move into work, education or training.

Programmes to support young people

We run programmes that encourage young people to take responsibility for themselves – helping them build the life they choose rather than the one they've ended up with:

The Enterprise Programme provides money and support to help young people start up in business.

The Team Programme is a 12-week personal development course, offering work experience, qualifications, practical skills, community projects and a residential week.

Get intos are short courses offering intensive training and experience in a specific sector to help young people get a job.

Development Awards are small grants to enable young people to access education, training or work.

Community Cash Awards are grants to help young people set up a project that will benefit their community.

xl clubs give 14-16 year olds who are at risk of truanting, exclusion and underachievement a say in their education. They aim to improve attendance, motivation and social skills.

Notes from Church Meeting

For anyone who couldn't be there, here are some points from the last Church Meeting in November.



The Hut – Albany Terrace Site

We await a site visit from Rachel Wakeman, Synod Property Advisor to establish the next stage of the proceedings regarding the disposal / sale of the hut site.

Team Update (Worcester, Malvern Link & Holly Mount)

Jim reported that he is having to get used to checking where he is supposed to be on a Sunday morning!

In May 2012 there will be a joint Elders Meeting followed closely on in June by a joint Church Meeting. The joint church meeting will be more of a social affair.

5th Sundays – 2012

It was decided that for 2012, for any 5th Sundays it will be left to the Minister who is taking the service on that day to decide on the content for these services. They may be led by a group from our own church if and where necessary.

Christmas Charity Giving 2011

Although circumstances have changed this year Maggs will still receive our annual Christmas Gift of £1,000.

A separate fund raising activity can be organised in 2012 to go towards Cambridge Westminster College's £7million pound appeal.

Church Flowers

We agreed that because of the financial climate we would limit the weekly amount for Church Flowers when nobody is on the rota to £5. All agreed that it would be acceptable to provide some artificial flowers for display for some Sundays.

Group Walk



On Saturday 21st January 18 intrepid members of Worcester, Malvern Link and Holly Mount URC together with dog joined together at Madresfield for a leisurely 4 mile stroll from Madresfield to Old Hills via Deblins Green and then back along part of the Three Choirs Way. We were blessed with dry weather, a stiff breeze at times and on the whole relatively dry conditions underfoot. Views at our lunch stop on the top of Old Hills were excellent. We could clearly see Worcester Cathedral, Glovers Needle and the old hospital Powick in the distance. We were even able to look inside the church at Madresfield when we arrived back with one or two of the group having the opportunity to look at the Carillon bells in the bell tower (hope I've got that right Dennis!).

Thanks to all those who came along and supported Martyn and Helen Moore for this expedition, not forgetting our clergy and their spouses. We hope it might encourage similar joint ventures to take place with all this good walking country on our doorstep. A bit risky we know doing this in January but God is good and it went well.



Worcester & The Malverns
United Reformed Churches

Wallace & Gromit and the Gospel

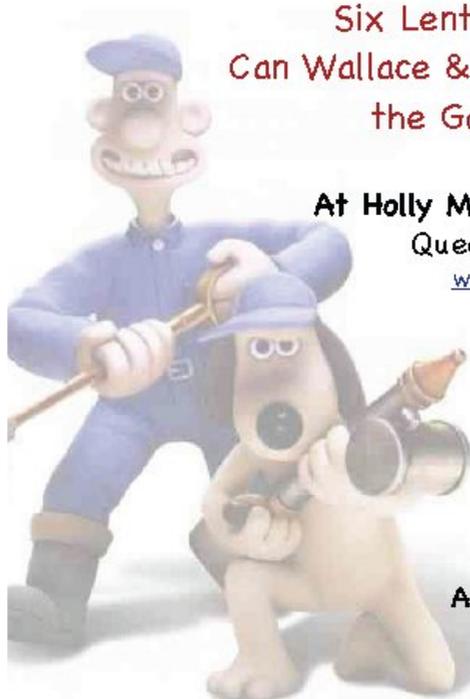
Six Lent reflections for 2012.
Can Wallace & Gromit help us understand
the Good News of Jesus?

At Holly Mount United Reformed Church
Queens Drive, Great Malvern
www.hollymountchurch.org.uk

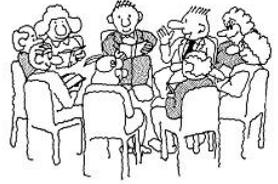
Thursday 23rd Feb
Wednesday 29th Feb
Tuesday 6th Mar
Monday 12th Mar
Thursday 22nd Mar
Wednesday 28th Mar

All start at 7pm for about 40 mins
Refreshments served after

You don't have to be crackers about cheese to come!



Albany Fellowship



As Albany Fellowship recommences on 2nd February 2012, we look forward to seeing you all, where we can catch up with friends over a lunch of soup and a roll. This means that we will meet at 1 pm instead of 2:30 pm.

In March we will meet at the usual 2:30 pm and there will be a talk on Africa by Teresa Dunn.

Advance Notice

On Saturday April 28th we are planning a Luncheon and Bring and Buy sale in the Church Hall. We are hoping to advertise this well, therefore we will be looking for Bric-a-Brac, unwanted gifts you have hidden at the back of a drawer, seedlings etc and anything else you might have that we could sell.

The idea is that we open at 11.30am and close at around 2pm.

Best Wishes
Jean and Teresa

Thanks

Eileen would once again like to thank members of the transport rota (and everyone else who helps) for kindly giving her a lift on a Sunday, and for the arms to rest on, and the cups of coffee, and the Hymns found for her.

Memories of late summer on the river Wye

It all started on our 50th Birthday 26th July 2010, that is me and my twin Brother Stephen. We were with the whole family, up in the Lake District celebrating our birthday. A joint present from the family to us was an outdoor pursuits weekend in mid Wales by the river Wye. Stephen and I eventually managed to arrange a weekend in March last year at the outdoors centre. We plumped for: 2 man Canadian canoeing down the river Wye, clay pigeon shooting and vertical wall climbing with abseiling+ zip wires. After day one we both agreed, the most enjoyable activity would be, the canoeing down the beautiful river Wye; it was then we decided to invite all our siblings to get together for a weekend canoeing on the river Wye. It would be the first time since we were children that we would actually all be together just as brothers and sisters enjoying a holiday together.

It was to be the 1st weekend in September, we were to start from Ross on Wye, canoe down to Symonds Yat East to overnight at the Saracens Head Inn, then next morning carry on down river (limbs allowing) to our pickup point at Redbrook just South of Monmouth. Katherine and Susan my two eldest sisters made their way to Worcester from the Lakes and Preston. We were joined by my brothers Stephen and Keith at the canoe centre, they had driven down from London and Reading respectively. Unfortunately my youngest sister, Heather, could not make it from Brisbane, Australia.

We were kitted out with our canoes, lifejackets, paddles and dryboxes (to house clothes, food and drink). To start off, it was boys against girls; we were all a bit wobbly



on first taking to the water; however we soon gained our balance and confidence. The skies were blue, the temperature not quite in the 20's however we were meeting the slight headwind with fortitude, the wind did eventually dropped for the rest of the day.

The difference between driving the journey to Monmouth from Ross on the A40 and paddling down the river Wye along the same route is tremendous. As we paddled down the river with the sun on our faces there was beauty all around: Moorhens, ducks, cormorants and swans feeding amongst the flowing manes of crow-foot beds, cows grazing by the river banks, kingfishers glancing past us, and not a wasp in sight. Come midday we stopped to rest and eat our first picnic, on the stony river shore, the food and wine were much appreciated. Slightly begrudgingly we returned to canoes but not before swapping around to make it boy/girl teams in the canoes to enable the two canoes to progress at the same speed down river.

On passing the steep limestone tree clad cliffs of Symonds Yat we knew we were approaching the warmth, comfort, good food and drink of the Saracens Head Inn, just in time as it had just started to drizzle.

Heaving our canoes out of the water we were able to store them in the pub's locked yard. We made our way up above the bar to the rooms and after a quick hot shower the boys were down on the pub veranda having our first much needed drink, overlooking the river watching the rope ferry bringing diners and drinkers across from Symonds Yat West. Good thing a table was reserved when the rooms were booked. Our sisters joined us and we went on to have a very pleasant meal and evening before retiring to bed shattered.

Next day, weather damp and grey, but with an improving outlook, we ate a hearty breakfast, during which we discussed our

plans for the rest of the journey. We had heard the night before in the bar that the annual Monmouth charity raft race was to start at midday with 300 odd rafts setting off from Monmouth to finish at Redbrook, our route, our destination. Local knowledge has it that the crowds watching the race participate by standing on any available bridge crossing the river along the route to cheer their favourite raft-team along, but lobbing flour bombs and rotten eggs on the others! There was a high probability we would get caught up in it all (but we were just tourists minding our own business).

The decision was to set off as soon as possible after breakfast and get past Monmouth before noon. Alas, best made plans We not only had to negotiate the rapids after Symonds Yat, but then paddle all the way to Monmouth against a head wind. Turning the last bend on the river before Monmouth, we could see in the distance rafts being launched on to the river just before a river crossing bridge. As we paddled closer, we could hear the raft race public address system and air horns. Closer still we heard laughing, shouting and the general hubbub of the public enjoying a Sunday afternoon down by the river.

Were we to stop at Monmouth and let the raft race finish, that would mean we would miss our pick up from Redbrook to take us back to Ross, or were we to paddle like mad to dodge the warring rafts, and missiles from the bridge crossings? We decided on option two. We did paddle like mad; we did get hit by raw eggs and flour bombs from the crowds on the bridges above, just as if we had entered our canoes in the raft race, devoid of fancy dress. We paddled past Batmobiles, Noah`s Ark, a gin palace, a tropical hut, King Neptune raft, and many many more strange rafts all the way to Redbrook- in a canoe you can go faster than a fancy dress raft!

I was quite sad to come to the end of our journey, the hectic race pass



the raft race was a thrilling end to a lovely leisurely paddle down the river Wye.

Hopefully, we are going to do it again with my sister from Australia who is coming over late this summer. Maybe I should plan it for the weekend of the Monmouth charity raft race.

Why didn't we, as brothers and sisters, do something like this before in all the years that have gone by since we left our family home one by one?

John Elliott

Have you taken part in any activity you would like to share with us?

Table Tennis (or)

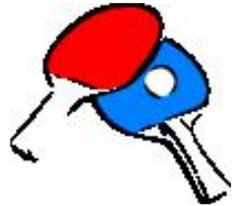


Table Tennis started back on 20th January in the church hall on Friday nights.

Please do come along and have a go, the more players we have the more fun we have.

It was suggested by one person, in jest, that if we were playing snooker they would come. Is there any alternative you would like to play? If there is enough demand we could add that as well alongside the table tennis.

Newsletter 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 18th March at the latest please.

Worcester URC Duty Rotas

	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	

	4-Mar	11-Mar	18-Mar	25-Mar	
Carry in the Bible	Tom Cheesbrough	Len Berryman	Michael Clarke	Rosemary Clarke	
Books & Offertory	Carol Hardyman Sarah Lodge	Bryan Neville-Lee Nicky Neville-Lee	Doreen Cheesbrough Tom Cheesbrough	Tim Dunn Teresa Dunn	
Reading	Margaret Morris	Nicky Neville-Lee	Jeremy Davies	Liz Davies	
Prepare Table		Lynne Brown Margaret Morgan		Teresa Dunn Jean McCluskie	
Serve Communion		Tom Cheesbrough Michael Clarke Jeremy Davies Liz Davies		Teresa Dunn Paul Denham	
Beadle	Helen Yare	Rob Peachey	David James	Sarah Lodge	
Foyer	Tim Dunn	Nicky Neville-Lee	Doreen Cheesbrough	Tom Cheesbrough	

	1-Apr	8-Apr	15-Apr	22-Apr	29-Apr
Carry in the Bible	Nicky Neville-Lee	Hannah Lodge	Robert Lodge	Rob Peachey	Jeremy Davies
Books & Offertory	Barbara James David James	Paul Denham Rob Peachey	Pat Berryman Len Berryman	Michael Clarke Rosemary Clarke	June Barber Brian Jones
Reading	Margaret Dodds	Tim Dunn	Carol Hardyman	Sarah Lodge	Teresa Dunn
Prepare Table		Doreen Cheesbrough Tom Cheesbrough		Lynne Brown Margaret Morgan	
Serve Communion		Brian Jones Brian McCluskie Nicky Neville-Lee Bryan Neville-Lee		Sarah Lodge Helen Moore	
Beadle	Brian McCluskie	Teresa Dunn	Liz Davies	Nicky Neville-Lee	Helen Yare
Foyer	David James	Paul Denham	Jeremy Davies	Bryan Neville-Lee	Len Berryman

Please arrange your own duty swaps as required