



**Welcoming,
Caring,
Sharing**

October/November 2013

MINISTER

**Rev Duncan Tuck
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CHURCH SECRETARY

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CHURCH ADDRESS:

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www.worcesterurc.org.uk

The Sunday Plan



Sunday 6th October
11 am Worship

Conducted by Rev. Duncan Tuck
Coffee after the service

Sunday 13th October
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Individual glasses

Conducted by Rev Tom Cheesbrough
Coffee after the service

Sunday 20th October
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Terry Blake
Coffee after the service

Sunday 27th October
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Common Cup

Conducted by Rev Duncan Tuck
Coffee after the service

Sunday 3rd November
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Helen Yare
Coffee after the service

Sunday 10th November
11 am Worship & Holy Communion
Individual glasses

Conducted by Helen Moore
Remembrance Sunday
Coffee after the service

Sunday 17th November
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rob Ellis
Coffee after the service

Sunday 24th November
10:50am Worship & Holy Communion
Common Cup

Conducted by TBC
Coffee after the service

Sunday 1st December
11 am Morning Worship

Conducted by Rev Duncan Tuck
Coffee after the service

From the Manse

Dear friends



I have been re-reading my library. Partly this is due to a desire to sweep away any dross I'm still hanging on to and not feel so cluttered. Whatever the reason, I came across a slim volume I forgot I had. It is a 'Faerie Romance' called *Phantastes*, written in 1895 by George MacDonald. MacDonald is an interesting man, as shown by the introduction written by CS Lewis.

MacDonald was born in 1824 and, in the way of many Victorians, dabbled in many things. He was a devout Christian who received a 'call' to become a minister in 1850. But he got into trouble quicker than I can, accused by the deacons of 'heresy' and being tainted with 'German theology.' The deacons showed a novel way of trying to get rid of him, by lowering his salary in the hope he would give up (please don't try that one).

For some time he struggled on, often helped by poor parishioners who did not share the views of the rich deacons. But eventually he had to leave, and embarked on a career of lecturing, tutoring, occasional preaching, writing, and 'odd jobs.' He lived like this, often very close to poverty and starvation, until he died.

To CS Lewis, George MacDonald was a great man who made a tremendous impression on him. He did not appear to resent his treatment. He did not hate his upbringing, but loved his father with all his heart. He disagreed with some of his Calvinist roots, but loved the principles and strength of faith. In none of his writings does he appear to be anxious or fretful. Instead he had a deep faith and peace of mind. CS Lewis says MacDonald's peace of mind came from resting in what MacDonald called 'the holy

Present.' This peace made him sunny, playful, deeply appreciative of beautiful things that money can't buy, yet also deeply content to do without them.

Phantastes is not easy to read, but it reflects this great peace and joy, and made an enormous impression on Lewis. And re-reading it, I am again struck by the joy and appreciation of all with which God surrounds us. But we can't force ourselves to appreciate what is around us. As MacDonald found, it can only come from an understanding of the love of God and a resting in our Father. When we appreciate God more than what is around us, then everything else can be seen and utilised with joy, or discarded without sorrow. We can have a deep peace that is never shaken, because our trust is in the one who is a rock and can never be moved.

MacDonald learned that, whatever his circumstances (which were often awful) the best place to be was resting in God no matter what. I am certainly asking God to help me come to such a place. I pray you will also.

Every blessing

Duncan

Craft Morning

When: Saturday, November 9th. 10.30 am until lunchtime.

Where: United Reformed Church Hall.

What: Please join us to make Christmas Cards and other Festive Crafts.

Lunch provided, but please book a place.

Contact: Nicky Neville-Lee 01905 23569 for details.

All Ages Event.

Diary Dates

Wednesday, October 2nd	Elders Meeting at 7 pm
Saturday, October 19th	Church Cleanup
Monday, October 21st	Area Meeting at Malvern Link at 7.30 pm
Thursday, November 7th	Albany Fellowship at 2.30 pm
Saturday, November 9th	Craft Morning at 10.30 am
Tuesday, November 12th	Elders Meeting at 7 pm
Sunday, December 1st	Church Meeting after the Service

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



Harvest

I would like to thank all those who gave donations for our Harvest. Whether it was financial, produce or greenery your help was gratefully received.

Our Church looked wonderful which was the result of all your hard work on the Saturday.

Thank you again, Teresa Dunn

Items for the December Newsletter

If you have any items for inclusion in the December Newsletter please give them to Tim Dunn. 27a Cornmeadow Green, Claines, Worcester. WR3 7PN. Tel 01905 457909, Email newsletter@worcesterurc.org.uk by Sunday 17th November at the latest please.

Silent Retreat

Tuesday to Thursday
22nd to 24th October 2013

An opportunity to

- * listen to God
- * allow God to minister to us
and bless us
- * deepen our relationship with
God



£140 per person (£120 if unwaged)
Full Board—no single supplement

For further information please contact: *Ian Ring, Community Coordinator,
Barnes Close, Chadwich, Bromsgrove, B61 0RA
(Email: cfrenquiry@aol.com Tel: 01562 710231)*

Coffee Morning



and Box Covering Session

Saturday, November 23rd. at the United Reformed Church Hall from 10.30 am to 12 noon, we will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of Christmas Parcels for Maggs and St. Pauls Hostel.

Please join us to cover some boxes to be used for this project and raise money to buy extra presents. Drop off any goods for the boxes we are filling.



Contact Nicky Neville-Lee for more details.

This is a Britannia Square Residents' Charity morning.

Rev Dr Phillip Rees

Most of you will be aware that Revd Dr Phillip Rees is no longer a candidate for our part-time Ministerial position. The reason for this is because that shortly before he was due to Preach-with-a-View, Phillip was offered a 50% appointment within the Methodist Church for one year and this he accepted. In addition, he also works part-time at a hospital. It was therefore the view of the Vacancy Committee that a further 50% position with our 3 Churches would be too difficult for him to fulfil and the offer of an invitation to apply for the post was withdrawn.

Our search continues and we prayerfully hope that we will soon find a suitable person to join us.

Pat Berryman
Church Secretary

Albany Fellowship



What a fantastic afternoon we had in September when we met. There were about 16 of us including Duncan, our Minister. I think it was just as well that we had nothing planned as it turned out to be just what everyone needed....a GOOD OLD NATTER! And natter we did!! We also found time to demolish cream tea's and cups of tea galore!! It was lovely to catch up after the Summer with how everyone was and what we had been up to. Thank You to all of you who joined us.

PLEASE NOTE: There is NO meeting on 3rd October as both Jean and Teresa are tied up in October.

We do, however, look forward to seeing you all at Fellowship in November.

The soup and a roll lunch that was discussed in September with a suggested date of 2nd November will now be held in the New Year as Jean and Teresa are both busy throughout November and then it be very near to Christmas so we felt the New Year was a better option.

We thank you all for your support in coming along to the meetings and apologise for the cancellation of the October meeting. It has been quite a year for both of us this year.

See you all on 7th November at 2.30pm.

Love and Best Wishes

Jean and Teresa

Table Tennis

We have just restarted our Friday Night Table Tennis Club after our Summer Break.



Everyone is welcome, regardless of ability.

We meet from 7:30 pm, but some weeks are there from 6.30 pm, ask Tim if you are interested and check the times on a particular week.

Don't forget, we also have a pool table available if you fancy a game that is a little less active!

Church Clean Up

On Saturday October 19th we will be holding an Autumn Cleanup morning at the Church from 9.30 am until 12 noon.

There are a number of cleaning jobs that need to be undertaken, so anybody who can support this event would be most welcome.



Sponsored Cycle Ride

On the Second Saturday in September Tim and Teresa took part in The Sponsored Cycle Ride organised each year by the Historic Churches Preservation Trust. The idea is to visit as many churches as you can in 7 hours, you are allowed to walk if you like, but one participant recorded himself as 'by car' which is probably stretching it a bit.



We started at Pershore Bridge. Maybe a strange place to begin as there is no church. We cycled on to start our ride at Great Comberton, just in time to catch the lady setting the church up for the day. At each church we signed a Register to say we arrived, and they signed our sponsor forms. Refreshments are nearly always offered – but there is a limit to the volume of Orange squash you can consume in one Day!

Our first target was to cycle around Bredon Hill ticking off all the village churches on the way, and blowing a raspberry at all the Villages who didn't have a church we could visit. So we did both the Combertons, Bricklehampton, Elmley Castle, Ashton under Hill, Beckford, Overbury and Kemerton. The weather was kind to us and we were soon heading for Bredon, Bredons Norton, Eckington, Birlingham and back around to Pershore Abbey. After lunch at the Abbey we were still feeling fresh enough for another circuit, so headed to Pinvin, Wyre Piddle, Lower Moor, Fladbury, Charlton and Crophorne, before returning to Pershore Bridge via Wick.

This was where Teresa called it a day after ticking off 20 churches over 35 miles. Charlton probably won the award for giving us the warmest welcome. The church was full of folks preparing for their Harvest Festival.

Tim cycled on in the late afternoon to collect another 6 churches on the 15 mile ride back to Worcester. These were Broughton Hackett, Peopleton, While Ladies Aston, Churchill, Spetchley and Whittington.

It was a lovely day cycling around the little country churches of Worcestershire, and raising money at the same time. Half the money goes to the Historic Churches Trust and the other half goes to our Church. Maybe next year we can open our church for visitors, and if you feel fit enough you could go out on the ride yourself!

Tim and Teresa

Book Group

Our Book Group was very low in numbers in August (in fact Nicky very much enjoyed talking to herself), but hopefully with Autumn coming on more of us will be around to share a good natter about books.



Due to sheer bad planning Tim has taken a job which means most weeks he will be working on Tuesdays, so we are looking to move our monthly Book Group Meetings to Wednesdays at 2:30 pm. Maybe this will suit you better and you will be able to join us. We just talk about books we have read over the previous few weeks, drink tea or coffee, and enjoy each others company. So you are not committed to reading anything in particular. Look out for notices about our next meeting and feel free to join us.

Prayer Partners 2013

VOTE IMAGE

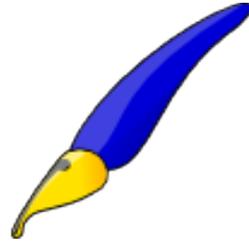
We pray for those who face injustice because of ruling parties who do not believe in democracy. For those who have no land rights such as the Adivasi people in Bangladesh or the Palestinians whose land is now on the other side of the separation barrier.



Action: Take a piece of paper and draw an 'x' in the middle of it. It is such a simple action but one that is packed full of so much meaning and importance. Your opportunity to have your say, make your voice heard and live in a democracy is a right so valuable that people have fought and died for it. Across the world millions still do not have that human right and many, even when allowed to vote, cannot do so safely. Thank God for your voice and pray for people who are still waiting for their voice to be heard.

PEN IMAGE

We pray for those who give generously of their time and treasure. Those who write letters, sign campaign postcards and pray for an end to injustice. Uphold them and give them strength to carry on in your name so all may have a life full and free.



Action: "The pen is mightier than the sword." (Edward Bulwer-Lytton) Take a pen and hold it in your hand as if ready to write something down. It may seem like such a simple thing but the humble pen has the power to do great things. To write a letter, sign a campaign postcard, make out a cheque, fill in a gift aid declaration. It also gives you the freedom and ability to document, record, inspire, motivate and encourage. It is life changing. Ask God to help you use this pen wisely.

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

CforL Logo CA Logo WDM logo THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Worcester URC Duty Rotas

	6-Oct	13-Oct	20-Oct	27-Oct	
Books/Foyer & Offertory	Roger Morris Margaret Morris	Carol Hardyman Sarah Lodge	Doreen Cheesbrough Tom Cheesbrough	Tim Dunn Teresa Dunn	
Reading	Sarah Lodge	Teresa Dunn	Roger Morris	Brian McCluskie	
Prepare Table		Sarah Lodge Rob Peachey		Teresa Dunn Jean McCluskie	
Serve Communion		Paul Denham Brian McCluskie Sarah Lodge Helen Moore		Rob Peachey David James	
Beadle	Rob Peachey	Helen Yare	David James	David James	

	3-Nov	10-Nov	17-Nov	24-Nov	
Books/Foyer & Offertory	Paul Denham Rob Peachey	Pat Berryman Len Berryman	Michael Clarke Rosemary Clarke	Brian McCluskie Jean McCluskie	
Reading	Helen Moore	David James	Bryan Neville-Lee	Betty Forrer	
Prepare Table		Doreen Cheesbrough Tom Cheesbrough		Nicky Neville-Lee Bryan Neville-Lee	
Serve Communion		Roger Morris Margaret Morris Tom Cheesbrough Michael Clarke		Jeremy Davies Liz Davies	
Beadle	Nicky Neville-Lee	Liz Davies	Pat Berryman	Paul Denham	

	1-Dec	8-Dec	15-Dec	22-Dec	29-Dec
Books/Foyer & Offertory	Carol Hardyman Betty Forrer	Bryan Neville-Lee Nicky Neville-Lee	Barbara James David James	Sarah Lodge Margaret Dodds	Jeremy Davies Liz Davies
Reading	Nicky Neville-Lee	Michael Clarke	Paul Denham	Rob Peachey	Margaret Morris
Prepare Table		Teresa Dunn Jean McCluskie		Doreen Cheesbrough Tom Cheesbrough	
Serve Communion		Paul Denham Sarah Lodge Brian McCluskie Nicky Neville-Lee		Bryan Neville-Lee Helen Moore	
Beadle	Rob Peachey	David James	Helen Yare	Nicky Neville-Lee	Liz Davies

PLEASE ARRANGE YOUR OWN DUTY SWAPS AS REQUIRED

