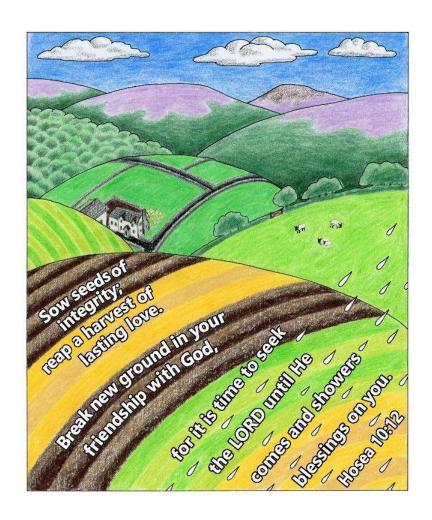


# 'Sharing God's love so that all may know Jesus'



# Connections



October 2021

The Church Magazine for Warwick Road URC & West Orchard URC

Warwick Road URC 10 Warwick Row Coventry CV1 1EX West Orchard URC Baginton Road Coventry CV3 6FP



# In this month's magazine

Dear Friends	
West Orchard pastoral news	
Women's Prayer Breakfast	
News in Brief from around the UK and beyond	5
Harvest Foodbank donations	6
Commitment for Life (Zimbabwe)	7
Church Away Day	
Warwick Road Church Centre and Cafe - October Update	
Poetry Café	10
The Smallest Beatitudes by Joseph Folliet	11
The Way I See It	11
Puzzle Pages	12
Mouse Makes	14
Connections – November 2021 issue deadline	
Worship at Warwick Road & West Orchard – October 2021	16
Church Contacts	16



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#### Dear Friends

We do not have a permanent city in this world: rather we look to a city that is yet to come ....
You will be richly welcomed into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
[Hebrews 13:14; 2 Peter 1:11]



A few of you, no doubt, will have taken advantage of the special offers which various hotels have advertised in recent days in an effort to recoup lost revenue over the last 18 months or so – certainly the Stone family has. Whether as a short 'staycation' or to visit family and friends, if we have been able to book and pay in advance, we have been able to stay at far less than the premium rates. The rooms have not been luxurious but they are clean and comfortable, ideally suited for breaking a journey or making a flying visit to a particular area. I probably wouldn't want to stay in one for long, and certainly not for an extended holiday but they were not designed for that – they are aimed fair and square at travellers passing through.

There is a lesson for us here in terms of faith. We should never be those who settle down spiritually in one place, feeling that we have reached our destination; instead, we should be engaged in a journey of discipleship, an ongoing pilgrimage leading to ever-new horizons, and finding fresh expressions of God's love for us. Whatever age you are, there is always more to see and explore, and perhaps teach, for, as the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us, in this life we are merely passing through. Our destination is not on Earth but in Heaven.

In our possible new journey together as West Orchard and Warwick Road URCs, we have set up various working groups to look at our joint Worship, Buildings, Administration, Communications and Finance; hopefully, you will be willing to join one or other of these groups. Don't wait to be asked – pray and see what God is calling you to. There will also be talks about social activities, special causes and many more things that we need to think about in the days to come. There will be special Church Meetings to keep you informed and, as these are still talks, there will be a Church Meeting for each church towards the end of November / early December for you to make the final decision about a merger of the two churches.

Please get involved, even if it is just thinking up a new name for the joint congregation based at the Baginton Road site. So far, I have heard "South Coventry URC" (boring!) or "Baginton Road URC" (still boring but at least gives an indication of where the church will be). Everyone can have a say, young and old. What would *you* like this exciting new Church to be called? Let either myself or Pete have your ideas!

God bless,

**Yvonne** 

### West Orchard pastoral news

At the time of writing, I am sorry to report that Margot Mather is in hospital after being unwell for the last two weeks. Hilary and Lesley are appreciative of your prayers.



Sue had a few days out of action after injuring her leg but is out and about again.

Our Minister Yvonne is pleased to report that she has had a successful cataract operation.

Please remember to use the prayer chain.

Rose Tomlinson





## Women's Prayer Breakfast

Next dates: 16 October, 13 November, 11 December 2021 8.30am in the West Orchard Small Hall (entry by the door up short ramp nearest to Ridgeway Ave)

A warm welcome to all women from both our churches and any friends from another or no church. We meet once a month at 8.30am for a bringand-share breakfast - there is always more than enough.

After over a year of Zoom meetings, one breakfast in the church car park and one in the attractive surroundings of Farmer's Fayre at Stoneleigh, we will be returning 'home' to West Orchard, distanced around the tables.

It is an opportunity to offer each other encouragement and a listening ear as we share our good times and our tough times, laughter and even tears. We spend about 20 minutes with an activity to nurture our spirit and soul and always end in prayer for concerns shared as we talk. There is no obligation to speak, you can just listen and eat too.



Nobody comes every time, come when you can. We promise that it is always worth getting up for!

Margaret O'Kane

# NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

The Churches Conservation Trust has 356 abandoned churches under its remit. These are very predominately Church of England and are mainly Grade I or II\* listed, but with a budget of £4m from the Government and Church Commissioners, it is hard to sustain the buildings in the long run. Fundraising has been successful, but can this be sustained? In Saintbury, Gloucestershire, St Nicholas Church urgently needs £150,000 for roof repairs to save its 17<sup>th</sup> century frescoes. In September a fundraising celebration took place and the longer-term plan is to turn the church into an arts centre. Other conversions have seen a nursery, soft-play centre or farmers' market, and in Worcester a combined cafe with worship area. Fundraising activities have included overnight camping in a church ("champing"), and even a beer festival. Coventry Cathedral hosted a gin-tasting event the other year.

In 1525 a Richard Wright bequeathed small pockets of land in Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire, to a trust for "the repairing and keeping of the clock in the Church of St. Vigor and the ringing of the curfew and the day bell". Since then, the land became 17 acres, was formed into a trust and is now rented to a local farmer. Cambridge University's oldest college, Peterhouse, has just bought 9 acres for £18.5m. Because of trust restrictions, the money can only be spent in Fulbourn.

The Church of England is preparing for compensation claims from former followers of a cult-like movement known as the Nine O'Clock Service (or NOS) that started in the Sheffield area. This was a nightclub-style evangelical movement aimed at young people, which started in the 1980s and 1990s. It ceased in 1995 following a BBC documentary and a Sunday newspaper revelation.

Thomas Cromwell was known as, amongst many things, a radical religious person. Research of his rented London townhouse seems to contradict the image of an evangelical Protestant. A report in the Journal of the British Archaeological Association by Dr Nick Holder on the inventories shows he kept items such as holy relics and a home altar, more in keeping with an English Catholic.



An interim report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has said that some religious organisations in England and Wales were "morally failing" children. The Inquiry has heard evidence from 38 groups, including Christians, Jehovah's Witness, Baptists, Methodists, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and nonconformist Christian denominations. The hearings have led to 15 reports and it is hoped a final report will be published in 2022.

The Church of England Bishop of Ebbsfleet has resigned upon his conversion to be a Roman Catholic. He did not support women joining the priesthood or the 2014

move to allow them to become bishops. Of the 110 bishoprics within the Church of England there are seven vacancies.

A survey to record the details in 19,000 graveyards within the Church of England has started and will take seven years to complete. The plan is to laser-scan the headstones, graves and memorials, thus creating a "Map for Graves". The project is funded by Historic England, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Family Search and My Heritage. Family historians will be especially pleased as basic information will be available free of charge.

In July the Vatican announced that the annual worldwide collection in Catholic churches for the Pope's charities (known as Peter's Pence) amounted to £44m, which was less than in any of the previous three years.

**Barry Stelfox** 



#### Harvest Foodbank donations

# Harvest Festivals: West Orchard 10 October & Warwick Road 17 October

Our harvest gifts will be donated to Coventry Food Bank for distribution to the 12 centres where people can bring vouchers to collect their food. These centres include Coventry City Mission, where we have donated in the past, and St Catherine's Stoke Aldermoor, where West Orchard have been donating over the past 18 months. The system has changed now and all donations are centralised at the main warehouse, bagged up into food parcels and then sent out to the distribution centres to give out, ensuring a better flow of food.

#### In August in Coventry:

- 16,884.14kg of food was donated by individuals, businesses and supermarkets
- 18,928.4kg of food was given out in food parcels
- That leaves a shortfall of over 2,000kg, the equivalent of 5,000 regular tins!

In 2020 over 390 tonnes of food was donated in Coventry.

In the UK 2.3m children live in households which experienced food insecurity during the pandemic.

22% of all households in the UK have lost income compared to before the pandemic.

Here's a list to take to the shop with you of tinned / dried foods used by all foodbanks (items in **bold** are the ones which are always in shortest supply):

Meat, e.g. mince, stews, meatballs, tinned meat pies, hotdogs, chicken curry

Vegetables & potatoes Chopped tomatoes Soup (tins/packet)

Rice pudding Fruit Fish
Biscuits Long life semi-skim milk Custard

Coffee (100g) Long life fruit juice Teabags (80/160)

Cereal bars, crisps, chocolate Instant mash packets

Microwaveable packs, supernoodles, etc. for those with limited cooking facilities Shower gel, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, feminine hygiene towels and

tampons

If you prefer to donate money rather than food, these are the ways to do so:

- By hand at church: cash in an envelope marked 'Foodbank' or cheque made out to Coventry Foodbank in the collection plate provided;
- Online donations: https://thehalocentre.co.uk/coventryfoodbank/;
- Cheque by post: Coventry Foodbank, The Halo Centre, Progress Way, Coventry CV3 2NT.

Thank you very much – every tin / packet and pound will make a difference.

Margaret O'Kane



# Commitment Commitment for Life (Zimbabwe)

It's that time of year again - Harvest! But drought, floods and erratic rainfall patterns have been costly for Zimbabwe.

However, this is the moment when Commitment for Life puts faith into action in a really practical way. Our church is part of a global organisation which reaches into the heart of local communities - two boreholes have been installed this year in Zimbabwe.

Our contribution supports the most vulnerable so that no-one is left behind and everyone can live a life free from food poverty and with access to clean water.

This year's strap line is: "Abundant life for ALL" and the Bible reference is from Micah 6:8: "Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly".

Thanks to your generous giving, we *can* continue to make that difference! An information leaflet and a donation envelope (Gift Aid can add 20% to the value of your gift) will be left by your seats in church until Harvest Sunday (10 October). Your envelope can be left in the church collection plate.

Thank you in advance for your continual willingness to make that difference in Zimbabwe.

Mary Goodwin



# Church Away Day



Saturday, 9 October 2021 at

The Barn, Red Hill Christian Retreat Centre

Activities to include a short act of worship, crafts, games and quizzes.

Special activity is a 'Walk with a Difference'.

Mark, from the Centre, will lead a foraging walk. Learn about the food and medicines to be found in our hedgerows, woods and gardens. Please bring appropriate footwear and wet weather clothing.

Light refreshments and afternoon tea provided.

Bring your own packed lunch.

Limited places available. Book with Jenny: 02476 690879

Please share transport if possible. Donations towards the cost will be accepted on the day.

Address: Red Hill Christian Retreat Centre, Heath End, Snitterfield, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 OPQ

The Centre is located on the A46, 3 miles south of Junction 15 of the M40. The driveway is opposite the turning to Hampton Lucy.

Note: Sat Navs rarely get you to the main entrance here.

Do not go down Heath End Lane

# Warwick Road Church Centre and Cafe -October Update

As most of you already know (Coventry's worst kept secret), 1 October marks my departure from Warwick Road, about 15 months after I gave verbal notice of my intentions. My narrowboat is far from complete but sorting out the final details is requiring my close attention and most of my free time.



With the exciting news of an impending merger with our sister church, West Orchard URC, we have taken the decision to delay the appointment of my replacement. My predecessor Trevor Gay (of Coffee Shop Sunday fame) has never really gone away and he will now increase his hours on a temporary basis to cover 'management' issues. We also extend a very warm welcome to Ruth Mohomed, who many of you will already know from the church choir. She recently took over the role of Office Assistant and will be working in the Office alongside Trevor and George.

Bookings for the Church Centre are starting to get back to normal, with one or two exceptions. Both the Reading Group and Poetry Café are well under way, though unfortunately the Extend Exercise class has paused because Vijay has not been available. She is hoping to arrange a temporary replacement and will inform the attendees as soon as possible. The Art Classes with Tania have started up again on a Monday evening from 6.45 – 9.30. Please get in touch with the Office if you would like any more information. Depending on the level of interest, Tania would like to start an Art Class on a Tuesday afternoon as well.

Below you will find the café menu for October. We had hoped to start a weekly theme day, but staff illness and a lack of volunteers means that café opening will still be on Tuesday and Friday only. There has been no response to my request for someone to run the café front-of-house service. If there is anybody out there who would like to volunteer for a couple of hours a week 'waiting on' in the café, please get in touch on the office number 024 7622 0299 - training and a warm welcome awaits!

Finally, if you are interested in Ann's jam, marmalade and chutney offerings, please contact her directly (024 7627 3131) to check on current availability. We keep a limited selection to buy from the café.

The following are now in stock and available for sale, in aid of Myton Hospice: apricot jam (£2.30); strawberry and apple jam (£2.20); damson jam (£2.20); blackberry and apple jam (£1.80); apple & cherry jam – small jar (£1.50); Seville orange marmalade (£1.40); orange & ginger marmalade (£1.70); curried apple & carrot chutney (£1.00) and Old English apple chutney (£1.00).

#### Café menu for October 2021

	Mains	Desserts
Friday 1 October	Bacon & egg pie, grilled tomatoes and peas	Strawberry flan and cream
Tuesday 5 October	Lancashire hotpot	Caramel apple cake and custard
Friday 8 October	Hunter's chicken, potatoes and green beans	Mixed berry cheesecake
Tuesday 12 October	Fisherman's pie and peas	Lemon meringue pie
Friday 15 October	Cottage pie and vegetables	Creamy rice pudding
Tuesday 19 October	Gammon & parsley sauce, new potatoes and peas	Peach crumble and custard
Friday 22 October	Cumberland sausages, bubble & squeak, onion gravy	Coffee, date & walnut sponge and custard
Tuesday 26 October	Beef stew and potatoes	Raspberry & white chocolate sponge
Friday 29 October	Chicken & mushroom pie, potatoes and vegetables	Eve's pudding and custard

Keith Greenall, Church Centre Manager

Remember!!!

# Poetry Café

Poetry Café meets on the first Thursday of each month in the Open Doors Café at Warwick Road URC at 2.30pm. We each share two or three poems – these are usually on a set theme but don't have to be!



The next meetings are:

Thursday, 7 October, Theme: 'Animals' Thursday, 4 November, Theme: 'Remembering'

All are welcome. For more information, please contact David Lathbury: david@dlathbury.co.uk.

## The Smallest Beatitudes by Joseph Folliet

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves: they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill: they will be saved a lot of bother.

Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses: they are on the way to becoming wise.

Blessed are those who know when to be quiet and listen: they will learn a lot of new things.

Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves too seriously: they will be valued by those about them.

Happy are you if you can take small things seriously and face serious things calmly: you will go far in life.

Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown: you will walk on the sunny side of the street.

Happy are you if you can be kind in understanding the attitude of others: you may be taken for a fool, but this is the price of charity.

Happy are you if you know how to hold your tongue and smile: the Gospel has begun to seep into your heart.

Happy are they who think before acting and pray before thinking: they will avoid many blunders.

Blessed are those who recognise the Lord is all in whom they meet: the light of truth shines in their lives, they have found true wisdom.

Submitted by Janice Drake

# The Way I See It

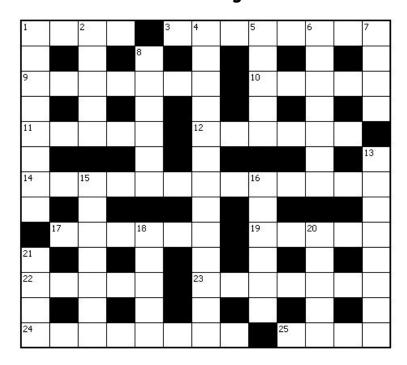
I have recently written a short pamphlet (12 pages) called 'The Way I See It'.

It is a short account of my faith journey, spanning the last 80 years, plus a few other observations.

If you would like a copy let me know – I am at church most Sundays.

George Drake

### Puzzle Pages



#### Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the of , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

#### Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

#### SUDOKU (EASY)

3			9				7	
7	1	6	8			9		3
	4		8		3	6		
	2		1	3			4	6
6	7			5	9		3	
		3	6				1	
4		2			7	8	9	5
	8				5			2

#### SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

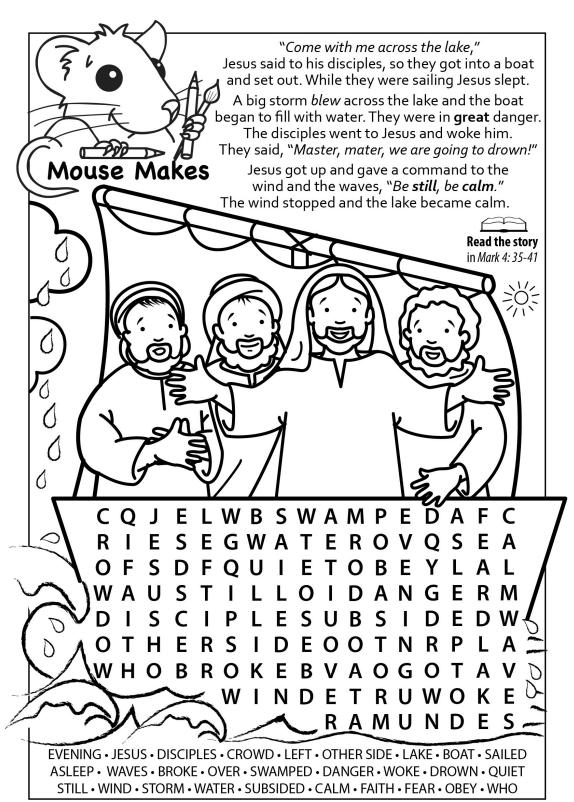
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	1		3				4	
		4		9		6		
		7			8			
	© 2013 KrazyDad.com							

Solutions on page 15

#### WORDSEARCH

October brings us Harvest Thanksgiving, when we thank God for all the bounty of Creation. If you ever doubt God's generosity towards us, just stroll down the aisles of your local supermarket: they are groaning with food of a vast variety, of every colour, texture and taste that you can imagine. Our God is a hedonist when it comes to food - He could have provided just a few basic edible things for us to eat; instead, the choice seems endless. But in the midst of all this bounty, take time to remember all the millions of people worldwide who are starving this month, desperate for any kind of food. Before God in prayer, decide how much you can give this month to one of the many charities who are trying to help people in need, and be generous.

OCTOBER	EDIBLE	YANTECYESTYRE
HARVEST	CHOICE	LOLMVARIETYCB
THANKSGIVING	ENDLESS	DOGIRYITIHARI
BOUNTY	MILLIONS	OHOPTVASTATEE
GOD	STARVING	OTINNROTINSAV
CREATION	PRAY	FSUPERMARKETS
GENEROSITY	GIVE	IONPEHIRASVII
SUPERMARKET	CHARITIES	BVSNEOLVHGROE
FOOD	EAT	PEELPVLICIANL
VAST	HELP	DGPESRINTVHAB
VARIETY	DESPERATE	REBOTCOGVIEBI
		HSSELDNERNBND
		CHOICESNGGEKE



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#### **SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)**

3	5	8	9	6	1	2	7	4
7	1	6	8	2	4	9	5	3
2	4	9	5	7	3	6	8	1
9	2	5	1	3	8	7	4	6
8	3	1	7	4	6	5	2	9
6	7	4	2	5	9	1	3	8
5	9	3	6	8	2	4	1	7
4	6	2	3	1	7	8	9	5
1	8	7	4	9	5	3	6	2

#### **SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)**

7	5	3	1	4	9	8	2	6
4	9	8	6	2	3	5	7	1
6	2	1	8	5	7	3	9	4
1	7	9	2	3	6	4	8	5
8	4	6	5	7	1	9	3	2
5	3	2	9	8	4	1	6	7
9	1	5	3	6	2	7	4	8
2	8	4	7	9	5	6	1	3
3	6	7	4	1	8	2	5	9

#### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

#### **ACROSS**

1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton

#### **DOWN**

1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA

# Connections - November 2021 issue deadline

News, articles and other items to be included in the November 2021 issue of *Connections* should be sent by email to the editor, Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than Wednesday, 20 October 2021.

Connections is published in digital format and emailed to subscribers. You are also be able to view it on the church websites <a href="https://www.warwickroadurc.org.uk">www.warwickroadurc.org.uk</a> and <a href="https://www.westorchardurc.org.uk">www.westorchardurc.org.uk</a>.

If you want it emailed to you, please contact the Warwick Road Church Office: <a href="mailed-color: blue-style-st

Thanks, Claire

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the URC or its congregation

### Worship at Warwick Road & West Orchard - October 2021

Services - West Orchard (WO) 10.30; Warwick Road (WR) 11.00

Date	Church	Preacher	Organist	
3 October	WO	Revd Yvonne Stone		
10 October	WO	Revd Peter Kimberley	Wilf Hawes	Church Parade Harvest Festival
17 October	WR	Revd Yvonne Stone	Tim Sheasby	Harvest Festival Holy Communion
24 October	WR	Revd Yvonne Stone	Tim Sheasby	
31 October	WO 10.30 WO 18.30	Revd Peter Kimberley Revd Yvonne Stone	Nick Wolff Wilf Hawes	Holy Communion

### Church Contacts



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tel: 024 7669 0457 mobile: 07500 876604

email:

westorchardminister@gmail.com



Mission, Outreach and Worship Leader: Reverend Peter Kimberley

tel: 07581 710348

email:

westorchardoutreach@gmail.com

#### **Warwick Road**

#### **Church Secretary:** Post currently vacant

#### **Church Treasurer:** Richard Blanchard

email: richardblanchard29244@gmail.com

#### Church Office:

10 Warwick Row, Coventry, CV1 1EX

tel: 024 7622 0299

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**West Orchard** 

#### **Church Treasurer:**

Margaret Costigan

email: westorchardtreasurer@gmail.com

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**Room Bookings Secretary:** Hugh Maccallum: email:

westorchardurcroombooking@gmail.com