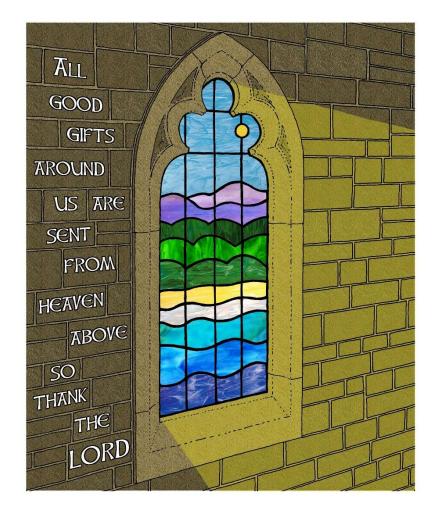
'Sharing the love of Jesus every day'



Connections

The church magazine for Baginton Road URC



September 2022

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Set the sat nav for Coventry! With reports of shortages, I need to be assured of my popcorn when Film Club restarts on 7th September.



Dear Friends



My life is able to serve as an example to others, because you have been a stout protector You yourself should strive in everything you do to be a good example of how to behave. (Psalm 71:7; Titus 2:7)

Graffiti mostly looks like a mindless mess – and most of it is – with content ranging from the obscene to racist, but occasionally there may be something different. Not quite Banksy but perhaps a form of art, albeit of a different kind. I can appreciate that some of the slogans and scribblings are making a statement, perhaps defiant protests against how things are, either in society or the world as a whole or something more personal. Most of graffiti is someone's attempt, however vague, to leave their mark, to say to the world 'I was here'.

Do any of us actually succeed in doing that – leaving our mark on the world? As I enter the final months of my life as a full-time minister, I suppose I am looking back on my 21+ years of ministry and wondering. I don't think I have made any major significance but in smaller ways.

I know that we all make some impression, even if it just in our own immediate circle of family, friends and acquaintances. That 'leaving a mark' is as much about a good deed, a job well done, a comforting word or a thoughtful gesture and these can enrich someone's life. But similarly, an unkind comment, thoughtless deed or act of pride, envy, greed or selfishness can cause untold damage and leave scars that are hard to heal.

All of use leave our mark on others in more ways than we can imagine, influencing lives for good or bad. Perhaps, like me, you can think carefully about all you do and say, and strive, with God's help; to leave a legacy of which both we, and God, can be proud.

God bless,

Yvonne

A Thought About The Lord's Prayer

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer, and even once say "I".
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even once say "My".
You cannot say the Lord's Prayer, and not pray for another
For when you ask for daily bread you can't miss out your brother.
Though others are included in each and every plea,
From beginning to the end of it, it does not once say "Me".

Submitted by Graham Law

Hello from Steve Elton

Hello and thank you for welcoming me so warmly over the last few weeks, it has been great to be a part of the Baginton Road family.



For those of you whom I haven't met yet, my name is Steve Elton, I am 38 years old, and have been married to my beautiful wife Susie for coming up to 13 years this December. We have two amazing biological children of whom we could not be more proud, Zac and Levi, and also currently two foster children: a wonderful 10 year old girl and a precious 6 week old boy. Alongside being a parent/foster parent, my primary job is as church leader of Hope Springs Church, a fantastic group of people whose hearts for others astound me every day. As a church family, we believe we are to follow the example of Barnabas, who spent his life helping other people forward on their journey, as seen in how he worked with Paul and John Mark. This is what we endeavour to do as individuals and community together, and is a primary motivating factor in my desire to support other church communities forward in their journeys.

I love Baginton Road...

I remember around five years ago I was asked to fill in for a friend of mine who was due to speak at Warwick Road URC, but was unfortunately unable to do so. It was my first time leading worship at a United Reformed Church and so there were some early nerves, but unsurprisingly I thoroughly enjoyed it and had the privilege of being invited back to minister, which is always a good sign, and also invited into West Orchard too, another positive sign. Over the years of visiting and working together on things like the 'Difference Course' and 'Worship Evenings', I found myself coming away every time with an even deeper sense of affection for the people that made up the two communities, what is now Baginton Road.

That is why it is such a joy for me to be able to work even more closely with a community of people I care so strongly about, and especially to be involved in working with you at such an exciting and crucial moment in your history, as the new community of Baginton Road has been formed.

Re-digging wells...

I feel that we are on the edge of something as a church. This brings with it both feelings of excitement but also uncertainty; there's a hopeful expectation of the good to come, but equally an anxiety about leaving what was before. Whilst following Jesus always requires us to move forward and step into the next phase of what He has for us, it doesn't mean we cast aside all that has been before. History, tradition, experience, a life well lived - all matter, and provide an invaluable resource of life for what God wants to lead us into next.

I think that's why I find such richness in, and resonance with, the story of Isaac redigging the wells in Genesis 26. It seems to speak to where we find ourselves now. Isaac was tempted to go to Egypt, to the place of abundance, but instead God told him to stay where he was and re-dig the wells so that the place could be turned into another 'Egypt', another place of abundance. The interesting thing about re-digging the wells was that these wells were originally dug by Isaac's father Abraham, so by re-digging Isaac is drawing from the rich history, tradition and experience of the past, but simultaneously, he is doing something new to meet the needs of where he is now. There is so much richness here at Baginton Road, so much life and experience, so much history and testimonies of God's goodness, I believe as we 'redig the well' together, that we will tap into the water that's always been there, and in doing so cause the community of people that make up Baginton Road to become a hub for the communities of people around us.

What's ahead...

There is some work ahead for us, and I feel honoured to be asked to lend my 'spade' to the re-digging process here. I pray that as we trust and honour God in our digging, we will see that the best is yet to come. Over the next few weeks, I will be spending some time with people at Baginton Road planning a number of projects to both complement all the wonderful things that are already taking place and also add another direction of 'digging' that I trust will enrich further all that is happening at Baginton Road.

Some of the projects we are working on between now and Christmas are:

- **Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Group**: a course to support all people in developing strong and resilient mental health.
- Christmas Worship Project: a collaboration of a traditional carol and modern
 worship song, recorded as a video and audio product, that can be used to
 share with people the story of Jesus's birth. This will have both sung and
 spoken word elements so everyone who wants to can get involved. A link to
 the worship project will possibly be put on all the Christmas cards we give out.
- Christmas Quiz: a fun and welcoming evening with a quiz, some live music, food and airing of the Christmas Worship Project to add a sprinkle of what Christmas is all about. A great opportunity to invite friends, family, colleagues and neighbours to, especially those who maybe aren't that familiar with church.
- Carols at the Christmas Bazaar: we are looking at having a team made up of Hope Springs Church and Baginton Road to sing Christmas Carols at the Bazaar to help us all get in that 'Christmassy' feeling.
- Agenda-less Worship Evenings: as there was such a positive response to the first Worship Evening at Baginton Road, we are looking at having specific Baginton Road Worship Evenings to go alongside the city-wide ones already

taking place. These will be times of just being together before God in worship, so we can just honour Him.

Confirmation of, and more information about, the above will follow shortly and I will be providing regular updates on all that we are doing, but for now, I pray that we would all keep 'digging'!

Steve Elton, Outreach Consultant

Can you help?

At the Church Meeting in July, a number of people were elected to posts of responsibility in order to support the work of Baginton Road URC. As a congregation we are grateful to these volunteers for coming forward and offering to help; however, we are still seeking help for three important posts which are yet to be filled. These posts, together with a brief 'job description', are detailed below. If you feel you may be able to take on one of the roles, please speak to me.

Youth & Children's Ministry: responsibilities include ensuring there is sufficient staff in each department on Sunday mornings and helping out in one or both of the departments on a rota, overseeing the pastoral care of the team, children and young people who belong to and are part of our church family, arranging meetings for the team to discuss Junior Church business usually four per year, arrange for the ordering of resources as required. I am sure Marilyn, who has served in this role for many years, would be willing to tell you more.

Secretary, Premises and Maintenance Group: John carried out this role for many years but since the appointment of our Administrator, a number of the tasks normally carried out by the Secretary have now passed to him. The role requires taking minutes at the meeting, typing them up and forwarding to the group and Church Secretary who will forward to Elders, arranging for repairs to be carried out directly or by informing the Administrator who will then contact the appropriate contractor, liaise with the Premises Manager once appointed. Further information may be obtained from John. We are also seeking new members to join the group which is responsible for the maintenance of the property here and at Warwick Road Centre. If you are interested, please speak to Pauline.

GDPR: This is for someone who is familiar with the requirements of GDPR or who is willing to learn and take on the responsibility for ensuring we keep within the law concerning all aspects of Data Protection. Jerry can provide more details of the role.

As a congregation I ask you to pray that these posts may be filled so that the burden of having to cover whilst in vacancy might be lifted from those already taking on responsibility on our behalf.

Pauline Luckett, Church Secretary

A Message of Thanks from Spires Philharmonic

We have been using the Sanctuary for our choir and orchestra rehearsals for a few years now, and we would like to thank people in Baginton Road Church for making us feel so welcome.



We are amateurs who love making music, mainly classical music, and we are unusual in two ways. Firstly, Spires Philharmonic is both a choir and an orchestra, unlike many choirs who have to find an orchestra to play for them. Secondly, our orchestra is unusual in that most of the instrumentalists are amateurs, but the main string sections are led by professionals, who support and guide the performance of the amateur players. This combination of players provides unique opportunities for amateurs to play in an orchestra and develop their expertise. We recently performed Haydn's *Creation* in the Cathedral in a very successful concert, and we greatly valued having all choir rehearsals and the few essential orchestra rehearsals in our Sanctuary.

Spires Philharmonic is looking forward to our next concert on 19 November. This time we shall be performing in our own Sanctuary. The concert is called *Sun, Moon and Stars*. It will consist of several short works all around this theme.

We started rehearsing at Baginton Road before the pandemic. After resuming rehearsals, one of the measures we took was to open all the windows for ventilation. This was quite challenging in the winter months! However, an unexpected result of open windows was that our music entertained the public when it drifted outside, and we had some favourable comments from joggers and passers-by.

We usually have about 45 singers, but we are always looking for more. Our rehearsal evening is Wednesday. We are planning to build up a repertoire of music that we can draw on to perform at smaller events, perhaps alongside other groups.

If anyone is interested in joining either the choir or the orchestra, please contact me.

Kathy White

Special Causes

At the recent Church AGM I offered, and was appointed, to take on the role of Special Cause Coordinator. Looking back through previous years' West Orchard AGM reports, I discovered that the idea of the Church having a Special Cause began in 1992 with the aim of "supporting a specific charity for a period of two or three months in order to focus our giving". The oldest information I could find, written for the 2019 AGM, reported that during 2018, £821.15 was donated to special causes. Since its inception in 1992 until the AGM of 2019, the total donations were £13,103.89. These donations have gone to a wide variety of charities - local,

national and international – many of them suggested by the congregation because they have a particular link with the charity.

As a recently merged congregation, we have the opportunity to continue the idea of having a Special Cause. Traditionally, the cause has been for a two-month period but this could change depending on the particular situation and could be linked in to church events. If anyone would like to suggest a charity that they would like to support, please let me have the details. Smaller local or lesser-known charities are always a good choice.

For the September and October Special Cause, I suggest that we support Macmillan Cancer Support – this is always a cause which is close to people's hearts and will link in with the Macmillan Coffee Morning at the end of September. Any donations made during these two months can be added to the coffee morning total. There is a new collecting box for donations to the Special Cause which can be found at the back of the Sanctuary – it's clearly labelled with the chosen charity for the months.

Sue Davis

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We will again be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30 September from 10am - 12 noon in the Sanctuary. Donations of cakes of all varieties would be gratefully received on the day; you can drop them off from 8.30am.



We will also be having a sale table for books and jigsaws, so this is an opportunity to have a clear out. Again, please bring your donations on the day. If you need items collected, please let me know and I'll come and collect them the day before.

We will need helpers to set up from 8.30am and to serve teas/coffees, so if you can help, please can you let me know. My contact details are 07889 738905 or email loowip@aol.com.

Your support has the power to raise vital funds for people living with cancer so please come and enjoy a cuppa, a slice of cake and of course, share some valued fellowship. Hope to see you there!

Lesley Rice

Thank You!



Julia Dixon would like to thank the church for the flowers which arrived so unexpectedly. She says that it was so lovely to be remembered by the Friends of Baginton Road, despite being unable to be present at the services.

Social Committee news

Cream Tea and entertainment by Anything Goes

On a sunny afternoon in mid-July, more than 65 people enjoyed an excellent afternoon in Baginton Road Church having a cream tea, whilst being entertained by Anything Goes led by Nick Wolff. They played a wide range of music with much foot-tapping by the audience and some joyful dancing by some. It was lovely to see our Sanctuary full of happy people enjoying the fellowship, the music and the cream scones.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the afternoon such a success. We raised £306.67 which will be split 50% to Ukraine and 50% Zoe's Place.

Below are a few photos of the event:



October Social Evening - A date for your diaries

On Saturday 1 October we are holding a games and quiz evening with a light supper. This fun evening is suitable for all ages and is open to all. There will be no charge but donations on the evening will be most welcome.

Please look out for further details in the next issue of *Connections* and the weekly church notice sheets.

Social Committee

Mission Outreach and Worship Report for September 2022

Holiday Club – Jungle Jamboree: First of all, let me say a big Thank You to everyone who helped out at the Holiday Club Jungle Jamboree. It was a fabulous event, with Baginton Road Church hosting 27 young people for three days of fun and laughter, crafts and obstacle courses, and a little bit of Bible study as well. Special mention to Liz Bywater for her overall leading of the event and to Jenny Gardner and Louise Bowler for heading up the activities in the Sanctuary.



Baginton Road URC Summer Prayer Walk: The importance of prayer is affirmed throughout the Bible. As a church we are committed to prayer. I hope you feel the need to be praying for our local area. Have you prayer-walked your street? If so please let me know and I'll cross your street off the list.



Omega Course special offer: I've been in discussion with Dr Chantal Meystre regarding running an Omega Course here at Baginton Road Church. The course is a refreshing look at the many issues surrounding dying, including how to support the dying and the bereaved, how important it is to make plans for those you leave behind, e.g. funeral

arrangements and wills - very important things that we will all need to consider at some point. I received a message from Chantal only this week, highlighting that there are four places for Baginton Road people to experience the course, at a very special price. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible and I'll put you in touch with Chantal.

Other news:

Work continues on the apse redevelopment. We have appointed Aplan Architects who have now measured up the apse area of the church and are currently producing a schema of works including drawings for the Redevelopment Team to review. We are also starting to review the audio-visual aspects of worship and will be engaging with a number of companies to help us improve the sound and video in church.

Men's Breakfast continues to meet bi-monthly at the Phantom Coach. All (men) are welcome to come and join us in a hearty breakfast and share fabulous fellowship. Please contact me if you're not on my invite list.

Thank you to everyone in the church for all your help and support. Best wishes and God's blessing to you all.

Revd Peter Kimberley, Mission, Outreach and Worship Leader

Jungle Jamboree

We would like to say a big Thank You to all the volunteers who helped at this summer's Jungle Jamboree holiday club. We couldn't have done it without you and hope that you all enjoyed it as much as we did. We provided a three-day activity club for 27 children from the local community and churches, which was very successful.



I would like to mention Louise and Jenny especially for organising and coordinating the event. They welcomed the children everyday with songs and fun activities and provided a lot of entertainment throughout the day which the children loved. They did a grand job so many thanks and well done to both of you.



It was lovely to think that this was the first time in two and a half years that we were able to hold such an event for primary-aged children. We followed resources which included stories from the Bible enabling the children to learn a little bit more about Jesus. At other times during the day, they were able to make sweets and biscuits, do sports and

games, and make a lot of crafts which they took home at the end of the week.

We are hoping to hold a Christmas activity day on Saturday 3 December. Watch this space for more details later on.

On behalf of the Holiday Club team (Liz, Louise, Jenny, Pauline & Hazel), again many thanks to everyone involved.

Liz Bywater

Heritage Weekend, 9-11 September 2022

Baginton Road Church is participating in the annual Heritage Weekend events.

On Friday 9, Saturday 10 September and Sunday 11 September from 2pm - 4pm, there will be a display about the history of the former West Orchard and Warwick Road Churches including photographs and historical documents in the Sanctuary at Baginton Road. Of particular interest will be information about the stained glass windows.

Help will be needed to steward the display so if you can assist for an hour or so on the Saturday or Sunday, please have a word with Jenny Barnes or anyone from the Social Committee.

The Social Committee

Holiday at Home 2022

A Holiday at Home event was held at West Orchard Centre on 15, 16 and 17 August with a variety of craft activities and events for people to enjoy.

On the Monday, around 40 people went on the coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum where we travelled around part of the vast site on a sightseeing Land Train. Unfortunately, the party had to be split into two groups as



the original train broke down! But we still had a very enjoyable and thoughtful day.

The Arboretum contains memorials to many branches and associations of the armed forces as well as some civil associations such as the police, fire service and miners. Luckily, the weather was mainly dry and thankfully cooler than the previous few days.



Day 2 was a very busy day with approximately 45 souls sharing crafts of various kinds accompanied by a sausage or bacon batch lunch.

The crafts continued on Day 3 plus some Keep Fit led by Carol Bosworth and a visit from Vicki Dunne of the

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to talk about hedgehogs.

A big thank you to all those who helped with arranging the various activities and coach trip and for organising and cooking the lunches.

The Social Committee

Oxford Male Voice Choir Concert

Some members will remember Revd Paul Bedford, a former minister of West Orchard, and his love of music.

In retirement he is pleased to have joined the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir, and, as well as sending us greetings, has sent details of a concert not far away in which some may be interested.

His choir will be singing at Learnington Hastings Parish Hall (in the village of Hill, Rugby CV23 8DX) on Saturday 3 September 2022 7.30pm (doors open at 6.45pm)

Tickets cost £14 (incl. light refreshments). If you wish to purchase tickets, please contact Pat Toole on 01926 632874 or email darrenedwilliamson@hotmail.com.

Paul Bedford

Commitment For Life (Zimbabwe 2022-2023)



It's that time of year again! As we welcome September, Commitment after the heat of summer, for Zimbabwe the long spells of drought and unpredictable weather have seriously affected the harvest. It's been hard to find enough water for crops, large parts of which have had to be left to die.

In these challenging conditions, the donations we contribute are helping to build the resilience needed to find alternative sources of income. Some communities are receiving training in leatherworking and are already receiving orders to sew school shoes, belts and bags. Using the profit from these orders, some members of the group have been able to purchase goats to provide for the family and increase income.

This migration from farming to footwear has meant a new life for many in the community. Our supportive donations are certainly helping to realise this year's strap line: "Towards a brighter future".

As usual, an information leaflet and a donation envelope (Gift Aid can add 20% to the value of your gift) will be left by your seat in church until Harvest Sunday (25 September). Your gift envelope can be left in the church collection plate.

Again, thank you in advance for your continual willingness, in the current difficult circumstances, to donate to make a difference in Zimbabwe.

Mary Goodwin

Women's Prayer Breakfast

Next dates: 17 September, 22 October, 12 November, 10 December 8.30am in the Small Hall (NB ramp door to the large hall will be unlocked)

A warm welcome to all women from our church, Belonging Church and any friends from another or no church. We meet once a month at 8.30am to set up and start with a bring-and-share breakfast – always delicious and varied with more than enough!

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 maybe 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. Everything we share is confidential to those present.

Nobody comes every time, come when you can. We promise that it is always worth getting up for! Please ask me if you need a lift or wish to know more.

Margaret O'Kane

Warwick Road Centre and Café - September Update

A brief report this month

- The Film Club is starting again in September. There will be an initial six-month trial to see how it goes, with one film each month. The first film is *The Duke* on 7 September at 2.30pm see the poster in this magazine. Please contact George or Ruth in the office to book your seat. Best to arrive from 2.15pm onwards.
- Decorating of the entire frontage of nos. 9, 10,11 and 12, Warwick Row has been completed and it is looking great. The weather was kind for decorating outside and Mark Challis did a terrific job, sometimes in overwhelming heat.
- We welcome Choice and Jenny to the team providing cover during Vicky's absence on Maternity Leave. Choice works 4 hours per week in the kitchen/café, and Jenny is offering us 3 hours' cleaning per week in the Centre. Both are valuable additions to our staff team.
- Ruth has been on holiday for three weeks and I was away too for a week during August. A massive thank you to George for covering one week on his own.

Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager

Warwick Road Film Club

Wednesday, 7 September at 2.30pm



The popular film Club is now returning to Warwick Road Centre. The first film is *The Duke* (released 2022, rated 12A), starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren.

In 1961, 60-year-old Kempton Bunton stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. He sent ransom notes saying that he would return the painting on condition that the Government invested more in care for the elderly. What happened next became the stuff of legend. This is an uplifting true story about a good man who

set out to change the world and managed to save his marriage.

Film, ice cream, tea and cake only £4.

Please arrive at about 2.15 as the film will start promptly at 2.30pm. There will be a brief interval for ice creams and a chance to chat about the film over tea and cake before travelling home at about 5.00pm.

If you would like to make a booking for the film, please phone the Centre Office on 024 7622 0299 or e-mail cityoffice@bagintonroadurc.org.uk by Friday 2 September.

Open Doors Café menu - September

Opening Times: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Snacks and Drinks: 10am - 11:30, Hot Meal: 12 noon -

1:30pm (last orders 1pm)

Main course £4; pudding £2. Meal Deal (main & pudding,

served with tea or coffee) £6



	Main	Pudding
Friday 2	Lancashire hotpot	Fruit trifle
Tuesday 6	Sausage & tomato casserole & potatoes	Pineapple upside-down sponge & cream
Wednesday 7	Chicken & ham pie, potatoes & vegetables	Warm chocolate brownie & ice cream
Friday 9	Pork dinner	Sticky toffee sponge & custard
Tuesday 13	Cottage pie & vegetables	Banana & walnut sponge with caramel sauce
Wednesday 14	Fish cakes, peas & parsley sauce	Bakewell tart & custard
Friday 16	Braised beef cobbler, potatoes & vegetables	Mixed berry mousse
Tuesday 20	Mince beef cobbler, potatoes & vegetables	Fruit salad & ice cream
Wednesday 21	Chicken in leek & stilton sauce	Fresh cream strawberry sponge
Friday 23	Corned beef hash & cauliflower cheese	Apple crumble & custard
Tuesday 27	Salmon with lemon & dill sauce, peas & potatoes	Jam sponge & custard
Wednesday 28	Savoury sausage lattice, potatoes & vegetables	Treacle sponge & custard
Friday 30	Creamy mushroom chicken, potatoes & vegetables	Lemon meringue pie



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NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

A planning application has been submitted in Lerwick, Shetland Islands, to turn a disused corner shop into a "place of public worship and recreational activities" as well as a "centre to provide social support". The local council's decision is expected by late August for the potential opening of the most northerly mosque in Scotland. Once approved, the next step would be to locate an Imam to lead Muslims who live on the island.

Church of England Christians in the Diocese of Oxford are to be asked during their baptism or confirmation ceremonies to make this eco-friendly pledge: "Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the Earth?" Greenpeace has welcomed the move but others in the Church of England have expressed concern.

It is estimated that about 3m people in the United Kingdom over the age of 65 years do not have internet access. Many older people do not have an up-to-date smartphone or tablet, or live in a place with either unreliable or no broadband service, according to the charity Age UK.

Ripon Cathedral has four beehives on its roof, which are looked after by volunteers. Its gift shop sells the surplus honey under the brand name "The Venerable Bees".



A 250-pipe organ has been installed on a walkway at London Bridge Station for passengers to play, albeit for a maximum of 10 minutes, free no charge. The charity Pipe Up for Pipe Organs installed this organ, which was donated by the United Reformed Church, Whetstone.

The Church of England's 10-yearly Lambeth Conference has just finished, delayed by four years due to the pandemic and

deep divisions. It was attended by 650 archbishops and bishops from the Anglican Church representing over 85m adherents; however, it was boycotted by those in Rwanda, Nigeria and Uganda over moves by churches in the USA, Scotland and Wales to conduct or bless same-sex marriages.

25% of the shares of Lego, the toy brick organisation, belong to the Lego Foundation which is a charity that donates to children and families in crisis. This year it has pledged £2.3m.

The relics of one of the most revered Catholic saints, St Bernadette of Lourdes, are to tour Britain for the first time, starting on 3 September 2022. The fragments of bone and tissue taken from the 19th century saint are locked in an ornate golden reliquary which will tour every Catholic cathedral across England and Wales, plus the Church of England's Liverpool Cathedral. They will also go to Wormwood Scrubs

prison in West London where a special mass will be held for inmates. Bernadette Soubirous, a peasant girl, was born in 1844, living in Lourdes and suffered from ill health after contracting cholera as a child. In 1858 she was said to have seen several visions of the Virgin Mary, who asked her to build a chapel and dig to expose a spring of water. She died in 1879 and was canonised in 1933. Lourdes is the most important pilgrimage site in the world for Catholics after Rome, but the pandemic stopped many from visiting. This tour is seen as a means of encouraging Catholics to

pray to saints asking them to pass on their prayers to God and, if possible, to resume pilgrimages to Lourdes.

In 1530 King Henry VIII consulted Venetian Rabbis to find biblical precedents to allow him to divorce Catherine of Aragon. Today, £6.86m has been raised to preserve three 16th Century synagogues in Venice which were built on site of an old metal foundry. The word 'ghetto' is from the Venetian 'getar' meaning to smelt. There are also plans for a museum.

Ignacio Echeverria lost his life in a terrorist attack on London Bridge in 2017 whilst defending pedestrians with his skateboard. He was posthumously awarded the George Medal and in Spain the Order of Civil Merit, one of that country's highest awards. He was a practising Catholic whose faith played a central role in his life and now his relatives, with support from the Catholic Church, are to launch an official campaign to make him a saint.

Barry Stelfox

Poetry Café

Poetry Café meets one Thursday afternoon each month in the Open Doors Café, Warwick Road Centre at 2.30pm. Meetings are normally on the first Thursday of each month but this is sometimes changed so please check beforehand with Warwick Road Centre Office: 024 7622 0299.

We each share two or three poems – these are usually on a set theme but don't have to be! All are welcome.

The next meetings are:

Thursday, 1 September, Theme: 'Trees' Thursday, 13 October, Theme: 'Time'

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

Food Banks

Food banks are known as the fourth emergency service and have more units than McDonalds – 3,000 to 1,300. The Trussell Trust has over 1,400 food banks and the Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN), an umbrella organisation for grassroots food aid providers, has 550.



There are others run by the Salvation Army, hospitals, universities and others.

There is also FareShare which is a nationwide food redistribution charity that aims to reduce the environmental impact of food waste. It sends approximately 2 million tonnes of annual UK food industry surplus around the UK and charges food banks about 15% of the of the retail value of donations it takes from the food industry. For instance, if there is a sudden surplus of spinach (which has a life span of a few days) FareShare can move it to their 31 hubs and then to food banks.

In Nechells, Birmingham, there is an 11,000 sq ft warehouse with seven paid staff, half a dozen delivery vans, six huge walk-in chiller units and a freezer unit. On an average day this unit receives, sorts and distributes approximately seven tonnes of food from five truck deliveries using a roster of 60 volunteer pickers, drivers and crew.

Earlier this year the independent think tank Food Foundation released data stating that about 1 million adults reported that they, or someone in their household, went without eating because they couldn't afford food.

The Trussell Trust (founded in 2000) need referrals from agencies such as social services, job centres or schools in order to assist. They usually limit how many referrals you can get, such as one three-day food parcel a month, and have provided more than 2.1 million food parcels this last year.

There is a new style of foodbank called a community café where, for a nominal fee (about £4), customers can pick their own food, up to a certain number of items, saving up to 90% of the cost of a weekly shop. There are facilities to stock meat, fresh fruit and vegetables, rather than just tinned or dry packaged goods.

There are also food banks helping refugees with clothing and household items.

So where does the food for food banks come from?

- Donations both cash and food from the public, often made to churches close to the food bank.
- Donations of surplus shopping from shoppers at supermarkets.
- Supermarkets supplying food that they no longer need, such as fruit and vegetables close to their sell-by date.

Organisations suddenly finding they have surplus food.

Statistics*:

- 4% of UK households have used a food bank in the past 12 months.
- 15% said they went without food, ate less or were hungry but unable to eat.
- 43% of UK households on Universal Credit are in food insecurity.
- 93% of food banks reported a rise in demand this year.
- 78% of food banks reported a drop in donations this year.

The MP for Coventry South, Zarah Sultana, launched a Crowdfunder in March which has raised £10,000 for Coventry Food Bank; she has also declined a salary pay rise and is donating this, which equates to 5.5 tonnes of food to feed 6,500 children.

Coventry Food Bank's 3-day food parcels between April 2021 to March 2022 were down to 24,141 from the previous year of 33,875 but still above the average of previous years. They are distributed through 14 Coventry Centres.

How and what to donate?

Here at Baginton Road URC, the collection boxes are two supermarket crates under the table by the office door and a marked box in the vestibule as you come into church. Since the start of the pandemic, our donations have gone every fortnight to St Catherine's CofE in Stoke Aldermoor, which is placed in the heart of quite a deprived area, right next to the school, and does some wonderful work in the community. It is always very grateful for the donations.

Thank you if you can help with contributions of these items. Cash is also welcome and can be spent on items such as nappies, which are always welcome at St Catherine's.

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

Microwavable packs, supernoodles, etc. for those with limited cooking facilities.

Barry Stelfox and Margaret O'Kane

^{*} Sources: Food Standards Agency, Department for Work and Pensions & Independent Food Aid Network.

Progressive Christianity Network - Britain (PCN)

I have been a member of PCN for a number of years. Each quarter they publish their magazine *Progressive Voices* and I always put a copy on the table in the Sanctuary for anyone who is interested to read. The next edition will be published in the Autumn and will be a special promotional one, designed to encourage anyone who is concerned about the way the established Church is moving to consider a new approach, more in line with 21st Century thinking.

Alker's letter in PV41 makes sombre reading concerning the way the Church is losing members. I have printed some extra copies and left them in the Sanctuary.

I think that the established Church, of all denominations, is burying its collective head in the sand whilst membership numbers are falling at an alarming rate. This is a tragedy, because our Church members are doing fantastic work during the week, with ever deceasing numbers.

It is my belief that the future of the Church and Christianity lies in the likes of PCN and like-minded organisations. This is just my view, you may not agree, so why not let us know what you think.

George Drake

Suggestions and Actions

There is a suggestion box at the base of the pulpit at Baginton Road in which people can submit their suggestions to the Elders on church-related matters. The Elders have now considered all the suggestions received to date. Their responses are set out below.



Suggestions	Elders' response and action
We are struggling to remember names as our churches come together. Could we perhaps have some sticky labels to write our name on and put on our coats for the durations of our visit? Just for a short while.	Started for a week or two and has been dropped since, although some people are continuing.
For info only: It has been mentioned to me that some members will be unable to attend church meetings in the evenings as they do not drive at night.	The problem also occurs for those who cannot stay after the service, and we only have one evening meeting.
Does Baginton Road have a housebound tea. If not, why not? Therefore, suggest a Spring and Autumn event as happened at Warwick Road.	This is like West Orchard's Mystery Drive. The Social Committee are looking into the possibility but have decided to offer transport to the events already organised.

	,
We don't seem to be seeing much of our minister at the moment. Please could the notices include details of where she is preaching/holiday/etc.	This is in hand, but it does seem a bit hit and miss and you need to be aware that we cannot give details of when she is away (and the house might be empty) for very obvious reasons.
It would be good to know who the Baginton Road Ministry Team are – we get emails from these "nameless people" which feels very impersonal.	Not sure what is meant by this
I would like to suggest that the church bungalow be used to house a refugee family when it becomes vacant.	Synod would not allow this.
The present notice sheets give details of meetings and events happening at Baginton Road URC but I feel that the Warwick Road notice sheet was more interesting stating not only the preacher for that day and the following week but also the order of service. It also gave details of who provided the flowers for that day and if relevant for whom they were in memory. These are the items I feel are missing from the present notice sheet.	The Elders felt that including an order of service would make the notices too large but the preachers for that day and the following week are now included. Due to GDPR (data protection), we cannot publish the names of donors in the notices or Connections but we are happy to mention if the flowers are in memory of someone.
Delighted that we have a new prayer request book. If it is to be used perhaps it could be placed on the communion table, the same time as the offertory to ensure it is not forgotten?	In place.
Why don't we invite the children back into the end of service to show what they have been doing? Not every week just sometimes when appropriate e.g. making trumpets to blow down the walls of Jericho – they could parade round the church – some of the "adults" may well join in.	Difficult when the children don't like to be up at the front and we don't want to put them off coming, but will keep in mind.
Please can we use the contemporary Lord's prayer. Christ taught it in the language of his time. Why can't we?	Has been used sometimes.
That the weekly notice sheet has the bible readings shown for the Sunday services – also the source, pew bible, St James or other. For the pew bible the page would be great. Some readers give this information, but others do not.	The bible readings will be in the notices from now onwards provided the order of service is received in time. The notices are printed on Thursday morning. The readers are asked to give the page number but not everyone remembers.

Five Characteristics of Fruitful Congregations



The following is taken from 'Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations' by Robert Schnase, an American Methodist church leader. It is timely for nature's current season of fruitfulness, and for the church's season as we seek to become more fruitful and grow into mission. Rev Peter also referred to these ideas in his sermon on 31 July 2022.

Margaret O'Kane

Trust – needs to be actively nurtured and protected. Tell the truth, honour other people's feelings, refuse to engage in gossip, be a supportive advocate for others, do what we say we will do.

Transparency – where few secrets are kept and there is open, honest communication.

Respect – not pleasant politeness or patronising tolerance but truly acknowledging the value of every person, especially those with whom we disagree, not just within the faith community but to every corner of the world.

Rapport – harmonious & sympathetic relationship, belief that we are better together than we are alone. What happens to any one of us happens to all of us.

Passion – not just the power of positive or motivational thinking but the burning ember of the Holy Spirit bursting into full blown flame, catalysing Christians into irrepressible forces of nature. The power of God manifest in men and women to change the world. It's contagious and cannot be contained in a building.

For reflection - Do I want all these fruits or do I avoid some?

Warning! A Fruit Loop congregation is one where the fruit is grown, nurtured, harvested but consumed behind closed doors. Fruit loops (a children's cereal) have little nutritional value. Real fruit is delicious, sweet, juicy and nutritious but until it feeds someone it hasn't fulfilled its purpose.

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

Once we are developing the five qualities above, how does it show in our behaviour and practice? These five practices are the basic elements of the first Christians - going back to Acts 2 – and reflect the ministry of Christ. These are "so critical to a congregation's mission that failure to perform them in an exemplary way results in congregational deterioration and decline".

Radical Hospitality – means more than treating people well. Offers the embrace of Christ, is rooted in Scripture, welcomes the stranger and "is about congregations that

have as much passion, desire and care for those who are not a part of the congregation as they do for those already a part of it".

Passionate Worship – engaging, life-changing, shapes souls, changes minds and lives, creates desire to grow closer to Christ. "Worship that allows us to see the world through God's eyes. It is God's way of changing our hearts and minds".

Intentional faith development – worship creates a desire for learning. Purposeful learning in community that helps people mature in their faith & grow in their knowledge and love of God.

Risk-taking mission and service – make a difference in others' lives for God's purpose, whether or not they will ever be part of our church as a result. "Churches cannot be satisfied with having individuals bring canned goods to build a Harvest basket and think they have fulfilled the mission of Jesus Christ". Christian discipline is to take on the practices of love that move us out of our comfort zone and take us to places we would never have been if it had not been for our relationship with Christ.

Extravagant generosity – a maturing Christian realises that all of life belongs to God, leading us to desire to offer oneself fully back to Christ. Churches that are thriving are those that unapologetically teach, preach and practice the tithe and are not afraid to talk about it. People who put God first and allow God to reshape the giver's life.



For reflection - which practice would you like to cultivate into fruition in your own life?

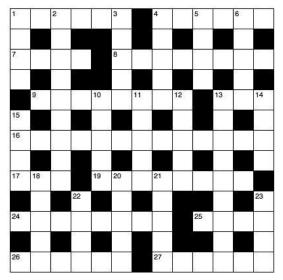
So why might we hesitate to share more fruit? We think in terms of how much we'll need, instead of how much we could produce. But the beautiful thing about fruit is that while we can come and enjoy it, there's always more left over.

And the result of sharing more fruit is...

- We come seeking kindness, we leave with kindness to give away.
- We come seeking acceptance, we depart with the opportunity to be accepting of others.
- We come seeking forgiveness, we move into the world better able to forgive others.
- The abundance of the fruit of the Spirit means that it costs almost nothing to give it away.



Puzzle Pages



Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock (Luke14:29) (8)
- 24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13) (8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4) (4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6) 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)

- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten (anag) (5)
 12 Architectural style first used
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)
- 14 'Each one should his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just —— was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer,
 Watts (5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
- 22 Be distressed (Proverbs24:19) (4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

SUDOKU (EASY)

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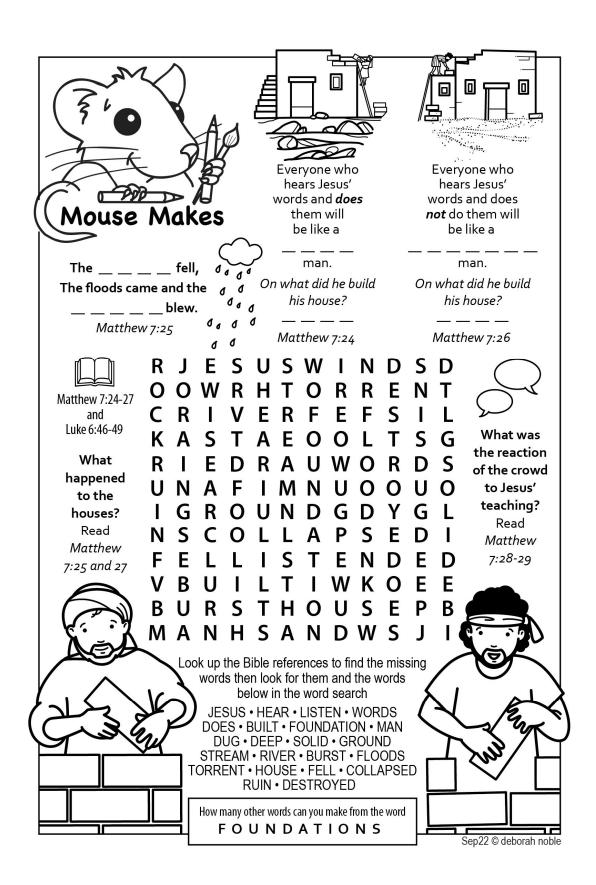
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Solutions on page 27

WORDSEARCH

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a Farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So, when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the Farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Labour. 4 Autumn. 7 Stay. 8 Darkness. 9 Reasoned. 13 Act. 16 Presbyterians. 17 Sat. 19 Ridicule. 24 Reproach. 25 Abib. 26 Celtic. 27 Intend.

DOWN:1 Lose.2 Blamerest.3 Radio.4 Agree.5 Tend.6 Music. 10 Sober. 11 Noted. 12 Doric. 13 Available. 14 Test. 15 Apes. 18 As Eve. 20 Isaac. 21 Ishvi. 22 Fret. 23 Ebed.

Connections - October 2022 issue deadline

News, articles and other items to be included in the September 2022 issue of *Connections* should be sent by email to the editor Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than **Wednesday**, **14 September 2022**.

Connections is published in digital format and emailed to subscribers. You are also able to view it on the church website and Facebook page.

If you want it emailed to you, please contact Kevin Bodsworth at the Church Office: office@bagintonroadurc.org.uk.

Thanks, *Claire*

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



Worship at Baginton Road URC September 2022



Morning service: 10.30am; Evening service: 6.30pm

Date	Time	Preacher	
4 September	am	Revd Ian Macnair	
	pm	Revd Peter Kimberley	Holy Communion
11 September	am	Revd Yvonne Stone	
	pm	David Depledge	
18 September	am	Revd Yvonne Stone	Holy Communion
	pm	Revd Yvonne Stone	
25 September	am	Revd Yvonne Stone	Parade / Harvest
	pm	Revd Yvonne Stone	
2 October	am	Shan Dobinson	
	pm	Revd Yvonne Stone	Holy Communion

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