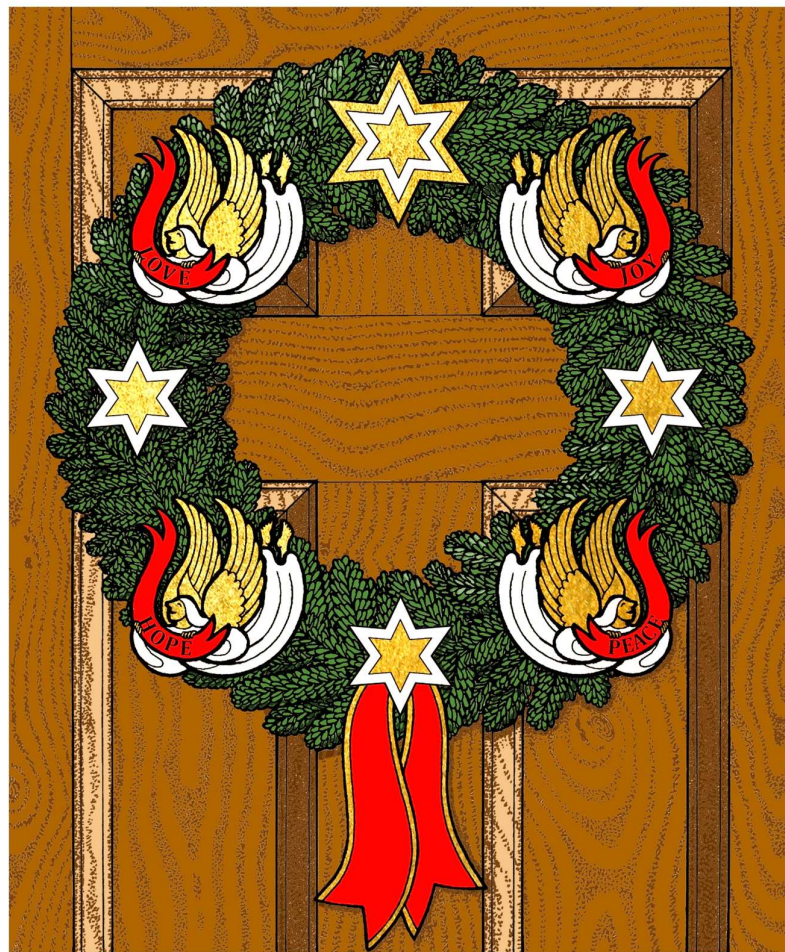


*'Sharing the love of Jesus every day'*



# *Connections*

*The church magazine for Baginton Road URC*



**December 2022 / January 2023**

*Incorporating Warwick Road URC and West Orchard URC*

**83 Baginton Road  
Coventry  
CV3 6FP**

## In this month's magazine

Dear Friends.....	3
All-Age Worship on 18 December .....	4
Reverend Yvonne's Final Service.....	5
Pastoral News .....	5
Christmas Post .....	6
Christian Aid Soup Lunch .....	6
A Prayer for Church Growth .....	7
Macmillan Coffee Morning – Thank You!.....	7
Commitment for Life .....	8
Burns Supper.....	8
World Scout Jamboree .....	9
Warwick Road Centre and Café – December Update .....	10
Open Doors Café – December & January Menus .....	10
Someone Special .....	12
Advent Knitalong .....	12
Christmas Trifles - Relevant and Irrelevant.....	13
Nagomi Art Class.....	13
Outreach Update from Steve Elton.....	14
Connections Survey – Summary of Responses .....	15
Poetry Café.....	15
Puzzle Pages.....	16
Mouse Makes .....	18
Connections – February 2023 issue deadline.....	21
Worship at Baginton Road URC .....	22

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## Dear Friends

Back in 2015 we were in vacancy, and I was approached with the request to write the message for what was then *The Link*, the magazine for West Orchard URC. I agreed, reluctantly. Here we are in 2022 and once again we have said farewell to another minister, Yvonne. Our future regarding ministerial support remains unclear. Someone needed to write the Christmas Message for Connections and I actually volunteered this time. Seeking ideas, I looked back on my 2015 effort, and I realised that what I wrote then is just as relevant now as it was seven years ago, so I make no apology for recycling it and bringing it to you again.

Whilst putting up my decorations for Christmas, I like to play Christmas songs to help get me in the festive mood. I happened to pay more attention than usual to the lyrics of a golden oldie '*Mistletoe and Wine*' sung by Sir Cliff Richard. The words set me thinking and it is these words and thoughts I have chosen to share with you.

*'The Child is a King, the Carollers sing,  
The old has passed there's a new beginning.'*

As December draws to its close, many of us turn our thoughts and hopes toward the New Year, but our thinking should start before then. Surely it starts with the birth of a tiny child - a child born into a world of sin and darkness; into a family which lacked any material wealth; a family which did not boast a royal palace for a home; to parents who promised to show obedience to God and to love their child and one another as God had commanded. It is this birth, this precious gift of Christ our Saviour, which should shape and influence all we wish for in 2023.

*'A time for living, a time for believing,  
A time for trusting, not deceiving,  
Love and laughter and joy ever after,  
Ours for the taking, just follow the Master.'*

Time is precious; how often do we wish we had more? Perhaps, in 2023 we should consider how we use the time God has given to us - could we manage our lives differently and thus create more 'free time'? If so, how would we use it: in prayer, reading our Bible, attending a Bible Study or Home Group? You might choose to spend the time alone, talking to God in prayer. These situations can test our belief in God. We talk to God, and He listens. He does not always provide the answers we would like Him to, but we must learn to accept His will and trust in Him.

The new year will, like any other, have its difficulties for all of us here at Baginton Road. With our minister now retired we know that we will face huge changes as we step forward into a new phase in the life of our church. We need to put our trust in God and in the Eldership and to pray continuously. We need to be open and honest

with each other about what we think and feel as we explore what is right for our church and the membership.

There is love in abundance within our church family. Anyone who has been through testing situations will confirm this. Love is all around us: in the acts of fellowship, the social activities, the meetings we attend, the giving of time and money, it is there reaching out and enriching our lives, and where you have love, laughter is never far behind. Love flows from our shared love of the Lord Jesus.

The final verse of the song reminds us –

*'A time for giving, a time for getting,  
A time for forgiving and for forgetting.  
Christmas is love, Christmas is peace,  
A time for hating and fighting to cease'*



For me, this is the verse with the greatest challenge. I can cope with the giving and the getting - both bring immense pleasure at Christmas and at other times throughout the year. Forgiving and forgetting are much harder. To offer forgiveness, you need to experience hurt, a hurt which sometimes strikes deep within the heart. It is this deep hurt which challenges our ability to forgive, but unless we can forgive and forget the wrong which has caused the hurt and to put the past behind us, then we will never be able to move on fully with our lives. In an equivalent way, the person being offered forgiveness must accept it with grace and humility and both must allow time for the hurt to heal whilst making every effort to heal the broken relationship.

I invite you all to make the effort to put behind you any past differences, disagreements, unhappy situations from 2022 and earlier, and try to forget them and any hurt they have caused. In the spirit of true forgiveness, let us take each other by the hand and in unity reach out for the hand of our forgiving God, which is stretched out before us. Let us as true believers in Him, walk forward with faith and in confidence into 2023.

May love and peace be with you all this Christmas time, and throughout the coming year. God bless you all,

*Pauline*

### **All-Age Worship on 18 December**

Our morning worship on 18 December will be an all-age service which will be full of Christmas surprises! Everyone will have a part to play as we tell the Christmas Story, so please come along and bring your family, neighbours and friends to this family-friendly service.

## Reverend Yvonne's Final Service

Sunday 20 November 2022 was a momentous day in the history of Baginton Road URC as we said farewell to our minister Yvonne. After over 16 years in Coventry – first as Minister at Warwick Road URC and then jointly with West Orchard URC – Yvonne is now retiring and moving with Ted back to her home county of Somerset.

Over 100 people gathered to sing her favourite hymns and hear her final message before sharing Holy Communion together. It was a joyous and moving event, with readings by Pauline, Sue M, Liz and Barry. Pauline then read a tribute to Yvonne (reprinted on p.19 of this magazine) and two younger members of the congregation made a presentation on all our behalf of an orchid and cheque for £500 for Yvonne and pruning shears to Ted. Afterwards, everyone adjourned to the Large Hall and enjoyed a lovely buffet tea prepared by chef Clare and her team at Warwick Road Centre.



We wish Yvonne and Ted every happiness in this new stage of their lives. But this is only “au revoir” not a final “goodbye” as George will remain here in his new role of Premises Caretaker at Baginton Road so they will be back frequently to visit him.

## Pastoral News

My family and I would like to thank all those who attended Marsh's funeral, particularly the ladies who helped with the arrangements and the tea. You all contributed towards making it such a memorable time. Your kindness is much appreciated. God bless you.

*Gill Mulrooney*



Thanks to everyone who donated money in lieu of flowers at Auntie June's request. I have been able to send a cheque for £430 to the Air Ambulance Appeal.

*Janet Jarvis*

The funeral of Bob Watson will take place on 29 November at Canley Crematorium, followed by a memorial service at Baginton Road URC.

The funeral of Betty Orgill will take place on 1 December at Canley Crematorium.

The St Andrew's House Roast Hog event held in September raised £1,410 on the day; while not all is profit, it will go a good way to the refurbishment of the kitchen. The afternoon was considered a great success with a beer and wine tent, dance group, bouncy castle, steel band and, of course, the roast hog.

## Christmas Post

Once again, we will be giving you the opportunity to post your Christmas cards using the Baginton Road Postal Service.

Cards can be posted on Sunday mornings on 4, 11 and 18 December, and can be collected after these services. There will also be the opportunity to post cards at the Call In for Coffee sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays, between these dates.



When addressing the envelopes, please include surnames of the recipients and only post to people who attend Baginton Road Church regularly. Please note we always have several cards which remain uncollected.

There is no suggested donation for using the service, but when considering how much to give, please take into account the cost of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class stamp which is now 68p.

The chosen charity to receive our donations for 2022 is Pancreatic Cancer UK.

My two little elves, Freddie and Alfie, and I are looking forward to dealing with your Christmas cards this year!

*Lesley Rice*

## Christian Aid Soup Lunch

For most people 5th November means fireworks but for the faithful of Baginton Road URC, this year it meant soup!

By 11.30am the Small Hall was already filling up and the appetising aroma of 11 (!) delicious but different soups pervaded the air. By 12.30 all seats were taken. No sooner were the hungry served than, in true Oliver Twist style, they asked for "more". The regulars engaged the "newbies" in animated conversation whilst the contingent from the Belonging Church sampled almost all the soups with obvious pleasure.

Huge thanks are due to the super soup-makers, the early birds who prepared the tables and oversaw the soups, the smiling servers and the willing washer-uppers. Excellent teamwork! An enduring memory will be Pam, food thermometer in one hand and soup ladle in the other, checking that the simmering soups were kept at temperature.

Everyone gave generously, raising £276 which with Gift Aid meant that £345 will be sent to Christian Aid. If we add this sum to the £1,200 raised by the 300,000 Step Walk, then Baginton Road URC has raised altogether a staggering £1,545 for Christian Aid. Thank you all for this tremendous level of support.

*Mary Goodwin*

## A Prayer for Church Growth

I know that many of you are worried about the future of our church; that for whatever reason we don't see new young families in church on a Sunday morning. This worry is shared by many of our sister churches throughout the National Church.



At the residential Synod meeting, we were given a taster session for the course entitled 'Leading the Church into Growth'. The group that led the session shared a lot of useful information about how the course is run and so I think we'll need to investigate that in the coming months.

However, the first thing they emphasised was the need to actually pray for church growth, something I imagine we don't do a lot of. With this in mind, the group shared the following prayer and encouraged churches who are genuinely seeking to grow to make this prayer a regular part of their worship and/or prayer life.

Therefore, could I ask you to do exactly that, and make the following prayer a part of your prayer life:

God of mission, Who alone brings growth to your church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship,  
And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

*Revd Peter Kimberley, Mission, Outreach and Worship Leader*

## Macmillan Coffee Morning - Thank You!



A massive thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 30 September. We now have the final total raised, which is a truly impressive £1521.86, inclusive of Gift Aid.

I can't thank enough the helpers that turned up on the morning and for everyone who donated cakes, items to sell and for your very generous monetary donations.

Please make a note that next year's event will be on Friday 29 September 2023 – same time, same place!

With my very grateful thanks to you all.

*Lesley Rice*

## Commitment for Life



I hope you all remember the article in September's *Connections* which prompted us to respond to the dire need of funds for Zimbabwe. No harvest, due to lack of rainfall but such resilience shown by the people in finding alternative sources of income ... migrating from farming to footwear!!

The latest news from there includes a prayer on the success of the footwear project: "Dear God, help me not to take my shoes for granted. We remember those in Zimbabwe who struggle to earn enough money to buy shoes to wear for school. We thank you for Christian Aid partners who are working with communities, teaching women new skills in leatherwork so they can make shoes for their families. Amen".

We are all part of that partnership. The funds we raise are making a difference as yet another child has shoes.

So how much did we raise? An unbelievable £1,268 including Gift Aid. This is 'just a tad more' than last year's £1,241 (to quote our Treasurer's e-mail). We are a truly giving church. It's hard to believe we still achieved that bit more but Baginton Road URC, as usual, proved up to the challenge. Thank you all and God bless.

*Mary Goodwin*

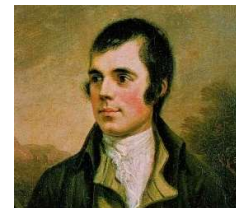
## Burns Supper

**Saturday, 21 January 2023, 6.30 For 7.00**



### MENU

Cock-a-Leekie Soup  
Haggis, Bashed Neeps and Mashed Tatties  
Steak Pie and Vegetables  
Dessert  
Cheese & Biscuits, Tea, Coffee



The meal will be followed by a few short speeches after which you will be able to participate in some Scottish Country Dancing led by Keith Stevens, or just sit and watch if you prefer. The evening will conclude with the singing of Auld Lang Syne at 11.30pm. There will be a licensed bar throughout the evening.

Offers of help to prepare for the event either in advance or on the day would be welcome.

To reserve a ticket, please contact Pauline Luckett.





## World Scout Jamboree

My name is Millie Young; Pauline Blanchard is my nan and she has suggested that I write a piece about the World Scout Jamboree. This is an international event that happens every four years, involving Scouts from across the world.

My friend Eva and I have been selected to go to the 25th World Scout Jamboree, which is taking place in South Korea at the end of July 2023. We are both part of the 11th Coventry Scouts based at Baginton Road and are excited to have been given this wonderful opportunity for us to give back to scouting and inspire the next generation of Scouts.

We have been fundraising for around nine months now and we are getting closer to our goal. Your continued support through events where we have been fundraising has been amazing. Over the next few months, we are planning some more events such as a coffee morning and a sponsored kayak, so keep a look out!

Again, thank you for all of your support so far.

*Millie*



## WARWICK ROAD FILM CLUB

### FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

If you enjoy films, cake and good company then this is for you.

The Film Club aims to bring together people who like to share and discuss films, their themes and the ideas they raise.

It takes place on the first **Wednesday** of each month, in the Warwick Road Centre. The film will start 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 4.45pm.

**The cost is £4** (money can be paid on the door).

If you would like to find out more or make a booking for the film and refreshments (£4), please phone the Centre Office by the previous Friday on 024 7622 0299 or email: [cityoffice@bagintonroadurc.org.uk](mailto:cityoffice@bagintonroadurc.org.uk).

You are very welcome to have lunch in the café before seeing the film but this should be booked separately if you want the Meal Deal (additional £6.00). Please phone the Centre Office on 024 7622 0299

## Warwick Road Centre and Café - December Update

- The Church Centre is getting busier as more customers return to hiring rooms following the lockdown slowdown. It is good to welcome back Age UK and the Ansty Road Poetry Group.
- The Film Club has returned and there was a good attendance for the November film “The Father” starring Antony Hopkins who plays a man with dementia. It is powerful and emotional storyline and Hopkins is a superb actor. He won an Oscar for his portrayal of the main character. The December film is lighter - “Love Actually” (2003, 15), a well-known and extremely popular ‘feel-good’ film. Please contact the Office at the Warwick Road Centre to book your place for the afternoon of Wednesday 7 December.
- Please note that over the Festive Season, the Centre will be closed from Thursday 22 December through to Tuesday 3 January 2023. The office team of Ruth, George and I take this opportunity to wish customers, volunteers, staff, Elders and Trustees a happy, peaceful, and God-centred Christmas.



*Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager*

## Open Doors Café - December & January Menus

The café is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays, offering snacks and drinks 10am – 11:30am and hot meals from: 12 noon – 1:30pm (last orders 1pm).



**Note that the café is closed for Christmas Holiday from Thursday 22 December, re-opening on Tuesday 3 January 2023**

Main course £4; pudding £2. Meal Deal (main & pudding, served with tea or coffee) £6.

### December Menu

Friday 2 December	Barbecued pork, new potatoes and green beans Peach cobbler and cream
Tuesday 6	Beef lasagne, new potatoes and peas Fruit salad
Wednesday 7	Steak & kidney pie, potatoes and vegetables Creamy rice pudding
Friday 9	Cheese & bacon filled potato skins, coleslaw and salad Eve's pudding and custard
Tuesday 13	CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 14	Sausage & tomato hotpot Coffee, date & walnut sponge and custard
Friday 16	Chicken & vegetable casserole Treacle sponge and custard
Tuesday 20	Salmon & asparagus quiche, new potatoes and peas Caramel apple cake and custard
Wednesday 21	Creamy mushroom chicken, potatoes and vegetables Bread and butter pudding and cream
Thursday 22 December – Monday 2 Jan	Centre closed – Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### January Menu

Tuesday 3 January 2023	Chicken chasseur, potatoes and vegetables Mixed berry crumble and custard
Wednesday 4	Pork & vegetable casserole Bread pudding and custard
Friday 6	Faggots, creamed potatoes and mushy peas Sticky toffee sponge and custard
Tuesday 10	Corned beef hash and cauliflower cheese Fresh cream strawberry shortcake
Wednesday 11	Beef stew and dumplings Ginger sponge and custard
Friday 13	Shepherd's pie and vegetables Jam sponge and custard
Tuesday 17	Beef Bourguignon and savoury rice Cherry tart and custard
Wednesday 18	Chicken & mushroom pie, potatoes and vegetables Eton mess
Friday 20	Lamb's liver and onions, bubble and squeak Banana sponge and caramel sauce
Tuesday 24	Minced beef cobbler, potatoes and vegetables Raspberry & white chocolate sponge and cream
Wednesday 25	Cottage pie and vegetables Lemon sponge and custard
Friday 27	Sausages with onion gravy, mashed potato and vegetables Jam roly-poly and custard
Tuesday 31	Ham & leek potato bake and vegetables Warm chocolate brownie and ice cream

## Someone Special

After decades of service, Marilyn has decided it is time to relinquish her role as leader of Refreshers, the young people's group which is part of our worship on Sundays.



Countless numbers of children and young people have been fortunate to have Marilyn take them by the hand and lead them along their spiritual path. I know that our present group of young people are going to miss her and all that she has done for them.

The list of activities Marilyn has provided beyond those she created on a Sunday morning is a reflection of her desire to share her own personal faith and love of God with those at the start of their faith journey. It is a testimony anyone would be proud to own: Junior Church teacher, Leader of Junior Church, establishing Drench Café, Transition Days, links with local schools, forming links with other groups within the city who work with young people, involvement with holiday club and activity days, and organising weekends and holidays away. We also cannot forget the way she worked to keep the group in touch with each other during the pandemic. I am sure there are others which I have missed.

We thank Marilyn most sincerely for the many years she has dedicated to the young people of West Orchard and more recently Baginton Road URC, and we wish her well as she settles into a new routine within the congregation.

On behalf of everyone at Baginton Road URC, thank you Marilyn and God Bless.

*Pauline Lockett*



## Advent Knitalong

Following on from the mystery Lent Knitalong, there will be a mystery Advent Knitalong, starting on Sunday 27 November.

The Advent squares will be knitted in DK yarn (a solid colour will work best). You will need approximately 40 - 50 grams of yarn to complete all four squares. Use 3.75mm or 4mm needles if you're an average knitter. They are designed to be coaster-sized, or they can be sewn/knitted together to make a larger table mat for Christmas Day. You could also stuff and sew them together in pairs or back them with fabric to create Christmas tree decorations.

All four patterns and the weekly reflections will be released in one single document on Sunday 27 November with a suggested schedule to finish on Christmas Eve, but of course knitters can work at their own pace. If you would like a copy of all the patterns and reflections, please see me.

*Jenny Barnes*



## Christmas Trifles - Relevant and Irrelevant

Christmas was first documented in Rome in 336 AD.

In 1651, the General Court of Boston levied a fine of five shillings (25p) on anyone caught “observing any such day as Christmas”.

In Victorian times mince pies were made of beef and spices.

The tradition of putting tangerines in stockings stems from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century when nuns in France left socks of fruit, nuts and tangerines at the houses of the poor.

Carols began as an English custom called Wassailing, toasting neighbours to a long life.

The tiny island of Foula in the Shetland Isles still marks the holidays according to the Julian Calendar, with Yule on 6 January and Newerday seven days later.

St Francis of Assisi started singing in churches in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

The word “Xmas” is not irreligious as the letter X is a Greek abbreviation for Christ.

The word “Noel” derives from the French expression “les bonnes nouvelles” - the good news.

*Barry Stelfox*

## Nagomi Art Class



On Saturday 12 November, a group of us attended a Nagomi art class organised by Wendy from the Belonging Church. Nagomi art originates from Japan and its emphasis is on the creative process rather than the end result. It is about healing, and having a creative and relaxing effect on the artist.

The teacher was very patient with us as we followed her instructions. It was a fun, relaxed session where we learned a very different technique using pastel crayons and our fingers to create our own special sunset pictures. We did only just scratch the surface of what can be achieved and we all agreed we would love to learn more and attend another class.

We wish to thank Wendy for organising the class and to the teacher for presenting such an interesting and different art medium to us.

*Pam Dawson*

## Outreach Update from Steve Elton

Following a very busy October, November has been a good time to get a number of things ready to share, like the Christmas Worship Project, and consider what the next steps and actions for the new year are.



- **Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Group:** With the first run of the course now successfully completed, we will be exploring how we could potentially offer the course to others in the Baginton Road church community, as well as the wider community in Cheylesmore/Stivichall. Some very exciting ideas have already been suggested - watch this space!
- **Agenda-less Worship Evenings:** We have had three wonderful Worship Evenings at Baginton Road since we launched them in September. There has been real engagement and interest in these evenings, which is lovely to see as we gather together to worship Jesus. We will be looking at potentially scheduling some more of these times together in the new year.
- **A Christmas Worship Project:** we did it! The Christmas spoken word and worship project *The Invitation* is done. All the recording, editing and preparing has been completed, and it will be released on Saturday 26 November on the Baginton Road YouTube channel and website (links for both will be shared soon). A link to it will also be on all the Christmas cards given out this year!
- **A Christmas Quiz:** we have had a great response from people at Baginton Road regarding the Christmas Quiz on Saturday 17 December. People are inviting their friends, family, neighbours and colleagues along, and we are expecting a fun Christmassy and social evening. As previously mentioned, there will be a quiz, some live music, food and an airing of *The Invitation* to add a sprinkle of what Christmas is all about. Roll on Christmas!

*Steve Elton, Outreach Consultant*



## Connections Survey - Summary of Responses

Thank you to all those who took the time to contribute to the survey. A total of 21 replies were received. The general feeling of the recipients was favourable. Most people preferred the A4 format. There was a high demand for rotas, reports from Elders Meetings and Youth News; however, these may be difficult to organise.

There was a strong interest in having more Pastoral News. We would like to include such items; this would work best if there was someone coordinating this who could ensure that consent was obtained from the person featured in the news item. If anyone is willing to help with this, please contact our Editor, Claire Booth.

People were willing to pay between £10 and £15 per year for hard copies. This will be referred to Elders. Additional suggestions include adding articles such as book reviews, handy hints and recipes. We would be happy to include these as a one-off or, if anyone would like to contribute this on a regular basis, please speak to Claire.

The general opinion was that articles should be no longer than two pages long (approximately 900 words).

Examples of comments received are: *'Interesting to hear about our young people's activities, helps to engage'* and *'This is a lovely friendly magazine'*.

*Jenny Barnes*

## 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:

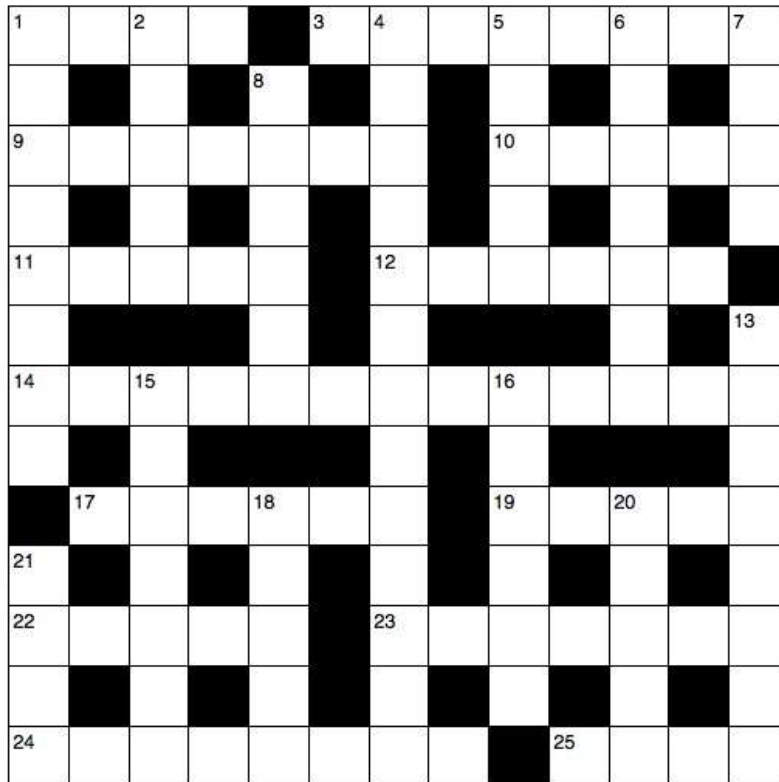
**Thursday, 1 December, Theme: 'Weather'**

**Thursday, 5 January, Theme: 'Food'**



For more information, please contact David Lathbury: [david@dlathbury.co.uk](mailto:david@dlathbury.co.uk).

## Puzzle Pages



### Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)  
 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore'(Hebrews 13:13) (8)  
 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)  
 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)  
 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)  
 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)  
 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)  
 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)  
 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)  
 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)  
 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)  
 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)  
 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

### Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)  
 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)  
 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)  
 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)  
 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)  
 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)  
 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)  
 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)  
 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)  
 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)  
 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)  
 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)  
 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)



### SUDOKU (EASY)

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

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### SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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

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Solutions on page 21

## WORDSEARCH

Christmas is nearly here! Two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on his people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

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**Mouse Makes**  
**HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**  
 Read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-21**.  
 Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

**Where was Mary's baby born?  
 Why were Joseph and Mary there?**

**Where did Mary lay her baby and why?  
 What did Mary dress her baby in?**

**Why were the shepherds afraid?  
 What good news did the angel tell?**

**What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?**

**Who appeared praising God, what did they say?**

**Word Search:**  
 G L J O Y  
 M R C  
 S A Y G P  
 O N V O J  
 G B A B Y N G O O D A B L F  
 V O S H E P H E R D S A V I O U R  
 D A Y T M A R Y N E N F R R O  
 S C H R I S T E P G L T D  
 A L A I D R W H E O H  
 E P R A I S E L C  
 H E I V A L L S K  
 E E A N I G H T O L D  
 S M C N D E C R E E B  
 E A E I S I G N  
 E T D E

**Word Bank:**  
 ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER  
 INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY  
 SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

## **Pauline's Tribute to Yvonne**

Yvonne: After your predecessor left in 2014, the members of what was then West Orchard URC spent many hours discussing and sometimes arguing about the future of ministry for our church and its members. It soon became obvious that no matter how loud we shouted, how hard we stamped our feet and how unpopular we made ourselves with the area and Synod we were not going to get what we wanted – a full time minister. We were going to have to share ministry with at least one other church, maybe more, and several options were put before the Elders and church meeting. We felt that the best option, other than that of a full-time minister, was to become part of a shared pastorate. You expressed an interest in becoming our minister and your name was put forward to the Elders to consider. We viewed your profile and invited you to come along to an Elders' meeting in order to find out a little more about you and your vision for our Church. Following this meeting you were invited to come and 'Preach with a view'. This happened in February 2015 and included afternoon tea followed by yet another session of questions, this time from the members. A Special Church Meeting held the next evening agreed to extend the call to you to be our Minister which of course you accepted.

As I was acting Church Secretary at the time, it was my privilege to be involved in planning for your induction which was held here on Sunday, 26 April 2015. I have since come full circle – I am again Church Secretary and I have been responsible for organising, along with others, our celebration today; a celebration of your time with us, of your achievements and all that you have meant to us. We soon realised that services didn't need to last for an hour and that it was possible to preach God's message in a sermon of less than 20 minutes. We accepted and came to enjoy subtle changes in the style of worship including using more visual resources. On Sunday mornings some of us even had to move about! More of us were encouraged to take an active part in worship whether we liked it or not. And above all we came round to the idea of having to share your ministry. However, as always God had a plan, more of this in a moment.

During the pandemic you encouraged us to keep in touch with each other and as a Church via Zoom. We held regular online coffee chats and Elders' meetings, Advent and Lent courses, Sunday worship and, when easing of lockdown enabled services to resume face to face, WR and WO were invited to join together in worship, meeting at each church on alternate Sundays. We began to make new friends – God's plan was being put into action! In 2021 both churches passed resolutions to join together and form a new church here on this site and you led the first service of Baginton Road URC on Sunday, 6 February 2022. It was an emotional experience for both congregations, but I personally have taken great pleasure in watching new friendships evolve and groups made up from both former congregations working together in all aspects of church life. We still have much to do as we step out on our new journey together but under your guidance, we have made a pretty good start.

I know there are many families who are grateful for the numerous services you have led to unite couples in marriage, celebrate new life through baptism and blessings, and to join in thanksgiving for lives when we have lost loved ones. There are not many here today who have not been able to share your care, compassion and love when conducting these special services, and for this we say a special Thank You.

Yvonne, right at the start of your ministry at WO you joined one of the mid-week walks and you were aware of my personal disappointment at being overlooked concerning a church matter and you asked me if I would like to be your mentor. I agreed hoping I would not let you down. Only you know the answer to that and I'm not asking you to tell me the answer in front of all these people just now. I think I've been pretty fair – during the past seven years I've shared many things with you: hospital crutches, surgical boots and broken bones, to name but a few. The worrying aspect was when one of us suffered an injury then the other also suffered a similar one not long after. It wasn't helped by Ted reminding you that if you were injured I ought to be warned or if it was me, then you were told to be careful.

I think the mentoring has worked both ways because for me, Yvonne, you have not only been my minister, you have also been my friend; we have laughed together, been through sad and difficult times, and shared confidences with one another, the hardest one being you telling me you had decided to retire early but nobody else knows yet! I will miss you being here.

Time moves on, people move on and you now feel that your work here in this place is complete. You have brought us to this stage in our journey and now it is time for someone else to take over and lead us into the next phase and for you to take on new challenges too.

Part of our gift to you is to let you go, albeit reluctantly, and in so doing, we give you our promise that we will remember your message of recent months and that we will not give up on ourselves but will continue to pray and ask God for guidance and look to him for answers whenever we are in difficulties.

Thank you for being our minister, for being a part of our spiritual lives and for bringing us to where we are now. We will miss you and Ted, but we know that not all the Stones will be rolling away – one will be staying behind to help prop us up in his new role as our Premises Caretaker, George, we wish you well in your new role, and you will be visiting him quite often to ensure all is well. We can therefore rest assured that today is not goodbye but 'au revoir' and God speed in the next chapter of your life.

And so, to the rest of our gift: as a token of our love and appreciation we have a plant to adorn your new home, something for the garden and something in the envelope to enable you to purchase some much-needed item which hopefully will remind you of us. Thanks for the memories, take care and God Bless.

**SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)**

3	7	9	6	5	4	2	1	8
8	4	6	3	1	2	7	9	5
1	2	5	7	9	8	4	3	6
7	6	1	4	2	9	8	5	3
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9	5	3	1	8	7	6	2	4
5	1	4	9	7	6	3	8	2
2	3	7	8	4	5	1	6	9
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**SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)**

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

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

ACROSS: 1 Hide. 3 Disgrace. 9 Sonship. 10 Oaths. 11 Tutti. 12 Ignore.  
14 Foreknowledge. 17 Ashram. 19 Men or. 22 Aroma. 23 Nineveh. 24 Amethyst.  
25 Trod.

DOWN: 1 His staff. 2 Do not. 4 Imprisonments. 5 Groan. 6 Altered. 7 Easy. 8 Shrink.  
13 Searched. 15 Restore. 16 Lament. 18 Reach. 20 Never. 21 Jada.

**Connections - February 2023 issue deadline**

News, articles and other items to be included in the February 2023 issue of *Connections* should be sent by email to the editor Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, 18 January 2023**.

Items should ideally be no more than 1 page in length (about 450 words) and definitely no longer than 2 pages.

*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

### December 2022 & January 2023

Morning service: 10.30am; Evening service: 6.30pm



Date	Time	Preacher	
4 December 2022	am pm	Revd David Spriggs Steve Elton	
11 December	am pm	Revd Ian Macnair Revd Colin Offor	Holy Communion
18 December	am pm	Revd Peter Kimberley Pauline Lockett	All Age Holy Communion Carols by Candlelight
24 December	5pm 8.30 pm	Crawford Dow Pauline Lockett	Family service Holy Communion
25 December	10.30 am pm	Sue Matthews No service	
1 January 2023	am pm	Rita Dalton No service	All Age
8 January	am pm	Revd D. Tennant Sue Matthews & Pauline Lockett	Holy Communion
15 January	am pm	Revd Kimberley No service	Holy Communion
22 January	am pm	Keith Stevens Wilf Hawes	
29 January	am pm	Steve Elton No service	Parade
5 February	am pm	Marg Marshall Revd Colin Offor	Holy Communion



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