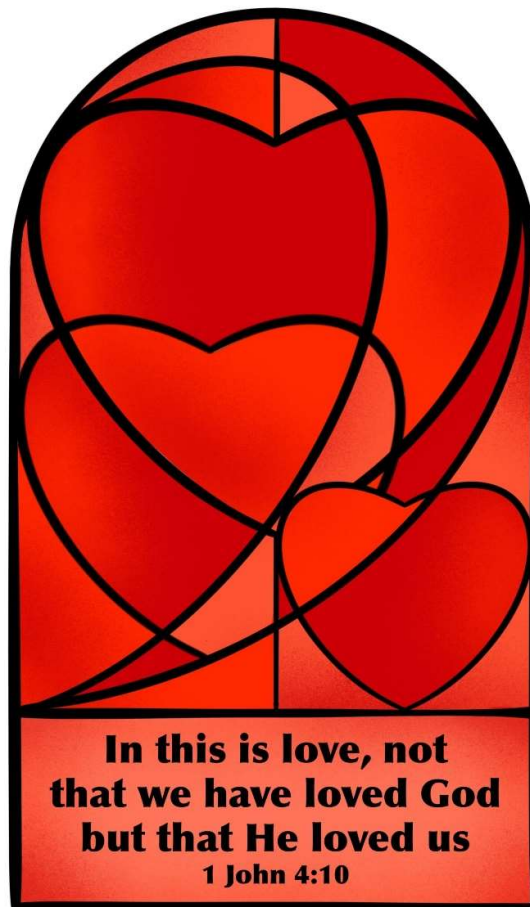


'Sharing the love of Jesus every day'



Connections

The church magazine for Baginton Road URC



February 2023

Incorporating Warwick Road URC and West Orchard URC

*83 Baginton Road
Coventry
CV3 6FP*



In this month's magazine

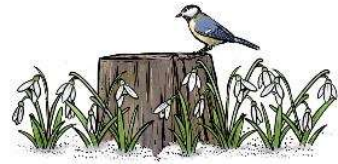
Dear Friends.....	3
Pastoral News	4
Bob Watson, 1938 - 2022.....	4
Notes from Elders' Meetings.....	5
Worship Planning - Can you help?	7
Mission, Outreach and Worship Report for February 2023	7
Defibrillator News	9
Making Mondays	9
World Scout Jamboree – bake sales	9
Traidcraft plc going into administration	10
Women's Prayer Breakfast.....	10
Coventry residents need photo ID to vote at elections in May.....	11
Banner Making – Help Needed.....	11
Rugby URC – Invitation to Retirement service	12
Ministry Enquirers' Event.....	12
Fairtrade Fortnight.....	12
Warwick Road Centre and Café – February Update	13
Open Doors Café – February Menus.....	14
Outreach Update from Steve Elton - February	15
Age UK Friendship Group.....	16
News in Brief from the UK and around the world.....	17
World Day of Prayer - Friday, 3 March 2023	18
Poetry Café.....	18
250 th Anniversaries.....	19
Puzzle Pages.....	20
Mouse Makes	22
Connections – March 2023 issue deadline.....	23
Worship at Baginton Road URC	24
Church Contacts.....	24



St Andrew's House
19 St Andrew's Road, Earlsdon
Coventry CV5 6FP
Residential, respite or short stay care
in a Christian home.
St Andrew's can help!
Telephone Lesley 02476 673745
www.standrewshouse.org.uk

Dear Friends

Look at the birds flying around; they do not sow seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds? [Matthew 6:26].



What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer! [Rejoice and Sing 413].

How have you begun 2023? With hope and excitement as to what is before you, or with trepidation, thinking of the woes of 2022 which it is feared might continue into this new year, giving rise to different fears and challenges – financial hardship, hunger and escalating human conflict, environmental catastrophes – all of our making. It is too easy to succumb to despair and depression, gloom and doom.

As I look out of my office window the sun is shining, bright and beautiful, the sky is a deep blue, it is cold, but invigorating – the garden birds are singing, a happy sound. We have God's treasure trove of nature all around us with the promise of Spring not far away – a time of regeneration, wonder of new life awakening from the dark, challenging days of Winter.

Trust in God....

Certainly, we will all have to face new challenges through the coming year. How do we face them? With faith and by not underestimating the power of prayer.

In addition to having the privilege of prayer – an open door to Jesus – we have the strength of fellowship with Him, but also of great value is the fellowship we have with one another. The coming together of our two Churches has required adjustment and tolerance but the sum of the two opens exciting possibilities through our strengthened fellowship.

Personally, the fellowship I experience as a member of our Church and our Scout Group enriches each and every day for which I am truly thankful.

As with any group of individuals there are disagreements and upsets; there always will be, but none are insurmountable, remembering that in fellowship we can achieve so much more than as individuals.

We all have much to be thankful for, no matter the challenges we will have to face and overcome in the course of 2023. The joy is that we do not have to do so alone!

Great is the faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness, morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided, great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me. [Rejoice and Sing 96].

Notwithstanding my ramblings, may you have a happy, heathy and joyful 2023.

Crawford

Pastoral News

Thank you to everyone who donated money to CCM after Marsh's death. The total raised in his memory was an amazing £546 which will be a blessing for all who benefit from the Mission's work.



Gill Mulrooney and family

It is with sadness that we inform you of the death at the age of 97 of Joy Harley on 1 January 2023. She was a loyal and long-time member of West Orchard but sadly, she had not been well enough to attend worship since the lifting of Covid restrictions. Our thoughts are with Joy's son, Rex, who had cared for her since the start of the pandemic.

Bob Watson, 1938 - 2022

We would like to thank everyone at Baginton Road URC and Abbey Hill URC for all the support, help and kindness shown to us following Bob's death. We know Bob also appreciated all the messages, cards and prayers from you all during his illness.

Both services at Coventry Crematorium and Baginton Road, conducted by Peter Kimberley and George Jones, were amazing and a wonderful, moving tribute to Bob. The organ music provided by Tim was beautifully played and much enjoyed.

Thank you to Pam and John Dawson, and the team of helpers, who provided so much help with the refreshments after the service. It was good to be able to talk to so many of his friends about their memories and stories in such a lovely, relaxed way over a cup of tea and a sandwich.

Also, the Scouts and Leaders did an amazing job of setting up the hall and church beforehand and created the very interesting display of photographs and scouting items relating to Bob's scouting life. The Scouts' participation in celebrating Bob's life added so much to the occasion and gave a greater depth to everyone's knowledge of his service and dedication to the scouting movement. Thank you.

Again, many thanks to everyone and best wishes.

Roger & Angela Bull and all the family



TRANSFORM
EUROPE
NETWORK

Special Cause Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Special Cause appeal for November and December. A total of £153.25 was collected which has been used to purchase toiletries, toilet rolls and cleaning products for distribution as part of Foodbank parcels. These items are much needed and really appreciated by the clients who come to the City Mission Foodbank.

The appeal for January and February will reach much further afield: donations will be sent to TEN - Transform Europe Network. This is a UK organisation whose vision is to see lives being transformed across Europe through compassion, Evangelism and church planting. The war in Ukraine means that costs are spiralling in the Balkans and Eastern Europe because of their reliance on fuel from Russia. TEN currently has a WinterHelp appeal to enable partner churches in these countries to buy winter clothes and fuel for those in need. For example, £15 will buy a woolly hat, scarf and gloves, £12 will buy a blanket and £25 will provide a winter coat. Hopefully, by pooling together all our small donations we can make a difference for people in these cold countries.

If you would like to donate to this appeal, please pop your donations into the Special Cause box at the back of Church.

Also, you will find a box of handmade cards near the Special Cause Box. These are for sale for £1 each – special cards to help a special cause! Place the money for the cards in the Special Cause Box.

Thank you for your support.

Sue Davis

Notes from Elders' Meetings

December 2022:

- Concerns from members were discussed along with how we move forward to address these issues soon.
- Area Deployment is under review by all churches in the Synod area and Elders will be attending a second meeting on Saturday, 28 January at Holyhead Road URC.
- To encourage both negative & positive comments, the Suggestion Box to be replaced with a Comments Box.
- Morning of Mission is being planned for January/December - this will be an opportunity for everyone to come together and talk about what we want for our church as we move forward on our journey through 2023.
- To improve security, the locks have been changed and new keys issued to keyholders. These keys cannot be copied and entrance with keys will be via the Office door only.

- Issues with the boiler are hopefully being resolved; new free-standing heaters to use in emergencies have been purchased rather than pay a weekly higher charge which was quite excessive.
- A review of how we distribute Holy Communion has resulted in a decision to continue with the present method of collecting bread and wine as you come into church. This will be reviewed again in three months.
- A new Pastorate Profile has been produced for Baginton Road URC. Hard copies will be available after Christmas for you to take away and read, and then return so that others can look at it. Electronic copies available on request from Kevin. A proposal to accept the new profile will go before the Church Meeting on Sunday, 12 February.
- A group is reviewing the Rules for the Election of Elders.
- A rota for door stewards is being introduced, so if Gill M approaches you please take a turn welcoming people to our Sunday Worship.
- We are also reviewing our Welcome procedures.

January 2023:



- Elders are due to attend an area meeting at Holyhead Road URC on 28 January to discuss area deployment.
- We are planning a 'Sharing Together' morning following on from that held in March 2022 when we hope as many members as possible, and friends of Baginton Road URC, will come together and review the past year and discuss how we move forward on the next stage of our journey. The date is to be confirmed.
- Review of the various copyright licences was carried out. Some changes were agreed, which will slim down the number we use.
- We discussed contingency plans for conducting funerals, weddings, and baptisms. We have two authorised persons who can preside at Holy Communion, and they are also able to carry out baptisms. There is training available for anyone who wishes to put themselves forward to conduct weddings or funerals.
- Elders agreed provisional arrangements for the Holiday from Home activity, 31 July – 2 August.
- Explore possible dates for the Knitted Bible exhibition to return to Baginton Road URC.
- Agreed Steve Elton should implement Phase 2 of his project for our church.
- Peter working more closely with WRC one day per week; Elders are being invited to accompany him.
- Quotes are still being sought for the redevelopment of the apse, and arrangements are being made for the disposal of the pulpit.
- Becoming an Eco-church – this is work in progress.

Pauline Luckett, Church Secretary

Worship Planning - Can you help?

The Worship Sub-group would like to set up a Worship Planning Group to plan and deliver services when required.



You will realise that we will have to lead more services in-house, especially in the evening. You would not have to create a service on your own but as part of a group.

There are also a great many resources available both in books and online. If you don't want to be involved in delivering the services but feel you could contribute to the planning, your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Having been part of such a group for West Orchard, I know it can be a rewarding activity. If you are interested, please speak to me or Rita.

Sue Matthews

Mission, Outreach and Worship Report for February 2023

A big Thank You to all of you who volunteer to help make Baginton Road URC and Warwick Road Centre the amazing places they are. I know just how many hours you are freely giving to help run and be part of such a busy and supportive church. After Covid, it is clear that a lot of churches are struggling to reopen and re-establish their place in their communities - this could not be further from the truth for us at Baginton Road.

As I look at the church diary on a weekly basis, I'm uplifted by the many fabulous opportunities and events we offer to our community. The buildings are used seven days a week and we reach out to all ages of our communities in one form or another. This may be via uniformed organisations or Bounce and Play, coffee mornings or Luncheon Club, yoga or MoveItOrLoselt keep fit, the Poetry Café or Movie Club, and of course our amazing Open Doors Café - we have something for everyone.

All this takes effort and dedication from you, the church, and the generous donation of your time. And so, I repeat myself by thanking each and every one of you for being the amazing church that you are.

Looking Forward

This year I am looking forward to working with you all again to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in all we do. As I write this, we are planning a Mission Morning in March to prioritise the work we do as a church and focus on how we best serve the mission of Christ in the communities we serve. I hope in the coming year we will be revisiting some of the great successes of last year, such as the Easter Coffee Morning, the Summer BBQ, the Christmas Bazaar and the Christmas Quiz. I also hope that we can continue the weekly events that make the buildings come alive.

All these things take time and effort from you. I know it is quite a commitment but, together we are making a difference. So please, please continue to volunteer as much time as you're able and together we can help make this church grow. If you're thinking of getting involved, please come and talk to me, even if you only have an hour a week you can spare. All offers of help are gratefully received.

Apse Redevelopment

The apse redevelopment is at the stage where we are looking for quotes to rework the audio-visual systems in church and building quotes for reworking the front of church. I hope to bring you more on this soon as the behind-the-scenes planning comes to a conclusion.

Your wellbeing matters

As well as helping to look after the spiritual welfare of those in our community, I also believe in nurturing the wellbeing of the whole person. To this end I have begun a new venture for 2023 working with the Coventry City Council Health Lifestyles Team on how we can promote looking after ourselves and those around us. Following a visit to our MoveItOrLosIt Group, I'm happy to say that a number of the group have signed up for several sessions to help improve their health, e.g. stopping smoking, diet, weight issues and help with limiting alcohol consumption. Once again come and talk to me on how you can get involved or receive support in confidence for yourself or others on any of these issues.

Feeding rough sleepers

During January and February, Kevin Green and I will be walking the precincts of Coventry City Centre on Friday lunchtimes armed with hot sausage batches. Our aim will be to feed those unfortunate souls who find themselves needing to camp out on the streets and in need of some donations of loose change or food. A kind and generous sum of money was donated to the Warwick Road café by a lady wishing to feed rough sleepers and so it is our privilege to execute her wishes and help feed those we find.



Contact me

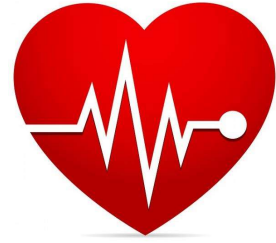
As your Mission and Outreach Leader I am always on the lookout for new ideas and projects to help spread the Good News of Jesus Christ into our communities. So, if you have an idea for something that you think will help to achieve this, let me know and I'll try and make it a reality.

So don't be shy - email me, text me, phone me or meet me in church and let's talk about what is possible, because anything is possible with God's help.

Rev Peter Kimberley, Mission, Outreach & Worship Leader

Defibrillator News

Many of you know we purchased a defibrillator for community use a few years ago. Although this has never been used, I have received information from the West Midlands Ambulance Service that the details have been requested. Luckily, in each case, the patient has been treated in other ways.



I recently received a request from WMAS to house a bleed kit in our cabinet. These have been supplied by a local charity. Although they have received press coverage related to stabbings, I was assured by the paramedic the main use is in road traffic collisions. Our location close to the South Coventry main roads makes it an ideal location.

Please note, emergency access to the defibrillator or bleed kit is only available via the 999 service.

Jenny Barnes



Making Mondays

Dates for the Spring Term: 30 January, 27 February, 27 March, 24 April.

1.30pm – 3.30pm in the Small Hall at Baginton Road. Everyone welcome, please bring scissors and a pen or pencil.

Sue Davis

World Scout Jamboree - bake sales

Thank you for continuing to support us at Jamboree fundraising events! We are setting up some bake sales at the back of the church after services in the coming months, the dates will be posted in the notice sheet. The first one is on Sunday, 29 January.



We are also looking at setting up a coffee morning, a tabletop sale and an afternoon tea over the next few months.

In April we have a Sponsored Kayak down the River Wye. It would be amazing if you could sponsor us; there will be a sponsorship form at the back of the church soon!

Again, thank you for your support.

Millie & Eva

Traidcraft plc going into administration



The disappointing news that Traidcraft plc has gone into administration means that we will no longer be able to purchase the supplies of coffee, tea, Christmas and Easter Cards which we have had in church for several years. It's especially disappointing for those people who love the decaffeinated coffee and teabags which were available.

Traidcraft's directors made this announcement on 20 January 2023, explaining that the business has been in a weak financial position for some years and the Covid-19 pandemic presented a significant new set of challenges. These were then compounded by the combined effects of the war in Ukraine, rising energy prices and increased transport costs.

On a positive note – the charity arm of the organisation, Transform Trade (previously Traidcraft Exchange), will continue its work supporting producers and fighting for trade justice. You can support this by coming to our Big Brew Breakfast on 4 March.

Sue Davis



Women's Prayer Breakfast



Next dates: 18 February, 18 March*, 15 April, 13 May.

* On this and sometimes other dates, the venue will be a home or different room. Please check weekly Notices nearer the time.

8.30am in the Small Hall (NB ramp door to the halls 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



Coventry residents need photo ID to vote at elections in May

Coventry City Council has highlighted a new government requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station. As a result, Coventry residents will need to show an accepted form of photographic ID to vote at this year's local elections. This was introduced by the Elections Act 2022 which comes into effect this May.

Accepted forms of ID include:

- a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport
- a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence
- and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass.

The full list of accepted forms of ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID. Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online at voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/ or by completing a paper form.

If residents need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request a paper application form, they can contact the Council's Electoral Services team: electoral.services@coventry.gov.uk; tel: 024 7683 3034.

For more information about the elections in Coventry and Voter ID, and other ways to vote, go to www.coventry.gov.uk/elections.

Banner Making - Help Needed



Are you interested in Banner Making? One or two people have approached me with requests to have more banners in the Sanctuary. Rather than bring those from the Warwick Road Centre, it has been suggested that a first task could be to produce a new fall for the lectern incorporating our mission statement and one other with a design to be decided. We are suggesting the lectern as the pulpit will shortly be removed.

If you are interested in becoming part of a Banner Making Group, please do get in touch and we can agree the most convenient time and day to meet. If we agree to produce two banners, we could possibly have a daytime and evening group which would mean those who still need to work can still be involved.

This would be a great opportunity to come together and find out more about each other as we create a piece of artwork reflecting our faith and our love of God.

Pauline Luckett, Church Secretary

Rugby URC - Invitation to Retirement service

You are invited to a church service for the Retirement of Revd Robert Maloney at Rugby URC on Saturday, 25 February 2023 at 3pm.

Please reply to churchsec@rugbyurc.org.uk, indicating how many are attending.

Ministry Enquirers' Event

"What is God calling me to?" is an online Ministries event taking place on Saturday, 11 February 2023 from 10am-3pm.

At the event, you'll be about to learn more about Stepwise, the URC's discipleship development course; worship leading; children's and young people's work; Ministry of Word and Sacraments and church related community work.

If you'd like to attend, register at ministries@urc.org.uk.



Fairtrade Fortnight

27 February – 12 March 2023



To celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight, please come and join us for a

BIG BREW BREAKFAST

Saturday 4 March, 10am until 12 noon at 21 Alfriston Road

Tea, coffee, bacon batches - books and jigsaws on sale

Proceeds to Transform Trade (formerly Traidcraft) - Working together for trade that values people over profit.

Colin and Sue Davis



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.

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 – February Update

- Things are picking up after the festive holiday period, with the café and lettings both busy.
- There is a worrying leak from the roof area that has caused damage to the internal walls in the Greyfriars Room on the first floor. We have had the problem investigated and some structural work on the outside of the building is required. We will be carefully monitoring it.
- This year we will see the side elevation of the Centre repaired and redecorated when the weather improves – hopeful in early Spring.
- After several months we are keeping our fingers crossed that the church's gas boiler will finally be back working again, having been refurbished and repaired.
- This month's Film Club is *Fisherman's Friend 2* on Wednesday, 1 February at 2.30pm.
- A Happy New Year to all from the Team in the Office, Ruth George, and Trevor.



Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager

Open Doors Café - February Menu

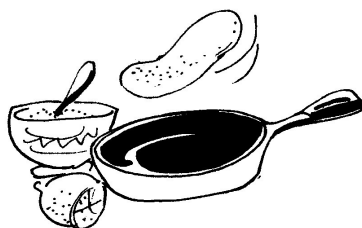


The café is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays, offering snacks and drinks 10am – 11:30am and hot meals from: 12 noon – 1:30pm (last orders 1pm).

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

February Menu

Wednesday 1 st	Beef lasagne, new potatoes and peas Dutch apple pie and custard
Friday 3 rd	Chicken & vegetable casserole Treacle tart and custard
Tuesday 7 th	Pork with a leek & stilton sauce, potatoes and vegetables Peach crumble and custard
Wednesday 8 th	Fisherman's pie and peas Pineapple upside-down sponge and cream
Friday 10 th	Steak & mushroom pie, potatoes and vegetables Blackcurrant cheesecake
Tuesday 14 th	Lamb & vegetable casserole Lemon meringue pie
Wednesday 15 th	Cheese & bacon filled potato skins, coleslaw and salad Mixed berry crumble and custard
Friday 17 th	Savoury sausage meat lattice, potatoes and vegetables Jam & coconut sponge and custard
Tuesday 21 st	Chicken dinner Citrus pancakes
Wednesday 22 nd	Sausage & tomato hotpot Bakewell tart and custard
Friday 24 th	Barbecued pork, new potatoes and green beans Creamy rice pudding
Tuesday 28 th	Minced beef & onion pie, potatoes and vegetables Fruit trifle



Outreach Update from Steve Elton - February

I hope that you have all had a good, restful and meaningful Christmas and New Year! I am really excited for what's ahead for Baginton Road and the surrounding communities in 2023, but before we jump into that I thought it would be good to take a moment and celebrate a few of the successes that happened at the close of 2022, and use them as part of our springboard to launch us into 2023:



- **A Christmas Quiz:** Wow, what an evening! We had around 120 people attending from all walks of life - Uniformed Services, Langar Aid, a Sunday League Football Team, and lots of neighbours, friends, and family - and there was such a buzz and sense of community in the room. It was an evening full of laughter, fun and life, with so many people sharing what a great evening they had. One person commented that this quiz will be part of their family's Christmas routine each year from now on and another said how this was one of the best 'church' events they had ever been too. A huge Thank You to all those who came, helped out 'front of house' or behind the scenes and prayed for the event! We are already excitedly discussing what community event we do next! You can see some of the photos from the evening by going to bit.ly/Quiz23Photos.
- **The Christmas Worship Project:** It has been wonderful to see the impact and reach of *The Invitation* Christmas Worship Project. At the time of writing, it has been viewed over 1,200 times on YouTube, and we know of it being shown as part of churches' Christmas services across the UK and even in parts of the US. It has also been played at birthday parties, Christmas events and in schools, with one primary school performing it as part of their Christmas assembly. It's wonderful that the message of Christmas which *The Invitation* communicates has been heard and seen by so many. There are plans beginning to take shape for the Easter Worship Project, which will be themed around the message of hope. Watch this space for more details coming soon ...
- **Christmas Bazaar:** another huge success at the close of 2022 was the Christmas Bazaar, showing that there is a real appetite from the local community to connect with what is going on at Baginton Road. It was a privilege to be able to support this event by singing some Christmas carols as part of Hope Springs Church, which went down very well with those who attended!

More 'Worship Evenings' Coming up

As well as possible future community events, the Easter Worship Project and the exploration of Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Groups, we will be continuing the monthly Worship Evenings at Baginton Road following the success of those hosted at Baginton Road in the Autumn. These will be at 7pm on the last Tuesday of each month - 31 January, 28 February, 28 March and 25 April. If you haven't been to one yet, then why not come and long and see what they are all about.

Steve Elton, Outreach Consultant



Friendship Group

Are you aged 65 or over?

Looking to make friends? widen your social circle ?
or just get out of the house a bit more?

Whether you're naturally outgoing, or a little bit shy,
come and relax over tea, coffee and biscuits, meet
new people and chat about the things that interest
you.

Age UK Friendship group now meeting on Mondays
12.00pm—2.00pm

At the Open doors café in the Warwick Road Church
Centre

Come in and join our Friendly group

£2.00

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM THE UK AND AROUND THE WORLD

Cambridge scientists have calculated that 200,000 tonnes of CO² emissions per year would be avoided if all 4.15m Roman Catholics in England and Wales reverted to the tradition of forgoing meat on a Friday. In 1985 this tradition (which can be traced back to at least the 9th Century) was changed when the bishops gave permission to “perform some alternative work of penance”.

A person who was a chorister at Queen Elizabeth II's 1953 Coronation has said that for a congregation of 8,000 at Westminster Abbey there was a combined choir of 350, which included 19 women from the Dominions. Afterwards, the then Archbishop of Canterbury and the Director of Music recommended that in a future coronation there should be no female singers!

The Metropolitan Police have had to pay £10,000 in damages to a Christian preacher who was arrested twice at Speakers' Corner in London for allegedly breaching the peace and other public order offences. Hatun Tash, who moved to the UK eight years ago from Turkey, is the director of *Defend Christ, Critique Islam* with 700,000 YouTube Followers, and is a former Muslim who converted to Christianity. She has also been attacked at Speakers' Corner wearing a Charlie Hebdo T-shirt whilst critiquing the Quran and Islam but the police have yet to make an arrest.



“Ring for the King” is the name of an appeal for at least 8,000 new bellringers needed for the Coronation of King Charles III on 6 May 2023. There are 6,000 sets of bells across Britain with almost 38,000 bells which require one ringer per bell, according to the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. It takes about 15 hours of training to manage one bell alone. The Master of St Martin's Guild, which runs the Birmingham School of Bellringing, said there is an upturn in people inquiring how to become a bellringer and that there could be a waiting list for training.

A shrine to St Chad has been re-built in Lichfield Cathedral. St Chad (634 - 672) was a bishop of Northumberland and Mercia. He died in Lichfield and his remains were buried on the site where Lichfield Cathedral now stands, in a “little wooden house” according to the Venerable Bede. In the Middle Ages they were placed in “a gorgeous tomb chest” as part of a lavish new tomb but in 1538 the remains were taken by Canon Arthur Dudley and were then passed from priest to priest. They were later divided between a site in France and St Chad's RC Cathedral in Birmingham. When Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville of Birmingham Diocese requested the bones to be scientifically examined in 1985, the casket was found to contain three femurs! In November 2022 a piece of bone was given to Lichfield Cathedral as a gift from the Archdiocese of Birmingham as “a token of the growing friendship and quest for Christian unity between churches that has been divided since the 16th century”.

Barry Stelfox



World Day of Prayer - Friday, 3 March 2023

We welcome you to take part in one of our prayer services on 3 March, either at Methodist Central Hall at 11am or Holyhead Road URC at 7pm.

You will be part of a huge wave of prayer which circles the earth for at least 38 hours. It will begin at dawn in Western Samoa and Tonga in the Pacific Ocean and end at dusk in American Samoa. Isn't amazing to be part of something so huge? This is what makes the World Day of Prayer so special.

Each year the service is written by the Christian women of a different country. This year it is the turn of Taiwan, a country that has, for many years, been caught in a superpower struggle. It has been isolated internationally for decades and, as of April 2022, only 13 of the 193 UN member states and Vatican City/Holy See have recognised Taiwan as a sovereign country.

The worship service includes letters of encouragement for women who face suffering and injustice. These stories of faith, which focus on issues shared by women and girls around the world, continue to challenge us to prayerful action.

A postcard is included in the booklet which accompanies the service and you are invited to use it to send a message of encouragement to someone you know.

Please join us at one of the services as we commit to positive, prayerful action.

Rita Dalton and Mary Goodwin

Poetry Café

Poetry Café meets 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, 2 February, Theme: 'Magic & Mystery'

Thursday, 2 March, Theme: 'Transport'



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

250th Anniversaries

In October 2022 at the parish church at Ottery St Mary, Devon, a statue of Samuel Taylor Coleridge was unveiled on his 250th birthday. The erection of the statue involved fund raising of over £80,000 and four planning applications. The sculpture was by Nicholas Dimbleby (brother of Jonathan and David) who was asked to capture the poet as if he were on a country walk, notebook and pen in hand. The Romantic poet imagined in his childhood he saw an “old church tower” and heard bells as “the poor man’s only music”. This church is where Coleridge played as a child before being sent away aged 8 years to Christ’s Hospital, a charity school in London, following his father’s death.



On 1 January 2023, the church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney, held a service to commemorate when the Revd John Newton, a curate, preached 250 years ago from 1 Chronicles 17: 16-17: “*And David the king came and sat before the Lord, and said, Who am I, O Lord God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? And yet this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou has also spoken of thy servant’s house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O Lord God.*”

From this passage comes the hymn *Amazing Grace*, which has been sung by many at weddings and funerals, recorded by many, and even played on the bagpipes. Revd Newton wrote this hymn and also *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*, which are contained in a book of hymns with the poet William Cowper.

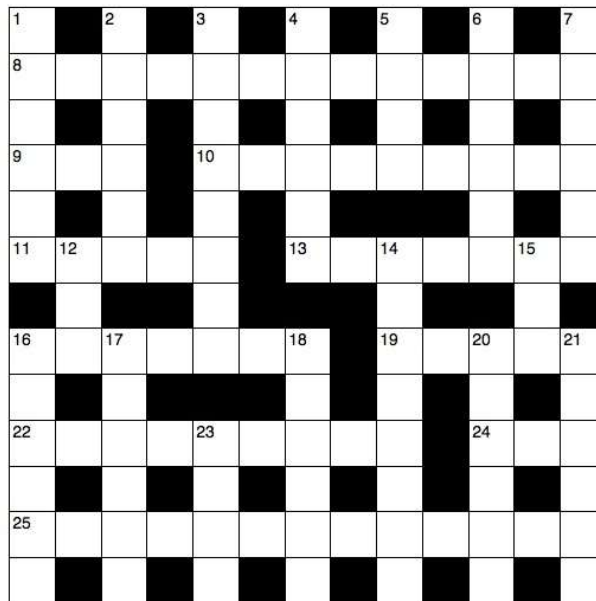


The Rev John Newton (1725-1807) went to sea aged 11 years with his father. He was press-ganged in 1744 and served approximately one year with the Royal Navy before being transferred onto a slave ship. In March 1748 his ship was caught in a severe storm in the North Atlantic where he marked this moment of his religious awakening but he did another similar three voyages before having to stop in 1754 after suffering a convulsive fit. He became involved in an evangelical Christian movement whilst working in Liverpool and was ordained in 1764.

He was then appointed vicar of St Mary’s, Woolnoth, London, and in 1788 published a pamphlet called *Thoughts Upon the African Slave Trade*. The first edition was sold out and a copy of the second edition was sent to every MP. He appeared before the Privy Council and at Parliament for hearings on slavery. Rev Newton died in 1807, nine months after Parliament had voted to abolish the slave trade in the then British Empire.

Barry Stelfox

Puzzle Pages



Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

SUDOKU (EASY)

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

© 2014 KrazyDad.com

SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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

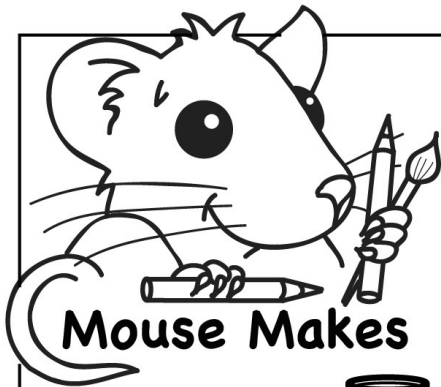
© 2013 KrazyDad.com

Solutions on page 23

WORDSEARCH

In New Testament times, 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas. Jesus is described in the Bible as the Light of the World, and so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40, where Simeon makes his great declaration of faith and recognition of Jesus. Simeon's 'Nunc Dimittis', is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer.

FORTY	LORD	D L R O W J E W I S H P N N E O S L O R D Y R R A D N O I T A T N E S E R P R O U S F V M E A S H I P Y E L N I I G E E A T S E W M S R C T R N L I O P A W I T O J S T U I D M A R Y S H D R E S I P N N S A B E G N M F S U M R E A N A Y I P R Y B U E I A V C B N L T A L O N S E D Y E Y E N D I D Y S M R Y D E S C E C I F F O R T Y V E R
DAYS	FESTIVAL	
BABY	PRESENTATION	
BOY	LIGHT	
PUBLIC	WORLD	
APPEARANCE	CANDLEMAS	
MARY	SIMEON	
JEWISH	NUNC	
MOTHERS	DIMITTIS	
TEMPLE	OFFICE	
JESUS	EVENING	
PURIFIED	PRAYER	
PRESENT	WEST	



What was the special meal
Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take,
bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

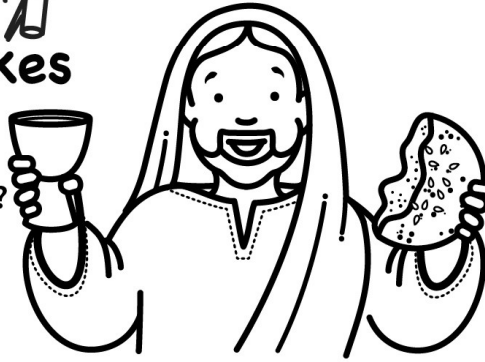
What did Jesus give
thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say
this represented?

His _____

Matthew 26:27-28



What did Jesus say
this represented?

His _____

Matthew 26:26

Jesus instructed his disciples to continue
to break bread and share the cup "in

of me."

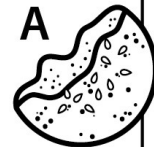
1 Corinthians 11:24-25



SUPPER
LAMB • LORD
DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
EVENING
ROOM • JAR
WATER • TWELVE
JESUS • CHRIST
NIGHT • TOOK
THANKS
BLESSING
BROKE • GIVEN
COVENANT
DRINK • EAT
FORGIVENESS
SINS • HOLY
COMMUNION
EUCHARIST

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

Find the words from the questions too!



SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)

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

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS:

8 Cross-examined. 9 Ash. 10 Apocrypha. 11 Sci-fi. 13 Typical. 16 Visited. 19 Offer. 22 No account. 24 RAC. 25 Sovereign Lord.

DOWN:

1 Oceans. 2 Hophni. 3 Islamist. 4 Exhort. 5 Omar. 6 On spec. 7 Add all. 12 CBI. 14 Plotting. 15 Awe. 16 Vanish. 17 Starve. 18 Daub it. 20 Furrow. 21 Recede. 23 Cure.

Connections - March 2023 issue deadline

News, articles and other items to be included in the March 2023 issue of *Connections* should be sent by email to the editor Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, 15 February 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

February 2023

Morning service: 10.30am; Evening service: 6.30pm



Date	Time	Preacher	
5 February 2023	Am	Margaret Marshall	1 st Anniversary of Baginton Road URC
	pm	Revd Colin Offor	Holy Communion
12 February	am	Darren Burgess	
19 February	am	Revd Peter Kimberley	Holy Communion
	pm	Rita Dalton	
26 February	am	Revd Colin Offor	
5 March	am	Pauline Lockett	Songs of Praise - Round Wales
	pm	Revd D. Spriggs	Holy Communion

Church Contacts



Mission, Outreach and Worship Leader:

Reverend Peter Kimberley

tel: 07581 710348

email: outreach@bagintonroadurc.org.uk

Baginton Road Church Office:

83 Baginton Road, Coventry CV3 6FP

tel. 024 7641 9927

website: www.bagintonroadurc.org.uk

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30am - 2.30pm.

Warwick Road Centre Office:

10 Warwick Row, Coventry, CV1 1EX

tel: 024 7622 0299

email: cityoffice@bagintonroadurc.org.uk

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm

Church Secretary:

Pauline Lockett

email: secretary@bagintonroadurc.org.uk

Church Administrator:

Kevin Bodsworth

email: office@bagintonroadurc.org.uk

Room Bookings Secretary:

Hugh Maccallum: email:

bagintonrooms@bagintonroadurc.org.uk