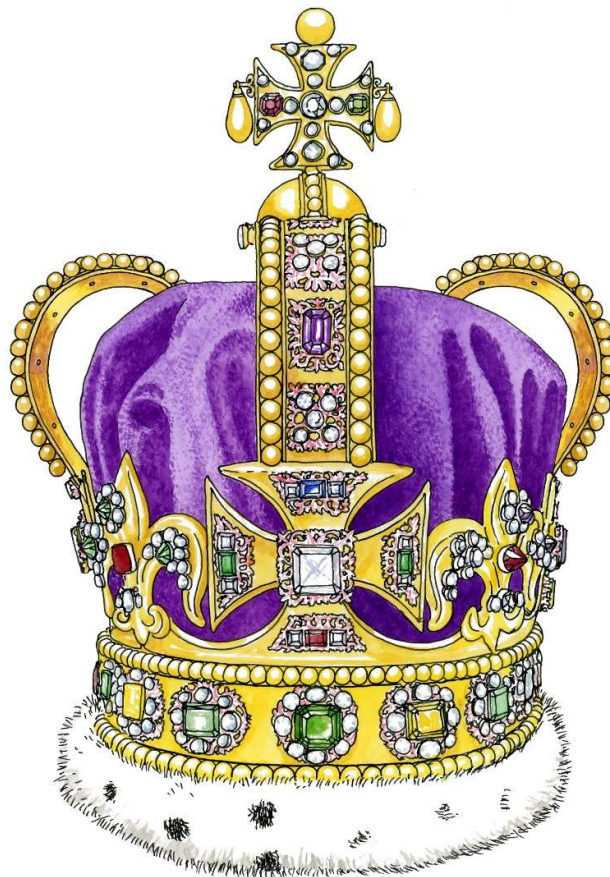


'Sharing the love of Jesus every day'



Connections

The church magazine for Baginton Road URC



May 2023

Incorporating Warwick Road URC and West Orchard URC

**83 Baginton Road
Coventry
CV3 6FP**

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Friday Brownies have immediate spaces available for girls aged 7-9 years, meeting at Baginton Road, 6.15 – 7.45pm during term time. If interested, please email Alison directly at brownies30th@hotmail.com.

Dear Friends

'As they came near to the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged Him strongly, saying 'stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is nearly over.' So He went in with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised Him; and he vanished from their sight.' [Luke 24:28-31 NRSV]

We have just celebrated Easter as I write this, and we can all joyfully proclaim: Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

I've been thinking quite a bit about this chorus:

*'Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.'* (see MP 712)



That was surely the effect on those disciples who saw the risen Lord. Is it still our reaction today? I really hope so; emphatically it is for me! As we head on towards Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit, my thoughts turn towards my own commitment and how I can help to spread the Christian message. Being musical, I find it easiest to express my thoughts through hymns and songs. Here, another chorus comes to mind:

*'Jesus Christ is alive today, I know, I know it's true.
Sovereign of the universe, I give him homage due.
Seated at God's right hand, I am with him in the promised land.
Jesus lives and reigns in me, that's how I know it's true.'* (see MP 358)

I find that I often strike up conversations with people I meet as I walk around, come to church coffee morning, come to Thursday Luncheon Club or travel on the local buses. As we talk and get to know each other better we find ourselves talking about our lives, our experiences, our memories and often our faith. If you are open and positive it often leads to amazing outcomes. These are no longer 'one-off encounters' as I meet many of these new friends time after time and the conversations become further ranging, sharing problems, thoughts, experiences and a desire to know more about Jesus. These activities, by others as well as myself are a definite part of our Christian outreach and an expression of love for one another as Jesus taught us. Some now arrive at church regularly, sometimes moving on from just a cup of coffee to Luncheon Club and to Sunday Worship.

I try not to forget that the Church is the people, not a building we visit for worship on a Sunday morning. Telling new people who want to know about the Christian way of living is up to us, whenever and wherever we meet them.

As a friend once said to me after I described a chance meeting with a stranger and getting into conversation: 'I don't believe in coincidences, I call them God-incidences.'

As a final offering, another song and chorus:

'O! O! O! how good is the Lord... I never will forget what He has done for me.'
(see MP 532).

Why not read the whole song and think about what each verse and the chorus are saying?

Wilf Hawes

Notes from Elders' Meetings - April 2023



- Elders agreed to the purchase of suitable souvenirs to be given to members, friends and groups using the church to mark the Coronation of HM King Charles III.
- Thoughts were expressed as to how the church might move forward, building on the Mission Morning.
- Discussion concerning outside letting of premises took place, with recommendations made to improve the system.
- Decision was taken to revert to fortnightly evening worship.
- A Review of Parade services, and how these can be improved, was considered.
- Agreed PK should work with MS to assess the benefit of engaging outside groups to improve our engagement with young people in the area. Sadly, due to decline in numbers, Drench Café is now closed.
- Bounce & Play on Wednesday mornings is doing well but more help is required to help set up and serve refreshments. If you feel you can volunteer, please speak to PK.
- Elders' Contact Lists have been reviewed and a few minor changes made. If anyone does not know who their Elder is or would like to change their Elder, please speak to Pauline L.
- Church Meeting has been moved to Wednesday, 26 April at 7.00pm.
- An audit of the premises at BR and WR has been carried out and a five-year maintenance plan will be produced.
- Arrangements were finalised for the Bring & Share Lunch on Sunday, 7 May to mark the Coronation of HM King Charles III. Additional help will be needed.
- A newly formed Pastoral Group has been formed to assist Elders with the pastoral needs of the members and friends at BRURC.

Pauline Luckett, Church Secretary

Women's Prayer Breakfast

Next date: 20 May - 8.30am in the Small Hall. Please check weekly Notices in case the room or venue has to be moved.



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



Mission Morning, Saturday, 1 April 2023

The morning began with the sharing of breakfast, bacon batches and hot drinks. Peter then welcomed around 30 members / friends to the session and outlined the aims for the morning. We were told that Baginton Road URC is an amazing church and Peter expressed huge thanks to the many who volunteered each week and helped to make it so special. We have a challenge to continue being amazing and to build for our future. Synod's view appears to be that a church is successful only if the numbers attending Sunday worship are high. This is not the view we as a church should follow.

Following prayer, we divided into groups to look back over the previous two discussion mornings and assess progress made. After a short break for coffee, we were asked to set no more than four targets that we as a church could work towards and suggest how these targets could be achieved.

In setting the scene for the first discussion session Peter suggested:

- The morning should not be an occasion for just 'talking shop' but we need to produce positive thoughts and actions.
- We need to build on the good will already present within our church.
- Have a five-year plan.
- We need to come up with proposals for Elders / Church Meeting.
- We were asked what is it about our faith that we want to share with the local community?

Prompts from Peter's steering group:

- How do we change community into church?
- Does the way forward involve employing our own Pastor/Minister of The Word and Sacraments?
- Varying styles of worship.
- Redevelopment of the Apse.

Peter reminded us of the many activities which take place within our building each week.

Feedback from Session 1 – Reflecting on the previous two Mission Mornings

- What about reversing the chairs to face the back of the church?
- Invite someone from Uniformed Organisations to attend each week to meet and get to know each other better.
- Wider input to the Redevelopment of the apse so that all congregation are included.
- Include Messy Church as part of the service some Sundays.
- Try agenda-less style worship on a Sunday morning.
- Become more widely recognised as a praying community.
- Provide opportunities to meet for worship in smaller groups.
- Who and what is the purpose of Synod?
- Implementation of decisions through an Action Plan.
- Devise how best to communicate with our young people.
- Consider how we communicate with members and adherents, as not all are on email.
- Administrator sends out notices and information which is clear and eye-catching.
- We all have a responsibility to make people feel welcome.
- Reforming of Pastoral Group seen as a positive move.
- Consider more variety using music as part of worship – mini-productions as part of service, such as Joseph & his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.
- Some suggestions from previous sessions are still ongoing.
- Innovative worship not just on Sundays but at other times during the week.
- Consider different styles of worship not necessarily evangelical.
- Clarity of outreach what should we be focusing on?

Establishing Mission Streams

Peter suggested that in discussing, we should formulate aims on which we can build and which will enable us to move forward. To grow the church, we need to be able to make a proclamation on how Jesus changes our lives. It was suggested we put ourselves in the position of those we want to attract. We need to link with the modern day and be prepared to go out among the people, not just invite them in.

Group feedback regarding aims

- Create a social media community through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.
- Do we want to employ a Pastor / Minister of W&S, what are the views of the church at BR?
- If we employ a Pastor, do we need to employ anyone else?
- Call to Mission through evenings with Gospel Choirs, etc.
- Meet the needs of the community through greater involvement, visit Uniformed Organisations and share 'Church'. Talk to the groups and find out what it is they want from us.
- How do we move forward, do we need to further employ people to enable us to do what it is we want to do?

Churches do not close due to lack of money - it is lack of people who cause churches to close.

How would we begin to implement aims?

- Engage with premises users, ask what they want from us?
- Bring in alternative styles of worship on alternate Sunday evenings. Approach Hope Springs and Quinton Park for help with worship bands.
- Consider moving single activity days for Easter and Christmas from Saturday to a day in the holidays.
- Use Steve to open access to other areas, groups, churches.
- Would we benefit from a Youth Worker?

Thoughts when considering employment of a Pastor / Minister of W&S

- Variety of styles with our own Pastor for two Sundays and visitors for the other Sundays each month. Pastor would cover pastoral and ministerial role.
- Pastor 50% + Mission & Outreach 50% - one full-time post?
- How would Steve fit alongside any new appointment?
- Paid Secretary, and/or Youth & Outreach Worker? FT or PT?
- Paid Administrator and Church Secretary combined post?
- A Pastor would provide some continuity in worship.
- A Pastoral Team would have support.

Peter concluded the morning by thanking everyone for attending and making a valued contribution.

The morning ended with everyone saying the Grace to one another.

*Pauline Lockett, Church Secretary
Rev. Peter Kimberley, Mission & Outreach Worker*

Mission Morning - Reflection and Next Steps



First, I need to pass on my thanks to everyone who attended the Mission Morning on 1 April. It was an inspiring morning of ideas and thoughts, coffee, bacon and fellowship. Thank you to all who made it happen, the cooks, the washer-uppers, the coffee makers, and the furniture arrangers.

So, if you were there, what did you think of Mission Morning 2023?

- Was it worth your time?
- Do you feel more inspired to continue Christ's mission here in our corner of Coventry?
- What do you hope the outcomes will be?

As I reflect on the morning, what I think is clear is that we all have the same desire to continue the mission of Christ through His church here in this corner of Coventry.

What is also clear is that we all worry about the same things:

- a lack of people on a Sunday;
- the fact that are all getting older;
- running a church is an expensive business (money does not grow on trees);
- we would like to do more but are running out of energy and we have lots of pressures on our time;
- where is our next minister coming from?

At the meeting, I was quite clear that I did not want the morning just to be another talking shop, with little or nothing coming out of it. My suggestion was that the church adopts four mission streams to focus on, which it would be hoped would lead to church growth. So we reflected on past meetings and reminded ourselves of what had been discussed in 2021 and 2022.

We had an opportunity to discuss possible mission streams that might lead to church growth. Many different ideas were shared during the discussion regarding mission stream such as:

- becoming a more welcoming church;
- improving our social media presence, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc;
- multi-media display screens advertising all events happening in church buildings on a weekly basis;
- greater engagement with the numerous uniformed organisations we host week by week. Improve our Parade Service offering;
- whether we can offer and support more alternative worship styles;
- continue to think about redeveloping the worship space.

The groups wrote down their ideas on possible ways forward and possible mission streams, but what became very clear across most of the meeting and common across each group were the following points:

- firstly, the meeting was very much in favour of looking to employ a Pastor above and beyond any stipendiary ministry that central church / Synod can supply;
- secondly, the meeting was also very much in favour of looking to employ a children/youth worker to support the work of the church and become a representative of the church at the various uniformed organisations;
- finally, another idea was to combine the current Mission & Outreach post ,which comes to an end in 2024, with the pastor role, creating a new multi-functional position.

Therefore, it is my determination to work with the leadership teams (Elders, Management and Finance) of this church to make some of these ideas a reality in the not-too-distant future. So please be sure to attend future Church Meetings where all these ideas will be presented and voted upon by you, the congregation.

Blessings

Revd Peter Kimberley, Mission & Outreach Worker



Service with a Difference - 14 May

Variety is the spice of life, so they say, and this applies to our worship as well if we are to keep it fresh, lively and meaningful; engaging more young people and making it relevant in their lives, as well as enjoyable!

The morning service on Sunday, 14 May will be a 'service with a difference' – come along and try it! It will be an all-age, informal service led by Trevor Gay, Methodist Lay Pastor, from 10.15 - 11.30 am.

Fliers will be available in the next few weeks to advertise and tell you more.

Rita Dalton

Evening Services

Unfortunately, very few people have offered to lead our evening services so the elders have reluctantly agreed that we will only have an evening service on the first and third Sundays of every month. There will be a few months when we may be able to have a service on the second Sunday as Rita has already filled these slots with visiting preachers. We still have several third Sundays that require a preacher / leader. If you or a group would like to consider leading a service, then please speak to Rita or me.

Sue Matthews

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM THE UK AND AROUND THE WORLD

This may not be a pleasant subject but: the Church of England is concerned about newer ways to dispose of folk after they have died, besides cremation or burial, and whether these could be suitable for Christian funerals. Terramation is when a human body is put in a reusable steel capsule and surrounded by material such as woodchips, straw, sawdust and alfalfa which speeds up decomposition; in 60 days, with the aid of microbes, it reduces the body to soil that would fill two wheelbarrows. The soil can then be returned to family for planting.

The other method being examined is resomation which is similar but using water, with Yorkshire Water giving the company behind this method “a trade effluent permit” after finding that it would be safe to drain the fluid from the process into sewers, with no DNA trace. The ashes can then be given to the family. More than 20 US states permit resomation and six permit composting.

The remains of Archbishop Desmond Tutu who died in 2021 were laid to rest after resomation. The Law Commission has started looking at “a modern framework for disposing of the dead” as there is no regulation in place at the moment.

King’s College has got permission from Cambridge City Council for the installation of 492 solar panels on the roof of the Chapel which would power 100 per cent of the electricity that the Chapel uses. This would save 27 tonnes of carbon per year and represents a 1.7 per cent reduction in carbon consumption across the estate. Plans show the panels would be installed on the north and south side of the nearly 300ft-long roof and would not be visible from the ground.

Conservation of mausoleums is part of the remit of the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust in North London. A few years ago, it was found that the chapel in the cemetery had no insulation, resulting in condensation on the rafters and furniture beetles were enjoying themselves. A £40,000 bill was the answer to this problem. In one mausoleum it was discovered that an electric socket had been installed which, if used to power a heater in extreme weather, could have saved glass tiles from coming off the walls.

The charity has applied for Lottery funding to restore some monuments and to improve water run-off. The cost of repairing a listed tomb is up to £2,000 and this cemetery has 53,000 graves containing 170,000 bodies. The descendants bear the responsibility for maintaining memorials. The cemetery is the final resting place of Karl Marx, George Eliot and others, such as the singer George Michael, the artist Patrick Caulfield and Jeremy Beadle, the broadcaster.



A food bank aims to distribute 1 million venison ragu meals this year to ease food poverty and deer over-population. If successful, the Country Food Trust scheme will

extend to schools and hospitals. The number of wild deer in the UK has grown fivefold in the past 50 years to 2 million and food bank usage has doubled since pre-pandemic levels.

The Old Testament is fairly quiet on the subject of tattoos but a Catholic centre in Vienna has offered free Christian-themed body art to all-comers in an effort to embrace “friendliness and equality”. On 15 April Quo Vadis, a meeting place run by Austria’s monastic orders in the shadow of St Stephen’s Cathedral, had needles blessed and a well-known tattoo designer inked one of five Christian templates, such as the Franciscan cross or the Ichthys fish symbol, free of charge. Whilst Constantine I in AD316 banned tattoos, the Coptic Church did not, and this event did not use backsides.

Barry Stelfox



Coronation Prayers

A Prayer for Coronation Day

Eternal God,
You order and govern our world and all that is therein;
bless, we pray, Charles and Camilla today
as they are crowned and anointed,
that amid the pomp and ritual,
they may feel your loving presence,
that they may fulfil the roles prescribed for them,
and that we may, in this kingdom, be better governed,
and always reminded of your eternal Kingdom which is to come. Amen.

A Prayer for the King and Queen

Eternal God,
You order and govern our world and all that is therein;
bless, we pray, Charles and Camilla
that they may feel your loving presence,
and fulfil faithfully the roles prescribed for them,
and that we may, in this kingdom, be better governed,
and always reminded of your eternal Kingdom which is to come. Amen.

Produced by the United Reformed Church

Social Committee News

Coronation Lunch

We are holding a “bring and share” lunch after the service on 7 May, to which everyone is welcome. There are two lists at the back of the church to be completed: one for people to sign to say what food they are bringing to the lunch; the second to be signed if you are able to help on the day, from setting up in the morning, helping during the meal and then washing up and clearing away.



Please do not feel that you have to either bring food or help, to attend the meal. We look forward to welcoming everyone on the day.

The Committee have planned the following events and would appreciate any ideas you may have for the coach trip or other social activities:

- 9 July: Anything Goes musical entertainment with a cream tea
- 31 July: Summer Outing (TBA)
- 1 & 2 August: Holiday at Home at Baginton Road
- 9 & 10 September: Heritage Weekend
- 24 September (after Morning Service): Harvest Lunch
- 4 November: Christian Aid Soup Lunch.

We hope that you will come and support the various activities and have a great time. There will be further information nearer to the time for each of the above both in the notices and magazine.

Social Committee (Sarah, Pauline, Liz, Jenny and Pam)

Bounce & Play - Help Wanted

Do you want our church to grow? Of course you do! One really encouraging area is the Wednesday morning Bounce & Play activity, but we need help to prepare and serve refreshments for our guests. Can you get involved? Please phone or email Revd Pete - or just grab him and offer your services!



Belonging Fellowship Hongkongers' Market

The Belonging Fellowship members, who meet at Baginton Road URC every Saturday morning, are inviting everyone to their Hongkongers' Market. This will take place in the Large Hall on Monday 29 May from 11.00am to 3.00pm. “A fun day to experience a slice of life in Hong Kong, with traditional Hong Kong food, snacks, arts, crafts, unique face painting and plenty more!” For more details please contact: welcomed@thebelonging.uk.

Hedgehog Awareness Week 30 April – 6 May 2023

Inspired by the talk on hedgehogs last summer by a visitor from Brandon Marsh at the Church's 'Holiday at Home', I joined the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. The Society aims to highlight problems that hedgehogs face and to show how we can help them.



In my garden last summer, I:

- created a hedgehog highway with two neighbours under our fences;
- made a bug hotel as instructed by the lady from Brandon Marsh;
- put out a saucer of water by the gap under the fence; and
- stopped using pesticides and netting.

My reward was a regular nightly visitor who ate the slugs and snails and dug around roots of plants! The hedgehog used to pull out the contents of the bug hotel (an old cracked mug) which I just pushed back each morning.

I'm hoping the hedgehog will return this summer. If you would like information about hedgehogs and how to help their declining population, please phone the BHPS on 01584 890801 or check their website: www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk.

Christine Short

The Story of Edwin Hawkins and the Coventry Dissenters

I enjoy reading obituaries ... and this particular one is about fundraising for a choir. Many times I learn about people by reading obituaries and the information is often helpful for quizzes.

This story starts in approximately AD100 in the Bible. Then in the 1700s the Reverend Philip Doddridge, the youngest of 20 children, who was a non-conformist minister, took Acts 8 and 2 Chronicles as inspiration for a poem. In the 19th century, the organist of the Swiss Church in Soho, one Edward Rimbault, added a melody, resulting in a hymn.

Nothing then happened until May 1967 - in California, USA. The deceased had helped found an amateur Mormon gospel choir of approximately 50 voices and decided in 1968 to enter a Mormon Church Gospel Choir competition, but the competition was in Washington DC, which is approximately 3,000 miles distance. Fundraising was needed to get there. Amongst various events that were organised was for an LP of their singing and 500 copies were sold to friends and relations to raise these funds. So, they went to Washington DC and came second in the national competition.

Upon returning to California, they found music from the LP was being requested and

was also played at a local radio station, especially one song or hymn that now had a throbbing 4/4 beat and an R&B influenced arrangement, rather different from Rimbault's original. However, when the Church Elders learnt that this LP and especially this one song had commercial possibilities, they were not happy.

As a result, the Northern California State Youth Choir of the Church of God in Christ did not have the hit singles record of 1968/9 which sold more than a million copies in two months in the USA. Recorded on the Pilgrim label and distributed by Buddah Records, the song reached no.4 in the USA, no.2 in the UK, Canada and Ireland, and no.1 in France and Germany. This song in the new format influenced George Harrison who credited it as his inspiration for *My Sweet Lord* and also influenced Paul Simon with *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*. This song or hymn then sold over 7 million copies and is still being played today.

So, who was the deceased Californian arranger and what was the song? Edwin Hawkins and *Oh Happy Day*.



There is a tenuous link from this song to our church: 'Dissenters' were people in the 17th and 18th centuries who believed that the Bible and church services should be delivered in English. Coventry was known as a centre for these people. The owner of the Cross Keys Inn in Smithford Way, Alderman John Moore, was a Dissenter, and in 1724 he gave land at the rear of the inn for a building for worship of up to 700 people. This building was known as Vicar Lane Church and was roughly where the Disability Office is today, on the ground floor of Barracks Car Park.

In 1777 the members had a disagreement and part of the congregation left to form West Orchard Church on land known as Waste Orchards, which was a good description for a waste area that had a few unattended trees. The Vicar Lane congregation moved in 1891 to the newly built and larger church known as Warwick Road Congregational Church in Warwick Row. Alas, in 1940 the West Orchard church was flattened in the Blitz and likewise the former Vicar Lane Church.

The tenuous connection is: the original author of *Oh Happy Day* was the Reverend Philip Doddridge, who in 1725 was asked to become the first Minister of Vicar Lane Church. It is not known why this rising star of non-conformism declined but it is known that a few years earlier he had joined the Dissenting Academy in Kibworth, Leicester, which was a training and learning school for new Ministers.

He wrote over 400 poems or hymns and one of his books has been translated into seven languages. He died of tuberculosis in Lisbon in 1751 where he is buried. In Northampton there is the Doddridge URC with a memorial to him.

Tenuous I know - but what if he had accepted?! Dissenters in Coventry are remembered by the Martyrs Memorial close to where they were burnt at the stake and also by street names in Cheylesmore: Joan Ward Street, Hockett Street,

Thomas Lansdail Street, Wrigsham Street, Silksby Street, Glover Street and Cornelius Street, plus Lawrence Saunders Road in Radford. There is a mosaic commemorating these Dissenters, designed by Donald Gibson, located in the foyer of the east entrance of Broadgate house, below the Lady Godiva clock and Peeping Tom.

Barry Stelfox

Midrash



I said in last month's Connections (April 2023) that I would try to say something about Midrash; taken in its entirety it is a vast subject – but without some knowledge of it, the Bible is misunderstood by many people.

There are three kinds of Midrash: Halakah, Pesiqta and Haggadah. Halakah is an interpretation of the Jewish Law – the Torah. Pesiqta is a whole sermon and Haggadah, the one we are most interested in, is the interpretation of a story or event by relating to another story or event in sacred history.

Midrash is the Jewish way of saying that everything to be venerated in the present must somehow be connected with a sacred moment in the past. For example, what follows is the story of Easter taken from a book I have, called 'Resurrection – Myth or Reality' by Bishop John Shelby Spong:

'I would not want to be literal about most of the content of the Gospel tradition that purports to describe the dawn of Easter. But I do not want to deny for a moment the reality that drove those early Christian writers to describe what happened in the way that they did. They employed the language and style of Midrash, for that was the only language and style they had at their disposal to capture the intensity of the realm of God being experienced in the human arena. In some ways Midrash was mythology wedded to religious traditions and universal themes. Above all it was language that could not be literalized being employed to process an experience that could not be denied. It was designed to portray a truth that could not be captured in the vocabulary of time and space, but that employed this vocabulary in the hope that the meaning would be understood, because there was no other vocabulary at their disposal.'

Personally, I understand the Bible as being a mixture of Mythology, Metaphor and Midrash – the 'Three M's'. The novelist Thomas Mann defined 'myth' as "a story about the way things never were but always are".

George Drake

Pulpit & Pew

I have been cataloguing the Archives cupboard at Warwick Road. Many copies of *Pulpit & Pew* were given away at the last service at Warwick Road. If you have read it and no longer need it, please could you return your copy.

This booklet is the only history of Warwick Road Church from its founding and will not be re-printed.

Many thanks.

Barry Stelfox

CCM OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 13 MAY 11AM—3PM

COME AND HAVE A LOOK!

Enjoy a free cream tea in our 'Pay what you can' cafe

Have a go at litter picking or join our walkers on a short walk

Donate items or pick up a bargain in our second chance shop



Learn more about the activities and groups at the Mission

Join in with a craft activity with our craft group

Donate a shrub to help create our community garden space

Coventry City Mission, Deedmore Road, Coventry CV2 2AA
tel. 02476 615931 email office@covcitymission.org.uk

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, 18 May, Theme: 'Animals'
Thursday, 1 June, Theme: 'Churches'



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



Appreciation

Thank you for the beautiful flowers from our friends at Church.

Audrey and John Gale

On behalf of all children who have attended Drench Youth Cafe over the last seven years, I would like to thank Marilyn and her team for their hard work and dedication, making it an enjoyable afternoon. My two grandsons have enjoyed it immensely and are very sad it is closing.

Carolyn Pearce

Warwick Road Centre and Café - May Update



- The next Film Club is on Wednesday, 3 May at 2pm. If you want to book or find out more details of the film, please contact Ruth or George in the Office.
- Great news that ESOL courses (English for Speakers of Other Languages) have been booked for two rooms every Monday for 12 months starting from 17 April. This is great news for the Centre and re-engages with one of our longstanding customers pre-Lockdown.
- Scaffolding has been erected to facilitate major structural work required on the North side elevation to prevent damp ingress into the Greyfriars Room on the first floor.
- Our part-time cleaner Janine has left us for pastures new and we wish her well in her new job. The nine hours vacated by Janine's departure have been filled by Annie Gay working 6 hours and Jenny Lowery working 3 hours.

Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager

Open Doors Café Menu - May

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 £4.50; pudding £2.50. Meal Deal (main & pudding, served with tea or coffee) £7.

Tuesday 2 nd	Cheese & bacon filled potato skins, coleslaw and salad Almond and cherry tart and cream
Wednesday 3 rd	Chicken & mushroom pie, potatoes and vegetables Ginger sponge and custard
Friday 5 th	Beef Bourguignon and potatoes Zesty lemon tart and ice cream
Tuesday 9 th	Cottage pie and vegetables Treacle sponge and custard
Wednesday 10 th	Lincolnshire sausages, mashed potatoes, veg and onion gravy Eve's pudding and custard
Friday 12 th	Pork & vegetable casserole Peach & pear crumble and custard
Tuesday 16 th	Chicken Chasseur, potatoes and vegetables Fruit trifle
Wednesday 17 th	Lamb's liver & onions, bubble and squeak Dutch apple pie and custard
Friday 19 th	Ham & leek pie, potatoes and vegetables Sticky toffee sponge and custard
Tuesday 23 rd	Savoury sausage meat lattice, potatoes and vegetables Fresh cream Victoria sponge
Wednesday 24 th	Fisherman's pie and peas Lemon Meringue
Friday 26 th	Minced beef & onion pie, potatoes and vegetables Mixed berry cheesecake
Tuesday 30 th	Barbecued pork, potatoes and green beans Mandarin orange flan and cream
Wednesday 31 st	Chicken dinner Apple crumble and custard





← scan me!



BLOOMIN' BLUEBELLS!

Spring is finally here! And you know what that means... it's bluebell season! Bluebells are popping up at lots of locations around Coventry and Warwickshire - they are usually in bloom from around mid April to the end of May. Here's a list of our favourite places to see bluebells in Coventry. You can find out more at www.coventryrocks.co.uk

Please be careful not to step on bluebells, they are to be enjoyed from the paths and must not be walked on. Trampling on these delicate flowers can cause them long-lasting damage which will affect how they flower for years to come.



Ryton Wood | Ryton-on-Dunsmore

Ryton Wood is one of the country's largest surviving semi-natural ancient woodland. In Spring, primrose, anemone and yellow pimpernel carpet the woodland floor, and in the large, clear glades there are fabulous bluebell displays.



Bagot's Castle | Baginton

Bagot's Castle is a 14th century castle in the village of Baginton. During late April and early May the banks leading down from the castle to the river are carpeted by an extensive display of bluebells.



Tocil Wood and Nature Reserve | Canley

Tocil Wood is ancient woodland located between Tocil Pools and the new Gibbet Hill Wood at the Warwick University Campus.



Crackley Wood | Kenilworth

Crackley Wood is a popular local nature reserve in Kenilworth. Visit in May to enjoy the spectacular blanket of bluebells dotted with delicate wood anemone, yellow pimpernel and common dog-violet.

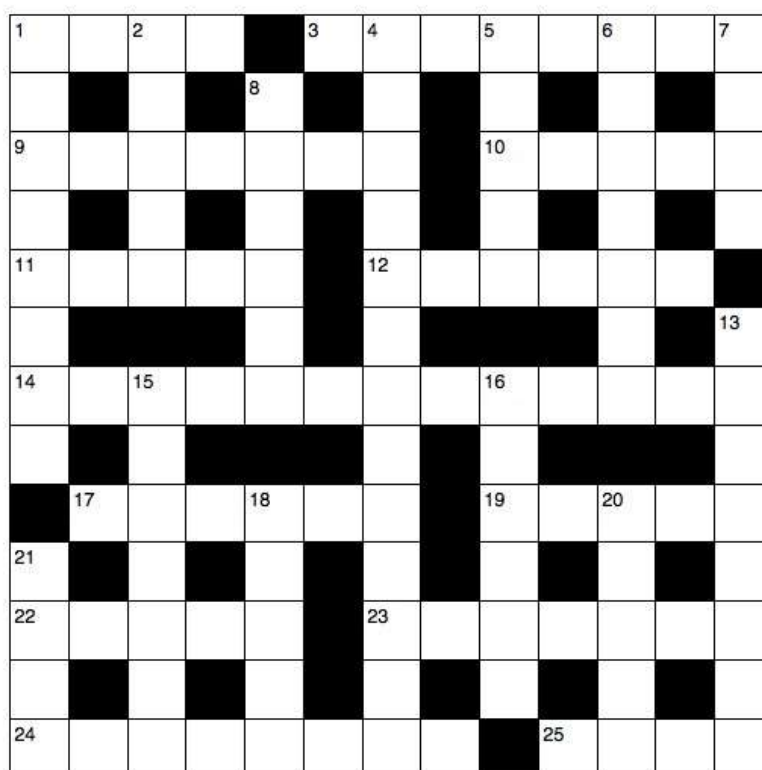
Whitacre Hall Walks & Tea Room | Coleshill

Whitacre Hall Tea Room and Walks are open all year round. Take a walk around the beautiful woodlands, pools and farmland followed by a lovely cup of tea or coffee and home made cake.

www.coventryrocks.co.uk



Puzzle Pages



Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
 10 Group of eight (5)
 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
 19 Attend to (3,2)
 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
 25 Test (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
 8 Minister of religion (6)
 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
 20 Establish by law (5)
 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

SUDOKU (EASY)

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

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SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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

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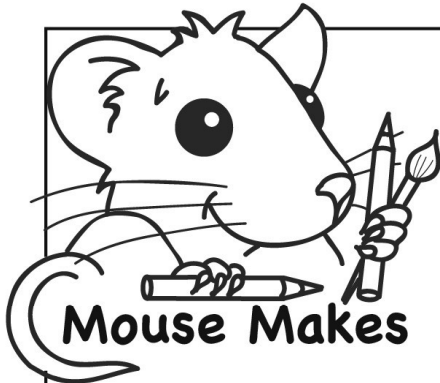
Solutions on page 23

WORDSEARCH

Facts about King Charles:

- He was born at 9.14pm on 14 November 1948 at Buckingham Palace.
- He has been heir-apparent to the throne since he was three years old.
- He is the first monarch in British history to have earned a university degree.
- He can speak Welsh.
- He is a qualified pilot and diver.
- He is a keen watercolour painter, a published author and played the cello at Cambridge.
- As Prince of Wales, he founded about 20 charities which raise about £140m each year for good causes.
- Aged 73, King Charles III is the oldest monarch ever to be crowned in British history.
- He became King on 8 September 2022 after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, at Balmoral. As King, he is also now Head of the Commonwealth.

AUTHOR	THRONE	R T T C R I H U R H H T E T O O O U E R B E O L T A C T L L H B A L M O R A L H A L O I A T R S L H S W A S L W O P S R U O L O C R E T A W L G G V E A C R L W W L P M D R Y T I S R E V I N U S T E E S A A G S T H R O N E H S B U C K I N G H A M I C D T M C T E G D I R B M A C I I E A N R R I U K I O I A V E V S E I T I R A H C C N E M O N A R C H E E E S U E R M N R A L V O O H M I B T L
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CELLO	CAMBRIDGE	
BALMORAL	OLDEST	
COMMONWEALTH	MONARCH	
PALACE	CHARITIES	
WELSH	NOVEMBER	
CHARLES	DIVER	
WATERCOLOUR	KING	
UNIVERSITY	HEIR	



Forty days after His resurrection Jesus appeared to the Apostles one last time. He told them that the Holy Spirit would come, then He blessed them and ascended into heaven.

What did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit would give the Apostles?



READ Acts 1 4-17

Find the answers in the word search

to be Jesus' witnesses. Acts 1:8

What hid Jesus from the Apostles?

a _____ Acts 1:9

Who appeared to the Apostles? Two _____ and what were they dressed in? _____ Acts 1:10

Where was Jesus taken up to? _____ Luke 24:51

Where did the Apostles return to? _____ Acts 1:12

Where is Jesus seated? At the _____ of God. Mark 16:19

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

JESUS • CHRIST • FORTY DAYS • APOSTLES • ASCENSION • TAKEN • LOOKING
 SKY • RETURN • BLESSED • WORSHIPPED • JOY • PRAYER • GOD • SAT
 GATHERED • WITNESSES • HOLY SPIRIT

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)

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

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Stop. 3 Call upon. 9 Regular. 10 Octet. 11 Inner. 12 Hudson. 14 Holy Communion. 17 Myself. 19 See to. 22 About. 23 Iterate. 24 Monarchy. 25 Stet.

DOWN: 1 Straight. 2 Organ. 4 Abraham's faith. 5 Lloyd. 6 Puteoli. 7 Note. 8 Cleric. 13 Innocent. 15 Lay down. 16 Ussher. 18 Enter. 20 Enact. 21 Balm.

Connections - June 2023 issue deadline

News, articles and other items to be included in the June 2023 issue of *Connections* should be sent by email to the editor Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, 17 May 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 - April 2023

Morning service: 10.30am; Evening service: 6.30pm (unless otherwise stated)

Date	Time	Preacher	
7 May	am	Rev Steve Faber	Coronation Lunch
	pm	Rev David Spriggs	Holy Communion
14 May	10.12 am	Trevor Gay	Service with a difference
	pm	Kath Shortley	
21 May	am	Rev Tony Finch	Holy Communion
	pm	Wilf Hawes	
28 May	11am	Revd Yvonne Stone	Baptism. Coffee will be served at 10.30 before the service
4 June	am	Kirsty Mabbott	Holy Communion
	pm	Revd Colin Offor	

On the occasion of Miles's baptism on Sunday 28 May, the service will begin at 11am not 10.30am. This is to allow guests to travel to the service. Coffee and cake will be served before the service from 10.15am. All are welcome.

Liz K

Church Contacts

	<p>Mission, Outreach and Worship Leader: Reverend Peter Kimberley tel: 07581 710348 email: outreach@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p>		
<p>Baginton Road Church Office: 83 Baginton Road, Coventry CV3 6FP tel. 024 7641 9927 website: www.bagintonroadurc.org.uk Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8.30am - 2.30pm.</p> <p>Church Administrator: Kevin Bodsworth email: office@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p> <p>Church Secretary: Pauline Luckett email: secretary@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Room Bookings Secretary: Hugh Maccallum: email: bagintonrooms@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p> <p>Premises Caretaker, Baginton Road: George Stone tel; 07468 585611 email: caretaker@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p>		