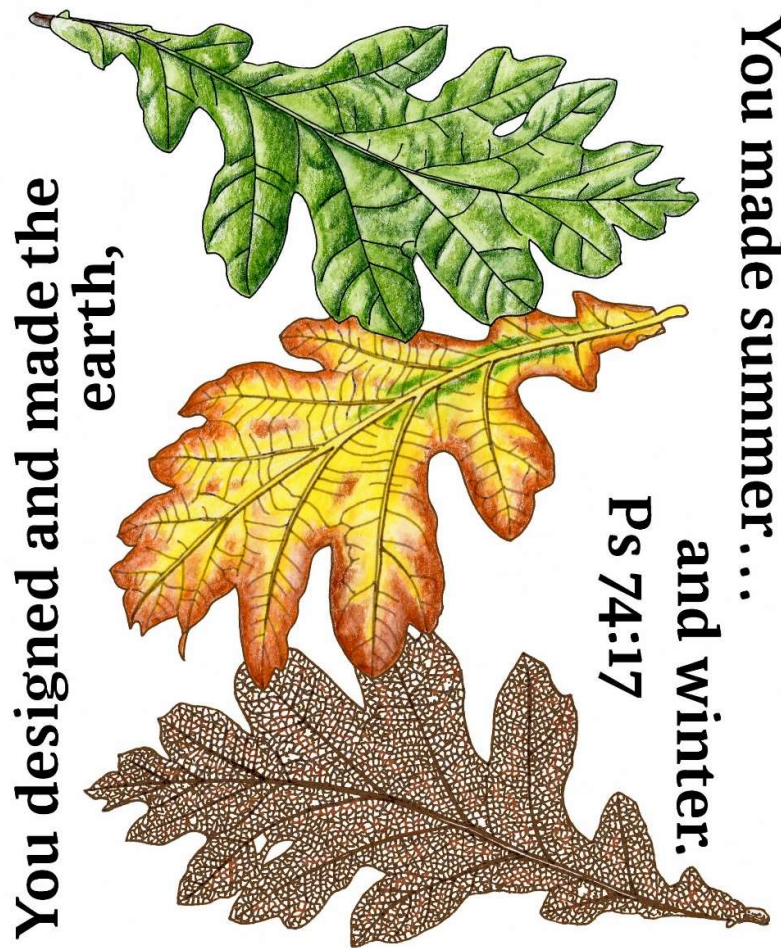


'Sharing the love of Jesus every day'



Connections

The church magazine for Baginton Road URC



**You designed and made the
earth,**

Ps 74:17

You made summer...

and winter.

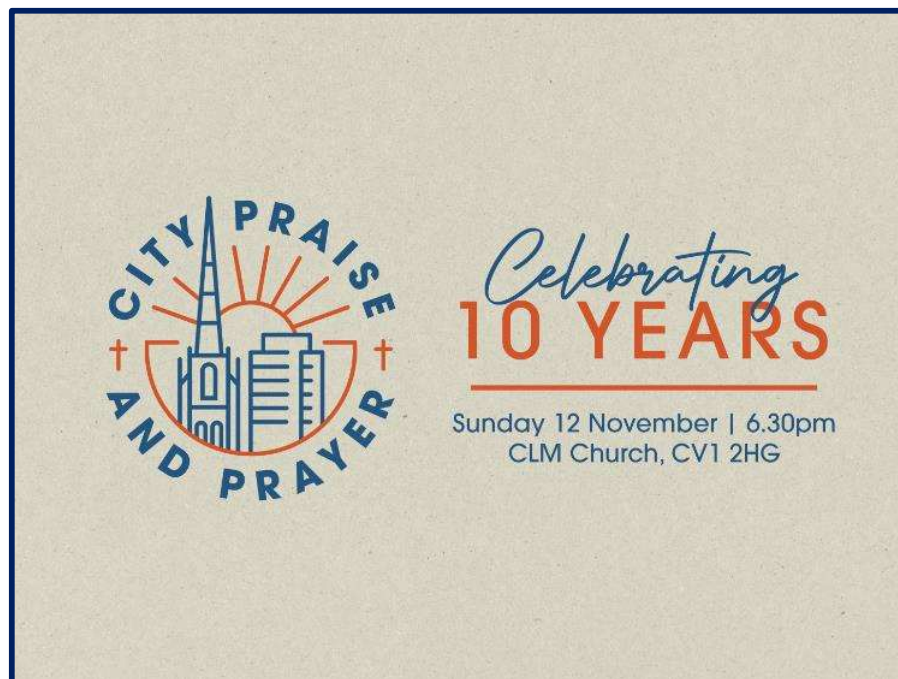
October 2023

Incorporating Warwick Road URC and West Orchard URC

**83 Baginton Road
Coventry
CV3 6FP**

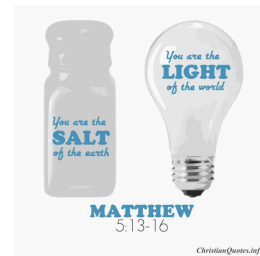
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Dear Friends

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. [Matthew 5:13-16 NRSV]



We have so many common phrases in the English language and I always find it interesting to reflect on where they come from.

When you start to look them up, you find that William Shakespeare is responsible for a good many common phrases such as 'break the ice' (The Taming of the Shrew), 'such stuff as dreams are made on' (The Tempest), 'lie low' (Much Ado About Nothing) and 'I will wear my heart upon my sleeve' (Othello).

The Bible is also a good source for some of our common phrases, and two such phrases follow on from each other in Matthew 5: 'You are the salt of the earth' and 'No one hides their lamp under a bushel [basket]'.

Salt is a mineral that has played a significant role in human history for thousands of years. Salt has been used by humans for preservation, flavouring and medicinal purposes since ancient times. It was first harvested from salt pans and dried in the sun. Civilisations such as the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans recognised the value of salt and used it extensively. It was often used as a form of currency and as a form of payment, for example Roman soldiers were paid in measures of salt, hence the word 'salary' is derived from the Latin for salt.

The phrase 'salt of the earth' refers to people who are good, honest, and down-to-earth. Jesus uses the saying during his Sermon on the Mount and calls his listeners to be reliable, trustworthy and of high moral character.

So, to be called 'the salt of the earth' is high praise indeed. Pure salt cannot lose effectiveness, but the salt that is common in the Dead Sea area is contaminated with gypsum and other minerals and may have a flat taste or be ineffective as a preservative. Such mineral salts were useful for little more than keeping footpaths free of vegetation.

An old bushel is equal to 8 dry gallons, and was used mostly for agricultural products, such as wheat. So a bushel basket is quite large, being able to hold 8 gallons of wheat and hence able also to hide a significant light source. To hide your

light under a bushel can mean to say little about your skills and good features, instead of being confident and telling other people about them - the very definition of being shy about one's abilities and worth.

Jesus is recorded as having said these two common phrases one after the other in order to emphasise a point which is summed up nicely in verse 16: 'In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

Baginton Road URC continues to be a significant Christian presence here in our little corner of Coventry, something I think we can all be proud of. I believe we are the salt of the earth to the many souls who visit our buildings every week. Thank you to everyone in the church for all your help and support.

Best wishes and God's blessing to you all.

Revd Peter Kimberley

Notes from Elders' Meetings - September 2023

- The Church is now developing strong links with the Belonging Church and is actively pursuing further ways of working and sharing together.
- A group has been established to look at how we can better communicate with each other and with other groups outside of Baginton Road URC, and generally make people aware of who we are.
- The Elders are progressing the search to appoint a Pastor for BRURC.
- There will be an opportunity, hopefully in October, for as many as possible from BRURC to undergo training in Safeguarding.
- A revised quote for redeveloping the Apse will be put before the Church Meeting on 18th October.



Pauline Luckett, Church Secretary

Appointment of a Pastor for Baginton Road URC

During the summer months, a small group of the Elders and Members has drawn up documents for the role of a full-time Pastor at Baginton Road URC. This appointment was agreed in principle at the AGM in July. The documentation is almost ready to "go to press" and will be available at the Church Meeting in October. We will advertise the role as widely as we can and hope for positive responses. Please pray that we will be successful in appointing a leader to take our Church forward.

Sue Davis, on behalf of the Pastor sub-group

Jean Enstone

Baginton Road URC has been fortunate to be remembered in the will of Jean Enstone, who was a member of Warwick Road URC for many years. Jean's extremely generous legacy is for £10,000.

Jean was the sister of Colin Enstone who remains a member of Baginton Road URC.

Colin thinks it would be sensible to split the legacy 50:50. One half would be for educational needs, e.g. to a minister, lay reader (or young person on a gap year?) for training or a ministry course to help with their Christian work / placement / further study, and then the other half for general Baginton Road URC funds to be used for whatever the Trustees decide is needed.



Appreciation

We would like to thank you all for the cards and best wishes received on the occasion of our 65th Wedding Anniversary, they were much appreciated. God Bless.

Janice and George Drake

Women's Prayer Breakfast

Dates up until the end of the year are: **14 October, 11 November, 9 December at 8.30am in the Small Hall** (ramp door to the halls will be unlocked). NB 11 November: Please check weekly Notices for alternative venue.



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. It's always delicious and varied with more than enough so never stay away just because you have not brought something.

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

Pythagoras

Pythagoras was born on the Greek island of Samos. He visited both Egypt and Babylonia before settling at Croton, a Greek colony in southern Italy, in about 530BC. Here he established a community that became both a mathematical school and a religious group, Pythagoreanism.



Pythagoreanism developed as much as a way of life as a philosophy. Its adherents favoured a contemplative lifestyle, living communally, with men and women treated equally and property held in common. Pythagoras held that all things were related and believed in the transmigration of souls – in other words, that the soul was immortal and passed on in a different body after death – claiming that he had been other people in other lives.

Pythagoreanism was having something of a revival in the first century AD and influenced much of the thinking in John's gospel. If you read chapter 21 of John's gospel, there is the story of how the disciples caught a great number of fish – 153. Have you ever wondered why the exact number is recorded? In another story, recorded in all of the gospels, is the story of how Jesus fed 5,000 men, plus women and children, with five loaves and two fish, with 12 baskets of leftovers afterwards. The answers to these two questions (miracles) would have been well known by any of the early Christians who knew anything about Pythagoreanism.

John's gospel was addressed to a Greco-Roman audience, steeped in astrology. As the Church began purging itself of pagan symbolism, these meanings were lost. The Church teaching which developed, has to a large extent taken these mythological tales as literal, rather than a balance of actual happenings laced with human creativity.

If you are interested in the answer to the two questions I have posed, then read another article I have written called *Something Fishy*; just ask me for a copy. There is a lot to think about – Shalom!

George Drake

Social Committee News

Heritage Weekend: A big thank you to all who helped at this weekend. We appreciate those who set up the exhibition, prepared the leaflets and acted as stewards when the church was open. We did not have many people coming to the event but those who did, enjoyed looking around the Sanctuary and learning about our church. Some shared their memories of attending West Orchard as children whilst one lady donated a Bible that had been presented to her mother in 1930, whilst attending the church before the war.

Japanese Nagami Art Class: Saturday 14th October, 2pm in the Sanctuary, cost £15. Michele from the Belonging Christian Fellowship Church has once again offered to lead another art class. This session is suitable for both those who attended earlier in the year and new students. Michele leads you step by step, enabling you to produce a pastel picture to be proud of. There are only 8 places available so please register with either Kevin or Pam Dawson. Payment needs to be made prior to the session to confirm your place.

Christian Aid Soup Lunch: Saturday 4th November, 12.00 – 1.30pm, held in the Small Hall at the rear of the church, entrance via the ramp door. Everybody is welcome to come and share lunch in fellowship and friendship and raise funds for Christian Aid. Donations will be gratefully received. We will need volunteers to provide soup and to help on the day, so please sign the lists which will be placed in church nearer the time. We look forward to sharing lunch with you whilst raising funds for this worthwhile charity.

Musical Afternoon: Sunday afternoon, 3rd December (time to be confirmed). Our organist Tim will once again be giving a recital of a wide variety of music including some Christmas music. This will be an entertaining afternoon with light refreshments served. Everybody is welcome, just come along for a fun afternoon. Donations will be gratefully received.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends at these events.

Social Committee

Burns Supper

Saturday, 20th January 2024, 6.30 for 7.00pm.

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.

Tickets priced £25 will be on sale from the end of November and may be reserved in advance by contacting Pauline Lockett.

Your Invitation to a Service of Remembering for Cheylesmore and Styvechale

22nd October 2023, 3pm at Quinton Park Baptist Church



Quinton Park Baptist Church, on behalf of all the churches of South Coventry, is hosting a Service of Remembering. This is a special time for all those who have experienced bereavement in the last year or so, not only for people in our churches but also for the wider community. Our local undertakers, Henry Ison & Sons Funeral Directors, will be contacting people on their database and using social media to let as many people know as possible.

This makes this service a real mission opportunity and so we value your help.

- If you have experienced personal loss, then you are especially welcome to come along with your family and friends
- If your neighbours and friends have lost loved ones, please let them know about this and offer to come along with them
- If God prompts you, join in so that you can listen and encourage others on their journey through bereavement
- Please pray for all involved that God may use this time of remembering to show them his love, give them hope and help them know they are not alone in their sadness and struggles to move on.

The service will include appropriate hymns, prayers and a bible reading, together with a short message from the Revd Roger Woodward, who has taken many services in our area over the years. There will also be space for personal reflections and to commemorate the lives of those who have died.

There will be a quiet 'craft table' for younger children to involve them but in a different way.

Refreshments will be available afterwards so that we can have time to be together so people can, if they wish, share their stories.

Revd David Spriggs

Cyrenians' Christmas Appeal 2023



On Christmas Day, Coventry Cyrenians will be welcoming people to the Methodist Central Hall in Coventry for a Christmas Day Dinner Event. We are the only people who provide a meal on Christmas Day for the many people who attend. Those people are homeless, in temporary accommodation, vulnerable or are alone and would like to enjoy their Christmas meal in the company of others.

This year, we are expecting greater demand for the event than ever before, as the cost-of-living crisis reduces the resources that people have available to them and changes the face of homelessness. In Coventry there are over 500 families and 350 single people in temporary accommodation - this is in addition to the growing number of people who find themselves in accommodation where the preparation of a Christmas meal is out of reach for them.

Your church has supported us in previous years, and we have been very grateful. We are appealing to see if you can help support us again for Christmas 2023 and for our 50th year in service. You may wish to help by collecting funds or items to donate with the support of your congregation.

This year we are asking for different donations from each church and if you feel able to help us, would be very grateful if your church could collect the following items, which we would use as gifts for Christmas Day diners as well as our residents throughout our hostels:

- teabags;
- coffee;
- sugar;
- bars of chocolate (no nuts, approx. 200g).



Please let us know as soon as possible if this is something that you are able to be a part of. To ensure we have enough for everyone, we are asking that donations are dropped off or collected by Monday 11th December at the latest.

Monetary donations would help fund the cost of a 2-course dinner for up to 150 Christmas Day diners, plus all the extras throughout the day, i.e. mince pies, biscuits and chocolates! There are a number of ways you can do this: giving online at JustGiving through our Christmas Appeal 2023 or by searching for Coventry Cyrenians on the JustGiving website; cash donations at our address below; or via cheque made payable to Coventry Cyrenians Ltd. Alternatively, you can go onto our website www.coventrycyrenians.co.uk and click on the donate button.

Display of Nativity Sets 2023



Have you a Nativity Set at home? This year we are asking members and friends to bring along their own sets and display them in the church.

If you have a set, please bring it along on or before Sunday 26th November. The display will be set up until Tuesday 5th December.

For more details, please contact Jenny Barnes.

Get ready for Christmas with Baginton Road URC and 11th Coventry Scout Group



Christmas Bazaar, Craft Fair and Santa's Grotto!
10am - 4pm Saturday 25th November 2023
at Baginton Road URC, 83 Baginton Road, CV3 6FP

Browse the stalls, join in with carol singing,
Visit Father Christmas in his grotto,
Enjoy refreshments and much more!

Abolitionists speaking to Coventrians

There has been much examination in today's media of the past relating to slavery in sugar fields and plantations. You may not be aware that Coventry also was involved in the anti-slavery campaign.

When Frederick Douglass (b.1818), an escaped slave, came to Great Britain, he arrived in Coventry in January 1847 and gave two talks, both of which were enthusiastically received. The first was part of an anti-slavery meeting chaired by the Reverend John Sibree. The Coventry Herald said that Douglass' speech was the "most interesting feature of the evening". His address, which "was listened to throughout with the most profound interest, was exceedingly full of point and

purpose and was indeed altogether a highly characteristic and powerful appeal to the meeting”.

Three days later, at the Reverend Sibree’s own church, Vicar Lane Chapel, Douglass gave another speech, which was “replete with matter calculated to harrow the feelings and arouse the indignation of every Christian and philanthropic mind against a system which is at once an outrage on our common humanity, an infringement of the liberty to which every human being has a natural right, and an insult to that benignant Being Who hath made of one blood all nations that dwelt on the face of the earth”.



Mr Douglass ended by hinting at the possibility of his returning to Coventry one day. However, he later considered that it was his duty to return to the United States to work for the freedom of his fellow Americans.

In 1863 Mr J. Hughes, a clergyman who had himself been a slave, lectured at the schoolroom connected with West Orchard Chapel. According to the Coventry Times, Mr Hughes “was formerly a slave himself and having had 47 years’ experience was well able to express an opinion on the subject”.

The Coventry Herald commented: “Sympathisers with the South must be sympathisers with slavery; let them deny if as much as they may, and to this rather numerous class some of Mr Hughes’s arguments must have been very hard nuts to crack”. (In 1863 the American Civil War had been raging for two years, hence the reference to” sympathisers with the South”.)

There were several other talks in Coventry by ex-slaves which were mainly held in St Mary’s Hall.

Barry Stelfox

Taken from an article in the Coventry Family History Journal, June 2023, by Rosemary S. Hall. Coventry FHS and the author have given their permission to copy from her article.

Warwick Road Centre and Café - October Update

- The next Film Club afternoon is on Wednesday 4th October at 2pm. Please call George or Ruth for details of the film. We are always looking for film titles so if you have a suggestion, then please let George in the office know.
- A new term of the regular Art Class starts on Monday evening 2nd October. They meet every Monday from 6.45pm to 9pm. The leader, Tanya, is a long-standing customer of the Centre and anyone interested in attending should contact her on 07402 246254.



- There is activity next door at No.12 Warwick Row as the new tenant moves into the church-owned building. Davisons Law, a firm of solicitors, has taken on the lease from the previous tenants Citizen Housing. We welcome our new neighbours.
- The courtyard area had become quite untidy and overgrown since Barry Stelfox retired from his 'gardening' role. Now that Martyn Smith is back into action following surgery the courtyard is looking much better. Thank you Martyn, it's good to have you back - we have missed you!

Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager

Open Doors Café menu - October 2023

Opening times: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Snacks and drinks: 10am – 11:30am; Hot meal: 12noon – 1:30pm (last orders 1pm)

Main course - £4.50, Pudding - £2.50; Meal Deal (Main and Pudding, served with tea or coffee) - £7

Tuesday 3 rd October	Beef lasagne and salad Raspberry & white chocolate sponge and cream
Wednesday 4 th	Chicken & mushroom pie, potatoes and vegetables Mango & passion fruit cheesecake
Friday 6 th	Pork & apple casserole Peach cobbler and ice cream
Tuesday 10 th	Lancashire hotpot Maple syrup & pecan sponge and custard
Wednesday 11 th	Ham & leek pie, potatoes and vegetables Jam & coconut sponge and custard
Friday 13 th	Savoury meatballs, creamy mash and vegetables Warm chocolate brownie and ice cream
Tuesday 17 th	Chicken chasseur, potatoes and vegetables Sticky toffee sponge and custard
Wednesday 18 th	Fisherman's pie and peas Citrus sponge and custard
Friday 20 th	Steak & ale pie, potatoes and vegetables Strawberry mousse
Tuesday 24 th	Sausage & tomato casserole Dutch apple pie and custard
Wednesday 25 th	Bacon & cheese filled potato skins, coleslaw and salad Creamy rice pudding
Friday 27 th	Beef stew and dumplings Black forest trifle
Tuesday 31 st	Cottage pie and vegetables Banana & walnut sponge and caramel sauce

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery is lending its star attraction, the Salvador Dali religious painting *Christ of St John of the Cross*, to the giant egg-topped Dali Theatre and Museum in Figueres, Spain, for an exhibition from November 2023 to the end of April 2024. This 1951 painting was inspired by a painting of the Crucifixion attributed to St John of the Cross, a 16th century Spanish mystic. Contemporary Spanish critics attacked the work as non-religious because it does not show the crown of thorns, nails or the wound to Christ's side. It depicts Christ floating above the bay of Port Alligat in Catalonia, as well as a boat, a fisherman and a backdrop representing the Sea of Galilee. When purchased by Glasgow in 1952 the price of £8,200 was thought too high; today's value is £60 million. However, royalties have earned the Kelvingrove tens of thousands of pounds over the years.

A three-year study of Mindar, the robo-Buddhist robot installed in the Kodai-ji temple in Japan, has revealed that it can live without desire or earthly ambition even whilst preaching tirelessly and unendingly. It also revealed that folk were almost 50% more likely to donate nothing after hearing an A1 robot preach.

Those involved with St Finbarrus Church in Fowey, Cornwall, have, after four years' discussion, decided to rescind the original decision not to have a female lead priest. At the time of the original decision, it was one of 490 churches in the Church of England (4.8% of the total) formally to declare they would not accept a woman as lead cleric.



Winchester City Council has increased Sunday parking charges sevenfold to try to tackle climate change. Fees in some car parks have increased from £2.10 to £17. Part of the problem is the period for overnight parking - for example, to attend the 8am service at the Cathedral, the parking charge will be £5.50 as you will arrive before the end of the overnight period costing £3.30 plus £1.80 daytime charge. There is parking 15 minutes' walk away which is all right only a dry summer's morn, say critics; also, the Park & Ride bus does not operate on a Sunday.

A report has stated that there are approximately 1.2 million people in the UK who do not have a bank account plus many, many more who are digitally insecure, plus those who are not or unable to be connected to the Internet.

John Brierley the author has died. He wrote guide books on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. What started as a "practical and mystical manual" in English for two routes in 2003 with a pocket-sized book, over a decade became six books plus two map books. In these books he clearly signalled landmarks, drinking fountains, cafés and churches, plus contour graphs, historical notes, pilgrim vocabulary and hostel addresses, and also blank pages for your own notes. Reprints were in Hungarian,

German and Korean. In 2003 it was estimated that 74,000 people walked the Camino; last year there were 438,182 pilgrims.

An academic has observed that whilst the weight of excessive episcopacy is undermining churches, bishop-free denominations such as Methodism, the URC and Church of Scotland are also in marked decline and some are in a more parlous position than the Church of England. What is encouraging is the huge rise in pilgrimage. While fewer people are prepared to sit in a church for an hour or more to be lectured at from a pulpit, more and more are showing an interest in walking and talking their faith and doubts on one of the many new pilgrim routes that have opened in recent years. The future of Christianity may increasingly lie in what happens outside rather than inside our church buildings.

Barry Stelfox

Mission, Outreach and Worship Report for October 2023



Christianity Explored – Bible Study: Four souls enrolled on the Christianity Explored course and we are currently on Session 4. I am certainly enjoying the material and hope those who have joined me are learning and enjoying the course also. I will be running the course again early in the new year.

Men's Breakfast: I once again invite to you to join me on Saturday 21st October 2023 at 10am at the Phantom Coach on Fletchamstead Highway for Men's Breakfast. Please let me know by Thursday 19th October if you wish to attend, so I can book numbers with the venue. Do not forget to invite friends and neighbours.

Bounce and Play: Our Toddler Group continues to be popular, with numbers holding firm at around 25 youngsters a week. To continue our growth into mission and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, we have introduced a story-time into the morning so our families will hear the Gospel during the morning. This seems to be being well received. More volunteers needed, please.

Manor Park School's Harvest: On 16th October, Marilyn Sanders and I will be representing Baginton Road URC at Manor Park School's harvest services. As we continue to build relationships with our local schools including Howes Primary, Manor Park Primary and Grange Farm Primary, I hope to have more opportunities to work with them, especially through the Advent period.

Warwick Road Church Centre: I am continuing my pledge to support Warwick Road Centre and visit them on a Friday lunchtime. If you would like to visit Warwick Road Centre to see the Open Doors Café in action, you are more than welcome to join me. A mid-week prayer group at the Centre on Wednesday afternoons is in the early planning stages - contact me if you would be interested in attending this.

Remembering Services: In addition to our own Remembering Service which will take place in the evening of 19th November, which Sue Davis and I will be leading, we have also had a kind invitation from Quinton Park Baptist Church to join them for their Remembering Service at 3pm on 22nd October. For more details, see Revd Spriggs' invitation on p.8 of this magazine.

Working with other churches: A good portion of my time is spent building relationships with other churches in the area. The Harvest weekend saw eight South Coventry Churches come together to deliver worship, community action and harvest meals. As we continue to build these relationships with Quinton Park Baptist Church, the Belonging Christian Fellowship and Hope Springs Church, my hope is that by working together we will be more effective at sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with our community.

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 will try and make it a reality. Do not be shy, email me, text me, phone me or meet me in church and let us talk about what is possible, because anything is possible with God's help.

And finally, a word of thanks for all the hard work the many volunteers who give up their time to help support the mission of the Church: Thank You.

Revd Peter Kimberley, Mission, Outreach & Worship Leader

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, 5th October, Theme: 'Insects'
Thursday, 2nd November, Theme: 'Art'



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



← scan me!



COVENTRY CATHEDRAL & BLITZ MUSEUM

I must confess, we've lived in Coventry for a really long time but we've haven't spent much time exploring Coventry Cathedral. Until now! We popped in for a visit with the kids recently and we had a really lovely time. Here's our highlights...

- The kids were given an activity sheet by the friendly guide, which encouraged them to look out for certain things in the Cathedral.
- It was lovely to stop and take in all of the beauty, we particularly enjoyed the colours in the windows and the art in the Chapels at the back of the Cathedral
- There's an interactive map dotted around the Cathedral - handy for learning about the different areas in the building.
- We then popped to the Coventry Blitz Museum which is such a Hidden Gem! It's in the corner of the Cathedral Ruins and it's a treasure trove of 1940's memorabilia and artefacts.

No tickets required and admission is FREE! Donations are encouraged to support the work of the Cathedral, Museum and it's volunteers.

You can find all the details on coventryrocks.co.uk



Like what you see? At Coventry Rocks we love to write open and honest reviews of local places, making it easier for you to plan brilliant days out! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see what we've been up to!



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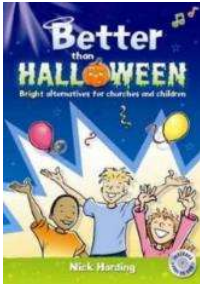
www.coventryrocks.co.uk



Book Reviews

Better than Halloween – bright alternatives for churches and children

By Nick Harding, CHP, £1



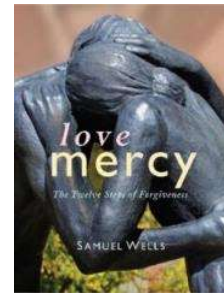
This book will help you to transform 31 October into a fun and meaningful Christian-themed event for children aged 5-11.

It includes: an explanation of the origins of Halloween, and why many Christians choose not to celebrate it; detailed instructions and practical suggestions for planning and running Bright/Light parties; a wealth of supporting resources, such as photocopyable fun sheets, party invitations, sheet music and sources of further advice and guidance; and a free full-colour CD-ROM of all the supporting resources.

Love Mercy – the twelve steps of forgiveness

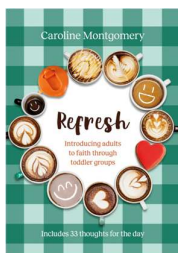
By Samuel Wells, Canterbury Press, £6.00

This is a thoughtful exploration of forgiveness and making peace. It is utterly realistic about the nature and effects of the hurt we inflict both as individuals and societies, and the conditions and work that is needed to bring healing. Sam Wells sees forgiveness as a twelve-step process, beginning with resolve and culminating in the newness of resurrection.



With deep pastoral wisdom, he reflects on the issues and challenges that touch us all, and he offers a way of living to bring us into reconciliation with ourselves, with others, with creation and with God.

Love Mercy is the sequel to 'Walk Humbly' and the second of three volumes by Samuel Wells that offer a basic introduction to Christian faith and life.



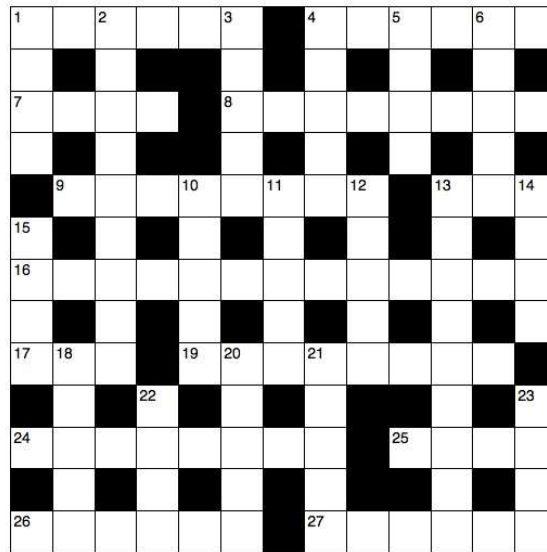
Refresh: introducing adults to faith through toddler groups

By Caroline Montgomery, BRF, £7.99

This book is a fun and effective way to build fruitful relationships with parents and carers in your community. It's stay-and-play turned on its head: the children have fun, but we focus on refreshing the adults with time to talk, fresh coffee, pastries and most importantly our key ingredient: a five-minute 'thought for the day' where we share something of God in a gentle, relevant and accessible way. All this in a welcoming play space for the children. The book shows you how to run Refresh, and includes 33 'thoughts for the day' to use in your setting.

from Parish Pump

Puzzle Pages



Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Ps 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Saml 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

SUDOKU (EASY)

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

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SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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

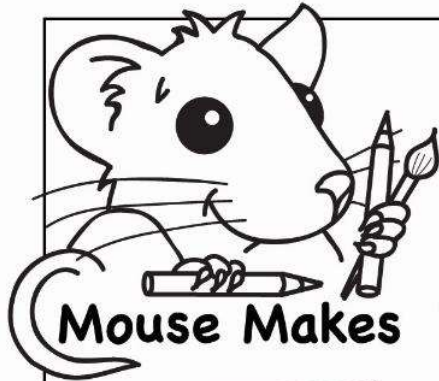
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Solutions on p.21

WORDSEARCH

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

LUKE	WOMEN	J W L U A P R R O N A A S O O L R P R O D I G A L C E M N U E A R L Y I N R C M E P C K M R E E S S D N O N R H M E L A S U R E J R R O R Y T S A B T E R M O O F I A S M U V L P C I O G A S N A I I O N E A P P T N T R A R C O H L S R G N E I M G P B I R T H I E N T A I P Y M P A G A N O A O N A R D O O G N B G N O I S S A P M O C A O A
PHYSICIAN	VIRGIN	
COMPANION	BIRTH	
HOUSE	POOR	
ARREST	LEPERS	
PAUL	SACRED	
COMPASSION	PROFANE	
PARABLES	PAGAN	
GOOD	EARLY	
SAMARITAN	CHRISTIANS	
PRODIGAL	JERUSALEM	
SON	ROME	



CONNECT THE BIBLE FOOD PAIRS

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| MANNA | HONEY |
| OIL | WINE |
| WATER | FISH |
| LOCUSTS | QUAIL |
| LOAVES | FLOUR |

What drink ran out at the wedding?

and what did Jesus use to make more?

John 2:3 and 7

What food did God supply for his people in the wilderness?

_____ and _____

Numbers 11:7-9 and 31

After Elijah came to visit, what never ran out?

_____ and _____

1 Kings 17:14

What food did the ravens feed Elijah?

_____ and _____

1 Kings 17:6

What food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?

_____ and _____

Matthew 3:4

What did the boy give Jesus to feed 5,000 people?

Five _____

and two _____

John 6:9

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

NBO TIBMM OPU
MJWF PO CSFBE
BMPOF, CVU PO
FWFSZ XPSE UIBU
DPNFT GSPN UIF
NPVUI PG HPE.

NBUUIFX 4:4

DID YOU KNOW?

As Lot escaped Sodom with his family an angel told him not to stop or look back, but Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.

READ Genesis 19 v15-26

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

Find the words below and the answers to the questions all in the word search

- OLIVES • CHEESE
- FIGS • DATES
- MUSTARD
- RAISINS • WHEAT
- SALT • GRAIN
- FRUIT • GRAPES
- VEGETABLES

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)

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

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Deacon. 4 Appear. 7 Wits. 8 Heavenly. 9 Argument. 13 Mob.
16 Broken-hearted. 17 Ran. 19 Suddenly. 24 Obstacle. 25 John. 26 Enable. 27
Market.

DOWN: 1 Dawn. 2 Afternoon. 3 Nehum. 4 Again. 5 Prey. 6 All to. 10 Users. 11
Ephod. 12 Trace. 13 Metalwork. 14 Body. 15 Eber. 18 Alban. 20 Uncle. 21 Dream.
22 Stab. 23 Gnat.

Connections - November 2023 issue deadline

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

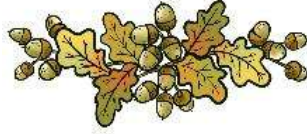
Items should ideally be no more than 1 page in length (about 450 words) and definitely no longer than 2 pages.

Connections is published in digital format ten times a year 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 - October 2023



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

Date	Time	Preacher	
1 st October	am pm	James Rudge Revd Colin Offor	Holy Communion
8 th October	am pm	Kathleen Shortley Marg Marshall	
15 th October	am pm	Revd Peter Kimberley Winston Collier (tbc)	Holy Communion
22 nd October	am	Revd R. Hanger	No pm service at BRURC. Remembering Service, Quinton Park Baptist, 3pm
29 th October	am	Kirsty Mabbott	No pm service
5 th November	am pm	Revd I. Macnair Revd Colin Offor	Holy Communion

Church Contacts

	<p>Mission, Outreach and Worship Leader: Reverend Peter Kimberley</p> <p>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>	