

'Sharing the love of Jesus every day'



Connections

The church magazine for Baginton Road URC

Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13

February 2024

Incorporating Warwick Road URC and West Orchard URC

**83 Baginton Road
Coventry
CV3 6FP**



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Poetry Café

Poetry Café meets each month in the Open Doors Café 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, 1st February, Theme: 'Sport'

Thursday, 7th March, Theme: 'Walking & Leaping'



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

Dear Friends

Wherever I travel, I wear a wooden bead bracelet onto which is carved the biblical phrase: *Wherever you go, I will go with you*. I have always found that declaration so lovingly reassuring. So when, in late November, I received a ticket to North Carolina to join my cousins in Asheville for Thanksgiving, the said bracelet was securely on my wrist as I travelled to Heathrow; but initially, all did not go well!

At Border Security in Raleigh, a forgotten banana was located in my hand luggage. Blue light flashing overhead, I was escorted to 'Agriculture', twisting my bracelet and praying. En route I suggested, to save paperwork, I might just eat the offending item. Distinct lack of humour in US Security! Finally, I was released to my anxious cousins in the Arrivals Hall.

Once in Asheville, I was able to assist my cousin who had post-surgery mobility problems, so I took out the garbage next morning ... to be met by a huge black bear on the drive! Twisting my bracelet prayerfully, I tried, in vain, to recall Attenborough's advice on what to do when confronted by a bear. Fortunately, having looked me up and down, the 'monster' left, crashing through the high fence without even a backward glance.



My real surprise was being able to be in church - twice! One cousin was a choir member of the Cathedral of All Souls, an active Episcopal church in the Biltmore Village area of Asheville. The impressive interior was a Greek cruciform, a design said to be inspired by abbey churches in Northern England.

The first service was Carols and Lessons by Candlelight. With a 30-strong choir, singing unaccompanied and conducted by the organist, it was a spiritually uplifting experience. The second service was led by the Dean. Her theme, 'Jesus the Refugee', was truly inspiring. It mirrored a service which Coventry's Dean had preached a few weeks earlier and included a rendition of the Besançon carol - originally from Coventry, apparently!

Here was a church with an outward focus. It was clearly communicated that visitors were welcome, with volunteers outside directing parking and assisting the elderly into church, all with smiles and chat. Seating for visitors was reserved near the front to ensure they could see, hear and enjoy the service. We were invited to join in 'friendship and fellowship' for coffee and home-made cake after the service. In the days that followed, I had time to reflect on our omnipresent Saviour and, appropriately at Thanksgiving, give thanks for His innumerable blessings.

I realised then that, like my cousin at All Souls, I too belong to a church where all are welcome, trust is present and where our gifts and graces enable us to be who God knows us to be. You make all that possible. Thank you, everyone.

Mary Goodwin

Special Cause for February and March - Mission Aviation Fellowship



I thought we would “spread our wings” a little further afield for the latest special cause and so have chosen Mission Aviation Fellowship for the next appeal.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) are a Christian mission organisation that use planes to overcome physical barriers such as jungles, mountains, lack of roads etc to deliver support to people in need. They deliver doctors, pastors, school books, medicine and food by air to some of the most inaccessible areas. Across the world a MAF plane takes off or lands every six minutes. £100 will fund a 50-minute medical emergency flight or £250 will fund a two-hour emergency flight saving up to two days journeying by boat or road.

Let's see what we can do to support. For more information, see www.maf-uk.org.

Sue Davis

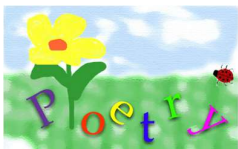
Grateful thanks to all those who contributed in any way towards making the sanctuary look so festive for Christmas.



During the orchestral concert on Saturday 9th December, many people commented how lovely it was to be surrounded by so many beautiful decorations.

Marilyn Withers

Calling All Poetry Lovers!



Poetry Café welcomes all poetry lovers (would-be or actual). A couple of people are no longer able to attend our regular monthly meetings so if you are interested in joining us, now is your chance!

We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month in the café area at Warwick Road Centre, starting at 2.30pm. The meetings usually last about an hour. The sessions are advertised in *Connections*; however, it's always worth checking beforehand that we are meeting on that day in case of holidays and so on, but it's usually pretty consistent.

Between four and ten of us meet and read two or three poems on the agreed topic for that month – all very informal over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, with a donation of £2 towards the cost. We often discuss what the poem's author was getting at, or we just accept that it is beyond us. Chats tend to range far and wide.

Parking is available in the courtyard for those coming by car. If you have any questions, just ask me, David Lathbury.



Coventry City Mission Christmas

It was the week before Christmas at Coventry City Mission - one of the busiest weeks of the year.

Tuesday 19th: We arrived at the CCM foodbank and were met by a four-foot-high pallet of advent calendars which had been delivered the previous day – about 200 calendars needing to be distributed. It was like opening the biggest Christmas present you've ever had! Over the next couple of hours there were deliveries of piles of gifts for the Giving Tree, the regular delivery of food from the central foodbank, an extra delivery of food from Costco and a surprise donation of food filling the back of an estate car from Elim Church. Meanwhile the “elves” (volunteers from around the city) were busy packing the Giving Tree toys for collection later in the day. There was a shortage of gifts for teenage girls so there was a quick rush out to the shops to purchase additional gifts and rolls of Sellotape.

Wednesday 20th: the Giving Tree party swung into action at 3.30 pm. Families arrived at the centre to collect their bags of gifts and have a visit to Santa. There were craft activities for the children to have a go at, drinks for parents and a selection box for every child. The café area was full to bursting point with a noise level to match! These Giving Tree parties also took place on the Monday and Tuesday afternoons.

Thursday 21st: A carol concert enjoyed by staff, volunteers, and regular visitors to the Mission. Live music, a reminder of the Christmas story told through video and of course coffee and pastries. Then as we left the Mission, everyone took home with them a “Bag of Kindness” donated by a local Church. These were gift bags of treats including biscuits, cakes, chocolates, toiletries and more – a little bit of luxury to share the Christmas message.

And so the 40th anniversary year of CCM drew to a close. 1,411 children received presents from the Giving Tree and 50 or so people received Bags of Kindness, Advent Calendars and more. Time for a well-earned rest for the staff and volunteers and thanks to everyone who contributed.

Sue and Colin Davis

We have received this letter from Sarah White, Giving Tree Project Co-ordinator:

I am sitting down to write and thank you all for your support for the 2023 Giving Tree and don't know where to start. Yet again we gave more gifts to more children and families in 2023 than ever. We gave gifts to 1,411 children from 586 families and this was only possible due to your support. Each year we are finding that more and more families are in need of our support with Christmas gifts, the choice between food and presents or heating and presents is real for many of these families.



This project is getting bigger year on year and it would not be possible without the support of so many people. Thank you for your part in this process, whether it was donating gifts, donating money, helping sort and pack gifts, helping give out presents, helping with the craft activities, praying for us all, helping with the admin side of things, helping by going shopping for extra items, receiving the Amazon gifts for us, being Father Christmas's helper, providing wrapping paper or selection boxes. Whatever part you played you are valued and appreciated and are a key part in making sure we were able to support so many children this year.



We had five locations in different parts of the city this year where we gave out gifts in order to reach out to more communities. In three of these the distribution event included craft activities when the gifts were given out, one had Father Christmas too. These were really popular events when the families enjoyed themselves and were able to take home some crafted Christmas decorations alongside a roll or wrapping paper and a black sack full of the children's gifts.

Thank you once again for your generous support.

Notes from Elders' Meetings - December 2023 & January 2024



December 2023:

- Safeguarding training had been undertaken by a small group of Elders and other members.
- Christmas Activity Day, although slow to begin with, turned out to be successful.
- Discussion continued around the appointment of a Pastor.
- We discussed music in our worship.
- Gifts for the housebound were arranged.
- Charities chosen for our Christmas post and services.

January 2024:

- Appointment of a Pastor – this is progressing, and further news will be available at the February Church Meeting.
- The Admin Group has been asked to formulate a vision for Baginton Road URC.
- Arrangements for Easter services and possible Lent course were discussed.
- Training needs of the Elders and congregation are under discussion with a possible Away Day type of activity as in previous years.
- Review of Christmas services – the Elders request that the Candlelight Service should be better lit, with candles either real or battery powered. The

Lessons & Carols and the Family Service on Christmas Eve were both well attended. The open-door idea on Sunday, Christmas Eve morning, was well received. It was suggested that we may need to rethink the 8.30pm Christmas service for 2024.

- Donations from the services over the Christmas period and from the internal Christmas Card post were very generous. Including Gift Aid, £242 will be sent to Pancreatic Cancer and £741 to SANDS – the amount to SANDS will be increased as it was agreed to add the donations from Tim Sheasby's concert on 14th January.

Pauline Luckett, Church Secretary



Mission, Outreach and Worship Report for February 2024

Christianity Explored – Bible Study: I will be running the course again early in the new year. It is a Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark. Please contact me to register your interest.

Leading your Church into Growth: I will be attending the National Conference for LyCiG in June of this year. The course runs from 3rd – 5th June 2024 and costs £265 per attendee. There are places available so would anyone from the church would like to join me? We will then be running the local LyCiG course in Baginton Road after that.

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.

Grange Farm School Advent: Our work with our local schools seems to be going well. Following on from my visit to Manor Park Primary School in October for Harvest, we had another successful visit from Grange Farm School to celebrate and hear about Christmas. We received this email received from the school:

*Hi Peter,
I just wanted to say thank you so much for having us yesterday. I feel like there wasn't time to say it at the end but everything was very appreciated and you went to so much effort for us- thank you!
Have a lovely Christmas,
Lucy Armitstead , Grange Farm School*

I'd like to add my thanks to our volunteers who supported this.

Christmas Activity Day: After a slow start our Christmas Activity Day went very well. Many of our Bounce and Play families joined for a fun morning with crafts and activities, including the telling of the Christmas Story; and the alpaca visit was again very popular. A number of lessons were learned, should we do this again. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped support this.

Warwick Road Centre: I am continuing my pledge to support Warwick Road Centre and visit them on a Friday lunchtime. If you would like to visit the Centre to see the Open Doors café in action, you are more than welcome to join me. Contact me if you would be interested in attending this.

Working with other churches: Following on from a meeting I had with Steve Elton, I have to report that Steve's involvement with our church is coming to a close as he focuses on other missional projects across the city. I thanked him very much for his involvement with BR URC over the last two years and wished him well for the future. Steve and I have promised to stay in touch and still be open for God to combine our efforts in the future.

Agenda-less worship will therefore need new leadership going forward, should the church wish for this to continue.

In more positive news, I am in contact with Joe Jamieson of King's Church in Cheylesmore, and we have arranged to meet to discuss working more closely together. For example, a good number of King's Church attended the last Agenda-less worship, so it could be that we work together to continue this. Other ideas include joint bible studies and fellowship evenings.

Every blessing

Revd Peter Kimberley

Christmas Collections 2023

Donations for delivery of the Christmas cards by Lesley, Freddie and Alfie totalled £242 including gift aid and will go to Pancreatic Cancer UK. Thank you to Lesley, Freddie and Alfie for organising this.



Offertories from the Christmas services and carol concert were £741 including gift aid and will go to SANDS, the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity, in memory of baby Tillie Bowler.

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported these worthwhile causes.

Margaret Costigan



**This Year's Lent Course will take place over 5 weeks
across URC churches in Coventry**

Each session will begin at 7.30pm on a Wednesday and will be repeated
the following day via Zoom, also at 7.30pm. Here are the dates and
locations:

21st February
Holyhead Rd "Wilderness"

28th February
Baginton Road "Fasting"

6th March
Keresley "Solitude"

13th March
Ansty Road "Temptation"

20th March
Foleshill Road "Preparation"

Zoom Details
ID 886 5612 6155 Passcode: 103563

Making Mondays



Dates for 2024: 29th January, 26th February and 25th
March

We meet at West Orchard Centre from 1.30 pm onwards
for tea / coffee and a chat and we start crafting at about
2.00pm, finishing by 3.15 pm.

Please bring your own pen / pencil and scissors.

Sue, Kathy and Pam

Tiny Tim's Children's Centre

Tiny Tim's Children's Centre is a well-established local charity which helps children with disabilities, health problems and special needs, as well as their families. They provide free therapy to children from birth to 18 years old and teach parents techniques they can use at home. They state that they know that their various therapies cannot cure these conditions, but they can help improve the quality of life for these children by reducing pain, increasing mobility, teaching coping mechanisms and building self-esteem, which then in turn helps the whole family. They are a victim of their own success with the demand for their services continuing to increase year on year and now they have waiting lists for all their services.

How you can help without donating?

Due to unforeseen circumstances over the past few years, their Board of Trustees has become low on members so they are currently looking for a few individuals to who would be able to give a few hours to attend their meetings four times a year and would be interested in helping a local charity by overseeing its running and helping with the taking the charity forward. Although they do require some people with professional backgrounds in business / children, there are also spaces for people with life skills in general. Please contact Sarah Hemings on 02476 228 245 or email tinytimscharity@outlook.com for further details.



The other way of helping would be to use their Purple Planet soft play area, which offers Play and Stay sessions for children from babies to 10 years old. No booking required, just check the opening times on Google. They also have a competitively priced private party service, with all entrance fees, party fees and café takings going directly into the charity. You can bring your children or grandchildren to play in a safe environment while you have a tasty snack and a drink knowing that you are helping the local children whom are less fortunate. For more information see their web site www.tinytimcentre.co.uk/purpleplanet.

Pauline Lockett

Social Committee News

Piano Concert by Tim Sheasby: On Sunday 14th January, our Sunday morning organist Tim Sheasby staged a concert for our enjoyment, and what an afternoon of joy it turned out to be. We listened whilst Tim played a number of favourites from classics through to pop, ending with most of the audience on their feet bopping to *Great Balls of Fire*. The concert was followed by a cream tea served by members of the Social Committee. Our thanks go to Tim for an excellent concert and to the Social Committee for providing refreshments. We raised over £220 in aid of SANDS.

We have a wide range of events planned for 2024; further details will be given nearer to each event.

Next event - Family Games Afternoon: Saturday 16th March, 2.30 – 5.00pm (approx). We will be playing a range of games suitable for all ages, from the more active to those who enjoy board games. Snacks and drinks to keep your energy up will be served. There will be no charge, but donations will be gratefully received. Everybody is welcome, so come and join us for a fun afternoon.

Other proposed events for 2024:

- Summer family quiz with strawberries and cream: date TBA
- Holiday at Home: Monday 5th August – Activity Day
 - Tuesday 6th August – coach trip
 - Wednesday 7th August – Activity Day
- Bring and Share, Harvest Lunch: Sunday 29th September
- Christian Aid Soup Lunch: Saturday 9th November
- Afternoon Music Concert: date TBA
- Christmas Bazaar: Saturday 30th November
- Christmas Tree Festival: Friday 6th December.

Social Committee



Christmas Family Activity Day

A very big thank you to everyone who volunteered, came along or prayed for our Christmas Family Activity Day held on 4th December. It was a really great time of fellowship and fun.

After getting off to a slow start, by 11 o'clock lots of people were turning up and were able to take part in our unique Christmas storytelling. Adults and children alike donned tea towels as they became shepherds, tinsel as they became angels, crowns as they became Kings – and both of Edna Goode's great-grandchildren did wonderful portrayals of Mary and Joseph. It was lovely to watch all the children and adults fully engage in the retelling of the birth of Jesus.

In the large hall, there was an array of craft activities available for all ages of children. Refreshments were available and mince pies, which made it very special. Towards the end of the morning, the alpacas arrived and we had a wonderful session of being allowed to feed and pet the animals. They were so well behaved and so well trained – it finished the morning in a really nice way.

We had changed things around quite a bit from our usual way of organising Activity Days, especially inviting parents along with the children, and this seemed to work really well. We had 41 people join us on the day (including children) and because parents / carers stayed with their children, we were able to welcome under 5's,

including some families who regularly come along to Bounce & Play sessions on Wednesday mornings. Here is an email we received from one of these parents:

We attended the Christmas family activity day with our 20-month-old and 4-month-old sons. My mother-in-law and niece and nephews also joined us for the morning, and, I can say, without a shadow of a doubt that we all had a wonderful time. From the warm welcome, with tea and biscuits, to Peter's engaging and interactive retelling of the birth of Jesus Christ, to the amazing variety of Christmas crafts on offer, toys for the younger ones to play with, and to top it all off, a visit from two gorgeous Alpacas – it truly was an event to remember. Thank you so much! How lucky we are to have access to such a wonderful event in our local community. Charlotte

A special thank you to Revered Peter, Liz Bywater, Jenny Gardner and Hazel Howat for their help in planning and organising this event. We hope to hold another Activity Day at Easter and run Holiday Club during the summer holiday period, when we can look forward to welcoming more families into our church and enjoy sharing Jesus' love with all we meet.

Marilyn Sanders

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

When a person dies without a will and no known direct relatives, their estate goes to the Treasury under the old English common law doctrine of *bona vacantia* (Latin for 'ownerless goods'). This money is then passed to the Duchy of Lancaster and the monarch. Now King Charles has moved these monies into an ethical fund used primarily to support local communities, protect the sustainability and biodiversity of the land, and preserve public and historic properties across the Duchy of Lancaster.



Major Joy Webb of the Salvation Army has died aged 91. When a Captain in 1963, she formed a singing group, The Joystings, responding a call from the Leadership for a new kind of evangelism, using the success of the Beatles as a model as it was thought brass bands no longer spoke to young people. They performed in dance halls and Butlin's holiday camps and also had success in the pop charts. In support of the Army's "For God's Sake Care" appeal, they performed for three nights in the Playboy Club, but then the booking for the Ed Sullivan Show in America was cancelled because of promotional photos showing the group surrounded by bunny girls. Some of their songs have become Salvation Army standards, such as *There will be God, Come into our World* and *The Candle of the Lord*.

The October issue of *Connections* reported the decision of St Fimbarrus Parish Council in Fowey, Cornwall, to reverse a decision not to employ a female priest. They have now announced that the Rev Carol Eldeston is shortly to fill that post.

On 17 December 2023, the Reverends Catherine Bond and Jane Pearse became the first Church of England gay priests to stand before a priest as he publicly “asks for God’s blessing” upon them in front of a congregation in Felixstowe. This followed a ruling that Anglican priests be permitted to use a suite of sanctioned prayers. Both are aged 63 and have children from previous marriages when in their twenties. They had a civil wedding in 2021 but could not be blessed in church.

The Santa Claus village near the Rovaniemi airport, Lapland, had a 20% increase in arrivals in December. This area was promoted by Eleanor Roosevelt following her visit in 1950. The local post office deals with approximately 30,000 letters a day in December sent to Santa from children around the world.



A study has shown that under half of the 2,500 people consulted wanted a funeral when they die, causing the Archbishop of Canterbury to be shocked. Why, was it because of financial pressures and dwindling religious beliefs? The Most Rev Justin Welby said: “People around us are increasingly sheltered from the physical reality of death, they know less and less about how they will die and how to cope with loss”.

Barry Stelfox

Warwick Road Centre and Café - February Update

- A Happy New Year from the Office team of Trevor, Ruth, and George.
- We have introduced a slight Increase in prices across the board for meals and drinks in the Open Doors Café from 1st January.
- We have a regular monthly Reading Group and Poetry Group – please get in touch with the Office if you would like to join. Poetry Café is held on the first Thursday of every month (2.30pm) and the Reading Group meets on the fourth Thursday (10.30am).
- We are delighted with the relationship we have established with our new tenant in 12 Warwick Row. Davisons Law is a firm of solicitors, and they are having a Grand Opening on Friday 26th January.
- Regular bookings have restarted after the Christmas and New Year holiday period when things always slow down.

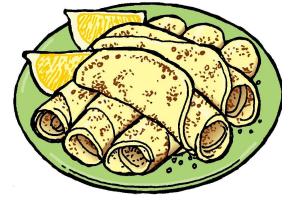


Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager

Open Doors Café menu – February 2024

Opening times: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

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



Regretfully, there has been a small increase in all café prices from January 2024; prices now are: Main course – £5, Pudding – £2.50; Meal Deal – £7.50.

Telephone orders: 024 7622 0299.

February 2024 Menu

Friday 2 nd	Steak & kidney pie, potatoes and vegetables Eton Mess
Tuesday 6 th	Beef lasagne, salad and garlic bread Pecan & maple syrup sponge and custard
Wednesday 7 th	Smoked haddock, potatoes, peas and parsley sauce Lemon meringue pie
Friday 9 th	Turkey & vegetable casserole Caramel apple sponge and custard
Tuesday 13 th	Cottage pie and vegetables Mixed berry crumble and custard
Wednesday 14 th	Pork sausages & onion gravy, mashed potatoes and vegetables Banana & walnut sponge and caramel sauce
Friday 16 th	Chicken dinner Dutch apple pie and custard
Tuesday 20 th	Barbecued pork, potatoes and vegetables Mandarin flan and cream
Wednesday 21 st	Lancashire hotpot Bread pudding and custard
Friday 23 rd	Battered fish, wedges and mushy peas Bakewell tart and custard
Tuesday 27 th	Chicken chasseur, potatoes and vegetables Chocolate & cherry sponge and cream
Wednesday 28 th	Savoury meatballs, potatoes and vegetables Treacle tart and cream



Lent Mystery Knit-Along



Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol is excited to be hosting another Mystery Knit-Along this Lent!

This year we will be knitting a prayer shawl (or blanket) over the course of Lent. The exact design of the shawl is a mystery, and will be revealed as knitters progress through the project.

We will cast on together on Ash Wednesday (14th February) and knitters will have their shawl finished in time for Easter Sunday on 31st March.

The pattern has been designed to be accessible to knitters of all abilities - if you can cast on and off, and work the basic knit and purl stitches, you should be able to join in.

The Welcome letter, which includes general information (such as yarn / needles needed, etc) and the pattern for a practice swatch will be attached to the notice board in Church during January.

Please see Jenny Barnes if you would like join in and receive weekly updates.

Soup Recipes

Following the success of last November's Christian Aid Soup Lunch, it was suggested that we include at least one soup recipe a month so we can all try them at home.



The last issue of *Connections* had two recipes; now here are two more for you to try:

Spiced Butternut Squash Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 butternut squash
- 2 small or 1 large carrot
- 2 vegetable stock cubes
- Juice of 1 lime
- Fresh ginger (amount to taste)
- Chilli flakes (amount to taste)

Method:

- Peel and remove the seeds from the butternut squash. Cut into chunks.
- Peel carrot and cut into chunks.
- Add all ingredients to a pan with about 3 pints or 1.7 litres of water.

- Simmer until the vegetables are soft (about 20 - 25 mins).
- Blend until smooth with a stick blender or in a food processor.
- Reheat as required.

You could add croutons, a swirl of natural yogurt, chopped parsley or coriander before serving.

Squash and Sweet Potato Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 butternut squash
- 1 sweet potato (350 g /12 oz)
- 4 shallots/ onion
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 5 or 6 garlic cloves unpeeled (or use a chicken Oxo and a Knorr veg stock)
- 850 ml/1 and a half pints of chicken stock
- 100 ml/3 and a half fluid oz crème fraiche/optional
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Snipped fresh chives to garnish (optional)



Method 1:

- Preheat oven to 190 degrees C/Gas mark 5
- Cut the squash, sweet potato and shallots in half lengthwise.
- Scoop out seeds from squash. Brush cut sides with oil.
- Place the vegetables cut side down in a shallow roasting tin and add the garlic.
- Roast in the preheated oven for about 40 minutes, until tender and light brown. Cool.
- Scoop flesh from sweet potato and squash. Place in saucepan with shallots.
- Peel the garlic and add soft insides to the other vegetables.
- Add the stock, bring to the boil and simmer gently for about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally until veg are very tender.
- Leave to cool. Transfer to food processor to liquidise.
- Transfer soup to saucepan and season to taste. Reheat and simmer for 5 - 10 minutes. Ladle into serving bowls and swirl over the crème fraiche. Garnish with snipped chives.

Method 2 (my way):

I made half the quantity.

- Peel the squash and remove the seeds; peel the sweet potato.
- Chop an onion, fry for a few minutes in the oil, but no garlic.
- Cut the veg into half-inch cubes, add the chicken stock and onion, and cook in the slow cooker for 6 hours on a high setting.

- Leave to cool, then transfer it to the food processor to liquidise.
- Return it to the slow cooker and season to taste with salt and pepper; reheat it for 2 hours on a high setting.

Thanks to Jenny B for the Spiced Butternut Squash recipe and to Rita D for the Squash and Sweet Potato recipe.



World Day of Prayer - Friday 1st March 2024 - Palestine

Each year the World Day of Prayer focuses on a different country. These services are planned several years in advance, as not only must the service be prepared, but it has to be translated into different languages for countries around the world which will take part in this world-wide event. It is always held on the same day each year – the first Friday in March.

The amazing thing is that it was probably seven years ago when Palestine was first put on the list. At that time no one knew, when their turn came, the dire situation that country would be in. How they need our prayers right now.

This year we plan to hold a service at Baginton Road URC on World Prayer Day. So that it will be accessible for all, we will hold it in the evening, 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be available before the service begins, so if you haven't had time for tea, there will be something to keep you going.

Hopefully this will give those at work the opportunity to attend – men, women, girls and boys - in fact anyone who feels the anguish of that traumatised nation. Your prayers matter. Please support this important opportunity to join with so many other voices to lift up the oppressed to God.

Mary Goodwin

Sufi Islam and the Baha'i Faith

In the last issue of *Connections*, I mentioned two spiritual paths that both post-date Christianity: Islam, in its more mystical Sufi form, and the Baha'i Faith. For those of you who may be interested, here is some information about both faiths.

Sufi Islam: By the 800s, the Sufis emerged as a protest movement reacting against the excesses of the then Islamic Empire, reacting against its materialism and inhumanity. They reminded their fellow Muslims that their God was supposed to be compassionate, loving and merciful. As Sufism developed, it emphasised an inward religion of mind and heart. This is based on a saying of the Prophet Muhammad: '*Whoever knows oneself, knows one's Lord*'. They also see each religion as different lamps: '*The lamps are different, but the light is the same; it comes from beyond. If*

you keep looking at the lamp, you are lost'. We have much to learn from the progressive face of Islam.

The Baha'i Faith: Baha'u'llah (the title means 'the Glory of God'), was the founder of the Baha'i Faith. He was born on 12 November 1817 in Tehran, Iran. His given name was Husayn Ali, and he was the son of a wealthy government minister, but devoted his life to the poor. The Baha'i were persecuted in the beginning, being seen in Iran as a radically modernising movement within Islam.



In April 1863, Baha'u'llah and his companions camped in a garden on the banks of the Tigris River for 12 days, where Baha'u'llah revealed that he was the Promised One foretold in the world's scriptures; he said: "*The earth is one country, and mankind its citizens; and as foretold in all the sacred scriptures of the past, now is the time for humanity to live in unity*".

The Baha'i Faith is now a recognised worldwide religion, with its world administrative centre in Haifa, Israel. Baha'u'llah said, "*There is but one human race, and the notions that a particular racial or ethnic group or religion is in some way superior to the rest, are without foundation*".

The core elements of Baha'i thought include these key ideas.

- Independent search after truth, unfettered by superstition or tradition.
- The oneness of the entire human race.
- The basic unity of all religions.
- The condemnation of all forms of prejudice, whether religious, racial, class or national.
- The harmony which must exist between religion and science.
- The equality of men and women.
- The introduction of compulsory education.
- The abolition of the extremes of wealth and poverty.
- The institution of a world tribunal for the adjudication of disputes between nations.
- The exaltation of work, done in the spirit of service, to the rank of worship.
- The glorification of justice as the ruling principle in human society, and of religion as the bulwark for the protection of all peoples and nations.
- The establishment of a permanent and universal peace as the supreme goal of all mankind.

These core elements make a great deal of sense to me, and I see no reason why they could not be accepted by all faiths and people of goodwill, as a basis for a way to lead our lives.

George Drake



WHATS ON IN COVENTRY



There are some amazing events coming up in 2024, here are some of our favourites!

Art Masterclasses at Herbert Art Gallery & Museum **5th Feb, 28th March, 4th April 2024**

Herbert Art Gallery are offering a programme of exciting art masterclasses for children aged 8-16. This series of art masterclasses are fantastic for encouraging creative minds and enhancing the skills of young artists. Just £10 per child.



World Book Day: The Tiger Who Came To Tea **7th March 2024**

Head to The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum for a sensory storytelling experience as you celebrate World Book Day with a retelling of Judith Kerr's story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. Just £1.50 per child, no booking needed.



Zog and the Flying Doctor **26th - 28th March 2024 | The Belgrade Theatre**

The crew are back with another 'Roar-some' adventure based on Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's best selling children's book! Suitable for ages 3+ but all welcome.

Horrible Histories **1st - 3rd May 2024 | Albany Theatre**

We all want to meet people from history. The trouble is everyone is dead! So Horrible Histories is back in 2024 with revolting rulers and mad monarchs from Britain's barmy past! Perfect for ages 7+ and their grown ups.



Coventry Half Marathon 2024 **24th April 2024 | Coventry City Centre**

Whether you're a seasoned runner or training for a new challenge, Coventry Half Marathon is a great run to take part in!



Motofest Coventry 2024 **1st & 2nd June 2024 | Coventry City Centre**

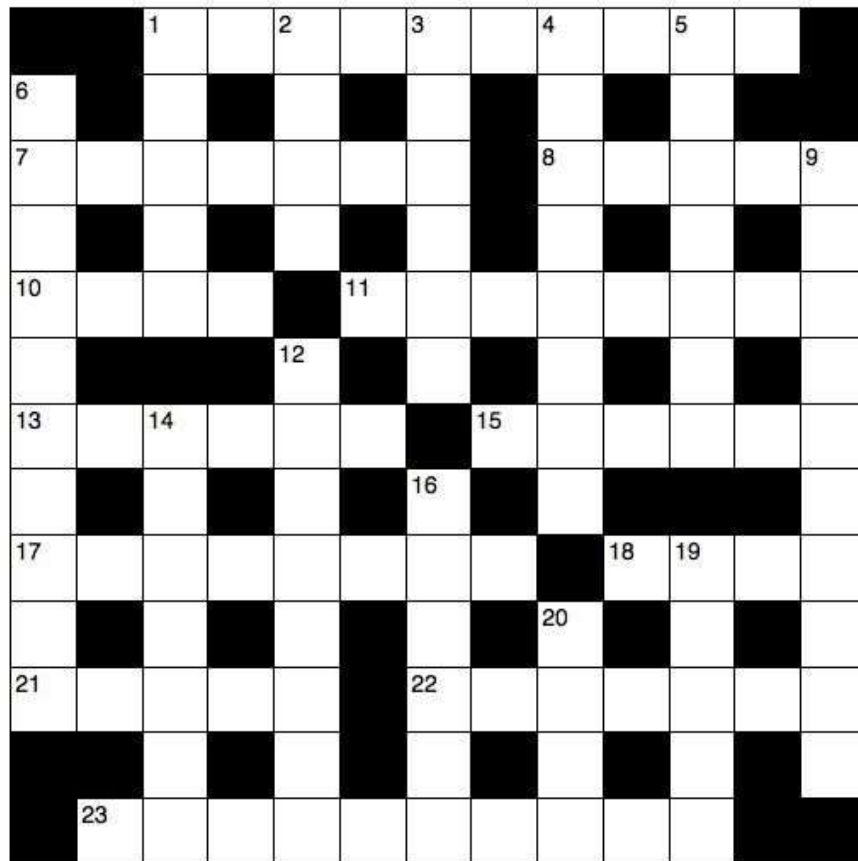
MotoFest Coventry is a weekend of non-stop cultural celebration and motoring madness. Free family fun in the UK's Motor City, with thrilling motorsport, heritage displays, global street food, live music and more! Free to attend.

And there's more!
Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk to find your fun.

www.coventryrocks.co.uk



Puzzle Pages



Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

SUDOKU (EASY)

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

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SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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

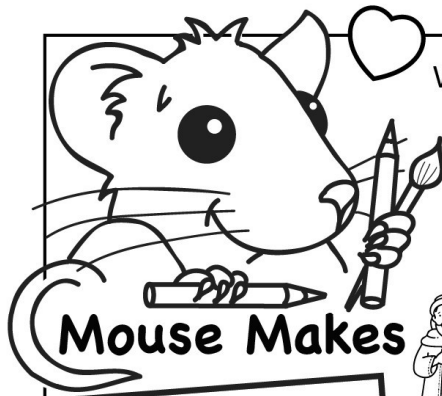
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Solutions on p.23

WORDSEARCH

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good unless we accept it!

VALENTINE	BOYFRIEND	N L A A I B É P E N G A I A R H S R C R R P R T S K E E C H N T A E D D N R I R O M A N C E S N T A E S N O I T A T N E S E R P S P F E L P R I N P M U E A S R S T O R T T I P A N M O L F S F V N P H L T T E R G E Y T E E R S E S A L R M O G I R L F R I E N D Y B A B N F A D O A R C N S F T R C A V E W I N E A T E E R Y T G U H Y A E C
ROSE	FIANCÉ	
ROMANCE	WORSHIP	
LOVE	REPENTANCE	
PRESENT	ANGELS	
RESTAURANT	BABY	
HEARTS	TEMPLE	
KISS	MARY	
HUG	CANDLEMAS	
GIRLFRIEND	PRESENTATION	



Who were the first couple?
 _____ and _____
 Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

 Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

 Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

 Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

 Matthew 1:5



- CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES**
- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| ADAM | ELIZABETH |
| ABRAHAM | MARY |
| ISAAC | HANNAH |
| JACOB | PRISCILLA |
| BOAZ | EVE |
| ZECHARIAH | RUTH |
| ELKANAH | REBEKAH |
| AQUILA | RACHEL |
| JOSEPH | SARAH |

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

 and _____ Romans 16:3

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE
 Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
 MFU OPU NBO
 TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
 UFO WFSTF
 OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?
 King Solomon had **700** wives!
 They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
 See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E	E	Z	R	E	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	R	ABRAHAM
S	V	Q	S	L	R	Z	J	I	B	O	A	D	A	M	ADAM • AQUILA
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	O	J	R	A	O	Q	N	O	BOAZ • ELKANAH
U	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	A	A	Z	P	R	N	S	ELIZABETH
T	H	A	Q	N	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	EVE • HANNAH
H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	I	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	B	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A		PRISCILLA
															RACHEL
															REBEKAH • RUTH
															SARAH
															ZECHARIAH

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)

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

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Prosperity. 7 Raisins. 8 Admit. 10 View. 11 Confetti. 13 Distil. 15 Groyne. 17 Navigate. 18 Whit. 21 Enoch. 22 Trodden. 23 Prophetess.

DOWN: 1 Pride. 2 Ovid. 3 Pastor. 4 Reaffirm. 5 Timothy. 6 Providence. 9 Tridentine. 12 Kingship. 14 Saviour. 16 Statue. 19 Hades. 20 Rome.

Connections - March 2024 issue deadline

News, articles & other items to be included in the March 2024 issue of *Connections* should be sent by email to the editor Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, 14th February 2024**.

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 - February 2024

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

Date	Time	Preacher	
4 th February	am pm	Crawford Dow Revd Colin Offor	Church Parade Holy Communion
11 th February	am	Revd D. Spriggs	2 nd Anniversary of Baginton Road URC
18 th February	am pm	Revd Peter Kimberley Rita Dalton	Holy Communion
25 th February	am	Revd Tony Finch	
3 rd March	am pm	Revd Peter Kimberley 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 e: cityoffice@bagintonroadurc.org.uk Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm</p> <p>Room Bookings Secretary: Hugh Maccallum: email: westorchardurcroombooking@gmail.com</p> <p>Premises Caretaker, Baginton Road: George Stone tel; 07468 585611 email: caretaker@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p>		