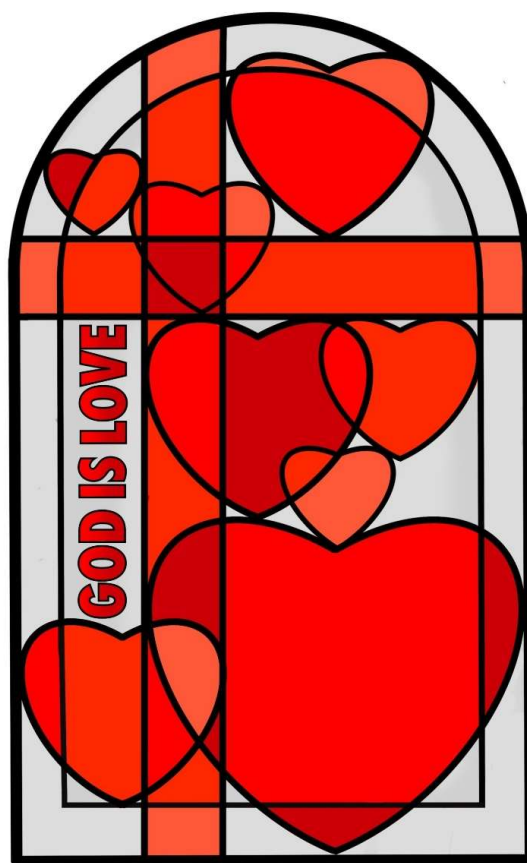




'Sharing the love of Jesus every day'

Connections

The church magazine for Baginton Road URC



February 2025

Incorporating Warwick Road URC and West Orchard URC

*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, 13th February, Theme: 'Birthdays'
Thursday, 6th March, Theme: 'Wales and the Welsh'



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

Dear Friends

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us
[Philippians 4:13]



It is with some sadness and disappointment that I share with you that Pastor Sherry has handed in her notice from her post at Baginton Road URC. She wrote in her resignation letter: “ ... after much prayer and discernment I know this is the right path for me at this time. I am grateful for the love and support the family and I have received from the congregation during our time at Baginton Road”.

We wish her and the family well and hold them in our prayers as they respond to God’s call and what He has in store for them next.

However, we as the Church Elders now have to deal with the situation we find ourselves in, also taking into account Revd Peter’s imminent retirement.

We offer our thoughts under headings of four P’s - Prayer, Positivity, Patience, Plans.

- **Prayer** – our Church needs your prayers at this time. Please pray for the situation, the Elders, the fellowship, the employees, as we move through these troubled waters.
- **Positivity** – be positive in your thoughts and conversations. We have had nine months of Ministry from Sherry and we have come a long way since she joined us in April. We have a wonderful new prayer room and resources for prayer, we have welcomed new friends into our congregation and have benefited from some inspiring sermons and Bible teaching. There is a lot to build on and we believe that we are in a strong position to take our fellowship forward.
- **Patience** – please be patient as we move through the next few weeks. The Elders will be doing whatever is necessary to ensure that things continue as you would expect. Our main focus, of course, will be to ensure that worship is offered each Sunday, and to that end you will see the Elders leading some of the services in the next few weeks as we try to fill the pulpit spaces. Things may be a little different and we may “slip up” but please bear with us and if you feel able to help in any way, please speak to one of us.
- **Plans** – There are decisions to be made about the way forward from here. We will share our plans with you through the notice sheet and at the next Church Meeting on 9th February. We will be asking the non-serving Elders to join with the serving Elders to develop and help with the tasks and the

planning and again we ask for any help you feel able to offer to cover some of the tasks in the Church. Don't assume that someone else will cover it. For example, could you cover a coffee morning session, collect and wash up the communion glasses after a service, deliver the flowers to someone in need, keep the prayer room tidy, be a listening ear? – the list is long!

Let us all work together for the sake of His Church, our Fellowship and the community we serve.

Sue Davis and the Elders - Jenny B, Pam D, Rita D, Mary G, Sarah J, Pauline L, Ruth M, Marilyn S, Crawford D, Kevin G

Appreciation

Jen, Matthew and Cameron Watson would like to thank everyone at Baginton Road URC for the kind messages and words of support received since Graham's passing. Thank you to all those who attended his Thanksgiving Service and shared memories with us over afternoon tea. Sherry, Lesley, Wilf and Crawford - for the support and roles you played in preparation and on the day, we are truly grateful.



Our gratitude also goes to everyone who helped set up the hall and food, serve drinks, arrange flowers, meet and greet family & friends, ensure those with long journeys ahead took a packed tea and all the other jobs on the day. Baginton Road URC held a special place in Graham's heart because of all of you, thank you.

Jen Watson (daughter of Graham Law)



Time to retire

Revd Peter has decided that it is time to retire and has handed in his notice from his post as Mission Outreach and Worship Leader at Baginton Road and also as our Non-stipendiary Minister. His final service with us will be on Sunday morning, 16th February and will include Holy Communion.

Pete has made a valuable contribution to the life of Warwick Road and West Orchard Churches and more recently to Baginton Road, and we wish him well in his retirement.

If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for Pete, please speak to Lesley Rice or Margaret Costigan.

Women's Prayer Breakfast



Next dates: 8th February, 8th March, 5th April (NB: 8.30am at Pam Dawson's home}, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July

A warm welcome to all women from our church, Belonging Church, and any friends from another or no church at all. We meet once a month at 8.30am in Baginton Road URC Small Hall to set up, and start with a bring-and-share breakfast .

An opportunity to offer each other encouragement and a listening ear as we share our good and tough times, laughter and maybe tears. We spend about 20 minutes with an activity to nurture our spirit and soul, always ending in prayer for concerns shared. There is no obligation to speak; everything we share is confidential to those present.

Not everyone comes every time; just come when you can. We promise that it's always worth getting up for! Please ask me if you wish to know more.

Kathy Jackson

Children's Work News

We had a busy time during the Autumn term as Pam, Liz Kershaw and I attended the first URC Children's Workers Conference in Oxford over the weekend of 1st - 3rd November. The leaders were encouraging, inspiring and very knowledgeable and we learnt a lot about what resources, materials and support were available from the URC, which was an eye opener to us all. It was so good to talk to others who have a passion for children's work in their churches and interesting to learn from others about their church's children's events, etc. Out of the 40 attending, only two were employed and the rest of us were volunteers.

We have shared ideas which we felt would be useful to our children's work at Baginton Road URC with Sherry and our Elders. Further discussion will take place during our January Elders' meeting, to which we have invited leaders from all the uniformed organisations, as to how we can have a more cohesive approach to our work with the all children and young people.

One of the ideas that came from our attending the Conference was to have a Christmas tree where baubles could be hung representing each child that had links with our church. I delivered baubles to all the uniformed organisations, Bounce & Play, Junior Church and the children attending our Christmas Activity Day. Each bauble had the name of the child written on them individually. In total this amounted to 176 baubles. This enabled us all to see just how many children are connected to our church and how important it is for us all to be engaged in encouraging and inspiring the younger generation.

On 11th December, Sherry and I held a Christingle service for the toddlers and babies who attend Bounce & Play sessions. It was a really blessed occasion, and the children, their parents and grandparents sat in a circle in the Sanctuary while Sherry explained to them the meaning of the various elements that made up the Christingle. It was truly enchanting to see the rapt faces of the little ones as we lit one of the candles to represent the Light of Jesus coming into the world.



We held our Christmas Activity Morning on 14th December, when about 14 families joined us for a morning of fun and learning about the true meaning of Christmas. Again, the children were all fully engaged in activities and learning as Louise and Sherry retold the Christmas story in sections. There were crafts which Liz had prepared and the children really enjoyed participating in these. Also, Oscar and Kitty (Wendy & Bob's grandchildren) provided games for the children to play, so through games, crafts and fun the children were encouraged to piece together the story of Jesus' birth and all the characters involved in this. They had the opportunity to dress up as characters and the children were absolutely delighted when three alpacas arrived through the front doors of church with the 'Wise Men' and walked down the aisle of church! Some asked if the alpacas were real and were so pleased to be able to stroke them afterwards. It was a wonderful opportunity to remind the children about the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Also, it was so lovely that some families had brought other relations along too, so it was truly a whole family event.

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in any of the work with young people and children within our church premises during the year. A special thank you to everyone who leads and volunteers to help in Junior Church for their dedication and commitment. Thanks also to the uniformed organisation leaders who do so much week by week with the children and young people within our local community. Also a big thank you to all the volunteers at Bounce & Play who do a great job providing tea, coffee, copious amounts of biscuits, a listening ear and prayer whenever needed – your time and devotion to this important mission and outreach project is so appreciated.

Marilyn Sanders



Flower Rota

There is a new 2025 rota for flowers on the notice board at the back of the church. Please sign up for any dates when you would like to donate for special occasions. The donations received will go towards buying fresh flowers. Thank you.



Making Mondays 2025

We meet either in the Small Hall or back of the Sanctuary, usual time 1.30 – 3.15 pm, £2.00 per session. Please bring your own scissors, pens, pencils etc.

- 20th January – Cards for all occasions
- 24th February – Storage hoop
- 24th March – Mothering Sunday labels and Easter activity
- 28th April – Spring flower tins
- 19th May, 30th June – TBA

Sue, Pam and Kathy



Social Committee News



Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fayre: Thank you to everyone who supported the bazaar in November last year. We appreciate all who helped in so many ways: from setting up, clearing the halls afterwards, manning the different stalls, preparing and serving refreshments as washing up.

We were greatly supported by the many donations from the congregation, the crafters selling their amazing work and the Scouts with the games and Father Christmas Grotto – we thank them all.

We raised just over £1,000, which will be shared equally with Baginton Rd Church and St Andrews House.

Dates for Your Diary:

- Saturday 1st March: Afternoon Tea at 2.00pm
- Saturday 7th June: Pudding and Quiz evening at 6.30pm
- Saturday 12th July: Family Games afternoon at 2.00pm
- Monday - Wednesday 4th - 6th August: Holiday from Home
- Saturday 8th November: Christian Aid Soup Lunch from 12 - 1.30pm
- Sunday ? December (date TBC): Christmas Poetry Afternoon 2.00pm

We look forward to your continued support in the various events we have planned and value your input.

Social Committee

Book Reviews

Hope: The Autobiography by Pope Francis

Translated from the Italian by Richard Dixon

Published by Penguin Random House, January 2025

POPE FRANCIS
HOPE
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY



Not many of you will remember me, though some friends and one of my Sunday school teachers are still active members of Baginton Road Church. My family first came to West Orchard, as it was then known, in about 1962, when I was six. My mother Julia Dixon is still a member, though now living at St Andrews's Home and sadly unable to attend.

I left Coventry in 1977, qualified as a barrister and worked in London for ten years before moving to Italy in 1989, to a new career as a translator – you can find out more about me on Wikipedia.

My most recent translation, published in January, is the first ever autobiography to be written by a pope (unless you count Pope Pius II's autobiographical *Commentaries* published in 1584).

In *Hope: The Autobiography*, Pope Francis recalls his life in Argentina and his grandparents' roots in Italy. He too – as he tells us in the first chapter – comes from a family of migrants, and one of the major themes of the book is migration and the plight of those who are forced by war and poverty to abandon the homes and communities into which they were born.

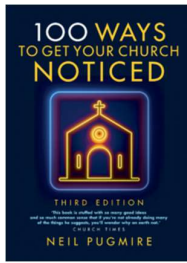
Pope Francis is also a great storyteller and recounts some of the events of his childhood, his passion for football and his calling to the priesthood, all told in an easy, intimate, conversational style. And he answers some of those questions we might be curious to ask. For example: what did he do when he was elected pope. Well, he did what any of us might have done: he telephoned his sister with the news, then called his newsagent in Buenos Aires to cancel the newspapers, and arranged to go next morning to collect his belongings from his lodgings, and to settle the bill – yes, of course, someone was ready to do that for him, but he wanted to do it himself because he wanted to thank them for his stay... and please, not in a big limousine, just an ordinary car that would not attract attention.

In every page of his autobiography, we hear the very human voice of someone who cares deeply about those around him. It is also a voice of hope: maybe we cannot change the world, but we can help to improve the lives of those around us, in the hope that they will do the same.

Richard Dixon (info@write.it)

100 Ways to Get Your Church Noticed (3rd edition)

By Neil Pugmire, CHP, £18.99



This practical guide by a media professional has helped countless churches to raise their profile in their local communities and more widely. Packed with simple, clear advice and ideas for generating publicity for your church and its mission, this revised third edition engages with the rise in online worship in the wake of the pandemic, and includes many low-cost, effective ideas for churches feeling financial pressures.

Written in clear and jargon-free language, it offers advice on: Developing an effective communications strategy; Deciding the messages you want to convey; Creating or updating your website; Making the most of print, social media and online channels of communication; Putting your building to work, inside and out; Giving your publications a makeover; and Liaising with the media and more. Illustrated throughout with examples that have worked successfully, this makes communication expertise readily accessible for churches in all contexts. Further support is available on the companion website, www.getyourchurchnoticed.com.

from Parish Pump

'My First Sermon' by John Everett Millais

There is a story of two men talking about their new vicar. One says to the other, "This new one's not a patch on the old vicar. With the old one preaching I was asleep in five minutes. With the new one it takes all of ten." Some churches in times past employed 'sluggard-walkers' who had long rods and walked down the aisles, ready to wake up the faithful if they had nodded off during the sermon.

Sluggard-walkers are not needed for this painting: *My First Sermon* by John Everett Millais. It hangs in the Guildhall Art Gallery in London, which houses the art collection of our capital city. The Gallery is built on the site of an amphitheatre and was only completed in 1999, having replaced a building that was destroyed in the blitz of 1941. It has over 4000 works, many of them from the Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite period. Among them is this painting by Millais which depicts Effie, his 5-year-old daughter sitting in Kingston Church. She is dressed properly and sensibly for the occasion with feathered hat, muff and a cloak of vivid red. Her mother's prayer book and gloves are by her side. Effie is listening with great concentration.



John Everett Millais,
Public domain, via
Wikimedia Commons

When the painting was exhibited in 1863, it was a great success. In the following year Millais produced *My Second Sermon* – a very different occasion, for Effie has

now fallen asleep with her hat by her side. Millais was often criticised for his sentimental portraits of children as in *Cherry Ripe* and *Bubbles*. But in 1864 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Longley, praised this second painting for reminding us of 'the evil of lengthy sermons and drowsy discourses.'



John Everett Millais,
Public domain, via
Wikimedia Commons

As we look at Effie alert one Sunday, asleep the next, we can smile. But we might also ask how we respond to the Word that comes to us through the medium of words in the weekly sermon. The preacher has the daunting task of using this everyday coinage of words to draw us into that mysterious, life-giving realm of the Word, Jesus. The words spoken must make a straight path for the Lord to reach each human heart.

The two paintings of Millais depict the reality and fragility of this endeavour. Sometimes our attention is engaged; at others, drowsiness closes our eyes and even our hearts to the good news of salvation. On occasions the sermon sows seeds, which can bear fruit. At other times, all kinds of factors mitigate against the sermon's success. Let us pray that as listener or as preacher, we may be aware of the dynamic power of the Word, which, as Karl Rahner wrote, calls us 'out of the little house of our homely, close-hugged truths into the strangeness of the mystery of God that is our real home.'

Revd Michael Burgess, Parish Pump

Warwick Road Centre and Café – February Update

Firstly, a massive thank you to Clare and her team of staff and volunteers for providing a superb Christmas for our café customers. Clare's annual Christmas dinners were a huge success and as popular as ever. We sold out on both days, and it was particularly pleasing to welcome Richard and Pauline Blanchard back as servers on Friday 13th December – just like old times, though not so long ago.



We have quickly got back into the groove in 2025 with room hire, Open Doors Café and a general feeling of the usual busyness.

We have started discussions between the office staff at both Baginton Road Centre and Warwick Road Centre to establish common systems as the formal and legal merger of the two churches gets closer.

Finally, we are very sad to report the death of Rick Wiggins, one of our well-known customers at Open Doors Café, just before Christmas.

Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager

Café Menu – February 2025

Opening Times: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday. Snacks and Drinks: 10am – 11.30am; Hot Meal: 12 noon – 1.30pm (last orders 1pm)

Main course £5, Pudding £2.50, Meal Deal (Main and Pudding, served with tea or coffee) £7.50. Telephone orders: 024 7622 0299

Tuesday 4 th February	Cumberland sausages, onion gravy, potatoes and vegetables Dutch apple pie and custard
Wednesday 5 th	Minced beef cobbler, potatoes and vegetables Warm chocolate fudge cake and ice cream
Friday 7 th	Chicken & mushroom pie, potatoes and vegetables Ginger sponge and custard
Tuesday 11 th	Shepherd's pie and vegetables Pecan & maple syrup sponge and custard
Wednesday 12 th	Chicken Chasseur, potatoes and vegetables Bakewell tart and custard
Friday 14 th	Savoury sausage meat lattice, potatoes and vegetables Strawberry cream shortcake
Tuesday 18 th	Meatballs, bubble 'n' squeak Rum & raisin sponge and custard
Wednesday 19 th	Pork & vegetable casserole Blackcurrant cheesecake
Friday 21 st	Smoked haddock, potatoes, peas and parsley sauce Lemon sponge and custard
Tuesday 25 th	Beef stew and dumplings Mixed berry mousse
Wednesday 26 th	Sausage & mixed bean hotpot Apple crumble and custard
Friday 28 th	Chicken dinner Bread pudding and custard

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

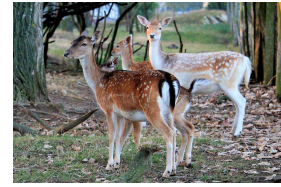
A USA philosopher has written a paper entitled "Taking AI Welfare Seriously". In other words: do robots have rights such as suffering or frustrations?

Durham Cathedral has commenced a trial to allow canines into services; it is reported the first choral evensong service was a success. Was the music by Bach?

Kyoto University in Japan have sent into space a wooden-panelled satellite. The thinking is that upon re-entering the atmosphere the wooden panels will burn up,

thus causing less pollution than the aluminium oxide particles emitted by the conventional panels of satellites, which also impedes telecommunications.

Wild deer are a garden and woodland pest in the UK, eating the flower heads of numerous plants and bushes plus damage to lawns. In Sussex each year 250 are culled but this year the cost to cull another 1,000 has been met by an anonymous sponsor in conjunction with the Country Food Trust. So far, 152 fallow does have been culled and 31,000 meals supplied to local food banks. It is estimated there are 1.5m wild deer in Britain with approximately 75,000 road accidents per year and 10-15 driver deaths involving these animals. There are no natural predators such as wolves or lynx; farmers' crops are also prey, sometimes resulting in a £20,000 loss.



The UK Government has announced a £15m scheme to help both farmers and food banks. It is estimated that approximate 330,000 tonnes of edible food is wasted or fed to animals each year before leaving farms. Charities lack the means to collect food from farms and to get it to those who need it, so now there are grants starting from £20,000 for the not-for-profit food redistribution sector in England.

On 6th January, Justin Welby resigned from his position as Archbishop of Canterbury. The Church of England was created by King Henry VIII after the Pope refused to allow him to divorce Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn. The first Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury was Thomas Cranmer (1533-56) who was relieved of his post by Mary Tudor for being too Protestant, and burnt at the stake. Archbishop William Laud, who was appointed in 1633, was beheaded in 1645, after the defeat of Charles I by the New Model Army, for being too Catholic.

Matt Lodder's book *Tattoos: The Untold History of Modern Art* advises that as early as the Middle Ages, pilgrims to Jerusalem had a permanent record of their visit inscribed on their skin and where the Holy Land Razzouk Tattoo shop is claiming to have been established in 1300.

Barry Stelfox

Smiles

A traveller was marooned in a small town because of a landslide caused by heavy rain. It fell in torrents for three days. Looking out of the window of the restaurant, he finally remarked to the waitress: "This is like the flood."

"The what?"

"The flood. Surely you have heard about the great flood and Noah and the Ark?"

"Sorry, sir," she replied. "The internet's been down for three days."



COVENTRY CITY MISSION
Serving God - Serving People in Need



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups
January 2025

Dear Friend,

I am writing to thank you for the part you played in providing gifts for children in Coventry this Christmas who may not otherwise receive any. Whether you prayed for us, helped with the admin, donated money, donated gifts, gave your time to volunteer, supervised craft activities, arranged for Father Christmas to visit, spread the word, packed up gifts for the families, being a partner location or something else – however you helped please know that we couldn't do it without you!

This year was yet another record-breaking year with us providing gifts for 1589 children from 633 families at a value of over £24,000! Without you we couldn't continue to run this project so thank you.

We had 6 locations that families could collect the gifts from this year and some of these had activities for the children too. When Santa joined the sessions he gave selection boxes to all of the children in addition to the gifts that they would later receive. The families took the gifts home at the end of the session to wrap and hide until Christmas morning.

Here are two of the thank you messages I've received from parents:

Hi, I would just like to say a massive thank you for the gifts and opportunity for my daughter to see Santa and have the magic that she deserves. I've wrapped the gifts and honestly I cried because it's just so wonderful the help and kindness that has been shown x Thank you and merry Christmas to you all.

I trust you are well. I want to specially appreciate you for taking my registration even though it was late. I also appreciate the gifts very very much. Especially the tea toys. She is always hosting a play tea party, she will be extremely pleased with these toys. Thank you very much. God bless you and the entire crew.

We will be running this project again Christmas 2025 and there will, yet again, be many ways you can be involved. We'll write to you in September with some ideas, however in the meantime please do share the word and if you know of anyone else who would like to be involved, please put us in touch (sarah@covcitymission.org.uk). To continue to meet this level of need we will need to find even more people and churches to support us.

[If you are a church or an organisation where a number of people supported us, please note I will have only sent this one letter, please share it with all relevant people. Thank you.]

Thank you all

Sarah White, Deputy Director

Physical address: Deedmore Road, Coventry CV2 2AA. Postal address: PO Box 40, Coventry CV1 9DQ.

Patron: The Right Reverend Dr. Christopher Cocksworth

Tel: 024 7661 5931 E-mail: office@covcitymission.org.uk Web site: www.covcitymission.org.uk

Coventry City Mission is a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 4121649 and a Registered Charity No. 1090102

Fund raising

Thank you to everyone who generously supported our fund raising over the Christmas period.

- The Bazaar on 30 November raised £500 for church funds and £500 for St Andrew's House.
- The Christmas Post raised £152.50 for Pancreatic Cancer.
- The Carol Concert and Christmas offertories raised £506, which has been split equally between Zoe's Place Baby Hospice and to Myton Hospice.

Margaret Costigan



Thank you to all who kindly bought cards or preserves from me during 2024. You helped me raise £730 and this was shared between The Air Ambulance and The Alzheimer's Society. Thank you all once again for your support.

Joyce Franklin

That Marmalade Colour in Cats

It has been a mystery for cat lovers everywhere: what makes some cats ginger?

Now – after 60 years of searching – scientists have good news. They have finally found the chunk of DNA that is responsible. The so-called Garfield gene is Arhgap36.



Arhgap36 has been hiding away on the X chromosome, of which males have one copy while females have two. When the Arhgap36 gene is present on a cat's X chromosome, it forces the pigment-making cells in the skin to produce more pheomelanin, leading to the orange morph.

It seems that if a male inherits this gene from either parent, he will be Garfield-ginger, while a female will usually turn calico or tortoiseshell.

This may sound simple, but it took two teams of scientists, one at Stanford University in the US and one at Kyushu University in Japan, to find the Garfield gene independently, thereby solving a 60-year mystery.

from Parish Pump





EXPLORE SOMEWHERE NEW THIS WINTER



Wrap up warm, get outside and enjoy some fresh air and exercise this Winter. Coventry Rocks now has over 100 local parks, walks and nature reserves for you to discover. Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk to browse the full collection!

Here are some of our favourites...

Wyken Slough | Wyken

Wyken Pool is the largest expanse of water in Coventry, and the rough grassland, scrub and marsh near the pool support a rich variety of wildlife. This beautiful area is a Local Nature Reserve, and forms part of the Sowe Valley Footpath.



Warwick University Sculpture Park | Canley

There are 24 sculptures spread out all across Warwick University campus, in meadows, woodland and fields. Why not spend a day exploring! You can spend as much or as little time here as you like, visit 1 or 2 sculptures, or challenge yourself to find all 24!



Allesley Park | Allesley

Allesley Park is a picturesque outdoor space with rolling landscape and established trees. It's popular with dog walkers as well as families, who love the fairy garden and well equipped play area. During your visit, check out The Walled Garden - planted with vegetable beds, fruiting trees and flower borders, it's a popular retreat for visitors.



Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve | Near Binley Woods

Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve is set in 220 acres and features a wide variety of large pools, bird hides, woodland walks and wildflower meadows. There's lots to do for all ages, including a lovely café, mud kitchen, mouse maze, gift shop, and walking trails (accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs).

Coventry Walking Groups and Routes

There are some fantastic Walking Groups in Coventry, ideal if you want to get active and meet new people. Whether you're a seasoned walker or a beginner, there's a group and a pace for you. You'll also find some gorgeous walking routes and trails on the Coventry Rocks website. A great way to explore Coventry and the surrounding countryside.



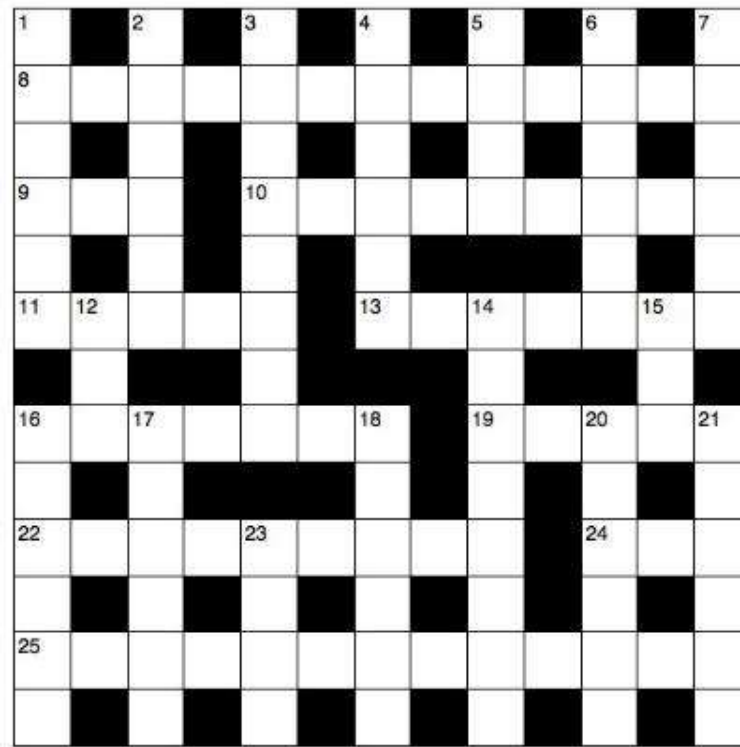
And there's more!

Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk to find your fun.

www.coventryrocks.co.uk



Puzzle Pages



Across

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

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

SUDOKU (EASY)

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

SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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

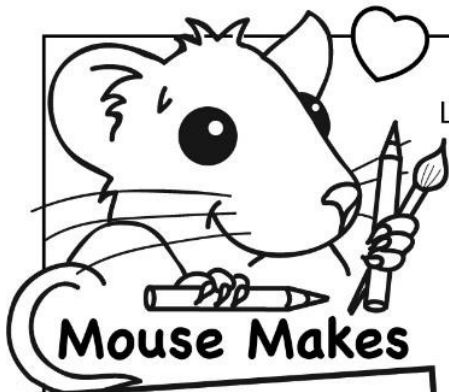
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Solutions on p.19

WORDSEARCH

February opens with Candlemas – the naming of Jesus in the temple. Simeon and Anna praised God to see the promised Messiah, sent by a loving God to save his people. February also celebrates the love between men and women: Valentine cards and wedding fayres abound. ‘Love’, as in social compassion, is also remembered: Fair Trade fortnight, Holocaust Memorial Day, World Leprosy Day, Education Sunday and National Nest Box Week. Love is truly needed by everyone!

NAMING	COFFEE	N R S U N D A Y S I N R C N A O F O R T N I G H T N H U M M A T T H I A S A Y M R E I A I O L E L M T N N O I P N N R O A H O F T N A A S O G C T T H O L O C A U S T V C E R N E D U C A T I O N E T V A L E N T I N E C L E R W E D D I N G E D M O S S T H L E P R O S Y L P F E T Y C M A R R I A G E L F L B T J U S T I C E A M E E O O T C O C H O C O L A T E V X A S M B A N A N A S I M E O N
CHRIST	BANANAS	
CANDLEMAS	CHOCOLATE	
SIMEON	JUSTICE	
ANNA	POVERTY	
TEMPLE	NEST BOX	
LOVE	MARRIAGE	
VALENTINE	WEDDING	
ROMANCE	HOLOCAUST	
MATTHIAS	LEPROSY	
FAIRTRADE	EDUCATION	
FORTNIGHT	SUNDAY	



Mouse Makes

"Love is
 _____,
love is _____.
 It does not, _____
 it does not _____
 it is not _____.
 it does not _____
 _____,
 others, it is not self-
 _____,
 it is not easily _____
 it keeps no record of _____.
Love delights in _____,
 it always _____,
 _____,
 _____,
 _____.

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____;
 His _____
 never come to an end;
 they are new every _____.

Lamentations 3:20-23



I pray... you will understand... the greatness of Christ's love,
 how _____
 and how _____
 and how _____
 that **love** is.
Ephesians 3:18-19



God is **love**,
 whoever _____
 in **love** _____
 in God, and God _____
 in them.

1 John 4:16



Give _____
 to the Lord, for He is _____,
 his steadfast **love**
 endures _____.

Psalms 136:1

HOW DOES GOD LOVE ME?
God sent me a saviour:
 He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him.
1 John 4:9
God gave me His spirit:
 He has given you the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His **love**.
Romans 5:5
God called me His child:
 See what great **love** the Father has for us that He would call us His children.
1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:
LOVE the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul** and with all your **mind**.
Matthew 22:37
LOVE your neighbour the same as you **love** yourself.
Matthew 22:39

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

- GOD • LOVE
- PATIENT • KIND
- GRACIOUS • PEACE
- JUST • TRUTHFUL
- TRUSTING • LOYAL
- HOPEFUL
- PERSEVERES
- ENDURES
- HUMBLE
- SELFLESS
- PROTECTS • DEFENDS

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)

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

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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

DOWN:

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

Connections - March 2025 issue deadline

News, articles & other items to be included in the March 2025 issue of *Connections* should be sent by email to the editor Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, 19th February 2025**.

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. 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 2025



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

Date	Time	Preacher	
2 nd February	am pm	Crawford Dow Crawford Dow	Church Parade Holy Communion
9 th February	am	Pastor Pete Cunningham	3 rd Anniversary BR URC
16 th February	am pm	Revd Peter Kimberley Rita Dalton	Holy Communion
23 rd February	am	Revd David Spriggs	
2 nd March	am pm	Anita White tbc	From Global Care Holy Communion

Church Contacts

<p>Baginton Road Church Office: Baginton Road, Coventry CV3 6FP tel. 024 7641 9927 website: www.bagintonroadurc.org.uk Usual office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 7.30am - 1.30pm.</p> <p>Church Administrator: Kevin Bodsworth email: office@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p> <p>Church Secretary: Sue Davis e: 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: tel: 024 7641 9927 email: rooms@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p> <p>Premises Caretaker, Baginton Road: George Stone tel; 07468 585611 e: caretaker@bagintonroadurc.org.uk</p>
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