

'Sharing the love of Jesus every day'



Connections

The church magazine for Baginton Road URC



September 2025

Incorporating Warwick Road URC and West Orchard URC

**Baginton Road
Coventry
CV3 6FP**

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Dear Friends

In the last edition David explored the question of why do we come to church, and examined his reasons based on his personal history. The difficulty with the word “church” is – are we talking about the “building” or the “people”? The people meet in the building but of course are still “church” at 9.00am on a Monday morning in the office or walking the dogs around the War Memorial Park. Both Linda and I were brought up in a church-going family – Linda within the Salvation Army, whereas I had a myriad of experience with Brethren, Baptist and Evangelical. The Greek word for church *ekklēsia* referred to an assembly of those who had been called out, they went to the meeting, normally a civic or political one. However, they were only the *ekklēsia* during the meeting; once the gathering was finished, they were no longer the assembly, just normal members of the public.

The difficulty with the word ‘church’ is the different meanings it can have. When Paul writes to the ‘church’ he is writing to a gathering of believers who may have met in a public square or more likely in someone’s home. It is suggested that buildings were not built until 200 years after Jesus’ death. Jürgen Moltmann outlines that *“without Christ, no church”*, the church needs to believe in Jesus and this a clear factor in a definition of the church, it requires ‘the stamp’ of Christ on it. Karl Barth lectures on this subject in 1948 speaking to Hungarian leaders about the *“real visible church”*. Barth offers to keep things simple but then proceeds to have seven points, with Point 3 having six additional points attributed to it! My favourite point is: *“the real church therefore lives as if constantly held and sustained over an abyss”*. For me, this is summed up as a church that lives on the edge, whether that be the edge of a canyon with the danger of topping over, or on the edge of the community. As Christians we should not be comfortable but challenged, encouraged by God not our own pride, and this is driven by the Spirit. This is perhaps my preferred description of a church: a church at the forefront of the battle, not hiding in the background, living life on the edge, just as the disciples did in the first century, both before and after Jesus’ ascension.

The writings of both Moltmann and Barth could be interpreted as referring to Christians as individuals or as a collective body of believers. However, David’s point that *“we need to provide opportunities for people to develop a greater spiritual awareness in a welcoming and supportive way”* perhaps links in with Letty Russell’s definition of church *“where everyone gathers around the common table to break bread and to share table talk and hospitality. All are welcome to participate in the table talk because in that way they become participants in their own journey of faith and struggle for the mending and liberation of creation”*. Nevertheless, we can have these academic discussions about the meaning of church, but perhaps what is more important is what we actually do. Jesus instructed his disciples to *“go and make disciples ...”* and to *“teach them to obey everything I have commanded you”*

[Matthew 28:19-20]. He told them to be witness to the facts of his death and resurrection [Luke 24:46-48] and encouraged them with the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus did not tell them to sit around discussing these things or to become theologians, but to live the Christian life, which Paul expands on in several of his letters. When we reflect on the activities of Baginton Road URC, I would suggest we are certainly fulfilling Christ's command, plenty of engagement in the community and opportunities for people to hear God's word.

It was great to attend Holiday Club and see all the activities the children did focusing on scriptural themes like Creation, Noah's Ark, Daniel and the lost sheep. It was a great way to reinforce the Bible stories in a practical way, so thanks to all the leaders and volunteers for organising a great week. Holiday from Home was different – quieter for a start! – but still opportunities to have conversations around the craft table or having your nails done or over lunch. We often underestimate the impact these quiet conversations have on our visitors.

However, as part of travelling on our journey, we do need to rest in God's presence and be both physically and spiritually refreshed. The Psalmist reminds us: "He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God'" [Psalms 46:10] and even Jesus needed to rest and spend time with his father [Matthew 14:13, Mark 1:35, Luke 4:42, Luke 11:1]. As Christians we can be so busy doing things for God that we do not have time for God. Please ensure you spend quality time in his presence during the week and of course our prayer room is usually available for quiet contemplation.

Simon Werrett

References:

- Barth, K. (1954). *Against the Stream Shorter Post-War writings 1946-52*. SCM Press Ltd.
- Moltmann, J. (1977). *The Church in the Power of the Spirit: A Contribution to Messianic Ecclesiology*. Harper & Row.
- Russell, L. M. (1993). *Church in the round: Feminist interpretation of the church* (1st ed). J. Knox Press.

Autumn Study Group



Sue Davis and I are planning to run a group in the autumn. We shall use the materials in the Prayer Course 1 by Pete Greig. It will run weekly on Monday evenings for seven weeks in the Prayer Room, with the first meeting on 13th October, 7.30pm – 8.45pm. Coffee will be available from 7.15pm. Everyone is welcome. Come along even if you cannot make all the sessions. For further information, have a word with Sue or me.

June Walls

Thank You from the Werretts



It seems unbelievable that by the time you read this we will have been working with the church for over two months. It was a joy to participate in both Holiday Club and Holiday from Home, working with wonderful leaders and volunteers to share the love of Jesus.

Although we are continuing to commute from Norfolk, we are trying to be around every other Sunday and sometimes during the week; fortunately, we can join some of the committee meetings by Zoom. At the moment we have decided to share an office (Pete's old one) as we both like to be available when we are in the building, so do pop in and say hello. Prinny and Zena (our dogs) have found the settee very comfortable so you will probably have to sit on a chair!

Both of us have church email addresses, so please use them to contact us. Simon has started posting regularly to our church Facebook page, so if you use Facebook, please join the page and "Like" the posts. Often if you "like" a post it will appear on your friends' notifications or page, an easy way to evangelise and share church activities.

Our role for the next few months, apart from supporting activities, is really to listen and see what the church is doing. It is important to listen and reflect, rather than make changes, but we may offer suggestions from our experiences to help things run smoothly. We want to listen and reflect on what the church is doing and what God is saying to the church and us. Simon will continue to preach on Genesis chapters 1 - 3 for his services until November and then a different theme for Advent. Thank you for the suggestions for subjects or Bible books for next year, there is still time to submit them as the Worship Planning Committee does not meet until mid-September.

Thank you for your warm welcome and we look forward to working as a team together.

Simon & Linda Werrett



Women's Prayer Breakfast



Next dates: September 13th – Farmers Fayre, Stoneleigh. If any lifts required, meet at Church Car Park at 8.30am; then October 11th and November 8th at Baginton Road church hall; December TBA.

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 to set up and start with a bring and share breakfast – always delicious and more than enough.

It is an opportunity to offer each other encouragement and a listening ear as we share 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 it is always worth getting up for.

Kathy Jackson

St Catherine's Monastery Under Threat

Egypt wants to close the world's oldest monastery, evict the monks and turn it into a museum. A ruling in the Egyptian court on 30th May 2025 questioned the ownership of the monastery on Mount Sinai, whose denomination is Greek Orthodox so Greece must be concerned.



Between 548 – 565 AD, the Byzantine Emperor Justinian established the monastery to enclose the site where, according to the Old Testament, Moses saw and heard God in the burning bush (Exodus 3) and where God gave him the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).

In its chapel, there is a shrine to St Catherine of Alexandria. She was an early Christian martyr who was tortured and executed around 305 AD on the orders of the Roman Emperor Maxentius. The soldiers nailed her to a spiked wheel, spun it round and, when it broke, beheaded her. She was about 18 years old.

Today she is remembered by the Catherine Wheel firework and her Saint's Day, 25th November.

Christine Short

Notes from Elders' Meetings - August 2025

- Elders felt that the recent training day with Melanie from Synod was useful and highlighted the strengths and weaknesses among the 'team'.
- Induction of Rev Debbie to the Coventry Pastorate will be held on Saturday, 20th September at 3.00pm at Ansty Road URC.
- Training for those who are required to have Advanced Safeguarding training will be held here Saturday 1st November.
- Security of the building is raising concerns at present; Simon will discuss with us how improvements could be made.
- The Elders will meet for prayer before each Elders' meeting.
- Thanks were recorded to all who assisted with Holiday Club and Holiday from Home.
- Reports were received: Premises and Management drew attention to a number of issues with the buildings, the largest being the repairs to the church roof which have turned out to be more extensive than first realised. Social Committee is busy planning for several forthcoming events, please look out for publicity in the notices and the magazine. Worship Planning reports that all Sundays are covered up until the end of 2025 and into early 2026.
- Elders' Contact Lists have been revised and some of you will find yourself assigned to a different Elder, due to the resignation of Jerry and Jenny. If you have been moved or assigned to an Elder for the first time, your Elder will make you aware of this. As a new Elder, Chris M will be helping me with my list so I hope you will make her feel welcome to her new role.

Pauline Luckett, Assistant Secretary



QUIZ Night
7pm, Friday 5th September
In aid of Lizzie's Blood Cancer UK Walk
Ansty Road United Reformed Church
210 Ansty Road, Coventry CV2 3EY
£7pp
including snacks—bring your own drinks
For tickets call Isabel on 07779586989

A small logo for Ansty Road United Reformed Church is visible in the bottom right corner of the poster.

Theological Reflections



There was an article in The Times on 7th August 2025 entitled “*Kemi Badenoch: Josef Fritzl took away my faith in God*”, written by Oliver Wright. As part of my academic studies, I have to keep a reflective journal and I wanted to share some of my thoughts with you. This is not about a politician (whose views we may or may not agree with) but an individual whose comments raise some interesting questions.

There are three relevant points for us to consider in the article

1. Why does God not answer all prayers?
2. Can we be a Christian without believing in God
3. How can we deal with “crisis of faith” at times in our lives.

Why does God not answer all prayers?

In the article Kemi Badenoch details how she lost faith in God when reading about Fritzl, the sex offender who kept his daughter imprisoned for 24 years. Kemi’s grandfather was a Methodist Church minister and she attended church in Nigeria as a child.

The article states that “she described her loss of faith as like a candle being blown out, saying she could not understand why her prayers were being answered while those of Fritzl’s daughter were not.” She does list some of her prayers – good grades, hair to grow longer and the bus to arrive time – but it could be argued these were not due to divine intervention but part of life: she worked hard to achieve good grades, if she had not put the work in, I am not sure that would be achieved. The bus running on time – well that is pretty fortunate, and I know people who pray about parking spaces and thank God when they find one.

It is quite an interesting theological debate about how much God intervenes in our lives. Jesus speaks about how God knows how many hairs we have on our head (a quick count for some!) which indicates he knows the minutiae of our lives [Matthew 10:30]. She does seem to focus on low level things in her prayer life, but I am sure there must be bigger prayers that didn’t get answered. It appears to be naive to think that God answers all prayers, as that would make him more like a genie in the lamp rather than a divine being.

Pete Greig has written extensively about why God doesn’t answer and I am not going to repeat it here, but his article at 24-7 Prayer is worth a read: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/why-hasnt-god-answered-my-prayer/>.

God doesn't answer all prayers, and we can't understand how he chooses the ones to answer or not - as Ecclesiastes 10:5 states: "*As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.*"

Or as Augustine said: "*If I can understand God, he is no longer God*".

Can we be a Christian without believing in God?

Interestingly, Kemi Badenoch said she had "rejected God" but not rejected Christianity, which is perhaps an oxymoron – if you don't believe in God, then how can you be part of a belief which has him as a focal point? It does not make sense. I accept that people (wrongly, in my view) identify as Christian because they are born in the UK or maybe went to church as a child; however, that then reduces Christianity to a "label" that we attach to someone because of their background or activities.

I fail to see how a person can claim to be a Christian without believing in God. Jesus said "*Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me*" [John 14:1]. When Paul was asked the question "*what must I do to be saved?*" the reply was "*believe in the Lord Jesus*" [Acts 16:30-31].

The article speaks about remaining a "cultural Christian" – perhaps that means aligning to the values of Christianity without believing in them. I would suggest that even atheists can do that if they follow strict moral values (based on the Ten Commandments) but have no faith in a divine being.

How can we deal with "crisis of faith" at times in our lives?

Nevertheless, the article does raise a good question about how we deal with 'crisis of faith' at times in our spiritual journey. I would suggest that we all have them to some degree – some may leave the church for a while whereas others just wrestle with situations. It is at times like these that we need good spiritual friends who perhaps will pray for us and with us. The difficulty is, there is not always an answer to the "why" question. I dealt with several murder investigations in my police career where it was difficult to answer a loved one's question of why their partner or child was chosen. I often wrestled with the question of why God didn't intervene. The *Footprints in the Sand* poem reminds us: "*The Lord replied, 'The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you'.*"

The Bible reminds us that "*God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you'*" [Hebrews 13:5]. We may not be able to answer all the questions, but we need to trust in the one who can.

Simon Werrett

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

The Lord's Prayer has topped a recent poll for the most recognised words in Britain, above the National Anthem and "May the force be with you". More than 2,000 people were asked to choose from multiple-choice options the source of famous words that most people would recognise. The polling was commissioned for Thy Kingdom Come, prior to Pentecost.

The connection of trees to sacred spaces has helped rare tree species escape extinction. In China, a study found that temples serve as hotspots for old trees in human dominated landscapes.

Jesus went to where people gathered and this is happening in Bolton, Lancashire, in the Mosley Arms public house on Sundays. The function room is used by the New Life Church for the 10.30am service which finishes at 12 noon when the room reverts to serving pints. The patio, next to the street, is where a mobile baptismal font is erected, and the Christmas Carol Karaoke is held in the main bar.

June 2025 saw Liverpool Metropolitan Roman Catholic Cathedral upgraded to Grade I listed status. It was designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd (1908-1984), eldest son of five children of a Coventry tailor.



Religious groups and charities led by the Church of England are selling their ethical asset management business CCLA to Jupiter Fund Management. CCLA is one of the so-called purpose-led investment companies shunning investment companies who invest in tobacco, biological weapons and tries to urge companies to invest in the environment.

Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris, achieves another milestone this month following its 2019 fire. The south tower is to be opened, containing the 13.3 tonne bell known as Emmanuel, cast 1681, and its counterpart bell weighing 6.2 tonnes, known as Marie.

In Stratford, East London, a British start-up 'Better Dairy' is making a cheese that has never seen an udder. It is one of several worldwide companies hoping to bring lab-grown cheeses to your table in the not too distant future. However, it could be happening next year in the USA as their regulations are not so exacting as in Europe. It is thought that the frozen pizza market will be the first to use this product.

Allan Ahlberg, the children's author, poet and illustrator has died, aged 87 years. He wrote over 150 books such as *Peepo!*, *Burglar Bill*, and *The Jolly Postman*.

The Right Rev. Cherry Vann is to become the first female Archbishop of Wales, in the Church in Wales. She was amongst the first women priests ordained in 1994 by the Church of England.

Barry Stelfox



Social Committee News

We hope you have all enjoyed the summer events and are looking forward to the next round of activities.

- **Anything Goes Concert:** Sunday 21st September at 2.30pm in the Sanctuary. Nick and his fellow band members will provide an entertaining selection of songs and music, for all to enjoy. Strawberries and cream will be served with tea/coffee or cold drinks.
- **Harvest Lunch** on Sunday 28th September, after the morning service. This will be a 'bring and share' lunch and everybody is welcome. A list of food required will be placed at the back of the church nearer the time. Please note you are welcome to come whether or not you are able to sign up, there is always enough food for everyone.
- **Christian Aid Soup Lunch** on Saturday 8th November from 12 – 1.30pm. We will be asking for volunteers to make the soups, and also to help on the day to serve, etc. A sign-up sheet will be put at the back of the church.
- **Christmas Poetry Afternoon** on Sunday 23rd November at 2.30pm. Further information will be provided in the next month's magazine.

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

Social Committee

Hong Kong Food Fair

We are pleased to invite you to our Hong Kong Food Fair:

Saturday, 27th September 2025

11:00am - 4:00pm

at Baginton Road United Reformed Church, Community Hall

Free admission, over 85 authentic delicacies to choose from!

Enquire: email welcome@belonging.org.uk.

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Belonging Christian Church



A big thank you to everyone who helped at Holiday from Home. Without your support we would not have been able to put on this event so successfully.

All who attended enjoyed the activity days and especially being able to share and develop friendships. The welcome sound of conversation and laughter was heard throughout the two days.

The snacks and lunches were very much appreciated and praised. As were the variety of activities from pottery, manicures and the other crafts.

So please congratulate yourselves in being an essential part of this event, and know your help was invaluable.

Sarah, Pauline, Liz and Pam (Social Committee)



Macmillan Coffee Morning 2025

We will be holding our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on the morning of Friday 26th September from 10.30am until 12.30pm in the Sanctuary.

Donations of cakes of all varieties will be gratefully received on the day and can be dropped off from 9.00am.

We will also be having a sale table for books and jigsaws, so this is an opportunity to have a clear out. Again, please bring your donations on the day. If you need items collected, please let me know and I'll come and collect them the day before.

We will need helpers to set up from 9.00am and to serve teas/coffees, as well as clear away at the end of the event. I've already emailed my 'band of helpers' from last year, but if I've missed anyone and you're prepared to help for half an hour, please let me know. My contact details are 07889 738905 or email me at loowip@aol.com.

Please make a note in your diary and come and enjoy a cuppa, a slice of cake and of course, share some valued fellowship. Let's do something amazing and raise money to help people living with cancer. Hope to see you there!

Lesley Rice



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Commitment for Life Appeal 2025 - Hope in Crisis

It can often be difficult to trust God in the midst of a crisis. Zimbabwe experienced its worst drought in 40 years in 2024, which has created a food crisis on an unprecedented scale.

The drought has not only impacted last year's food security but also the ability to replant the harvest for future food resources. It is predicted that over 3.5 million people in Zimbabwe will experience a food and nutrition crisis requiring humanitarian assistance!

Christian Aid partner Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) has been assessing the situation and has been responding with food packages and vouchers to provide a lifeline for the many affected.

Sithandizile Mabena (pictured) holds food vouchers she received from ZCC. She has four children and also looks after two nieces. In her own words, she says "Before this assistance, I worried every day about how I would feed my children. Now I can focus on working without the fear of their going to bed hungry. This support has given me DIGNITY and HOPE." The vouchers can be exchanged for sugar, beans, maize and cooking oil.



For those unable to collect and exchange the vouchers, food packages are delivered to their homes. Phelele Ncube, a 77 year old grandmother, says this means that she now can make meals for her two grandchildren while their parents are at work, for which she is hugely grateful. Hunger is painful, especially when you have children looking to you for food.

She prays: "May this programme continue, because it is a lifeline for people like us." *"For I know the plans I have for you, to give you a hope and a future"* [Jeremiah 29:11].

This is our focus in 2025, the fulfilment of that promise that He has plans even in challenging situations. And we at Baginton Road URC, with our donations, can be an effective part of these plans.

Envelopes will be available end September and can be returned until end October. Further information will appear in the notice sheet later in September.

Mary Goodwin

Special Causes

We have taken over as the Special Causes Coordinators at Baginton Road URC. We intend to highlight some of the smaller lesser-known charities which do not have a major public profile.

If anyone has a particular charity which they would like to see featured, please let us know. A different charity will be featured every two months or so.



The Special Cause for September and October is LOOK. This is a small charity which supports visually impaired children to thrive by providing practical information and resources. It was founded by parents and is run by a small team of visually impaired staff and volunteers.

LOOK helps young people improve self-confidence, share difficult feelings, develop skills and make new connections. LookFest is the UK's first accessible festival for Visually Impaired People (VIPs) where there are school workshops, youth camps, Uni events, Youth and Music forums and Q&A sessions.

"I love LOOK's Youth Forum because it is a chance to get together with other kids just like me who I would never meet otherwise. I sometimes feel a bit left out at school, but youth forum gives me a chance to chat with my new LOOK friends."

The collection box is on the table near the main church doors. Thank you for your support.

Pam and John Dawson

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, September 11th, Theme: Music

Thursday, October 9th, Theme: Fruit



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

Behind the Scenes at Baginton Road URC



Someone recently remarked that we have several groups and committees here at Baginton Road, but they had no idea who they were or what they did. Over the coming months the magazine will feature two committees and explain who they are and what they do. This month we look at Administration and Discipleship.

Administration: Meets quarterly.

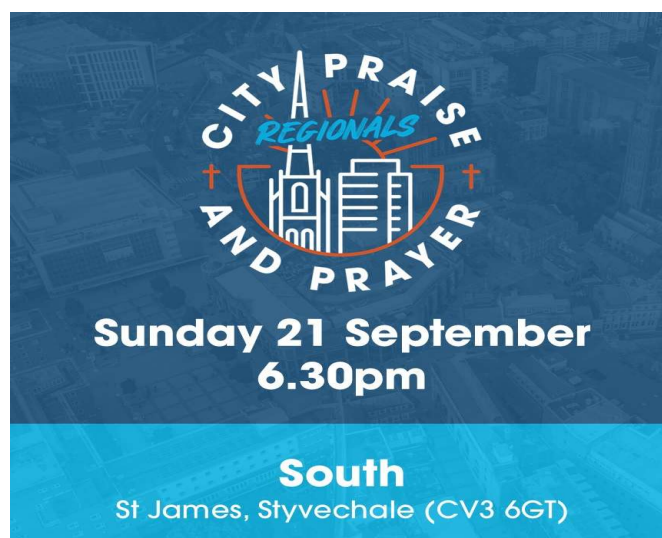
- Members: Sue D, who is the Convenor and takes notes at the meeting, Kevin G, David L, Pauline L, Ruth M, Simon W.
- Responsibilities: Oversight of the West Orchard and Warwick Road Centres
- Duties: GDPR and Data Protection; Review of Policies including Risk Assessment; Rules for the Election of Elders; Oversight of Safeguarding and DBS to liaise with Safeguarding Officers for BRURC to ensure policies and training are up to date.

Discipleship: Meets quarterly.

- Members: Rita D, Pam D, Sarah J, Sue M, Simon W
- Responsibilities: to recommend, resource and implement activities to develop spiritual growth.
- Duties: to plan away days and retreats, to identify new resources for spiritual growth, to encourage home groups, to coordinate prayer activities within the church, to oversee activities such as call in for coffee.

The groups are not exclusive to the Elders and new people are always welcome. If you are interested and feel you would like to join either of the above groups, please speak to Sue D or Pauline L.

Pauline Luckett, Assistant Secretary



Did You Spot Many Butterflies This Summer?



The wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation is deeply worried about our butterflies. Or rather, the lack of them. It seems that more than 80 per cent of our species have declined sharply in number since 1970s.

Each summer sees the Big Butterfly Count, when the public is encouraged to send in the number of butterflies they have seen over a short period of time. Last year saw the lowest number of butterflies spotted in the count's 14-year history. Even the familiar species like the small white, common blue and small tortoiseshell had their worst summer ever. And a record number of people saw no butterflies at all.

Butterflies have been hit by climate change, the use of pesticides, and damage to their habitats. The drought this summer will have been bad news for their caterpillar offspring, which need growing plants to feed on.

So, this autumn, why not plan a happier year for butterflies in 2026? As you prepare your garden for winter, go to <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/butterflies-in-your-garden> for some ideas of how to make your garden butterfly-friendly.

from Parish Pump

Warwick Road Centre and Café - September Update

As usual some of our regular 'lets' are having a break for the summer, and things will return to normal at the beginning of September.



Open Doors Café remains as busy as ever, offering 'more than a café' to its many regular customers. Whilst it is, of course, important to make enough money to keep the place afloat, Open Doors has always offered a place where people may seek peace and sanctuary as well as fellowship and company.

A number of folks from Warwick Road site will be attending the First Aid course on 29th September. First Aid is so important for all of us to be aware of and can literally be a life saver. We look forward to this refresher course and thank you to Kevin at Baginton Road for organising it.

As we await completion of the sale of the church at Warwick Road, we are still having to maintain the building. Significant, fire safety work will be carried out by FixFire in the next few weeks to ensure the building meets our statutory requirements as current owners of the building.

Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager

Open Doors Café Menu - September 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



September 2025	
Tuesday 2 nd Sept	Gammon, macaroni cheese and vegetables Treacle sponge and custard
Wednesday 3 rd	Honey glazed chicken thighs, new potatoes and salad Eve's pudding and custard
Friday 5 th	Pork & apple casserole Lemon meringue pie
Tuesday 9 th	Smoked haddock, potatoes, peas with a lemon & parsley sauce Pecan & maple syrup sponge and custard
Wednesday 10 th	Corned beef hash and cauliflower cheese Raspberry & white chocolate sponge and cream
Friday 12 th	Chicken & vegetable casserole Ginger sponge and custard
Tuesday 16 th	Sausage & tomato hotpot Coffee, date & walnut sponge and custard
Wednesday 17 th	Shepherd's pie and vegetables Fruit salad and ice cream
Friday 19 th	Chicken & mushroom pie, potatoes and vegetables Pineapple sponge and cream
Tuesday 23 rd	Minced beef cobbler, potatoes and vegetables Eton mess
Wednesday 24 th	Chicken in a leek & stilton sauce, potatoes and vegetables Apple pie and custard
Friday 26 th	Lamb's liver & onions, bubble & squeak Bread & butter pudding and custard
Tuesday 30 th	Beef stew and dumplings Coconut & cherry sponge and custard





Songs of Praise

It was like the first night at the Proms: the excitement, the anticipation, organist Wilf's fingers poised as Maestra Pauline approached the lectern to introduce our first song "*when morning gilds the skies, my heart awakening cries, may Jesus Christ be praised.*" Everyone joined in with gusto to celebrate the first Songs of Praise of the season.

Each song was introduced by our leader, with a brief resume about its history, the tune background and who had chosen it and why. For some, it was their favourite or perhaps they had sung it at a memorable time in their life. We had *Knowing you Jesus knowing you*, followed by *O' Jesus I have promised*. The singing was interspersed with prayers and a reading from 1 Corinthians 13 reminding us that without love, we sound like "a resounding gong or clanging symbol". We didn't have any drums, just Wilf on the organ as we sang *Lord Jesus Christ you have come to us*. We were informed that the last line of this hymn "*living Lord*" was inspired by Cliff Richard's hit *Living Doll*.

Our Maestra Pauline provided us with the background to our next hymn *The Lord's my Shepherd* to the tune of *Crimond*, which fitted in well with our reading from Psalm 121 about "lifting our eyes up to the mountains" (difficult in Coventry, I know!) but more aptly includes "The Lord watches over you", reminding us that God is like a shepherd who watches over their sheep. Our final song was *Shine Jesus Shine*, a great congregational sing before the Blessing.

A great Songs of Praise! "Congratulations and celebrations" to all those who contributed, and for those who were on their "summer holidays, no more workin' for a week or two", the next one will be at 6.30pm on 19th October – so put the date in your diaries now.

Simon Werrett

Smiles

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that . . .

electricians could be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, and dry cleaners depressed?

Likewise, bedmakers might be debunked, bulldozer operators degraded, organ donors delivered, software engineers detested, and underwear manufacturers debriefed?

And won't all composers one day decompose? On a more positive note, perhaps we can hope politicians will someday be devoted ...

from Parish Pump



← scan me!



WHAT'S ON THIS AUTUMN

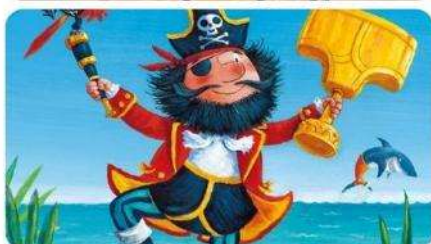


There's lots going on this Autumn - here are some dates for your diary!

Stick Man | The Albany Theatre

21st October

Touching, funny and utterly original, Freckle Productions' delightful adaptation of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's Stick Man is back in town!



Pirates Love Underpants | Warwick Arts Centre

28th - 29th October

Based on the beloved book by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort. Join a swashbuckling party of pirates on their quest to find the fabled Pants of Gold for the Captain's Treasure chest!



Wicked Afternoon Tea | Coombe Abbey Hotel

25th - 26th October

Visit the Coombe Abbey Hotel for a spellbinding Wicked Afternoon Tea inspired by the world of Wicked and the wonder of the West End!



Halloween Spooktacular | Hatton Adventure World

Weekends from 18th Oct, everyday from 27th - 31st October

Gather your little monsters and head to Hatton Adventure World for an unforgettable Halloween experience.

Coventry Blaze Ice Hockey | Coventry City Centre

The Coventry Blaze Ice Hockey Team play in the top level of ice hockey in the UK. It's a great fun family environment, and the team look forward to seeing you at Skydome Arena!



Santa's Christmas Party | The Albany Theatre

16th November

A 45 minute, interactive family show, suitable for 2-8 year olds. After the show each child gets the chance to receive a present from Father Christmas in the popular meet, greet and treat!

And there's more! Find local events at www.coventryrocks.co.uk

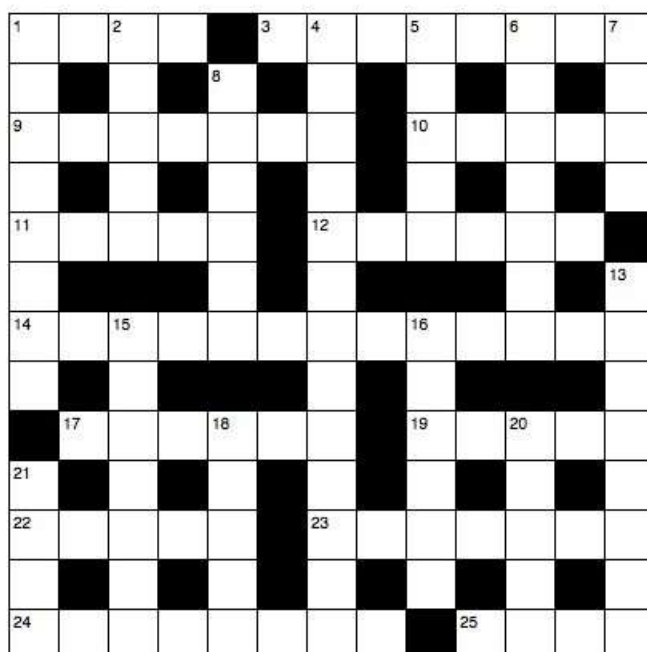
FOLLOW US AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY!

There are thousands of local parents following us Social Media, and we'd love for you to join in! Just search Coventry Rocks and like our page!

www.coventryrocks.co.uk



Puzzle Pages



Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

SUDOKU (EASY)

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

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SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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

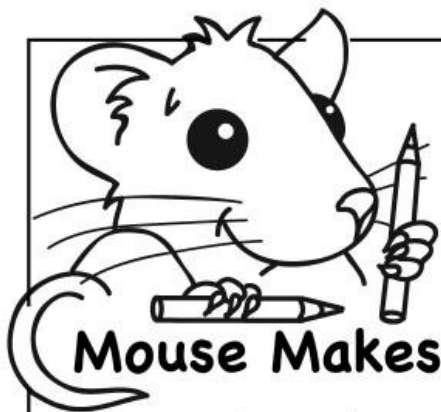
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Solutions on p.23

WORDSEARCH

On 3rd September, the Church remembers St Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages; he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man, and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, "They are Angles." Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, "They are not Angles, but angels!" He planned to go to England to evangelize the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so became the apostle of the English.

GREGORY	POOR	<div>N O Y M O N K S E P O P L A G U E P P S D L R O E Y N R E</div>
HISTORY	MONK	
SON	ENGLISH	
ROMAN	SLAVES	
SENATOR	ANGELS	
CONVERTED	ANGLES	
YOUNG	PLAGUE	
ESTATES	POPE	
MONASTERIES	APOSTLE	
GENEROUS	ELECTED	



"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."
- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the
Lord with your
wealth and the
first part of
your **harvest**."
- Proverbs 3:9

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."

- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."

- Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only GOD is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."

- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the
wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)

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

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)

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

CROSSWORD and WORDSEARCH SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: 1 Also. 3 Offering. 9 The Magi. 10 Rules. 11 Soper. 12 Help me. 14 Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19 In man. 22 Loads. 23 Inertia. 24 Vicinity. 25 Belt.

DOWN: 1 Artistic. 2 Sleep. 4 Faith in Christ. 5 Enrol. 6 Islamic. 7 Gasp. 8 Fabric. 13 Abundant. 15 Archaic. 16 Jailer. 18 Resin. 20 Mitre. 21 Slav.

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

Connections - October 2025 issue deadline

News, articles and other items to be included in the October 2025 issue of *Connections* should be sent by email to the editor Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, 17th September 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*



Worship at Baginton Road URC – September 2025



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

Date	Time	Preacher	
7 th Sept	am pm	Bernard Every Revd David Spriggs	Holy Communion
14 th	am	Simon Werrett	
21 st	am pm	Revd Ralph Hanger Margaret Marshall	Holy Communion
28 th	am	Revd Andrew Willett	Church Parade Harvest
5 th October	am pm	Simon Werrett Simon Werrett / Crawford Dow	Holy Communion

Church Contacts

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<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>