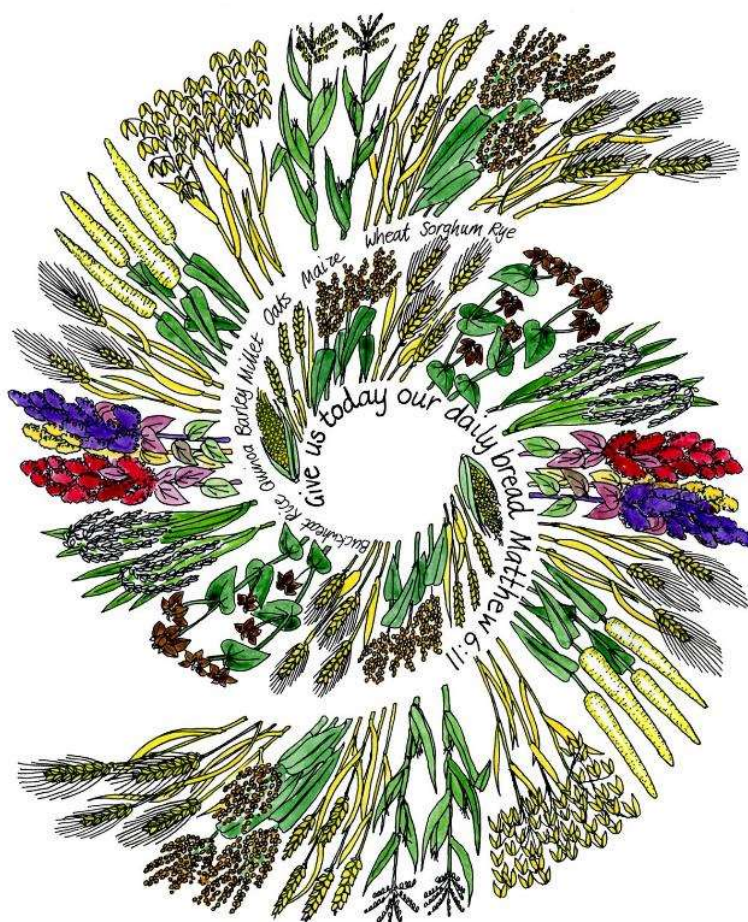




*'Sharing God's love so that
all may know Jesus'*



Connections



September 2021

The Church Magazine for Warwick Road URC & West Orchard URC

**Warwick Road URC
10 Warwick Row
Coventry
CV1 1EX**

**West Orchard URC
Baginton Road
Coventry
CV3 6FP**

September

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Poetry Café

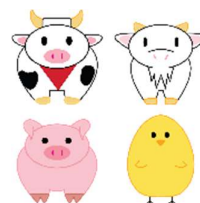
Poetry Café meets on the first Thursday of each month in the Open Doors Café at Warwick Road URC at 2.30pm. We each share two or three poems – these are usually on a set theme but don't have to be!



The next meetings are:

Thursday, 2 September, Theme: 'Falling'

Thursday, 7 October, Theme: 'Animals'



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

Dear Friends



You have renounced the old self with its associated practices and become a new person, your minds being renewed into the likeness of the one who created you. ... You need to be made absolutely new, both in heart and mind, putting on a new identity created in the likeness of God, made righteous, holy and true. [Colossians 3:9b-10; Ephesians 4:23-24]

Makeover programmes are all the rage – *Changing Rooms*, Trinny & Susannah's *What Not to Wear* or the many gardening ones such as *Ground Force* – perhaps because, as a result of Covid restrictions, we have been shut inside our own homes and gardens and love to see the transformations from old to new. It is truly astonishing to see what a difference can be made with a lick of paint, a splash of makeup, a change of outfit or choice of plants, the finished article almost unrecognisable.

But, of course, these programmes are only 'makeovers', changing outward appearances, rather than what is hidden deep within. A room can be made to look like something from Buckingham Palace but still be riddled with damp. A person can be made to look beautiful but, in reality, be anything but. A garden can be made to resemble the Garden of Eden but be infested, deep down in weeds. The change is superficial, apparent rather than real.

In the last couple of weeks both Warwick Road and West Orchard URCs have made the very brave and unanimous decision to start talks on creating a new church based on the Baginton Road site. The Warwick Road Church Centre will continue in its wonderful outreach into the community but the very large Sanctuary will be sold, hopefully to a more youthful Christian church with lots of members who will carry on the tradition of worship at that site. The two URC congregations will, with lots of prayer and hard work, merge to create something different. Things will be different but still recognisable but yes, things will change. We don't always like that and we might even fear that.

But the Bible speaks of a transformation more radical than anything even the most idealistic of us dare contemplate – of making a fresh start, becoming a new church, being born again. This is no mere makeover we are talking about, a tinkering for tinkering's sake. This will be a new creation.

How might this be possible? Not through all that effort on our part to turn over a new leaf but solely through God's grace, his Spirit working within us. Over the next few weeks and months let us open our hearts to God, truly seeking his renewing touch, and he will take what we are and shape what we are to become.

Yes, the old will still live on in some ways but the new will triumph as long as we stay close to God, because let's face it, God has been changing lives and churches across the centuries and goes on doing so today, tomorrow and forever.

God bless,

Yvonne

Closer working between Warwick Road and West Orchard URCs

Warwick Road:



Prior to our Church Meeting in July, our members had been informed by post of major changes which were facing the future of our church. Over a number of years our membership has steadily declined and today we have fewer leaders able and willing to take on the task of running the church.

Last year we were approached by Mosaic Church with a view to their renting or buying our Sanctuary. They are a growing church needing larger accommodation, not only for Sunday worship, but also for their youth work and midweek meetings, which would require the use of our Church Centre.

In January legal advice was sought by both parties and valuations were discussed. An agreement was reached and drawn up, with a Restricted Covenant ensuring that the Sanctuary was kept for Christian Worship. This was given approval by our West Midlands Moderator.

Mosaic would like to begin using the Sanctuary in January 2022, allowing us to use it for special purposes. Warwick Road URC would retain ownership of the Centre and attached buildings. With its sale would also go the Sanctuary's maintenance requirements.

So where would Warwick Road Congregation worship? The matter of diminished ministerial provision will very soon affect all Coventry URCs. Our present shared ministry with West Orchard has led us to contemplate a merger of the two churches. West Orchard are now entering discussions with their Elders.

This short article is just a short summary of many hours' work from Warwick Road Elders and Trustees over the past year, and we have not reached these conclusions lightly. There is still very much work to be done before the matter is finalised, but we believe this opportunity has come from the Lord, and we would value your prayers as we move forward into a new future. Let us do it together.

God bless us all.

Rita Dalton

West Orchard:

On Wednesday, 11 August 2021, West Orchard URC held a Special Church Meeting to discuss a proposal received from Warwick Road URC asking that the Elders of both Churches agree to enter discussions about the possible merger to form a new Church which would worship on the Baginton Road site.



Reverend Yvonne opened the meeting by providing the background to Warwick Road's decision. Questions were raised concerning any outstanding debts and the meeting was assured that all debts would be settled prior to any merger taking place. Everyone felt that all members of both congregations should have the opportunity to come together to discuss how we move forward and we should learn lessons from other churches who had already gone through this process. It was emphasised that the action should not be seen as a take-over by any one church and that, as soon as possible, we should seek ways of working together.

The proposal was amended prior to West Orchard voting, to read "To authorise your Elders to enter into discussions with the Elders of Warwick Road Church about the possible merger of the two churches to create a new church on the Baginton Road site". There were 34 people eligible to vote and the vote was unanimous.

Reverend Yvonne explained that initially, everyone would become members of the new church and both Eldershops would be merged, with some from West Orchard hopefully joining the Trustee body and others getting involved with activities at the Centre. Both churches will need to feel ownership of both sites. She would like the newly formed church to have a new name but still remain grounded in the local area.

Pauline Luckett, Secretary, West Orchard URC



St Andrew's House
19 St Andrew's Road, Earlsdon
Coventry CV5 6FP
Residential, respite or short stay care
in a Christian home.
St Andrew's can help!
Telephone Lesley 02476 673745
www.standrewshouse.org.uk

A Very Big Thank You

I just wanted to say a very big thank you to everyone who donated to Pancreatic Cancer UK for the walk I did on Saturday 17 July. It was an incredible day, albeit rather warm at 28 degrees, and a fantastic indication of the support that my stepdaughter Clare is receiving in her battle with this dreadful disease.



There were 43 family, friends and work colleagues who took part in the walk for Clare, starting and finishing at the Saracens Head in Balsall Common. She managed to walk the first part with us and then resorted to a wheelchair for a bit more of the walk until we stopped off at her house where she stayed with Freddie, Alfie and their Dad while we completed the rest of the walk. She was also at the finish line and was totally humbled by everyone's efforts.

In total, we estimate that the 43 'Clare's Angels' who walked on the day, plus the fundraising at the nurseries she works at, have raised a fantastic £5,000.

Personally, I raised £844 and am so grateful for everyone's generosity. The grand total raised by Pancreatic Cancer UK for The Big Step Forward, which they called the walking event, is now in excess of £236,500 which is a phenomenal sum of money - and money is still coming in!

Clare is still receiving palliative chemotherapy and currently, with all the medication which she has been prescribed, she has turned a corner. Finally, after weeks of tweaking the medication, especially the pain relief, she is feeling stronger and her appetite is much better. It's been lovely to see her being able to go out and about with family and friends while she is feeling this strong. She has been able to do some hours at work and is back driving which has given her some independence and a feeling of 'normality' which is so important to her.

Her will to fight the cancer is truly commendable. We just hope and pray the improvement continues, although we know there will be more 'bumps in the road' for her. The last six months since diagnosis have been a real rollercoaster but the treatment and support she is receiving from Warwick and Stratford Hospitals, the Macmillan Palliative Team and the District Nurses is amazing.

Thank you again on behalf of Clare and the family. Your messages, prayers and good wishes are invaluable to us all, especially Clare.

Lesley Rice

West Orchard pastoral news

This Autumn edition of Connections brings with it good wishes for all sections of the church family who are moving on to new challenges as we begin to return to some form of normality.



We are pleased to report that after several weeks of hospitalisation, John Bruffell is home again, but leading a very quiet life. Anne is appreciative of the prayers and help she is receiving.

Sadly, on 6 July, Marilyn Sanders' husband Mick passed away. He was always a kind and loyal support to the church and will be sadly missed. The funeral service was led by Revd Paul Bedford on 3 August.

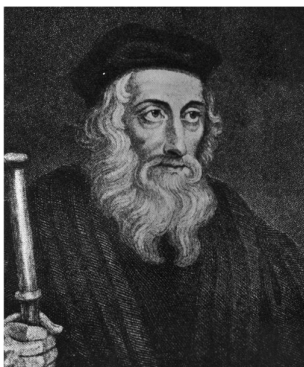
Many members of West Orchard will have fond memories of Joyce Jones who recently passed away.

On a brighter note, we are delighted to report that John and Pam have another granddaughter: Robyn Rose Dawson was born on Sunday 15 August, a third daughter for Richard and Sophie. We send our love to the family.

Rose Tomlinson

What goes around ...

When I first heard mention of the possibility of the churches of West Orchard and Warwick Road merging, the above words came to mind - but this is due to my interest in the history of Coventry. Please let me explain.



The Dissenters, or Lollards, had been around since the mid-14th Century, with Coventry being an important centre midway between the communities of Oxford, Northampton and Leicester. John Wyclif, a radical Oxford scholar, was a leading figure who challenged the teaching of the Catholic Church. When legislation was enacted to suppress the Lollards, they became an underground movement that aimed to make Christianity directly accessible to the faithful by the translation of the scriptures into English and the writing of English works of instruction.

In 1400, a law was passed decreeing that anyone found preaching without an episcopal licence would be imprisoned, and the following year the Act "*De Heretico Comburendo*" was passed. This was the harshest of legislation - "On the burning of a heretic".

In 1485 eight Coventry Lollards were accused of heresy; after confessing their sins they had to perform a public penance by walking “with head and feet bare and wearing only linen garments and each carrying a faggot [dried sticks] on the shoulder” to the market cross from the church of St Michael to confess again.

Between 1512 and 1522, seven men and two women were burnt at the stake in the quarry just outside the city walls, known as The Hollows. This is commemorated with the plinth known as the Martyrs' Memorial situated in Cheylesmore (Quinton Road/Ring Road), where several streets in the 1930s were named after these people. This memorial, still standing, was unveiled on 15 September 1910.



In 1555, three more Lollards were burnt at the stake, including the prominent figure of the Reverend Lawrence Saunders. A monument was erected in his former church, All Hallows, Bread Street, and the church was later demolished in 1876. In September 1990 the Laurence Saunders Baptist Church was opened, in Laurence Saunders Road. In 1953, a mosaic portraying 11 martyrs was placed inside the entrance to Broadgate House.

In 1724 the Congregational community in Coventry included Alderman John Moore, a wealthy butcher and owner of the Cross Keys public house in Smithford Street. Vicar Lane Chapel was built in the backyard of this building, with a seating capacity of 700.

In 1776, following the arrival or election of Jacob Dalton as Pastor, a split in the congregation occurred, resulting in some meeting in people's homes, and in 1777 this separate group founded a small chapel in the area known as Waste Orchards, with the chapel being known as West Orchards.

Vicar Lane Chapel's congregation expanded in the late 1800s, resulting in the move in 1891 to Warwick Road; unfortunately, West Orchards was destroyed in April 1940 by enemy action. On 16 October 1947 a new West Orchard Church was consecrated in The Chesils.

So after 245 years, will we see the congregations back together? Hence, what goes around ...

Barry Stelfox

* References: Pulpit and Pew; A History of Warwick Road Church 1891-1991, David Rimmer; The Coventry Martyrs, Alan Munden (2005).

Christian Aid donations

First of all, may I set out a few facts about what your donations can do:

- £5 can buy taps for a dam and waterpoint to help local people access water more easily.
- £10 can buy cement to build a strong and durable dam which the community can depend upon.
- £15 can help teach farmers how to plant drought-tolerant crops which can survive the climate change droughts.

When you put all that together, here is how we can change a life:

Onesmus is a teenager with big ambitions. He is studying hard in the hope of becoming a teacher one day. But not so long ago, all his time and energy were drained by a 3-hour daily walk, in blazing heat, to collect water for his family. With so much responsibility, he had little time for homework, let alone for himself.

The dam changed his life. With a reliable water supply now available locally, he has time not only to study but to grow avocados and peaches to sell at the market.

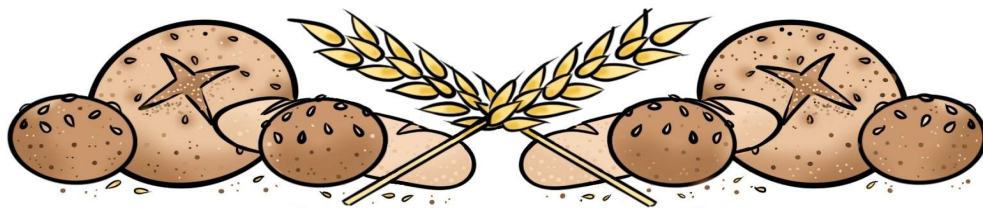
He feels more hopeful about the future. He can concentrate on his studies as his family has water locally. Water is life!

Despite the disruption of Covid, we actually managed to raise (with Gift Aid) £241.87! Such an unexpectedly high total in such difficult times. Thank you so much for your unfailing generosity.

One of the most important things which unites us as Christians is the weight we carry for the world's poorer communities. It is thanks to your donations that their lives can be transformed. Thank you all.



Mary Goodwin





Church Away Day

Saturday, 9 October 2021 at



The Barn, Red Hill Christian Retreat Centre

Activities to include a short act of worship, crafts, games and quizzes.

Special activity is a 'Walk with a Difference'.



Mark, from the Centre, will lead a foraging walk. Learn about the food and medicines to be found in our hedgerows, woods and gardens. Please bring appropriate footwear and wet weather clothing.

Light refreshments and afternoon tea provided.
Bring your own packed lunch.

Limited places available. Book with Jenny: 02476
690879

Please share transport if possible. Donations towards the cost will be accepted on the day.

Address: Red Hill Christian Retreat Centre, Heath End,
Snitterfield, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 0PQ

The Centre is located on the A46, 3 miles south of Junction 15 of the M40. The driveway is opposite the turning to Hampton Lucy.

Note: Sat Navs rarely get you to the main entrance here.

Do not go down Heath End Lane

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

A painting fell off a wall in a house in Rome damaging the frame. It was taken to a restorer who thought this 54cm x 44cm oil on paper was by Rembrandt and painted in around 1633, and this has since been confirmed. The painting is an Adoration of the Magi and was in a preparation for a series of engravings on the Life and Passion of Christ. It is hoped this painting will go on public display.

Modern technology is being used for church fundraising. A drone has been used to view and record over 600 ceiling bosses at St Mary's in Beverley, East Yorkshire, then a 3D printer is used to create wooden replicas and photographs. £10m is needed for restoration of this church, which dates from 1520.

At the end of June, the Prince of Wales was the winner of the annual award given by the Council of Christians and Jews to an individual who has built bridges between different communities.

In its first public budget the Vatican has revealed it owns 5,251 properties in Europe (including 27 in London). This portfolio generated £12.75m of income in 2020.

Following the Pope's operation in June to remove half his colon, rumours abound in Italian newspapers on whether he will announce early retirement at 84 years old and join his 94-year-old predecessor, Pope Benedict, in retirement.

Archbishops of the Church of England have refused to create 42 "racial justice officers" because of financial concerns. A report by the church's Anti-Racism Task Force criticised leaders for having implemented only a few of 161 recommendations made in similar reports since 1985.

It is illegal to kill Lesser Black-Backed and Herring Gulls. Worcester City have received licences from Natural England to fly hawks around the cathedral and city centre in a two-month trial to try to move the gulls away.



Huw Edwards, the BBC newsreader, is calling for measures to help save thousands of church pipe organs from being lost to vandalism, neglect and destruction. The Welsh broadcaster says that a "rich heritage" is being "casually thrown away" as churches and chapels continue to close and the organs are treated as "worthless boxes of pipes".

Northumberland Council have approved plans for a trial of a road-train between the mainland and Lindisfarne, the Holy Island. Residents fear this will add to traffic jams and harm trade plus "lowering the tone", and also that it "smacks of a holiday park". Lindisfarne Monastery was founded in 635 by St. Aidan and is possibly the holiest site of Anglo-Saxon England.

The words “Dad” and “Pap” have been allowed to be put on a gravestone at St Michael’s and All Angels Church at Bugbrooke, near Northampton. A Church of England judge said the terms were “not generally appropriate”.

Purple clothing is often mentioned in the Bible to denote wealth, such as the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, the priests in Exodus being told to dress in purple and in Exodus the rich stood under purple awnings. The Song of Solomon (or Solomon’s Song) Chapter 3 verses 9-10 refers to King Solomon and his chariot with the *covering of it of purple*. In south-west Israel was the kingdom of Edom, a vassal state of Jerusalem, a barren area which had a copper mine. Purple scraps of material have been found in a waste heap by the mine and analysed to date back to 1,000BC. Coincidence?

The purple dye is obtained from a Mediterranean sea snail, each snail providing less than a gram of dye. Therefore, lots of “porphura” snails were needed for the laborious process for the production of material. A millennium later, the Romans issued a decree that only those in the Imperial household could wear purple: “Men shall bring forth from their homes and deliver the tunics and cloaks that are dyed in all parts of their texture with the blood of the purple shellfish”.

Barry Stelfox



Macmillan Coffee Morning at West Orchard

It has been two years since we last held a Macmillan Coffee Morning at West Orchard, so I’m delighted to inform you that we are all systems go for the event to be held on the morning of Friday 24 September 2021 from 10am until 12 noon in the Sanctuary.

Donations of cakes of all varieties would be gratefully received on the day and can be dropped off from 8.30am.

We will also be having a sale table for books and jigsaws which I’m sure you will have collected throughout lockdown, 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 08.30 and to serve teas/coffees, so if you can help, please can you let me know. My contact details are 07889 738905 or email me at loowip@aol.com.

Your support has the power to raise vital funds for people living with cancer so please make a note in your diary and come and enjoy a cuppa, a slice of cake and of course, share some valued fellowship.

Lesley Rice

Making Mondays



27 September, West Orchard

Making Mondays re-started at the beginning of August. It was great to be back together again and there was plenty of lively chat and catching up going on alongside the craft activities.

We have now decided to meet in the afternoons rather than the evening as this is more convenient for everyone. If you haven't been before and would like to join us, please come along. Arrive from 1.30pm onwards for tea/coffee and a chat and we will start crafting at about 2.00pm, finishing by 3.30pm.

At our next session we will be making simple gift boxes. No experience is necessary and all the materials are provided.

Please bring your own pen/pencil and scissors.

Sue and Pam

Journey with The Cross

At Easter I was given a beautiful hand crocheted cross – in orange, white and lemon – from West Orchard Church.

A very good friend who was suffering from stage 4 cancer and struggling with her third session of chemotherapy, invited me to visit her on her 80th birthday to celebrate with cake through her lounge window! Sadly, when I arrived, she was so poorly that the nurses had arranged for her to be admitted to Myton Hospice that day. I was so upset that she was in such pain and I was not allowed to see her.

For some unknown reason, I'd put the cross in my car that morning. Hurriedly, I fetched it and asked the nurses to send it with my friend in the ambulance.

The next day my friend texted me to thank me for her "Special Cross", which the nurses had placed by her bed where she could see it. I texted back to explain that it came from West Orchard Church.

Sadly, seven weeks later my friend passed away – peacefully and with her "Special Cross" on her pillow. My friend's "Special Cross" is with her still in her coffin to accompany her on her final journey.

A very brave, kind and Christian lady – comforted by a handmade cross until she is reunited with her creator.

Christine Short

Coventry City of Culture Faith Event and Open House



Warwick Road URC, Saturday 11 September 2021, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Warwick Road URC will open its Sanctuary for visitors on this special day in the Coventry City of Culture programme.

We are hoping to involve as many groups as possible to exhibit, display, dance, sing, play music, recite poems, read stories, chat, and generally interact with visitors. We will be serving refreshments (subject to Covid guidelines).

We would like to have volunteers to help beforehand or on the day. If you are able to help, please get in touch with Rita at ritakdalton@gmail.com.

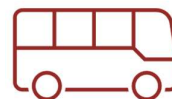
Later in the day there will be **Promenade Performances** of four plays, which involve some walking around the city centre. There are two performances of each play, each one hour long, starting in different locations across Coventry from 10.30am to 5.30pm. Tickets are free but must be booked via the City of Culture website, as from 27 August: <https://coventry2021.co.uk/what-s-on/faith/>.

The plays were written by Chris O'Connell and Chinonyerem Odimba and are directed by Erica Wyman of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

About the plays:

- *The Messenger by Chris O'Connell*: Beginning on Stoney Stanton Road, audiences are introduced to Baani, whose mother is gravely ill. She plans to meet her father at Pool Meadow bus station, but this is a journey she has never made before. Will anyone help her find her way?
- *The Return by Chris O'Connell*: Taking place on the cathedral steps, two old friends meet after almost 40 years. Seeing both each other and the Coventry they love through very different eyes, the play explores whether it is possible to betray a city, and if so, whether it can forgive you.
- *The Arrival by Chinonyerem Odimba*: The play follows a young Sikh couple as they try to find a new home. Audiences will be taken on a journey through the city centre in 1978, starting in Broadgate and culminating at the Belgrade Theatre.
- *Generation 2020 by Chinonyerem Odimba*: The story follows the grandson of the couple from "The Arrival", as he and his friends discover that someone they care about has gone missing. Audiences will be led on a journey around hidden corners of north Coventry, as they try to find him. The play is a spirited celebration of the imagination and humanity of young people.

Rita Dalton



Church Coach Trip to The Valley, Evesham

Monday, 20 September 2021

Leave Warwick Road URC at 9.30am and
West Orchard URC at 9.45am
Return about 4.00pm

Cost £10

**Please book with Keith 02476 220299 or
Jenny 02476 690879**

**Facilities: 22 shops, a fabulous garden centre and 3
eateries, all set in beautiful Worcestershire
countryside.**

**Free wheelchair hire is available from Evesham
Garden Centre. Please call in advance on 01386
761888**

Warwick Road Church Centre Activities and Cafe - September Update

It seems like an eternity since I wrote a piece for the July/August edition of *Connections* and so much has happened since then. Although there is still a level of nervousness and uncertainty, life is slowly returning to normal at the Church Centre.



Since the start of July, the café has opened twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. Clare offers a limited snack menu, including breakfasts, plus a main course and pudding at lunchtime. It is great to see many of our pre-pandemic regulars returning, especially with the relaxation in the restrictions. Several individuals have ordered extra meals to take away, such that the number of main meals cooked each day is often over 30 (compared to about 24 before the pandemic). We are allowed to offer a takeaway service until March 2022, after which we will need to apply for planning permission.

Below you will find the menu for September. At the moment this is still on Tuesdays and Fridays only, but Clare is considering opening on Wednesday as well. This may be on a weekly themed basis – possibly a brunch-style offering as we tried at the end of June, or something completely different. We welcome your ideas and suggestions.

One thing holding us back is the lack of volunteers to run the café. There are plenty of the Lifepath volunteers desperate to return, helping in the kitchen or with serving meals, but we need one or two others to be in charge of taking orders and generally supervising the front-of-house. If you are interested, please contact the office for more information.

Bookings for the Church Centre are continuing well. The main room was used for several weeks in July and August for training young school-leavers, helping them to gain skills ahead of employment. Both the Reading Group and Poetry Café have restarted, as has the Extend Exercise Class. This is being held on Fridays only (£3 per session), though if there is sufficient demand then the Tuesday group will also return. However, with my impending departure, we have decided to put a hold on Film Club until the start of next year.

There are other events taking place soon, such as the exciting Open House Faith Event on Saturday 11 September and a welcome return for Jenny's Coach Trips on Monday 20 September. See details elsewhere in this publication.

Finally, if you are interested in Ann's jam, marmalade and chutney offerings, please contact her directly (024 7627 3131) to check on current availability. Her latest

offerings are: Apricot jam (£2.30); Strawberry & apple jam (£2.20); Strawberry & rhubarb jam (£2.20); Apple & cherry jam – small jar (£1.50) – large jar (£2.00); Seville orange marmalade (£1.40); Orange & ginger marmalade (£1.70) and Curried apple & carrot chutney (£1.00).

Café menu for September 2021

	Mains	Desserts
Friday 3 September	Lamb's liver & onions, potatoes and vegetables	Mixed berry crumble and custard
Tuesday 7 September	Chicken chasseur, potatoes and vegetables	Cherry pancakes
Friday 10 September	Salmon & asparagus quiche, new potatoes and salad	Mixed fruit trifle
Tuesday 14 September	Beef bourguignon, potatoes and vegetables	Chocolate and orange puddings
Friday 17 September	Bacon & cheese potato skins and cauliflower cheese	Bread & butter pudding and cream
Tuesday 21 September	Pork & apple hotpot	Treacle tart and custard
Friday 24 September	Mince beef cobbler, potato and vegetables	Jam & coconut sponge and custard
Tuesday 28 September	Chicken & vegetable casserole	Sticky toffee sponge and custard

Keith Greenall, Church Centre Manager



Food Bank Update

A big thank you to all those continuing to donate to Foodbank via the boxes under the table outside the WO office. I take your donations to St Catherine's, Stoke Aldermoor, as they have been open throughout all the lockdowns and are not far from us. With the new system at Foodbank, all donations are sent to the central warehouse and then packed into family bags and sent back out to distribution points.

Thanks also to those of you who have given money, which I have used to buy toiletries and packs of nappies to be distributed alongside the food. This was the specific request of the team at St Catherine's when I asked what they needed most for their local families.

During the summer holidays St Catherine's are one of 50 venues in the City Council's 'Holiday Activities and Food' programme to provide meals and activities for families who would normally receive free school meals in term-time. Their club is for 4-7 year-olds and runs on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Just a few facts and figures:

- In 2020, over 390 tonnes of food was donated to Coventry Foodbank by individuals, businesses and supermarkets.
- In the UK, 2.3 million children live in households that have experienced food insecurity during the pandemic.
- 22% of all households have lost income compared to before the pandemic.

A reminder of what items are appreciated: UHT milk; tinned meat / fish; tinned veg/tomatoes/potatoes; tea / coffee; tinned fruit; jam/spreads; sponge puddings; UHT juice; biscuits; cereals.

In October we will be collecting food and monetary donations for Foodbank at our Harvest Festivals – more details in next month's edition.

Margaret O'Kane

Difference Course



"Difference" is a 5-session course that explores what it means to follow Jesus in the face of conflict and see transformation through everyday encounters. Archbishop Justin Welby has brought together leading peacemakers, thinkers and practitioners to create this course.

The aim is to help people to encounter others well, cross divides and see society transformed. Revd Pete and I have completed the training to act as hosts for this course.

The Tuesday Home Group (Sue D, Jenny, Pam, Mary, Pauline, June and Sue M) will be working through the course in the Autumn, with other opportunities to participate being offered in due course. If you would like to join our group to get a taste for the course and find out more, we would be happy to welcome you.

Dates are 5 & 19 October and 2, 16 & 30 November, in the West Orchard Sanctuary, 7.30 – 9.00pm.

Sue Davis

Smiles

My three-year-old was saying his nightly prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you," I finally whispered. He said firmly, "Wasn't talking to you."

Why is it that everyone can remember their childhood phone number, but can't remember the password they set up yesterday?

Overall, chickens have probably flown further as an airline meal than they have as a species.

The sentence, 'Are you as bored as I am?', can be read backwards and still make sense.

A little girl had been to Sunday School for the first time and was asked by her mother how it compared with her new primary school. "Oh, I like it much better," she said. 'There are no exams there, you go only once a week for an hour, and at the end you go to heaven instead of high school.'

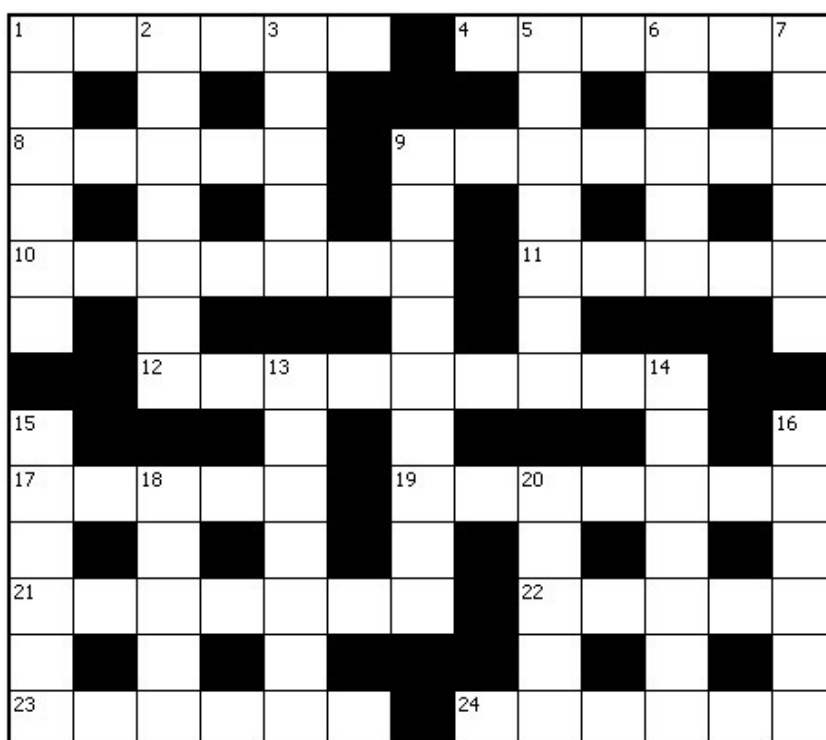
From a church report on renovations at a Youth Centre in Northamptonshire: 'The lift and the new windows are installed and the non-alcoholic bar is already plastered.'

From a church notice sheet: PLEASE NOTE: 'From this Sunday the evening service will begin at 8pm. This will continue until October.'

from Parish Pump



Puzzle Pages



Across

- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)
 21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)
 22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)
 23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)
 24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

Down

- 1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)
 2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)
 3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)
 5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)
 6 Lonny (anag.) (5)
 7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)
 9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)
 13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)
 14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)
 15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)
 16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)
 18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)
 20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

SUDOKU (EASY)

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

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SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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

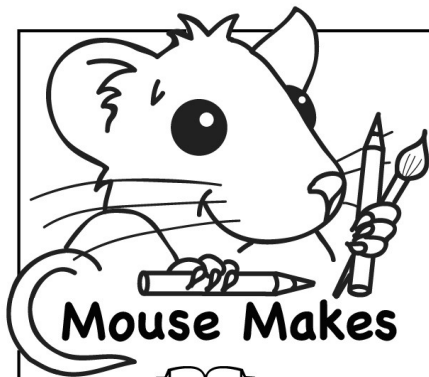
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Solutions on page 23

WORDSEARCH

Ever wonder why there is both good and evil allowed in this world? Jesus told a parable that touched on this subject – it is called the Parable of the Weeds. It runs like this: Consider the world as if it were a field where a farmer has sown good seed. But then an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. So when the wheat came up, so did the weeds. What to do? Instead of destroying the weeds, and thereby risking the wheat, the farmer tells his reapers to wait and let both wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. At the harvest he will instruct the reapers to gather up the wheat, but to discard the weeds. So do not despair when evil seems to thrive in this world – there is a reckoning still to come, and justice will be done.

KINGDOM	SOW	R E N N N T E N G R O W
HEAVEN	GATHER	R M N W D G A K S D R E
GOOD	REAP	H A O A A N I R H E E E
SEED	ROOT	T S W T L N E V A E H D
FIELD	LET	N T H E G E O P G R T S
SLEEPING	GROW	S E L D N U B U R N E D
GRAIN	TOGETHER	R R O E I E N I A R G L
WEEDS	HARVEST	D M M E P T R S V D O E
ENEMY	BUNDLES	E Y T S E V R A H S T I
SERVANTS	BARN	E I S E E N N G O O D F
MASTER	BURNED	W V N D L T E O O N O G
		H L O H S B A R N E M A



Read this story in
1 Kings 17:7-16

The bowl of flour and the jar of oil

It had not rained for months and months, there was a drought in the land.

God sent His prophet **Elijah** to the town of Zarephath. At the town gate he saw a widow gathering firewood.

"Please bring me a drink of water and some bread." he asked her.

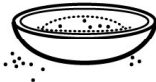


She answered "All I have is a handful of flour and a drop of oil in a jar, it is our last meal."

"Do not worry." Elijah said, "Make the meal and make a small loaf for me."

The woman did what Elijah had asked and God blessed her ...

... The bowl never ran out of flour and the jar never ran out of oil until it rained again!



Find these words from the story in the word search:

WORD • LORD • GOD • ELIJAH • SENT • ZAREPHATH • GATE • CITY • WIDOW
STICKS • WATER • DRINK • BREAD • FEED • HANDFUL • FLOUR • LITTLE
OIL • SON • EAT • DIE • FULL • WENT • MAKE • BAKED • ATE • JAR • JUG • MANY
DAYS • LIVE • NEVER • EMPTY

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)

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

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS

1 access; 4 blinds; 8 rhyme; 9 loyalty; 10 Antwerp; 11 Aenon; 12 loftiness; 17 Satan; 19 Obadiah; 21 on earth; 22 storm; 23 exhale; 24 depths

DOWN

1 Adrian; 2 crystal; 3 siege; 5 lay bare; 6 nylon; 7 saying; 9 Lappidoth; 13 funeral; 14 spit out; 15 ashore; 16 Thomas; 18 teeth; 20 aisle

Connections - October 2021 issue deadline

News, articles and other items to be included in the October 2021 issue of **Connections** should be sent by email to the editor, Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, 22 September 2021**.

Connections is published in digital format and emailed to subscribers. You are also be able to view it on the church websites www.warwickroadurc.org.uk and www.westorchardurc.org.uk.

If you want it emailed to you, please contact Keith Greenall: keith@wrurc.co.uk or Hugh Maccallum: westorchardoffice@gmail.com.

Thanks,
Claire

**The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily
the views of the URC or its congregation**

Worship at Warwick Road & West Orchard – September

Services - West Orchard (WO) 10:30am - Warwick Road (WR) 11:00am

Date	Church	Preacher	Organist	
5 September	WR	Revd Peter Kimberley	Tim Sheasby	
12 September	WO	Shân Dobinson	Nick Wolff	
19 September	WR NB: 10.30am	Revd Yvonne Stone (HC)	Tim Sheasby	WR AGM after service
26 September	WO	Revd Colin Offor	Wilf Hawes	

Church Contacts

 <p>Minister: Reverend Yvonne Stone</p> <p>tel: 024 7669 0457 mobile: 07500 876604</p> <p>email: westorchardminister@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Mission, Outreach and Worship Leader: Reverend Peter Kimberley</p> <p>tel: 07581 710348</p> <p>email: westorchardoutreach@gmail.com</p>
Warwick Road	West Orchard
<p>Church Secretary: Post currently vacant</p> <p>Church Treasurer: Richard Blanchard email: richardblanchard29244@gmail.com</p> <p>Church Office: 10 Warwick Row, Coventry, CV1 1EX tel: 024 7622 0299 website: www.warwickroadurc.org.uk email: wrurc@wrurc.co.uk</p>	<p>Church Secretary: Pauline Luckett email: westorchardsecretary@gmail.com</p> <p>Church Treasurer: Margaret Costigan email: westorchardtreasurer@gmail.com</p> <p>Church Administrator and Room Bookings Secretary: Hugh Maccallum tel. 024 7641 9927 (Please leave a message on the answerphone) website: www.westorchardurc.org.uk email: westorchardoffice@gmail.com</p>