

PRENTON NEWS

The Magazine of
Prenton United Reformed Church
Prenton Road West, Birkenhead



JUNE & JULY 2021

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Church & Community Activities

Monday	1st Tranmere Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	5.00 p.m.
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Dance Class	5.00 p.m.
Thursday	Dance Class	6.00 p.m.
Friday		
Saturday	Dance Class	9.00 a.m.

LET MY PEOPLE GO!

In Exodus 8:1 God had a message to Pharaoh, 'Let my people go.' Why did God want his people to be free? 'So that they may worship me.'

Whilst I don't want to compare our predicament through this pandemic to the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt, I do want to acknowledge the restraints this pandemic has placed on the fellowship-life and worship-life of our church. But, the cry of 'Let my people go' has been sounded and, God willing, from the 21st June most of the restrictions placed on us by the pandemic will be lifted which means that we will be back in fellowship and worship together from the 27th June.

I thank God for the technology that has enabled us to continue worshipping together throughout this pandemic but my real desire is that is that we are able to worship together safely, as we once did, in person, in fellowship, and being able to sing together.

People have been busy already, getting things ready for this to happen, getting rid of mould, decorating, putting up signs and sanitisers, cleaning chairs and carpets, and giving the premises a good clean but there is still much to do and, if you're willing and able there are still jobs to do that you could sign-up for and there are rotas for readers and prayers that you could consider joining too.

The Israelites, freed from slavery to worship God as they once did, found the horizon changed and, even though they were doing the old familiar things, everything was somehow different. We must accept the same as some restrictions may remain, and some individuals might be apprehensive about doing things the way we did in the past. We need to respect that.

This Pandemic has enabled us to re-evaluate things we once took for granted and given us a fresh vision of the church as the 'Body of Christ' and a new appreciation of our worship and fellowship life together.

The Pentecost narrative in Acts chapter 2 tells us twice, that the believers were all together. First, in verse 1, they were together, shut away in fear and focussing on themselves. In verse 44 they were together, ready to burst out in the freedom of the Holy Spirit focussing on others and allowing their worship of God to permeate and direct every part of their lives for the good of others.

Let's allow the Holy Spirit to do the same; let's not be tempted to get back to normal for our own sake but to allow our renewed worship and fellowship life together be a vehicle for growing the church and for the sake of God's kingdom.

God bless. **Jeff**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY and FRIENDS

Barry Lawrence has been in Broadgreen Hospital having suffered a heart attack. He has had a stent fitted and is now back home.

Harry Bradley is at home recovering, slowly, following keyhole surgery.

We remember all our members and friends in our prayers and in particular those who have lost loved ones in the last 16 months; those who have had to be admitted to hospital; those who have had Covid – 19 and those who have endured the isolation of being on their own during ‘lockdown’.

We have all missed the company of family and friends but we thank God for the wonderful scientists who have produced vaccines that are able to protect us from severe attacks of Covid–19, as well as all the medical people who have done such amazing work in our hospitals and in the community.

We look forward with hope that the Government will be able to lift all the restrictions on June 21st and we can re-establish a ‘normal’ life.

THANK YOU

I want to say a huge Thank You for your love, support and prayers for the walk for Christian Aid.

So far through the Just Giving page we have raised £1,015 plus more than £80 in Gift Aid. I have also received cheques made payable to Christian Aid which will be sent separately to Christian Aid and I know that some of you have made your donations in other ways, so thank you, on behalf of those who will be helped by your donation.

I received a number of messages, cards and letters along with donations offering encouragement and prayer. I was much heartened by the assurance of prayer being offered.

One in particular moved me, so I’ll share it with you. *“I wish I could join you. I am much reduced physically these days but when I think of people like Rose and Florence (the ladies featured in the Christian Aid story) I realise how lucky I am. Hot and cold water on tap, a comfortable home and people to help me. I did pray for you, but I’m not very good at it. I think of Thora Hird who said she had a conversation with God each morning – I’m trying that.”*

I think that is exactly what prayer should be, ‘a conversation with God.’

Every penny and every prayer makes a difference to a life; so ‘Thank You’ for yours.

Heather

LOCKDOWN LOG

I hope that this will be my last Lockdown Log, as the period of lockdown will come to an end this month. I don't know whether any of you have read it each month, I don't know whether you ever read the magazine and the messages and notices in there, but now, having committed to writing in it each month for the last 13 months, I know that there is a lot of effort involved in trying to think of something new to say that may interest, inform, amuse or even inspire you. I will read the magazine with a different attitude from now on. Thank you to the regular contributors and editors.

As many of you know I have a health condition that means that I am very susceptible to picking up infections, but for many months I have been well, with no infections, and I can't remember when the last time was that I could say that. The reason for my good health has been lockdown, I stayed at home for the most part and have been very careful about hand washing and mask wearing.

I am, also, as most of you will know a person who like to hug other people. I have missed hugging people, and the sense of love and belonging that can come with a hug. Despite my love of a hug, as I look forward, I expect to be restricting my hugs to my mum, my children, and grandchildren for the most part. I know that many of you feel the same. Let's use our hugs when they are really needed and look after ourselves and each other. I don't want to go back into isolation again!

I long to be with you all again, please don't be offended when I don't greet you all with a hug. I want to protect you and hope that you will want to protect me and each other.

Much love and virtual hugs,
Heather.

CHURCH KEYS

I need to know who has keys to the church because I am sure my list is well out of date and keys do not always get returned because people simply forget. So can I appeal for an extra effort to be made regarding the keys.



If you hold a key please contact me and let me know, even if you think I already know! You can ring me on 677 3248 or e-mail prenton.urc@hotmail.com.

I know a lot of people have church keys for many reasons. If you have one that you no longer need, would you please return it to me.

Thank you.
Jean

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO GET OUR CHURCH READY TO OPEN AFTER 16 MONTHS OF "LOCKDOWN" !

Our building is old and needs a lot of maintenance. There are jobs to be done, both inside and outside.

People have started doing some of the jobs, especially Jeff, who has attacked the cracks in the plasterwork and paintwork in the corridor, but now we need **your help** to make the place look more inviting.

We have compiled a list of the jobs that we think we could tackle ourselves and we have divided each job into smaller parts so that no-one has a huge task, and we are really hoping that as many people as possible will help.

We will provide all the things that you will need including tools with long handles so that no-one needs to climb up ladders, cleaning fluids, paint etc.

If you think that you could tackle one of these jobs, please ring Jean (677 3248) and offer your help.

Jean will need to know when you could come to Church: i.e. good days and definite times that you are not available and Jean will allocate the jobs and timings and you will probably be asked to do a certain morning or afternoon.

You can offer to do part of a job and perhaps get a friend to join you so it lessens the load.

Please remember that we must be careful and respect "social distancing", which means that we cannot have too many people on the premises at the same time. However, we do not want anyone there on their own and we do not want you to climb ladders unless you are sure you can do it – with a friend for security.

Masks and gloves should be worn.

We have all been longing to get things back to normal and to see each other again so let us pull together and get this sorted. Every little helps, so we do need everyone who can, to do their bit.

A big "Thank you" to all those who do offer to help.

The priority jobs that need volunteers between now and June 27th, are listed on the next page - it looks a very long list but many hands will make light work.

INSIDE

In the Hall

Washing the chairs.

To the right of the exit to the East room and the Fire door - there is mould on the wall which needs washing off.

Plaster/paint peeling above the cupboard by the Wharfedale Avenue exit.

In the Passageway

Clean mould away from the walls on both sides between the East room and the Ladies toilet.

Wash the walls between the East room and the Ladies toilet.

Paint any areas in need of it between the East room and the Ladies toilet.

Wash the walls both sides between the Ladies toilet and the Disabled toilet.

Paint the walls both sides between the Ladies toilet and the Disabled toilet where needed.

Wash the walls from the Disabled toilet to the window.

Paint any areas from the Disabled toilet to the window that need it.

Wash the walls from the steps to the second church door.

Paint the walls from the steps to the second church door where needed.



In the Kitchen

Remove mould from the ceiling to the right of door.

Wash area treated.

Paint treated area as needed.

In the Ladies Toilet

Sort out the toilet seat in the right-hand cubicle - it is loose.

OUTSIDE

A "Litter Pick" around the gardens

Paths need weeding

Grids in the paths need clearing of weeds to allow access for inspection.

Grids at the bottom of the downspouts need cleaning out and the weeds removed.

The lawns need cutting.

All the steps need clearing of weeds.

The railings on the steps into Church need cleaning and painting.

Garden borders need a tidy up.



PRENTON DIRECTORY

The directory is a list of all members and friends attending Prenton URC. I have a new directory ready to print. I know we desperately need one!

However I cannot print it until I have your permission to publish your name, address and telephone number(s). This is important because of the Data Protection laws in place.

If you agree, you do not need to do anything, but if you do not want any or all of this information to appear, you must let me know before the 27th June.

Some people may have changed their address, or telephone number, or have a mobile number not published last time. Please let me have any alterations so that I get the correct entry in the new directory.

Many thanks,
Jean

TWO MORE PLEAS FOR VOLUNTEERS but these are on a regular basis!!

LAWNS

Would you be willing to go on our rota for mowing the lawns on a regular basis?

Perhaps you could just take over one of the lawns and mow when needed. The more folk who volunteer to do a bit, the less it will be for everyone else.

Please ring Fred or Jean if you would be willing to take this on.

Thanking you in anticipation.



SOUND SYSTEM



Are you computer literate? Would you be prepared to operate our sound system once a month? If so, Elaine would be happy to spend some time in church during the week to give you some tuition on the operation of our sound system and its' foibles!

We do need more volunteers as at the present time we are down to just three people which means that basically they are unable to contribute anything else to our morning service.

Please offer your help and experience of computers to enhance our services.

CHURCH SERVICES AT 11.00 a.m.

SUNDAY 27th JUNE Mr Brian Woodhouse

Duty Elder: Sue Jones
Service Stewards: Jean & Les Bayley, Margaret Higson
Readers: Joyce Holland & Philip Roper
Prayers of Intercession: Claire Thomas
Sound System: Marian Davies
Church Flowers: Jo Johns

SUNDAY 4th JULY Rev Jeff Hughes

Duty Elder: Marian Davies
Communion Elders: Fred Foulkes & Elaine Parkin
Service Stewards: Barbara Jones, Sue Jones, Maureen Makin
Readers: Pam Lawrence & Glyn Roper
Prayers of Intercession: Philip Roper
Sound System: Heather Hughes
Church Flowers: Michael Tudor

SUNDAY 11th JULY Mrs Mary Hambly

Duty Elder: Fred Foulkes
Service Stewards: Joyce Holland, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
Readers: Marian Davies & Jean Bayley
Prayers of Intercession: Pauline Green
Sound System: Elaine Parkin
Church Flowers: Joyce Holland

SUNDAY 18th JULY Rev Jeff Hughes

Duty Elder: Elaine Parkin
Service Stewards: Jean & Les Bayley, Joan Bradley
Readers: Fred Foulkes & Shelby Ambrose
Prayers of Intercession: Sue Jones
Sound System: Heather Hughes
Church Flowers: Joan Bradley

CHURCH SERVICES AT 11.00 a.m.

SUNDAY 25th JULY Mr Ron Taylor

Duty Elder:	Shelby Ambrose
Service Stewards:	Pauline Green, Margaret Higson, Barbara Jones
Readers:	Joan Bradley & Philip Roper
Prayers of Intercession:	Jean Bayley
Sound System:	Elaine Parkin
Church Flowers:	Jean Bayley

SUNDAY 1st AUGUST

Duty Elder:	Jean Bayley
Communion Elders:	Shelby Ambrose & Marian Davies
Service Stewards:	Maureen Makin, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
Readers:	Joyce Holland & Pam Lawrence
Prayers of Intercession:	Barry Lawrence
Sound System:	Elaine Parkin
Church Flowers:	Vacant - Volunteer please

The Church Flowers are based on the 2020 schedule as the majority of people have the same Sunday each year. If you would like to join the flower rota or wish to alter your Sunday, please speak to me and I will endeavour to carry out your request.

I will prepare the usual schedule for distribution on Sunday June 27th covering August and September.

Margaret



Everyone was watching the beautiful bride as her father escorted her down the aisle. They reached the altar and the waiting bridegroom. The bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand.

The minister and the guests in the front pews responded with ripples of laughter.

As her father gave her away in marriage, the bride gave him back his credit card.

At the Henry Street Hebrew School, the rabbi finished the day's lesson. It was now time for the usual question period.

"Rabbi," little Mervin asked, "there's something I need to know."

"What's that, my child?" the rabbi asked.

"Well, according to the Scriptures, the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?"

"Right."

"And the children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?"

"Uh – right."

"And the children of Israel built the temple, right?"

"Again you are correct."

"And the children of Israel fought the Egyptians, and the children of Israel were always doing something important, right?"

"All that is correct," the rabbi said. "So what's the question?"

"What I need to know is this," Melvin said. "What were all the grown-ups doing?"

HOPE

Replace your worry with hope,
And fulfil your hope with action.

Send positive thoughts to your most troubling situation,
Soon you'll find yourself starting to act on those thoughts.

Instead of worrying about the worst that can happen,
Allow yourself to hope for the best that can happen.
In your mind, make the most positive outcome real.

Hope for the best, with passion, conviction and faith,
For when you do, you'll begin to see real,
Workable ways to get there.

There is no situation so desperate that it cannot be turned around.

Always, there is a place and a purpose for hope.

Hope for the best, and let that hope push you forward.

With hope in your heart, you're well on your way.

Anon

Someone complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen that said "Parking Fine."



Church Newsletter. For Sale: Snow blower. Five horsepower. Worked great last summer.

Sermon Title: "Quality You Can't Count On."

We would love to see you at our
Zoom Safe Families evening-
Monday 14th of June



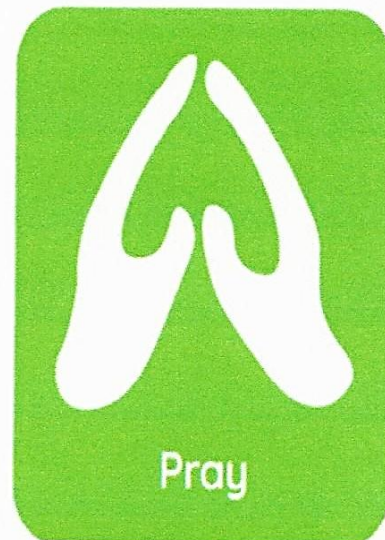
Information

7-8pm

Find out more about what has been happening with Safe Families in the North West and how you, your friends and your Church can partner with us to help families, who are facing life alone, to feel hopeful about the future.

Praying for Safe Families 8.15-8.45pm

Join us in prayer. Thanking God for what he has done through amazing supporters and praying for the needs of families, volunteers and staff at this time.



YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO BOTH OR EITHER OF THESE EVENTS-Please join us by clicking on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86723796313?from=addon> or use the Meeting ID: 867 2379 6313. Call me (Lesley) on 07384897317 or email lesleysmith@safefamilies.uk if you would like more detail.