

PRENTON NEWS

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



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CONTENTS

From our Minister
Ceremonies of the Church
Lockdown Log
Help!
Christian Aid
From the Pews

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MODERN LAWS



When you wish to unlock a door but have only one hand free, the keys are in the opposite pocket. (Von Fumbles Law)

A door will swing shut only when you have left the keys inside. (Yale Law of Destiny)

When your hands are covered with oil, grease, or glue, your nose will start to itch. (Law of Ichiban)

Your insurance will cover everything but what has happened. (Insurance So Sorry Law)

When things seem easy to do, it's because you haven't followed all the instructions. (Destiny Awaits Law)

If you keep your cool when everyone else is losing theirs, it's probably because you have not realised the seriousness of the problem. (Law of Gravitas)

Most problems are not created or solved; they only change appearances. (Einstein's Law of Persistence)

The policeman couldn't believe his eyes when he saw a woman drive past him on the motorway, busily knitting. Quickly he pulled alongside the vehicle, rolled down his window, and shouted, "Pull over!"

"No" the woman called back cheerfully, "Socks!"

FROM OUR MINISTER

“WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ...”

I've been enjoying the good weather recently which inevitably means that the garden is growing with a vengeance leading to overfull wheelie bins. I'd mowed the lawns a few weeks ago and filled the bin to the brim and Heather, who had been doing some weeding, had nowhere to put her rubbish. But she noticed a few days later that there was room in the bin. No one had taken any cuttings out but gravity had done its work and the cuttings had been compressed.

The same happens to us as Christians; life and circumstance can often bear down on us even to the point of crushing us. And, as I was thinking about all of this I started to think ahead to Pentecost and it reminded me of an old story I read years ago which I may have shared before. It's the story of a man some years ago who would show up whenever there was a revival meeting in town. At the end of each service when the invitation was given, he would walk to the front, get down on his knees, raise his arms to heaven and cry out, "Fill me, Jesus! Fill me! Fill me!" Then, within a matter of a week or two, he would slip back into his old ways of living. But when the next round of revival meetings were held, he would be there, and again, he would go to the front, get down on his knees and pray the same prayer, "Fill me, Jesus! Fill me! Fill me!" And so it went on, the same ritual at every revival meeting. But one time, he was down on his knees yelling to the ceiling, "Fill me! Fill me, Jesus! Fill me!" when suddenly from the back of the church some lady shouted out, "Don't do it, Lord! He leaks!"

The truth is that we all leak. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a once-and-for-all thing and our spiritual energies diminish over time, just like gravity working on a bin full of grass cuttings or life and circumstance bearing down on us.

This month, as we prepare for the re-opening of our church, we celebrate Pentecost, the time when the Holy Spirit was poured out on all God's people, and as we do so let's pray that God will fill us anew that we might be ready to do the work He's prepared for us.

Acts 9:31 tells us that '...the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the **Holy Spirit**, it increased in numbers.' My prayer for our church is that we too might be filled and encouraged by the Holy Spirit that our church too might grow in numbers.

God bless.

Jeff

Ceremonies of the Church

FUNERAL

On Tuesday 27th April 2021

Rev Jeff Hughes conducted the Service
at Landican Crematorium
followed by
a Service of Thanksgiving in Church
for

MICHAEL JONES

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

We send our love, condolences and sympathy to Sue, and Laura
and their family and friends.

LOCKDOWN LOG

I have spent the last few days working in the garden, on hands and knees or sitting on a very low stool digging out weeds from one small corner of our garden! I've been glad of the good weather because it's meant that I could do the work, but I certainly had moments when my back, hips and knees were pleading for rain or some other reason to make me stop!



The weeds that have taken over are called Alkanet, pretty blue flower, hairy skin irritating leaves and a very deep tap root. We have battled this weed for 10 years. It reminds me of the Hydra creature of mythology, cut off one head and there's another one to take its place!

So, as I sat aching, I asked myself... "why am I the one doing this job?" the answer... "if not you then who?" The usual answer is "Jeff will have to do it". The list of things that 'Jeff will have to do' is just too long though! I can do this job, it may be uncomfortable, I may prefer not to, I may be able to think of dozens of other things that I need to do instead. I could just leave it and wait until it gets so bad that Jeff has to do it along with everything else. So, I had a word with myself and though the task might seem thankless, I kept going through the pain and I can tell you now that I am delighted that I have succeeded, and I know Jeff appreciates not having to do it.

Neither Jeff nor I are keen gardeners, but this lovely house that we live in came with gardens and like it or not we need to maintain

them. It may have taken me longer than it would take Jeff. If I had left the job, Jeff would have probably given the area a spray with weed killer and cleared away the debris; this may seem to be effective, but it does not solve the problem as the roots are still there, despite what it says on the tin! (Let me assure you we have tried!)

So, as I sat in the garden with time to ponder, I considered which other tasks I could take on.

As we start to think about getting back into our church building, and getting the premises ready you may be able to help in some way?

When the church buildings are open again, things may not be just as they were before, and nor should they be. There may be different jobs to do, and you may be able to do one of them. Now is the time to start thinking about it. Start praying to ask God what you might be able to do. Everybody is able to contribute, whether you are physically able to be in fellowship or not. Each of us is a part of the church, it is not the same place if you are not playing your full role in it. There is nobody too good, there is nobody too bad, there is nobody too old, there is nobody too shy, there is nobody who has done their bit and so can put their feet up now and let other's do everything. **If not you then who 'should' do the work that God calls His people to do?**

All of the work of God must be underpinned with prayer, so those who cannot physically 'do' any more can be serious about prayer and can be active and specific in prayer for those who 'can do'.

Let's ask ourselves if not me, then who?

Heather

With a view to our re-opening of the Church, we are endeavouring to start to collate the various weekly rotas for "Meeters & Greeters" (Door Stewards), Readers, Prayers of Intercession, Sound System operatives, Cleaning and Church Flowers.

We do not know what the attendance at Church will be, so can I please ask you to consider contributing towards the various rotas. One telephone call is all it takes so please contact myself or Margaret Meade.

I plead for all of our members and friends to consider being on a rota and helping our Church family come together again. Any role, however small, is much appreciated.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Elaine Parkin.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

As you will hopefully have read previously, I am intending to walk from Leasowe Lighthouse to Perch Rock Lighthouse on 15th May 2021 to raise funds for Christian Aid. (Starting at 10 a.m.)

I would be delighted if you would pray for me and if you would sponsor me. The walk is about 4.5 miles, which for me is quite a stretch! If you would like to join me for some or all of the way I would be delighted to see you, at a social distance of course.

I have set up a Just Giving page for donations or you can send donations to the Church Treasurer or to me and I will add them to the total.

If you wish to give to Christian Aid by other means please do so. There is no obligation to sponsor me, but I do ask that you prayerfully consider making a generous donation to this charity which is working in some of the worst situations imaginable.

Here is the link to the Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising-edit/heather-hughes-forchristianaid>

Thank you
Heather

From the Pews

WALKING THE DOG

A woman was flying from Melbourne to Brisbane. Unexpectedly, the plane was diverted to Sydney along the way. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay and if passengers wanted to get off the aircraft, the passengers could re-board in 50 minutes.

Everybody got off the plane except one lady who was blind. A man had noticed her as he walked by and could tell the lady was blind because her Guide Dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of her throughout the entire flight.

He could also tell she had flown this flight before, because the pilot approached her and calling her by name asked, "Kathy, we are in Sydney for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?"

The blind lady replied, “No thanks, but maybe Buddy would like to stretch his legs.”

Now imagine this:

All the people at the Departure Gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a Guide Dog!! The pilot was even wearing sunglasses!!

People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines too!

Remember, things are not always as they appear.



ALCOHOL ABUSE

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon. With great expression he said, ‘If I had all the beer in the world, I’d take it and throw it into the river’.

With even greater emphasis he said, ‘And if I had all the wine in the world, I’d take it and throw it into the river’.

And then finally, he said, ‘And if I had all the whisky in the world, I’d take it and throw it into the river’.

He sat down. The choir leader then stood, very cautiously, and announced with a smile, ‘For our closing song, let us sing Hymn 365: “Shall We Gather at the River?”’

Have you heard the word “PARAPROSDOKIAN”?

It is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently used in a humorous situation.

Going to Church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we’d both be wrong.

War does not determine who is right – only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Evening news is where they begin with ‘Good Evening’ and then proceed to tell you why it isn’t.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

I didn’t say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.



In the stillness of a garden
The spirit is refreshed,
The soul responds to beauty
And is richly blessed.
It's where the heart finds healing
When weary and subdued
Through the peace and quietness
And calming solitude.
A garden is a sanctuary,
A place where we may be
Alone with God to ponder on
Nature's mystery.
To see in green and growing things,
In flower, bird and tree
The Mind behind the universe
In creativity.

Kathleen Gillum

