

PRENTON NEWS

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



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2021

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Minister: Rev Jeff Hughes Tel: 201 1883

E-Mail prentonurcminister@virginmedia.com

Church Website: prentonurc.org.uk

Any information, pictures or articles for the website should be sent to Philip Roper at phil.e.roper@btinternet.com

Church & Community Activities during school term time

Monday	1 st Tranmere Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	5.00 p.m.
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Coffee Morning	10.30 a.m.
Thursday	Dance Class	4.30 p.m.
Friday		
Saturday	Dance Class	9.00 a.m.

<p>Copy for the December 2021 & January 2022 Magazine required on 14th November</p>

Donations towards the cost of the magazine would be appreciated.

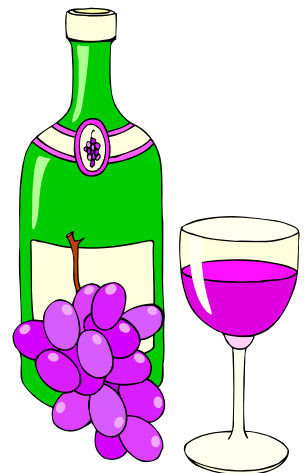
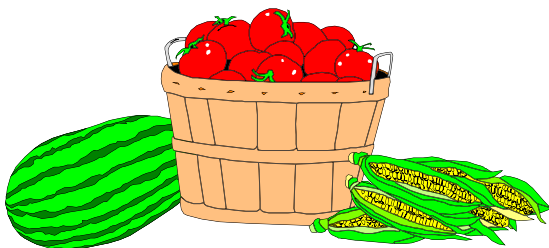
***On SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER at 11.00 a.m.
We will be celebrating***



The Service will include HOLY COMMUNION

**The sower went forth sowing;
The seed in secret slept
Through weeks of faith and patience,
Till out the green blade crept;
And warmed by golden sunshine,
And fed by silver rain,
At last the fields were whitened
To harvest once again.
O praise the heavenly Sower
Who gave the fruitful seed,
And watched and watered duly,
And ripened for our need.**

William St. Hill Bourne



From the Manse

WHOLE-LIFE DISCIPLESHIP

I think I might have said this before - 'the end is nigh'. That's certainly been the theme of a number of conversations I have had with different people over the last few months. Maybe the pandemic has brought into focus other natural disasters that are affecting the planet; changing weather patterns which are becoming more and more extreme, fires, floods, earthquakes destroying property and landscapes, people's homes and shelters being destroyed and lives and livelihoods of countless numbers of people being swept away. Then on top of this there are wars and rumours of wars with countless numbers of countries at odds with others or themselves. So, there's little wonder that people are speculating that all of the turmoil is divine and leading somewhere.

I have been having such a conversation with someone I've met during the pandemic, as I've been shopping for them. They're not a Christian but they do have some belief in God. The conversations go something like this: 'Jeff, have you seen the fires in Australia?'; 'Jeff, have you seen the earthquake in Turkey?'; 'Jeff, have you seen what hurricane Ida has done?'; 'Jeff, did you see that volcano erupting in the Philippines?', and more recently, 'Jeff, did you see the flooding down on Borough Road?' And all these observations end with the same comment, 'Jeff, I think this is God and the end is coming'.

My answer is always the same, 'If God is doing this and the end is coming then, what are you going to do about it?' A question we should all ask ourselves every now and then.

I'm not particularly 'The end is nigh' sort of person. Don't get me wrong, knowing that God will bring about the end of all things must instil a certain amount of urgency for us to want to get our lives in order, but the reality is that we may not get to wait, until God ends all things, for us to meet our maker. God could end all things tomorrow, and he could end any of us tomorrow too.

I say all of this, not to be morbid about things, but rather that we can be as ready as we can, individually and as a church.

Some of your church leadership team met recently for the first of our Learning Hub meetings organised through London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC), which was mentioned in the last magazine. We're partnering with them over the next two years as we look at church growth and the idea of Whole-Life Discipleship; this is

nothing new and it's what Jesus modelled. But what has changed is the environment we find the Church in, in our society today and we want to be a church better equipped and prepared to pose the question, 'The end is nigh - what are you going to do about it?' amongst our congregation and the communities we belong to, but we also need to be better equipped and prepared to begin answering that question for those who are seeking an answer.

As a church, we will begin engaging with the idea of Whole-Life Discipleship more fully in January as we begin with a series of Frontline Sundays.

I urge you to get behind this initiative prayerfully and wholeheartedly and if you would like more information about it, please speak to one of the elders.

God bless.

Jeff

CEREMONIES OF THE CHURCH

FUNERAL

On Tuesday 10th August 2021

Rev Jeff Hughes conducted the Services
in Church and at Landican Crematorium

for

DORIS (Dot) LYONS

We send our love, condolences and sympathy to all her family and
friends at this sad time.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory



NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY and FRIENDS

It is good to see so many members and friends back in the pews on a Sunday morning, and the choir back in their rightful place leading the singing and with Trish on the organ.

It was lovely to welcome **Mary** back on her return from Ghana, to continue her work at Liverpool University and we look forward to seeing her in the coming weeks.

We remember in our prayers the members and friends who are not able to join us on a Sunday and in particular, at this time, **Jeanette & Godfrey Adams, Iris Hatton, Jeff & Heather Hughes, Jo Johns, Margaret Lloyd and Glennie Mortimer.**

A TRIBUTE TO DORIS (DOT) LYONS

4th January 1931 - 22nd July 2021

On the 10th August we said farewell to our dear friend and member Doris 'Dot' Lyons. Along with her sister Joyce she joined the fellowship at Prenton about 4 years ago and became a member in 2019.

Dot was born to Stanley and Annie Beynon on 4th January 1931 in Tranmere Infirmary now St Catherine's. She had a brother and three sisters though only Joyce is now still with us.

The family lived at the home of her grandparents in Cobden Street in Tranmere. Income was limited though Dot's mum worked hard to provide for the family, and Dot would tell that you that she was sent to Wyburn's greengrocers on a Friday evening at closing time to buy 'black bananas' because they were cheaper; a real family treat. Although money was scarce, Dot enjoyed a loving, warm and secure family life.

Dot attended ballroom dancing classes with her older brother, winning a number of awards for their performances. She retained her love of dancing all her life spending many happy evenings dancing with friends at a variety of social clubs. She also loved music and singing and was frequently on-stage entertaining audiences at Cammell Laird's social club.

In 1949 Dot married John Lyons and additions to the family arrived soon after with Barry being born later that year, and then Lynn in 1951 and Elaine in 1954. Dot and John worked hard to provide for the family. Barry described his mum as loving, caring, understanding, kind, supportive, forgiving, and fair.

Dot always encouraged and expected good manners and high standards and she wasn't shy of giving one of the children a clip round the ear if they had been out of order, quickly followed by a wink or a forgiving smile.

Dot's family grew again with the addition of five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, and, shortly before her death her first great-great-grandchild was born.

Dot's home was the social hub for family and friends and often included Dot's famous bacon butties. Christmas and New Year were such happy occasions full of joy, laughter, family, visitors and lovingly prepared food. Dot was central to those happy times. Dot's health steadily deteriorated during the last five years of her life, and it was during this time that she and her sister Joyce began attending Prenton URC, quickly becoming part of the church family. Her faith, family and friends sustained her during her illness which resulted in her being more and more housebound. She will be missed by her family and friends alike.

FROM OUR CHURCH SECRETARY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We seem to be asking for volunteers quite often these days, but please don't switch off and say, "Not me" as I know there are folk who could help.

SANITISING LIQUID

I think most of you know that we have a machine called a "Fogger" which sanitises the rooms that have been used.

It is mainly used in the hall by the groups who use our premises, but we have also sanitised the church at times, to keep us all as safe as possible.

It has to be used with a solution of salt and water and we have a small jug which makes this. It would be a big help to me if someone would volunteer to make the solution. You simply put a teaspoon of salt into the jug with the water, turn it on and wait for 30 minutes for it to be ready. It is then poured into the container in the hall and is then ready to put into the "Fogger".

The "Fogger" does not use very much at a time, but it does need to be checked about once a week.

Could you help? Please let me know.

PAINT A DOOR

You will have noticed, I hope, that the corridor is looking much cleaner and fresher. The walls are now almost finished. This has made the doors and skirting boards look scruffy, so we are hoping to improve these.

Les and I will remove the bits and pieces screwed, and otherwise attached to the doors. We will then sand them so they are ready to be painted. We have undercoat which is white - all we could get - and a silver-grey gloss. All we need is volunteers to paint a door (or two) each. There are a lot of doors. They only need painting on one side.

Two hall doors, the entrance double door, the old vestry, the disabled toilet, the Ladies (2 doors), the Gents, the Kinghorn Vestry, the double doors leading to the stage, the double doors of the cleaner's cupboard, the Kitchen and the East Room.


Come with a friend and chat at the same time. We have been saving jam jars to hold the paint, so you won't be trying to share a paint pot. You can choose a door.

Please let me know as soon as possible and we'll make a timetable.

Many thanks,

Jean

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2021

OCTOBER			
Saturday	2nd	10.00 a.m.	Decorate the Church for Harvest
Sunday	3rd	11.00 a.m.	Harvest. Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes or Our Elders
Monday	4th	10.00 a.m.	Distribute Harvest Gifts
Wednesday	6th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Sunday	10th	11.00 a.m.	Dr Philip Roper
Wednesday	13th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Sunday	17th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs Shelby Ambrose
Tuesday	19th	10.30 a.m.	Churches Together at Prenton URC
Wednesday	20th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Saturday	23rd	9.30 a.m.	Autumn Garden Clear Up Morning
Sunday	24th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor
Wednesday	27th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Saturday	30th		Clocks go back an hour tonight
Sunday	31st	11.00 a.m.	Dr Geoff Meyers

GIFT MONTH



We thought that we would try to get back to our normal routine and hold our Gift Month in October. Many of you are already aware that this is a boost to our funds which is most welcome and people give generously, for which we are extremely grateful.

You will receive a letter at the beginning of the month explaining Gift Month.

As you know we have had considerable expense this last year with some big jobs needing to be done.

Please consider prayerfully how you may be able to help replenish our funds.

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2021

NOVEMBER			
Wednesday	3rd	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Sunday	7th	11.00 a.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes
Wednesday	10th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Sunday	14th	10.45 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday 10.45 a.m. Prenton War Memorial
Wednesday	17th	10.30 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Coffee Morning Elders' Meeting
Sunday	21st	11.00 a.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes
Tuesday	23rd	2.30 p.m.	Fabric & Finance Meeting
Wednesday	24th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Sunday	28th	11.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m. 4.00 p.m.	Mr Ron Taylor Church Meeting Remembering Service

SHOEBOXES

Lying in a hospital bed this last couple of weeks has taught me a lot, and over time I'm sure I'll sort it out and work out how I can make use of what I've experienced and learned.

When you're a person who 'likes to be in control' having that removed is a very uncomfortable feeling!

I must though build back to 'normality' slowly, so I won't be able to do as much as would normally or lead on some of those things very close to my heart.

Operation Christmas Child springs to mind, and the purchasing and organising and packing of over 100 boxes is a big job.

If anyone would consider taking this on I'm happy to let it go.

If a group or groups from Prenton and Wallasey Village want to get together that would be great.

If you all think it's too much, perhaps this year, we could send the things that we already have to the warehouses and make an extra financial effort to support the work being done by others, while we are unable to take it on?

I don't know what can be done, that's rather up to you, dear reader, I can only recognise, (in the short term) that I can't do this task this year. Please consider this prayerfully.

Heather xxx

FABRIC REPORT

Since the last report, I was disappointed to find, in our main hall, **many** and I mean **many**, red chairs damaged beyond repair. Damaged by people when they stack the chairs, they allow the legs to rip the fabric. I am so, so disappointed by the mishandling of the chairs!! Who pays? I suppose we do!! Do we leave them in their state of disrepair or do we replace them and hope and pray that new ones will not get damaged when they are stacked? Answers please!!

The Gardening Day was a great success although we did not achieve all the things we wanted to, so please make a note of our Pre-Winter "Clear Up" day on **Saturday 23rd October** from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

The two people we asked to cut back and thin the hedges did not do what we asked them to do and we know it is hard but it has got to be done, so that is another job in the garden.



We had a leak in the Church roof and Mark has been up and repaired the damaged slates. He is also replacing the faulty strip lights in the Church and the Hall.

Mark will shortly be fixing (re-building) the roof between the Kinghorn Vestry and the West Room as well as making the exit path from the fire door more accessible for us "older people" to exit quickly.

Two roofing contractors have declined to quote for the work required in the URC Surveyors' Five-Year Report. If Mark does the work he will need scaffolding to do the gutters and drainpipes, plus the other jobs and of course, this all costs money!

The new railings and gate for the cellar steps are on order and should be here in October and we have asked the same people to adjust the main double gates so that they close easily.



Last, but not least, the inside painting will start shortly as listed in Jean's article for volunteers. Doors and skirting boards. Unfortunately, or fortunately, I can't get down that low!! So please help.

Sorry this is such a negative report but with your help and prayers we will conquer the work and the problems.

Fred, The Convenor

THANK YOU

I cannot tell you of the joy of sleeping in my own bed and being with my family after nearly 3 weeks of separation while I was in hospital. How people manage for longer I cannot imagine.

I do want to thank you all for your prayers, love and support for myself, Jeff and our family. It is only with God's help that we have got through these weeks. Cards, prayers, messages, gifts of food, care packages all show God's love through you.

Getting back to normal may take a while but I know that with your continued love and prayers we will get there.

Much love and grateful thanks

Heather xxx

BEING A "PARTICIPANT"

In early 2020, I caught a nasty chest infection. It lasted a month, and was quite severe. This was just as Covid-19 was beginning to hit the news headlines, but after blood tests, I was told I definitely hadn't had it.

Because that illness had been so bad, I felt I needed to know about Covid-19, because it was likely to be much worse, so during the early lockdowns, I began researching on Google about this new illness and the scientists who were looking for a vaccine.

What I discovered amazed me. Since the flu epidemic after the First World War, there has been constant world-wide research into the means of controlling viruses. More recently, the World Health Organisation has been co-ordinating at the forefront of this research, and, apparently, it was realised that the next pandemic was likely to be related to influenza or the common cold, in other words, a coronavirus. There are many different kinds of coronavirus; some are quite innocuous, others are deadly. The name just refers to the shape being like a crown. And so, the Google articles explained, researchers need to test their potential vaccines out - initially on animals, and later, on human beings, who would be volunteers.

When I realised how terrifying this pandemic was becoming, I knew we were at war - and our enemy was tiny - and lethal. I mused, "if it was like World War II, I'd be knitting socks, or serving tea, or fostering refugee children". That was definitely not relevant to this war, but volunteering was. I wondered what I would be allowed to do, then offered my services to my pharmacist to do delivering of people's medications; but I was turned down. I was too old!! I should stay home, and keep safe. I don't give up easily. After more internet researching, I phoned to volunteer for the Oxford Vaccine Trials, and I queried if I

was too old for them also. “Not at all” I was told, “We need older volunteers, because older people will likely get very ill with Covid-19”. And so that’s how I became a “participant”. I had to go to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and the Liverpool Royal Hospital for all sorts of tests. I watched the videos, and read the literature. I filled in the forms, and eventually signed up, admittedly rather nervously. I gave blood, and had my temperature and blood pressure done, and finally, I had my two vaccinations, several weeks apart. I



felt slightly queasy after the second one - which panicked all the nurses! And as I usually do with the flu jab, I felt unwell for 48 hours after each one. Months later, I was told that I was one of the group that received the placebo (which was the meningitis vaccination they

gave to teenagers), not the Covid-19 vaccine - so I still had to have the two vaccinations like everyone else!

At home, I spent much of the lockdowns in 2020 and 2021 doing weekly swabs (posting them to a lab for checking) and temperature checks. I went for regular blood tests and health check-ups, at first in Liverpool, then at St Catherine’s and predictably, they always had problems getting blood out of me! I don’t think I have much and it always vanishes when the nurse tries to get any! At least I knew I was in good health, with all these people looking after me. And the doctors promised that if I was ill with anything at all, not just Covid-19, they would collect me (in a “red” ambulance, whatever that is!) and take me to the Royal and look after me. I received, and still do receive, weekly updates on the progress of Covid-19 and the research and modification of the vaccine. Although the active phase of the volunteering is now over, we have one more blood test later this year, and they still keep checking on all participants.

Then came the announcements, the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine had been approved, as had several others, and viable vaccines were given to hundreds of millions of people all over the planet! All because participants/volunteers had done what I did.

A few weeks ago, I received a “Thank You” card from the team at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and NIHR Clinical Research Network, North West Coast. As well as a nice photo of the team, there was the message:

Dear Volunteer,

Because of you, we have been able to develop new vaccines and treatments for Covid-19.

Because of you, our scientists now have the answers.

Because of you, we will one day end this pandemic.

Thank you for taking part in research.

Then, on 1st September, I was invited to a Zoom meeting with the Oxford team, when we were thanked again, and told how essential our efforts had been. There were lots of graphs to be explained, just like we have seen regularly on the TV. And the pandemic is far from over.

In many parts of the world it is still rampaging through populations, and killing people, particularly the unvaccinated ones. Many countries are using COVAX, an organisation which is sending surplus vaccines, not for profit, to poorer countries who cannot afford to buy them and who have huge populations who desperately need our help.

I feel very privileged to have been able to participate in such an interesting and essential trial. It is not every day that world famous people look into the camera and say thank you to me and the other volunteers. There was even this special message from Prince William, Duke of Cambridge.



KENSINGTON PALACE

24th August 2021

I wanted to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you for your part in trialling and developing the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

As volunteers, you have stepped forward from all corners of the UK, and from across Brazil and South Africa, with a humbling sense of selfless duty to trial a new vaccine. As research staff, you found the determination and resilience to keep going through the lockdowns and endless hours of work to bring a remarkable new vaccine to the world.

Your collective efforts allowed the authorisation and distribution of the vaccine to over 175 countries and the production of a billion doses by July 2021. As a result, hundreds of thousands of lives around the world have already been saved.

You should all be tremendously proud of the part you have played in tackling the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours gratefully,

William

Marian Davies

ROTAS FOR OCTOBER 2021

Duty Elder

October	3rd	Shelby Ambrose
	10th	Fred Foulkes
	17th	Elaine Parkin
	24th	Marian Davies
	31st	Sue Jones

Communion Elders

October	3rd	Marian Davies & Fred Foulkes
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Door Duty

October	3rd	Joan Bradley, Pauline Green, Maureen Makin
	10th	Shelby Ambrose, Joyce Holland, Elaine Parkin
	17th	Barbara Jones, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	24th	Margaret Higson, Sue Jones, Barry Lawrence
	31st	Jean & Les Bayley, Maureen Makin

Readers

October	3rd	Pam Lawrence & Joyce Holland
	10th	Glyn Roper & Jean Bayley
	17th	Pauline Green & Fred Foulkes
	24th	Philip Roper & Joan Bradley
	31st	Shelby Ambrose & Joyce Holland

Prayers of Intercession

October	3rd	Philip Roper
	10th	Pauline Green
	17th	Sue Jones
	24th	Jean Bayley
	31st	Barry Lawrence

Sound System

		Elaine Parkin
		Marian Davies
		Marian Davies
		Elaine Parkin
		Marian Davies

Church Flowers

October	3rd	Harvest
	10th	Pam Lawrence
	17th	Elaine Parkin
	24th	Sue Jones
	31st	Barbara Jones

ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER 2021

Duty Elder

November	7th	Joyce Holland
	14th	Jean Bayley
	21st	Elaine Parkin
	28th	Fred Foulkes

Communion Elders

November	7th	Shelby Ambrose & Sue Jones
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Door Duty

November	7th	Joan Bradley, Pauline Green, Barbara Jones
	14th	Shelby Ambrose, Joyce Holland, Elaine Parkin
	21st	Sue Jones, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	28th	Jean & Les Bayley, Margaret Higson

Readers

November	7th	Marian Davies & Pam Lawrence
	14th	Barry Lawrence & Glyn Roper
	21st	Fred Foulkes & Jean Bayley
	28th	Pauline Green & Shelby Ambrose

Prayers of Intercession

November	7th	Claire Thomas
	14th	Philip Roper
	21st	Pauline Green
	28th	Sue Jones

Sound System

		Elaine Parkin
		Marian Davies
		Marian Davies
		Elaine Parkin

Church Flowers

November	7th	Glyn & Philip Roper
	14th	Remembrance Sunday. Margaret Meade
	21st	Jean Bayley
	28th	Pauline Green

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

14th November 2021

Our Service in Church will start at 10.45 a.m.

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow



In 1918, November 11th signalled the end of the Great War, and the Armistice was signed.

Since 1921, the nation has come together to remember, with pride, the sacrifices that hundreds of thousands of British and Commonwealth Service men and women made, not just during the Great War, but World War II and all subsequent wars and conflicts, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

**AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN,
AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**