

PRENTON NEWS

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



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER
2022

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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.
	Dance Class	5.30 p.m.
2nd in month	Mid-Week Communion	11.45 a.m.
	Lunch	12.15 p.m.
Thursday	Dance Class	10.00 a.m.
	Dance Class	4.30 p.m.
Friday		
Saturday	Dance Class	9.00 a.m.

**Items for the December 2022 & January 2023 Magazine are
required on Sunday 13th November 2022**

**Donations towards the cost of the magazine would be
appreciated.**

From the Manse

HISTORY IS HIS-STORY

The date: 21st July 1969, the time 3.56 a.m.

That was the first time in my life that I felt a sense of witnessing and being part of history. It was, of course the moon landing, when Neil Armstrong, the first human to set foot on the surface of the moon and uttered those now iconic words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." As a nine-year-old I was captivated by space and the space race and my dad knew it, so he woke me up and we both went downstairs to watch history being made.

I have felt like that too since the Queen died and during the 11 days of mourning leading up to her funeral. I have felt that this is a significant moment in history, and I have been able to bear witness to it.

One of the prayers I had, following Queen Elizabeth's death, was that leading up to and beyond her funeral, people would speak about the faith she had in Jesus Christ. That prayer is being answered as much of the ceremony surrounding her death has happened in churches across the U.K., and much about the Queen's faith has been spoken of by not only Christian leaders but the general public, politicians, and journalists.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, said at the Queen's funeral, "Her Late Majesty's example was not set through her position or her ambition, but through whom she followed" that too has been spoken of over the last few days.

The example of faith the Queen set should be the example every single Christian disciple sets and that is a life lived in service of the King of Kings, a life lived in service of Jesus Christ. And the purpose of that lived life is to point others to Christ too.

I listened to one woman in the crowd being interviewed, who had travelled from the United States. She spoke of the pageantry and history absent in America. Then, in speaking about current political leaders in the USA she said this, 'we have nothing above'. It struck me that the Queen's example as that which stands 'above' is not herself that stands above but she rather points to that which stands above. What she points to is not another monarch, or politician, prime minister or president but to a God who seeks a set of higher ideals and higher standards that any leader can offer.

As we mourn the loss of Queen Elizabeth II, we thank God for her faith and her life, defined by service and commitment to her God and country. We pray for the royal family as they mourn the death of their

beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend and we thank God for her life and service to this nation.

As we bear witness to history, as we bear witness to a life lived in faith and service to the King of Kings, let us seek to follow Elizabeth's example as we seek to serve the same King above all kings and as we seek to share His-story.

As Elizabeth prayed, "God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it."

God bless.

Jeff

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

We remember in our prayers all the members and friends who are at the present time, unable to join us on a Sunday morning and in particular: **Jeanette Adams, Donna Birks, Carys Evans, Iris Hatton, Jo Johns, Dylis & John Letchford, Margaret Lloyd, Nora McGrath, Glennie Mortimer and Mary Segar.**

We also pray for our Royal Family as they mourn the loss of their Queen, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and aunt and for our new King as he takes on the responsibilities of a role that has been his destiny since 1952.

We were sorry to hear that **Barbara Jones** is a bit "under the weather" and that **Brian Woodhouse** is still having problems with his eyes. We hope that they will be feeling better soon.



On Sunday 30th October, the Elders are putting together our usual service of favourite hymns, poetry and readings.

This is a lovely service which we can all enjoy. It can bring back many memories from our childhood or to more recent times. If you would like to introduce the hymn, poem or reading yourself, with the reason why you have chosen it, you are more than welcome to do so. If not, it will be introduced and read by an Elder.

Please can you let me have your choices and contributions by Sunday 16th October at the latest.

I ask you to please join in and help us have a lovely uplifting and thoughtful service.

Many thanks,
Elaine Parkin

FABRIC REPORT

A few of the jobs are almost complete. The roof leaks, the fire door near the West Room and some other small jobs like finishing off the painting of the passageway have been fixed. Thank you to the small group of people who came on the Thursday and Friday with their paint brushes.

Thanks to Marian who got on her knees and cemented the edging stones that were broken or displaced on the garden paths and thanks to Pauline who has spent many hours cutting the grass and to all the people who have planted flowers in the Church garden.

Thank you to everyone who turned out for our Autumn Clear Up on 24th September. The weather was kind to us and your efforts are very much appreciated.

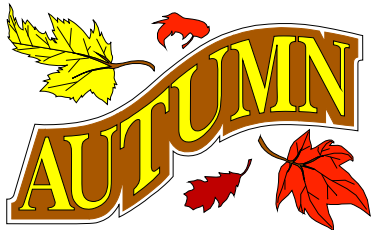
We will be decorating the church for Harvest on Saturday 1st October and thereafter from the 9th October our services will be in the church hall until the warmer weather returns in the Spring.

Fred

“DAILY BREAD”

A number of our congregation get these very helpful Bible reading notes from the Scripture Union. They cost £4.99 per quarter. If you would like to receive them in 2023, please get in touch with me.

Thanks,
Marian



is upon us, the leaves are falling and the summer has faded in our memories as we adjust to the cooler, wetter weather.

We celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II in June and in September we mourned her death. Both occasions were acknowledged with the fantastic “British Pomp and Ceremony” and what a show we put on, as we always do on great occasions and we have a new King, Charles III and we have to remember, after 70 years, to sing “God save our gracious King”.

Life is returning to “normal” in Church now, as we celebrate our Harvest Festival on Sunday 2nd October followed by our traditional Church Lunch.

Then we have got Halloween (scary), Bonfire Night (very noisy), Remembrance Sunday and our Remembering Service (very quiet) as we approach Advent Sunday and the joy of Christmas. We have a lot to look forward to.

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2022

OCTOBER			
Saturday	1st	10.00 a.m.	Decorate the Church for Harvest Festival
Sunday	2nd	11.00 a.m.	Harvest Festival. Holy Communion Rev Jeff Hughes
		12.15 p.m.	Church Lunch
Tuesday	4th	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God (see below)
Wednesday	5th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
SUNDAY SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL			
Sunday	9th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Brian Woodhouse
		2.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Wednesday	12th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
		11.45 a.m.	Mid-Week Communion
		12.15 p.m.	Lunch
Sunday	16th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs Pauline Green
Wednesday	19th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Sunday	23rd	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor
Wednesday	26th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Saturday	29th	British Summertime ends. Clocks go back an hour tonight	
Sunday	30th	11.00 a.m.	Songs of Praise led by our Elders

Conversations with God

Beginning on Tuesday 4th October from 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. I would like to try holding a monthly prayer meeting in my home at 1 Prospect Road.

STOP! Don't skip to the next page because this will not be a proper prayer meeting where you all sit round in a solemn, silent circle desperately hoping somebody else will actually think of something to pray about so you don't have to!

This is just an attempt to maybe give us a new approach to our prayer life and become more confident in our Faith and our relationship with God.

It might even be fun. Just let me know if you would like to join me so I can organise enough chairs and cakes.

Pauline

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2022

NOVEMBER			
Tuesday	1st	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday	2nd	10.30 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Coffee Morning Elders' Meeting at the Manse
Sunday	6th	11.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Holy Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes Church Meeting Shoe Boxes closing date
Wednesday	9th	10.30 a.m. 11.45 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Coffee Morning Mid-Week Communion Lunch
Remembrance Sunday	13th	10.45 a.m. 10.45 a.m.	Prenton War Memorial In Church. Rev Jeff Hughes Items for the December 2022 & January 2023 required today
Wednesday	16th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Friday	18th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Sunday	20th	11.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m.	Mr Ray Craig Remembering Service
Wednesday	23rd	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning
Friday	25th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Sunday	27th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor
Wednesday	30th	10.30 a.m.	Coffee Morning



**The guns fell silent
at the 11th hour of the 11th day of
November 1918 and the
First World War was over.**

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

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - JUBILEE 1972-2022



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church and we have been asked to reflect with thanksgiving our own individual connection to it, whether long or short.

I have only ever been a member of the United Reformed Church. When, at the age of 16, I became a member on confession of faith, the URC was already 4 years old. I had always been part of the same church but for the first 12 years of my life, that church was Congregational.

I am grateful for that church, it was the incubator of my faith. Through it I was nurtured and taught what I need to know about a relationship with Jesus Christ. There I was given examples of what a life of faith should look like. I was taught to question and refine my beliefs so that they could stand in the face of scrutiny. I was taught the love of scripture and, whilst struggling with the stuff I didn't fully understand, to cherish the truths within.

Through it I was given a great example of 'family' and what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, through it I have found lasting friendships. It was through the URC that I met my wife, Heather and nurtured our 3 children. I have celebrated with it during those good times of life, and it has held me during the most difficult.

Through the URC I am connected to the Reformed heritage reaching back 500 years through the Congregational Church and further still to the foundations of the church itself. Through it I have a greater appreciation of the Free Church within the family of churches.

I am grateful to God for this church through which I was trained for ministry, probably from my teens and maybe even earlier.

Jesus said, 'I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' My prayer is, as we celebrate 50 years of the United Reformed Church, that it remains an example of the church Christ seeks to build.

Jeff

When the URC was formed in October 1972, Glyn and I, and our Mum and Dad, belonged to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in North Road.

At the time, I was attending confirmation lessons and I became a member in January 1973 with another person. As far as I remember, we were the final 2 members of St Paul's before it was closed in 1974.

Along with most of the other members of St Paul's, we transferred our membership to Prenton and were made to feel very welcome.

Philip Roper

I have been a member throughout the fifty years of the URC. The tapestry of my life, the good times and the bad have been shared with the fellowship at Prenton. My marriage, the baptism of my three children, the final farewell to my beloved husband, John.

My URC family sustain me, they are my second family. Praising and thanking our Lord. Nurturing and supporting each other.

Elaine Parkin

My first impression of Prenton URC was the wonderful welcome that was extended to me by everyone. I immediately felt that I had found my new "home".

I will always have a special affection for June & John Hulse who chatted away to me as if we were old friends and also to Mike Tudor. At the end of the service Mike took me on an extensive tour of all the church buildings, every room, (yes, even the toilets!), and spoke with such pride and enthusiasm about the church family he belonged to that I knew I would return.

But it wasn't the first impressions that kept me returning to worship. It was the openness of the whole congregation to make friends, to include me in the church life and to take time to get to know me.

Who knew that a few short years down the line I would be accepted as a Church Elder and trusted with all your money!

I love this Church Family and the people who have become my friends. I admire Jeff and Heather and appreciate all they do. But most of all I love that through you all I have become closer to God. So, thank you.

Pauline Green

I think it was about six or seven years ago that Shelby initially approached me about playing the organ at Prenton. She had heard me playing at a funeral and wondered if I was free to play at Prenton on Sunday mornings.

Initially it was twice a month, as I played twice a month at another church, but after a while I started playing every week.

I was immediately made very welcome, and as I got to know people, I soon realised I had become part of a very lovely group of people who I consider to be both friends and faith companions.

Although I come from a different tradition, I feel that we are all part of the whole Christian family, on the same journey, with the same hope of eternal life. Where we are born is not as important as where we hope to go.

Trish McClure

As a past Church of Christ member, I was brought up in Aigburth in Liverpool, attending the Sunday School and the Youth Club and I was baptised a member before my National Service.

I was the only one out of eight children to attend church. After Anne, who came from a Congregational Church in Blackpool, and I were married and settled in Prenton, we came to Prenton Congregational Church in 1967 - that is 55 years ago!

I personally do not like the change in "The Lord's Prayer". Why change it in the URC? Nobody else did!!!

Fred Foulkes

When I was born, during the war, my parents lived in Bramwell Avenue and were active members of Prenton Congregational Church, so I know that this was the very first Church to which I was taken. However, I was christened in Outram Street Methodist Church in Sutton-in-Ashfield in Nottinghamshire, where my parents had been married.

We left Birkenhead in 1945 and went to Lincoln and then in 1947 we moved to Taunton in Somerset where my parents again were very active at Paul's Meeting House Congregational Church and both became Deacons, and my father was Church Treasurer.

As a teenager, with teenage friends, we 'tried out' the Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Unitarian Churches, all with their 'different' services and I decided that the Congregational Church was the one for me, becoming a member at the age of 16.

Somerset at that time had some Ministers who encouraged their young people to become 'Young Congs' and we set up our own "Preaching" teams; one operated out of Weston-Super-Mare, another was based in Taunton in the middle of the County, taking in Chard and up to Street and Glastonbury, and a third one was in the south of the County centred around South Petherton and Templecombe.

Somerset has a lot of "Village Churches" and we were invited to take their services which were usually on a Sunday afternoon. The Taunton area team were a 'complete' team - Brian and Adrian (he later became a Minister in Bristol at the age of 23) were very good with sermons, Jean and Esther were the prayer girls, Fred and I were the readers and Janet and Barry were both able to play the piano or organ. We also travelled to the annual 'Young Congs' conferences in a mini-bus driven by Bryan from Weston-Super-Mare. Happy days.

When I got a job in Liverpool in 1967, I returned to Prenton because there were still many members of Prenton who had kept in touch with my parents and I knew I would be amongst friends; Lil Webb's flat at 5 Wharfedale Avenue was my first home.

When you work in a city like Liverpool, your work colleagues are not

always your social friends because they live in Ormskirk or Southport or somewhere miles away, so at Church I asked if anyone played tennis and Margaret White kindly took me to Mountwood Tennis Club and from there I joined a badminton club. Initially Robert came to Church with me and Frank Kettlewell took him to Prenton Bowling Club, arranged for us to rent one of their garages, and introduced him to the Prenton Literary and Debating Society.

The change, 50 years ago, to the United Reformed Church has not altered the attitude of our congregation as we are still a welcoming Church to all comers and our doors are always open. If you remember our Church Magazine used to be called 'The Open Door' with a drawing of our Church door with the steps leading up to it.

When my parents moved back to Birkenhead in 1986 they were welcomed back and immediately became part of the Church family.

I hate acronyms and abbreviations because nine times out ten I don't know what they stand for. I watch some of the police programmes when they involve the police dogs so I know that TWOC stands for "Taken Without Consent ", but otherwise most of them are a mystery to me.

On one occasion when my father was in hospital and I went in to visit him, I found him in conversation with a gentleman wearing a black suit and a "dog collar". The stranger introduced himself and asked which church we attended. I, naturally, said "Prenton United Reformed Church". He immediately apologised and said my father's notes said that he was an "R C".

This proves that "U R C" spoken aloud can be misleading, particularly on Merseyside, so I never use the initials and always give our Church its full title which it deserves.

Margaret Meade

I first started attending Prenton URC around 1976. My elder daughter, Bev, was seven and joined the Brownies, and was always asking me to come to the Thinking Day services etc. I was always warmly welcomed by Alf Marshall, a true gentleman, and as I listened to the services, I began to feel that there was definitely something there for me.

After some time, Richard Hambly asked me if I would like to become a Church member and I happily accepted and as they say, "the rest is history!" I was Cradle Roll Secretary for some years and an Elder for longer than I can remember.

I love the fellowship of our Church, its challenges and its support. I couldn't wish for a better Minister than Jeff and certainly couldn't imagine going anywhere else!

Sue Jones

I was brought up in a Presbyterian Church in Maghull, that's where my parents went, my dad a manager then Church Elder and my mum a Sunday School teacher. I remember as a small child walking to church each Sunday and meeting my church family, a warm, welcoming place where everyone knew me.

I remember the United Reformed Church coming into being and our minister being so excited at the prospect of the new opportunities this would bring. I don't remember anything changing really, except, perhaps, from the name outside on the notice board.

When I was in my early teens, I went to membership classes and learned what it meant to be a follower of Jesus and I was invited to become a church member. I agreed as did most of the group that I was with, and we were welcomed into the church meeting and invited to take communion.

When I was 15, I was invited to join in with the Mersey Province FURY group on a Youth Weekend in North Wales, I went along with some trepidation as the only person I knew was another girl from our church, who was so quiet I think she only spoke about 10 words the whole weekend!

FURY - the Fellowship of United Reformed Youth was a group that you belonged to just because you were aged between 12 and 25 and went to the URC.

I loved my time at that weekend, I learned to sing new songs and choruses not just hymns and metrical psalms. I heard the gospel preached in a different way, Jesus spoken of as a personal saviour and these messages delivered in a relaxed way often by young people. I heard people give personal testimonies, about how Jesus had changed their lives. I met people who would remain my friends for many years,

I even met my future husband that weekend!

I returned home and back to church and talked to people about Jesus and some were very happy to help me to grow my faith and answer my questions and put up with my sweeping statements about how we 'should' do things. I am very grateful to those generous loving people.

I transferred my URC membership to another church where there were more young people and where I felt I fitted in better and stayed there until moving to the Wirral as a minister's wife. While there I was encouraged to take a full role in the fellowship, to learn to study the bible, it was a safe place to explore my faith, ask questions, receive teaching and share with others doing the same.

Many of us are part of the URC because we were brought by our parents or friends, and we are perhaps unaware of what makes us the URC. One of my favourite things about the URC is that as a

Church Member we have the right and responsibility to contribute to the life of the church. The people who established this denomination took that seriously and so should we.

The United Reformed Church comes in many shapes and sizes, I have been a member of only 4. Some will be at the same one all of their lives. The URC considered itself a broad church and there should be a strength in its diversity, so that everyone can find a home, where they feel valued and where they can contribute and make a difference.

Our broad church should find its strength in its foundation; Jesus the cornerstone, following His teaching, trusting God's word in the bible, bringing others to Jesus by being His disciples.

The URC celebrates 50 years of doing that, we need to prayerfully take up the challenge of being Jesus' disciples in the URC for the next phase.

Heather Hughes

My parents, who attended Prenton Congregational Church, brought me to be christened in 1947. Look on the oldest list, on display, of the children christened in our church, at the front end of the church on the left-hand wall, and you will see my name at the top - just by coincidence! I was enrolled in the Sunday School, and came regularly for several years, only leaving when Prenton Methodist was built, as it was nearer to my then home.

In 2009, I moved back to Birkenhead after my husband died, and I decided to come back to this church. What a wonderful welcome I received! So many members of the congregation took me under their wing, and have become good friends. I would like to thank them all so much for "being there" when I needed people as never before; I can never repay all of you, except by passing on what I learned from you, to be a welcoming and listening Christian friend to all with whom I come into contact. My thanks to you all.

I soon became a church member, and then I had the amazing privilege of serving for some years as one of the Elders, a task I undertook willingly, and which I enjoyed being able to do. Pastoral work has been a particular interest for me. More recently, I have taken over organising the Pulpit Supply, which entails arranging who leads the service each week, and contacting members of the congregation who will be taking part to tell them the details of what they will be doing. Sometimes things run like clockwork; at other times we have a last-minute alteration, which leads to many anxious moments before it is re-organised. Also, I have felt that I could take the occasional service myself, and have enjoyed the task of preparing and delivering a message from time to time.

Marian Davies



We joined in the Macmillan's Biggest Coffee Morning on Wednesday 21st September 2022 and raised £236.85. Thank you to everyone who supported our "special" Coffee Morning, your help was invaluable.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

In the middle of summer, it seems odd to ask you to turn your minds to Christmas! But that's just what we need to do.

Some people have been knitting, crocheting and collecting throughout the year in preparation for the filling of 'Shoe Boxes'.

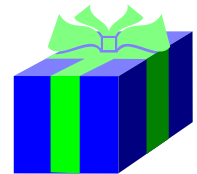
I am hoping that between the fellowships of Prenton and Wallasey Village churches we can at least match or perhaps exceed 100 boxes of love.

I do recognise that times are very tough financially and that there are many calls on our limited resources, so I am asking that you will join me in collecting things for boxes or giving donations so that items can be purchased on your behalf to share the message of love and hope this Christmas.

If you have any items for shoe boxes, please bring them to church by Sunday 6th November. We will meet during the week beginning 6th November 2022 to pack the boxes. (Date and venue to be confirmed).

Gift Suggestions

TOYS. A football and pump, cuddly toys, dolls, toy cars, small musical instruments, yo-yos, skipping ropes, balls, small puzzles etc.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES. Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS. Toothbrush, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

OTHER ITEMS. Hat, gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, socks, T-shirt, flip-flops, hair accessories, jewellery set, watch, wind-up torch etc.

DO NOT INCLUDE Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.

If you have any questions, suggestions, donations please don't hesitate to ask me or Carol Doran for assistance.

Thank you for your careful, prayerful, generous consideration for this very worthwhile cause.

Heather Hughes.

FROM THE PEWS . . .

God's timing is perfect, so do not despair
If you're keenly awaiting an answer to prayer,
Just keep on believing – one day you will see
A pattern emerging where none used to be.

It may take some time, for although we may feel
Our needs to be urgent, our fears to be real,
God knows what He's doing, He's in full control,
But we see a fraction while He sees the whole.

Although you may worry and question His will,
He hasn't forgotten, He's waiting until
The threads can be woven to work for your good,
Shaping your destiny just as they should.

So if you've a problem be patient . . . and wait,
His answer will not come too early or late,
Take heart and keep trusting, for He understands . . .
God's timing is perfect – your life's in His hands.

Marian Cleworth

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his torch around, looking for valuables, and when he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed in the dark: "Jesus is watching you."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his torch off, and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head, promised himself a vacation after the next big score, then clicked the torch back on and began searching for more valuables. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, as clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you."

Totally rattled, he shone his torch around frantically looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his torch beam came to rest on a parrot.

"Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot.

"Yes," the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you."

The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who do you think you are, anyway?"

"Moses," the bird replied.

"Moses!" the burglar laughed. "What kind of stupid people would name a parrot Moses?"

The bird answered, "The same kind of people who would name a Rottweiler Jesus!"



I thought I would give an update on my Ukrainian visitor's pending arrival.

It is very different from when Nina and the boys came to live with Pauline and her sister, because they were to have their own flat, and needed everything. Oleksandra will have her own bedroom when she comes to stay with me, but we will have to share the other rooms and facilities. And then there are my cats. I could tell you stories about them and their behaviour! I hope they will not be too mischievous.

So where are we up to? Oleksandra and her daughter Kristina are both planning to come to the U.K. Neither speaks English. Kristina e-mails me for both of them. Her sponsors are in Edinburgh. When we communicate she uses a translator on her computer. So, I actually haven't heard directly from Oleksandra and of course, it's no use speaking on the phone! (although we have each other's phone numbers for What's App).

Originally, they were to come in September, but then it was put back to October. Kristina said her brother has had a baby, so that is bound to make family separation much more difficult.

They don't yet know where they'll arrive either. Kristina wrote that as soon as they have the tickets and travel information, they will let me know. This seems to imply that they just apply for travel and are told where to go, when and how. I have written that Liverpool and Manchester airports are nearest to me, and I can meet Oleksandra at either. Right at the beginning, I said how far we are from Edinburgh, but she said "It is not so far. That suits us."

Meanwhile I have been receiving e-mails and phone calls from Wirral Borough Council and the Home Office and others. I have had a visit from one lady to inspect the house (and me?), and it was considered suitable. Another lady came recently, to help me with the online DBS form, which is for those dealing with people who are vulnerable or at risk etc. The Elders have to have this document too, as they visit elderly, frail, ill people in their homes. At one point, the Home Office required an upload of my driving licence details. I rang up and said I could do a photocopy and send it in the post. "No", said the lady, "we do everything online. Go to your local public library and they'll help you". So, off I went to the Central Library and a very helpful lady showed me what to do. And then said, "You used to teach me to read and write!"

Going back to Oleksandra, and what she may or may not need, I have no idea yet! National and local Government seem to be getting better organised as the conflict continues far longer than was originally thought. Apparently, as soon as I have the date of Oleksandra's arrival, I am to let my contact know; and tell her when she is with me; and we will have a visitor the next day to organise the next stage of paperwork, including financial help. So really, we

just have to wait and see when she is coming, and then what she brings with her. I have got her bedroom ready, and new towels, and soap. I presume she will bring her own toiletries, or we can soon get some on one of our first expeditions. As for food, we will probably plan our meals together initially at least. There are local language courses for her to attend, and I shall enjoy teaching her a few words around the house. Labelling things with “Post It” notes is an idea I had, and the council lady said someone else had done that too. Perhaps it will be a two-way process, and I will learn some Ukrainian.

So, you can see that the last few months have been a bit of an upheaval, moving things around, spring cleaning, planning a bit of decorating, making new curtains, altering others, paperwork, phoning, e-mails etc., and I am sure that the next six months will be just as busy too!

I'll let you know what's happening and I may well be asking for help, so watch this space.

Marian

‘Love is more important than anything else’ (Colossians 3: 14)

A man with a nagging secret couldn't keep it any longer. In the confessional he admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the lumberyard where he worked.

“What did you take?” his priest asked.

“Enough to build my own house and enough for my son's house. And houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake.”

“This is very serious,” the priest said. “I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?”

“No, Father, I haven't,” the man replied. “But if you can get the plans, I can get the lumber.”

From *A Box of Delights*, J John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books

The owner of a small delicatessen was being questioned by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) about his tax return. He had reported a net profit of £20,000.

“Why don't you people leave me alone?” the deli owner said. “I work like a dog, everyone in my family helps out, and the place is closed only three days a year. And you want to know how I made £20,000?”

“It's not your income that bothers us,” the tax inspector said. “It's these deductions. You listed six trips to Bermuda for you and your wife.” “Oh, that,” the owner said, smiling. “I forgot to tell you - we also deliver.”

ROTAS FOR OCTOBER 2022

Duty Elder

October 2nd Pauline Green
 9th Fred Foulkes
 16th Shelby Ambrose
 23rd Elaine Parkin
 30th Sue Jones

Communion Elders

October 2nd Fred Foulkes & Elaine Parkin

Door Duty

October 2nd Margaret Higson, Barbara Jones, Sue Jones
 9th Joan Bradley, Joan Lawrence, Maureen Makin
 16th Barry Lawrence, Elaine Parkin, Brian Woodhouse
 23rd Shelby Ambrose, Pauline Green, Joyce Holland
 30th Jean & Les Bayley, Margaret Higson

Readers

October 2nd Joan Bradley & Barry Lawrence
 9th Pauline Green & Glyn Roper
 16th Pam Lawrence & Joyce Holland
 23rd Jean Bayley & Marian Davies
 30th Philip Roper & Shelby Ambrose

Prayers of Intercession

October 2nd Philip Roper
 9th Barry Lawrence
 16th Jean Bayley
 23rd Claire Thomas
 30th Pauline Green

Church Flowers

October 2nd Harvest Festival
 9th Elaine Parkin
 16th Pam Lawrence
 23rd Sue Jones
 30th Barbara Jones

ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER 2022

Duty Elder

November 6th Jean Bayley
 13th Shelby Ambrose
 20th Pauline Green
 27th Elaine Parkin

Communion Elders

November 6th Shelby Ambrose & Pauline Green

Door Duty

November 6th Joan Bradley, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
 13th Barbara Jones, Maureen Makin, Elaine Parkin
 20th Sue Jones, Barry Lawrence, Joan Lawrence
 27th Shelby Ambrose, Joyce Holland, Brian Woodhouse

Readers

November 6th Fred Foulkes & Barry Lawrence
 13th Glyn Roper & Joan Bradley
 20th Joyce Holland & Shelby Ambrose
 27th Pauline Green & Jean Bayley

Prayers of Intercession

November 6th Heather Hughes
 13th Sue Jones
 20th Brian Woodhouse
 27th Philip Roper

Church Flowers

November 6th
 13th **Remembrance Sunday.** Margaret Meade
 20th Glyn & Philip Roper
 27th Jean Bayley