

PRENTON NEWS

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



**FEBRUARY 2023
&
MARCH 2023**

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Church & Community Activities during school term time

Monday	1 st Tranmere Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	5.00 p.m.
Tuesday	Phoenix Dance Group	6.30 p.m.
Wednesday	Warm Space. Coffee & Lunch	10.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m.
	Dance Class	5.30 p.m.
2nd in month	Mid-Week Communion	11.45 a.m.
Thursday	Dance Class	4.00 p.m.
Friday	Dance Class	5.15 p.m.
Saturday	Dance Class	9.00 a.m.

Donations towards the cost of the magazine would be appreciated.

From the Manse

FORGIVEN

Before I was a minister, I worked with a woman who had been brought up a Roman Catholic but who no longer went to church. During one of our conversations about faith, I asked her 'Why?' She told me that because of her experience of God and the church she became so fed up with feeling guilty all the time that she decided she wasn't going to go to church anymore or to continue believing in God. I told her that my experience of God and the church was the complete opposite; that in the place of guilt and shame I was taught about God's grace and forgiveness and that was modelled in amongst my church family.

If you've ever heard me preach or read any of my previous letters you will know how important God's grace and forgiveness is to me and, how a healthy understanding of it is vital in our relationship with God and one another.

However, I shared with an Elder recently how I've been struggling with the whole idea of God's grace and forgiveness in light of the events surrounding the death of Elle Edwards on Christmas Eve. Maybe it was because I was directly impacted by those events due to the proximity of Wallasey Village Church, maybe it was because I could identify with a father whose beautiful daughter had been so tragically snatched away, whatever the reason I found myself struggling with God's grace and forgiveness. It wasn't that I doubted it for myself, I just didn't want God to extend it to those who had fired those fatal shots particularly as we prepared to celebrate the season of peace and goodwill.

Grace and forgiveness always come at a cost. It cost God his Son, it cost Jesus his life and it costs us our sense of self-righteousness. And, like it or not, if I can believe 'Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me' I also have to believe 'the vilest offender who truly believes that moment, from Jesus, a pardon receives'.

During Lent this year, which starts at the end of February, we will once again reflect on the events leading up to Easter and particularly the suffering of Jesus Christ for our sake - grace and forgiveness. To help with that I will be offering you a book written by Tim Chester entitled 'Forgiveness' which reflects upon how we can be confident in God's forgiveness not just for ourselves but for everyone. I will also be hosting some Lenten groups meeting at the Manse for six weeks from 7.30 p.m. on a Wednesday commencing the 1st March 2023. I hope you are able to join us.

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 regularly on a Sunday morning and in particular: **Jeanette Adams, Donna Birks, Peter & Joan Carroll, Carys Evans, Iris Hatton, Margaret Higson, Don Howard, Jo Johns, Julie & Tim Jones, Dylis & John Letchford, Margaret Lloyd, Nora McGrath, Glennie Mortimer and Mary Segar.**

We are sorry to hear that **Heather Hughes** has had her hip operation postponed once again and hope and pray that a new appointment will come through soon.

Congratulations to **Mary Mensah** and her husband **Michael** on the birth of a "bouncing baby boy" on December 17th. You will remember Mary, who worshipped with us while studying at Liverpool University over the last two years. It was lovely to hear from her - she has been asked for more detailed information! e.g. Name and weight and a photo would be good.

An Update from Marian Davies with regard to her Ukrainian guest. Oleksandra went back to her family in Ukraine on December 28th for Christmas, and I was expecting her to return to the UK on about January 10th. When I had heard nothing by January 9th, I e-mailed Kristina.

She replied saying that her mother was very unwell and was hoping that she would be seen at the local hospital. Oleksandra was registered as disabled in Ukraine, and had been saying for some time how bad her back and leg were. I don't think the very long coach journey back to Lviv from Warsaw helped either. So, at the moment, I have to wait and see if she will be able to return, and have been cancelling various appointments.

FABRIC REPORT

The Hall painting is 99% finished and we received a gift to replace the curtain rails on the window curtains in the Hall, which Jeff has quickly fitted, so they now run swiftly and smoothly, so thank you to both of you.

We have had the West Room re-painted as well and thanks to the very generous person for their financial gift which has almost covered the cost of painting both the Hall and the West Room.

Our income from letting the hall has increased dramatically including a new Dance Class every week.

The recent winter weather has affected some of the doors causing them to "stick", so give them a good push and hopefully they will fit better as the weather improves.

Fred

Our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be on Sunday March 19th. If you are one of the people who appears on the list of "job holders", please let Jean know that you are willing to continue, or if you wish to relinquish your role. If you do wish to give up it would help greatly if you could suggest a replacement.

We are always glad of volunteers and are always looking for people to Meet and Greet on a Sunday; volunteers to do Readings or lead Prayers of Intercession. Often the Duty Elder is alone when setting up the hall and it is hard work moving chairs and tables on your own. More help is also needed for Coffee mornings - it is no problem if you only have to do it every three months, but that needs more helpers! Please offer, it's not too difficult.

SOCIAL EVENT

On **Friday 21st April from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** we are holding a **PIE & PUDDING NIGHT**, with a raffle.

Can you help to make this a special evening by

- (a) Donating a raffle prize, (something you would like to win), that would be appreciated by all ages.
- (b) Donating Pies such as Meat & Potato, Cottage Pie, Fish Pie or Vegetarian Pies or your favourite type of Pie.
- (c) Donating a Pudding. Suggestions are: Rice Pudding, Apple & Blackberry Tart, Fruit Crumble, Trifle, Cheesecake (Jeff is quite good at making these!), Raspberry Sponge Cake, Lemon Drizzle Cake or your favourite pudding and, of course, custard and cream.



A list will be put on the board in April because we want to invite all the people who use our premises to come and join us and I am hoping that we will be able to fill the Hall with adults, children and FOOD!

Fred

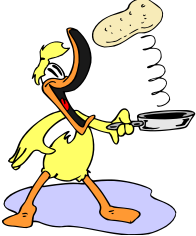
Smiles from Christian Crackers

The preacher for next Sunday will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch'

Notice in the kitchen of a Church Hall


'Ladies when you have emptied the teapots please stand upside down in the sink'

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2023

FEBRUARY	ALL SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL	
Wednesday 1st	10.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m.	Warm Space. Coffee Morning Lunch
Friday 3rd	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Sunday 5th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes
Tuesday 7th	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday 8th	10.00 a.m. 11.45 a.m. 12.30 p.m.	Warm Space. Coffee Morning Mid-Week Communion Lunch
Friday 10th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Sunday 12th	11.00 a.m.	The Elders
Wednesday 15th	10.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m.	Warm Space. Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday 19th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes
Tuesday 21st		Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 22nd	10.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Warm Space. Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday 26th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor

<p>Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water? Donald: H I J K L M N O Teacher: What are you talking about? Donald: Yesterday you said it was H to O.</p>

DIARY FOR MARCH 2023

MARCH	ALL SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL	
Wednesday 1st	10.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Warm Space. Coffee Morning Lunch Lenten Group Meeting at the Manse
Sunday 5th	11.00 a.m.	Holy Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes
Tuesday 7th	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday 8th	10.00 a.m. 11.45 a.m. 12.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Warm Space. Coffee Morning Mid-Week Communion Lunch Elders' Meeting Lenten Group Meeting at the Manse
Sunday 12th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Bernie Frost
Wednesday 15th	10.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Warm Space. Coffee Morning Lunch Lenten Group Meeting at the Manse
Mothering Sunday 19th	11.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes Church Annual General Meeting Copy required for April & May Magazine
Wednesday 22nd	10.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Warm Space. Coffee Morning Lunch Lenten Group Meeting at the Manse
Saturday 25th		British Summertime begins. Clocks go forward an hour tonight
Sunday 26th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor
Wednesday 29th	10.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Warm Space. Coffee Morning Lunch Lenten Group Meeting at the Manse

Ten Commandments

*Someone has written these beautiful words. We must read and try to understand the deep meaning of them. They are like **The Ten Commandments** to follow in life all the time.*

Prayer is not a 'spare wheel' that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a 'steering wheel' that directs you to the right path.

So why is a car's windscreen so large and the rear-view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future, so, look ahead and move on.

Friendship is like a book. It takes a few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it, it won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry, that won't last long either.

Old friends are gold! New friends are diamond! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because you hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!

Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, 'Relax sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end'.

When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities. When God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.

A blind person asked St Anthony, 'Can there be anything worse than losing your eye sight?' He replied, 'Yes, losing your vision!'

When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles; it takes away today's peace.

As seen in the magazine of Hamilton Memorial.

A four-year-old was in church when the wine and communion bread were passed out. He was very interested in this, and started to get up. His mother leaned over and told him that he was not old enough to partake in communion.

Later, when the collection plate came by, he ignored it. His mother again leaned over and tried to coax some money out of him.

He steadfastly refused, stating, "If I can't eat, I'm not paying."

Following memories of Prenton URC by current and former Church members in the last two Church magazines, the following has been supplied by Andrew Halliday, another former member who sees our magazines on the Church website. Philip.

I was very interested in the contributions from members about their coming to Prenton. Born in Annandale on Storeton Road, I was baptised at Prenton by Rev Walter Young in 1950, and encouraged by Nana, Hilda Carruth, and my dear parents, Joyce and Bryce, I joined the Sunday school under the leadership of Margaret Thomson, and later became a teacher, under Mrs Passey.

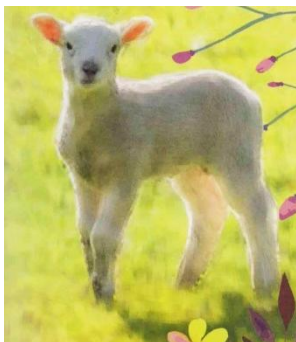
I belonged to the Livingstone Fellowship led by the marvellous Rhoda Smith, and, under the guidance of Rev Donald Flawn, and particularly enjoyed our varied programmes on Sunday evenings usually in the relatively new West Room. So many memories, so many people to thank for guiding my encouragement in Christian Life. Now with various responsibilities here in our Keynsham Church, I'm mindful of the brilliant people in Prenton URC for whom I thank God.

The **Weather Forecast** for February is pretty grim according to the Meteorological Office, with a possible Vortex like the one in January 2021 which was called the "Troll from Trondheim", or the "Beast from the East" which caused utter chaos in late February and early March 2018.

At times March is a tug-of-war
With winter versus spring –
Where winter tries to hold its ground
By trying hard to bring
Cold icy winds and even snow,
But we can feel the sun.
And though we may not feel our toes



We hope that spring has won!



The snowdrop is the first to peep
Its head above the ground;
Then daffodils and crocuses
Soon spring up all around.
The trees then show a haze of green
And how the birds now sing!
And when the first new lamb appears
We know – yes! This is spring!

Eileen Hay

As our gardens spring to life, so too, at Eastertime, does Jesus!

ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

Duty Elder

February	5th	Sue Jones
	12th	Fred Foulkes
	19th	Elaine Parkin
	26th	Shelby Ambrose

Communion Elders

February	5th	Shelby Ambrose & Elaine Parkin
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Door Duty

February	5th	Margaret Higson, Joan Lawrence, Maureen Makin
	12th	Elaine Parkin, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	19th	Jean & Les Bayley, Brian Woodhouse
	26th	Joan Bradley, Pauline Green, Sue Jones

Readers

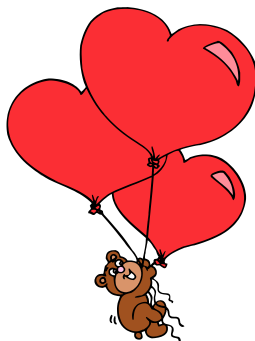
February	5th	Pauline Green & Heather Hughes
	12th	Barry Lawrence & Shelby Ambrose
	19th	Pam Lawrence & Glyn Roper
	26th	Joyce Holland & Philip Roper

Prayers of Intercession

February	5th	Claire Thomas
	12th	Jean Bayley
	19th	Sue Jones
	26th	Barry Lawrence

Church Flowers

February	5th	Margaret Higson
	12th	Marian Davies
	19th	Shelby Ambrose
	26th	Joyce Holland



On February 14th 1984, the British ice skating dancers, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, won the gold medal at the Winter Olympic Games in Sarajevo.



ROTAS FOR MARCH 2023

Duty Elder

March	5th	Pauline Green
	12th	Sue Jones
	19th	Jean Bayley
	26th	Fred Foulkes

Communion Elders

March	5th	Jean Bayley & Sue Jones
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Door Duty

March	5th	Shelby Ambrose, Margaret Higson, Joyce Holland
	12th	Barbara Jones, Barry Lawrence, Maureen Makin
	19th	Joan Lawrence, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	26th	Pauline Green, Sue Jones, Elaine Parkin

Readers

March	5th	Marian Davies & Fred Foulkes
	12th	Joan Bradley & Jean Bayley
	19th	Barry Lawrence & Heather Hughes
	26th	Shelby Ambrose & Glyn Roper

Prayers of Intercession

March	5th	Heather Hughes
	12th	Pauline Green
	19th	Sue Jones
	26th	Claire Thomas

Church Flowers

March	5th	Pam Lawrence
	12th	Joan Lawrence
	19th	Heather Hughes
	26th	Margaret Meade

A Prayer of St Patrick - St Patrick's Day is March 17th

**Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me
Christ above me, Christ beneath me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger**