

PRENTON NEWS

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



APRIL & MAY 2024

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Church & Community Activities during school term time

Monday	Little Movers	10.00 a.m.
	1 st Tranmere Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	5.00 p.m.
Tuesday	Phoenix Dance Group	6.30 p.m.
	Guitar Group	6.30 p.m.
Wednesday	Warm, Welcome Space	
	Coffee	10.00 a.m.
	Lunch	12.15 p.m.

Donations towards the cost of the magazine would be appreciated.

From the Manse

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES!

As we move out of the period of Easter and the celebrations and reflections on the heart of our faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus, we look towards Pentecost when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus and the birth of the Church.

Both of these seasons are seasons of hope and that is reflected in the season of spring in which we find ourselves.

It is a time of new life and renewed hope. And I feel that for our fellowship too. We have had a couple of tough years since Covid but there are signs that things are changing for the good. Some renovations to our buildings, growth at our coffee mornings and weekly lunches, new people joining us for worship and a steadying of our finances have all helped in giving us a sense of renewed hope.

At Pentecost we are reminded of the miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples which empowered them to spread the message of God's love to all corners of the earth, starting in their local community. And we should find hope in that story because God used ordinary people, just like us, who stepped out in faith and did extraordinary things.

I see that happening in our fellowship as people have the boldness to invite friends and neighbours to socialise and worship with us. I see others courageously offering to pray with or for people, and still others talking about their faith in ways they may never have before. This is how church growth happens; one small change, one small conversation, one small invite, and one small prayer at a time.

As the weather improves and we begin to feel the warmth of the sun on our faces and see the changes it makes to nature, let us remember that God longs to change us too through the power and presence of His Holy Spirit in us and in our church.

We need to thank God for all that He is doing amongst us and to continue living out the teachings of Jesus Christ, both within our church family and in the wider community.

Let us be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, allowing it to guide us in our mission which is to share the love of Christ with a world in need.

My prayer is that, as we move into the season of Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit will ignite within us a renewed passion for spreading the Good News and that the flames of the Spirit burn brightly in our hearts so that we too can join in God's mission of making disciples for Jesus.

God bless.

Jeff

Ceremonies of the Church

FUNERAL

On Wednesday 21st February 2024
Rev Jeff Hughes conducted the Services
in Church and at Landican Crematorium
for

MARGARET LLOYD

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

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

Congratulations to **Sue Jones** and **Doug Kite** on their forthcoming wedding. **Margaret Higson** and **Maureen Makin** have both been “a little bit under the weather” and **Margaret Meade** is back in church having ditched her “Zimmer Frame” and walking stick and is now able to drive her car, following her ‘mishap’ at the beginning of December.

We continue to remember all the members and friends who need our prayers at this time and in particular: **Jeanette Adams, Donna Birks, Harry & Joan Bradley, Peter & Joan Carroll, Iris Hatton, Don Howard, Jo Johns, Julie & Tim Jones, Dylis & John Letchford, Nora McGrath, Glennie Mortimer and Mary Segar.**

I think most of you know **Dougie** and I are getting married on Saturday 22nd June. Of course, the venue is Prenton United Reformed Church - it could not be anywhere else!

We have invited as many people as we can from Church. Please do not be upset if we have not been able to invite you - it is purely based on numbers and the space available - we would love to have been able to invite everyone!

It goes without saying that everyone is cordially invited to the wedding ceremony in Church at 3 p.m. We would love to see you all on our special day.

Sue & Dougie



TRIBUTE TO MARGARET LLOYD

We were all saddened to hear of Margaret's death on 28th January. Everyone said the same thing about her: "She was such a lovely lady". Margaret became a member at Prenton in October 1991 and was always one who did things. She was a member of the Monday group and made many friends there.

She made craft items for sale at our Christmas Fair. Margaret Meade still has, and uses, a pin cushion with crossed tennis racquets embroidered on it. If cakes were needed, Margaret was there. Her cakes were renowned and delicious! Anne remembers learning from her about large chocolate buttons for cake decoration and Heather, and no doubt others, have some of her recipes.

Each year she made a Harvest loaf in the shape of a sheaf of corn, which took pride of place on the communion table. Margaret's sewing skill is still on show in the hall as she made most of the curtains and the piano cover. If something needed doing and she could do it, Margaret always said yes. She was a very positive person who always had a smile and a word of encouragement.

Margaret served as an Elder and with the children in Junior Church. Her service in these roles was much appreciated. As her health deteriorated, she struggled to make 11 a.m. services, but valued the midweek Communion after coffee mornings. She wanted to keep in touch even when she was not able to attend and much appreciated letters which kept her up to date. She was frustrated that she could no longer do things, but we know she remembered us all in her prayers.

Thank you, Margaret, for all you gave to Prenton. We do miss you.

THANK YOU

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, set against a darker blue rectangular background.

17th January 2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your church's gift of £100. Your generosity in helping to provide a livelihood and hope to people like Zuleima, a Venezuelan migrant living in Colombia.

'Sometimes I endured long queues for two days,' remembers Zuleima. 'Then when the supermarket finally opened its doors, [I would find] there was no food left.' Faced with no food on the supermarket shelves, 35-year-old Zuleima made the painful decision to uproot her life and move with her son to Colombia. Zuleima was determined to forge a future for her family and establish a growing woodwork business.

'I work with wood, mainly driftwood I collect from the beach and pine wood,' Zuleima explains. 'I make home decoration items.' But the situation for Venezuelan migrants entering Colombia is extremely difficult. The majority have no legal status so they cannot access formal employment, health care or other services.

Thanks to your church's generosity, Tearfund is supporting 15 self-help groups in Colombia through its local partner, AGAPE. Each group provides 15 Venezuelan migrant women with the opportunity to come together and regularly save money, support each other and receive business training.

Thanks to her self-help group, Zuleima has learnt to be disciplined and to rely on God. And thanks to you, AGAPE was able to gift Zuleima with a table saw. She is now making plans for the future. 'This has been the answer to my prayers,' says Zuleima. 'I used to ask myself, 'Where am I going to get the money to buy such an expensive tool, which is necessary to strengthen my business?'

Thank you for being part of God's solution - bringing hope and a future for people like Zuleima.

Yours in Christ

Cathy Winmill

Head of Supporter Services

Teddington



25th January 2024

Dear Friends @ Prenton URC,

Thank you very much for the very kind donation of £100 towards the work here at Charles Thompson's Mission. It was incredibly kind of you to think of us.

We are very pleased that we are now able to continue serving breakfasts to those in our community who are homeless and to those that are living in poverty, as well as our Food Bank on a Wednesday. Alongside this, we ran our annual Christmas Food Hamper Appeal and Christmas Toy Appeal to local families struggling to cope with the demands of continuing cost of living prices. We were able to provide 604 children with a gift this Christmas and 250 struggling families with a Christmas food hamper.

On behalf of the team at Charles Thompson's Mission and all those who will benefit from your kind donation, I want to thank you for your generosity, and for partnering with us. We could not do what we do, without you.

Yours sincerely,

Bernie Frost

Centre Manager

Pam and Barry Lawrence would like to thank members and the congregation for their best wishes, cards and presents on the occasion of Matthew's 40th birthday.

Those who were at his party will know how much he enjoyed a really great evening. Rest assured, he has been making very good use of his money and gifts.

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

Our meeting opened with prayers of thanksgiving for the first signs of Spring. We shared something seen or heard that made us rejoice and be glad. We had a long list.

We read Wordsworth's poem "I wandered as a cloud" and prayed for all those poets, writers and orators who are gifted with words, especially those that lift our spirits.

We looked at some of the important days in March this year. The list was very extensive and included St David's Day, Mothering Sunday, St Patrick's Day, and Easter.

We also found out there was World Civil Defence Day, World Wildlife Day, International Women's Day

There is an International Day of Happiness and here's one for you to research for yourself - Rock Your Socks Day!

My favourite was definitely Piano Day on the 28th March. It's in my diary, my CD's are at the ready, don't ring me I'll be listening to someone playing Chopin.

If you can't think of anything to pray about, have a go at some of the things on this list. You don't need to be in a church to pray, just look out of your window and have a conversation with God. He is listening.

Come and join our next meeting 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. every 1st Tuesday in a month at 1 Prospect Road, Prenton.

Pauline

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed the service on March 17th. Thank you to all who attended. I just want to bring you the main points.

- ◆ Marian Davies was elected to re-join the team of serving Elders. So, thank you Marian for being willing to do this.
- ◆ No changes were made to the various Committees and Representatives.
- ◆ Our Treasurer, Pauline Green, presented the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 together with the Accounts for the “Prenwall” Account to 31st December 2023. Please ask Pauline if you were unable to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the Accounts.
- ◆ Jeff gave the Minister’s Report and we stood to remember Margaret Lloyd.
- ◆ My Report showed our membership remains the same at 43, but numbers attending worship have declined as people find it more difficult to attend, mainly because of age related illness.

Thanks were given to all who give time and effort to keep things running. More volunteers are always welcome, so if you feel you could act as a service steward, do a reading, lead prayers of intercession or wash tea towels, please let me know!

Thank you,
Jean

Minister’s Report to Prenton United Reformed Church Annual General Meeting on Sunday 17th March 2024

Since our last AGM in 2023, we have lost one member, Margaret Lloyd, just in the last few weeks. We thank God for her and the way she enriched our fellowship over many decades and for the mark she has left, not only on this building, but also the lives she has enriched. Margaret was a quiet, gentle, lady who was a great encourager and a great example of faith and faithfulness. She will be missed by many.

I have heard on the grapevine that I don’t think Prenton URC will be around in five years’ time. I want to assure you here and now, that is just not true. What is true and always will be, is that I ask you, as a church, to continually be looking towards the future and considering where and what God is calling us to do.

The challenges we face as a church have not gone away as we still have the pressures of dwindling numbers, decreasing income, and increasing

expenditure as well as issues from the wider church concerning deployment of ministry.

We still need to be realistic as we plan ahead but there is much to celebrate in the life of our church. God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11 which I shared with you last year, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" seems to be taking greater focus as we step out in faith and put into practice those things we have learned together about being fruitful on our frontlines.

We rejoice that the pressures on our finances have eased and, as Pauline, our Treasurer will report, we will show a surplus for 2023 of almost £3,000. This is a huge turnaround from 2021 when we recorded a deficit of more than £6,000. I am sure Pauline will explain more.

We rejoice that our prayer group is growing in numbers, in those participating, and confidence to pray for and with one another. It has been a delight to see presentations on the notice board of what the group have been focusing on.

We rejoice that the hard work put into producing and delivering invitations is paying off too, and that more and more people from the local community are coming into our Welcome Space and lunches as a result. We typically have 20 or so staying for lunch each week and some good relationships are being built. I would encourage you to come along and mix so that we can get to know one another better.

We rejoice that Ursula has joined our fellowship and is a regular worshipper and we thank God for her.

We rejoice in the development of the Worship group with more and more members having the confidence to arrange and lead worship more regularly. One of the signs of a strong church is that the leading of worship wells up from within. That is not to say that we do not enjoy our regular visiting worship leaders, and our thanks go out especially to Ron Taylor and Ray Craig. We know that Ray is no longer able to lead worship regularly, but we do thank him for all the years of service he has given to our fellowship.

As we look forward to Easter, we thank God for these signs of new life within our church which should give us hope for the future and encourage us now in the task of worshipping God and sharing the gospel.

We continue to split our time between the sanctuary and the hall for our worship throughout the year and the new way of working seems to be going well. Worshipping in the hall certainly does change the way we approach worship with its more intimate and informal feel.

There has been more decorating, and renovation done around the building which has led to a further increase from hall lettings. These have increased by almost 40%.

We have upgraded the hall lights, and the West Room has recently been renovated as well and is now a lovely welcoming space. We will continue with the decorating and have plans to upgrade the lighting in the Kinghorn, renovate the kitchen, buy some new chairs for the hall which will be more manoeuvrable and more easily stored, and tidy up the passageway between the Kinghorn and West Room.

We must acknowledge that none of us are getting any younger and many in our fellowship are feeling the effects of advancing years and all that comes with it. For some it prevents them from regular worship, and we pray for God's blessing and healing upon them and all members of our fellowship who are struggling.

I would like to thank all of those who contribute to the worship life of this fellowship, the elders, our organist, readers, prayers, and worship leaders, A big 'Thank You' to all who lend a hand in keeping our premises ready for worship and community use.

Since our last AGM there have been no marriages in church, though I have conducted 2 funerals, Joyce Mann and Margaret Lloyd and 3 infant blessings.

We have continued to support our regular charities; sending more shoeboxes than ever to support Operation Christmas Child, and we have continued to support Charles Thompson Mission, Macmillan's, Christian Aid and the Foodbank.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the life of the church, especially Jean, your Church Secretary, who works tirelessly for this fellowship, and for Pauline, our Treasurer, who continues in the role ably assisted by Margaret Meade. The work they have done to secure additional funding through insurance and Gift Aid funds has put us in a strong position to move forward. I would also like to thank Pam and Sue for co-ordinating the flower fund and hall bookings.

A big thank you to the gardeners, pastoral visitors, the cleaners, magazine editor and article writers, and refreshment providers, and all who help in the setting up and setting down for worship each week. I would also like to thank everyone involved in the church; your contribution is vital to the life of this church and the purpose of the Gospel.

It would be good if more would volunteer to share the load and if you think you can help and don't already have a role within the church's life then please speak with Jean or me.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for all the support and understanding that you gave Heather and me when Heather's mobility was curtailed. Thankfully things are much closer to normal than they were 12 months ago.

As we continue to move into the plans that God has prepared for us, as we continue to build up God's church here in Prenton, I would like us to be encouraged by the words King David spoke to his son, **"Be strong and brave. Do the work. Don't be afraid or discouraged. The Lord God, my God, is with you. He will help you until all the work is finished. He will not leave you. You will build the Temple of the Lord."**

This is the task for which we have been called, we pray that God will equip us to be faithful in the task.

Every blessing
Jeff.

FABRIC - YEAR END

We all know that money is scarce etc., and our numbers are not large but we are here to keep this church going and help the local community. This is why we had to get the West Room finished and this we have done with (a) a new roof; (b) new lower ceiling; (c) new lighting; (d) new red blinds; (e) decorated; (f) new carpet because the old one was ruined by a burst pipe. Money was donated towards the decorating; paint was donated and the carpet was paid for with an insurance claim.

Thanks to the small band of helpers, including our Minister, Jeff, not only for his ministry to our church but the work he has done - very hands on!!

This year we installed new lighting in the Hall and fully decorated it. Thanks to Jean for her work meeting builders etc. To Glyn, our heating engineer, thanks for keeping us warm. To Pauline, Heather and helpers who cook meals for us all on a Wednesday and thank you to our 'gardening and clean up' crew. Our 'Spring Clean Up' was on Saturday 23rd March when the weather was cold and very windy but we had a good turnout working inside and outside and the skip was soon full. We finished with our usual bacon butty lunch. Thanks to the member of the congregation for their donation towards the cost of the skip hire.

Later this year we intend to get to grips with the Kinghorn Vestry - when we get some money in!!

So, you see this small church is strong. We must keep it open and welcoming to all visitors and we will increase in numbers.

Fred Foulkes. The Convener

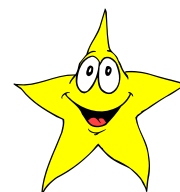
P.S. Special thanks to Pauline and Margaret for their work doing the Annual Accounts.

DIARY FOR APRIL 2024

APRIL			
Tuesday	2nd	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday	3rd	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Friday	5th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Saturday	6th	9.30 a.m.	Elders' Vision Day at the Manse
Sunday	7th	11.00 a.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes
Tuesday	9th	1.00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday	10th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Friday	12th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Sunday	14th	11.00 a.m.	Dr Geff Meyer
Wednesday	17th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	21st	11.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes Church Meeting
Wednesday	24th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	28th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor

A smile is a light in the window of a face which shows that the heart is at home.

Before you put on a frown, make absolutely sure there are no smiles available



DIARY FOR MAY 2024

MAY			
Wednesday	1st	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	5th	11.00 a.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes
Tuesday	7th	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday	8th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	12th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Bernie Frost
Wednesday	15th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Saturday	18th	11.00 a.m.	Heather's Walk for Christian Aid from Leasowe to New Brighton
Sunday	19th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes Items required for the June & July 2024 Church Magazine
Wednesday	22nd	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	26th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor
Wednesday	29th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch

If you would like to join the Flower Rota, there are still some dates available. The list is on the Notice board in the Hall or speak to Pam.



On Sunday 11th February, we had a “*Songs of Praise*” service. I realise that this took place some time ago, but I thought that those who were unable to be present might like to join in. And maybe those who were there may like to sing along again.

As I prepared the service, I found that we had a total of thirteen hymns requested! However, as we were not having a sermon, I wondered if we could perhaps squeeze in most of the hymns. As it turned out, we had to leave out a couple, and shorten others, or we would have been there for hours. Sorry to Elaine in particular - her choice was “In Christ Alone” (MP 1072), and my choice was also omitted: “You Shall Go Out With Joy” (MP796).

Jeff helped in advance by putting four of the hymns on a USB flash drive, so we could follow them from the television screen. Thank you, Jeff. He told me how to work the remote control, and I showed Pauline, who was really brilliant doing it - not a single mistake; I would have ruined it!

Shelby introduced the hymns and sometimes the people who had chosen them. Obviously, we couldn’t ask everyone to talk about the reasons for their choice.

The opening hymn, “Lord Jesus, of You will I sing as I journey.” was Glyn’s choice, and he spoke about his reasons for choosing it. It is not a well-known hymn, so was shown on the screen, and was quite easy to pick up. I shall put the words at the end of this article, and if you want to hear the tune, I have a YouTube recording, and also the piano version.

Sue prayed our opening prayers, and led us in the Lord’s Prayer, and in the “Prayer for Growth”, which we try to include in our services each week.

The second hymn was chosen by Barbara: “Morning Has Broken” (MP 467).

I spoke briefly about singing and music in Bible times. This is a vast subject, and as I was deciding what I could include, I realised I could have spoken at length about all the Psalms, and the musical instruments used in Bible times, in the Holy Land as well as in neighbouring lands. But it had to be brief.

Sue’s choice of hymn was next: “Immortal, Invisible” (MP 327), and the Collection was taken during the singing of this hymn. Shelby prayed over the Collection.

Next came Pam’s choice of hymn: “Jesus is Lord” (MP 367).

Fred read the first reading: Joshua, Chapter 1, verses 7 to 9:

“Be determined, be confident; and make sure that you obey the whole Law that My servant Moses gave you. Do not neglect any part of it and you will succeed wherever you go. Be sure that the Book of the Law is always read

in your worship. Study it day and night, and make sure that you obey everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Don't be afraid or discouraged, for I, your God, am with you wherever you go."

Mike's favourite hymn followed: "Do Not Be Afraid" (MP 115).

Then Trish introduced her choice "Colours of Day" (MP 1039), which we had on the screen, and she even joined in playing the piano along with the recording!

Jean read our second reading: Philippians, Chapter 2, verses 1 to 11.

Christ's humility and greatness.

"Your life in Christ makes you strong, and His love comforts you. You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have kindness and compassion for one another. I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind. Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: He always had the nature of God, but He did not think that by force He should try to become equal with God. Instead of this, of His own free will He gave up all He had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like man and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death - His death on the cross. For this reason God raised Him to the highest place above and gave Him the name that is greater than any other name. And so, in honour of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The choice of Ursula and of Gwen was our next hymn: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (MP 23)

On the internet, Pauline had found lots of interesting information about music and singing in modern worship. She told us some very interesting parts of her discoveries.

Margaret's (Higson) choice of hymn was "Be Still", and it is number 50 in the hymn book.

Anne and Dougie both wanted us to sing "The Lord's My Shepherd" (MP 660), so this followed. We sang it to the tune "Crimond".

Philip introduced his choice, and Maureen's: "Father, I Place Into Your Hands" (MP 133). This was followed by Philip's Prayers of Intercession based around the preceding hymn choice.

Prayers of Care and Compassion. Let us pray:

Lord, we come to You with the concerns on our hearts this morning.

For the worries and anxieties we have for ourselves, our families and friends and those in our local communities. Father, we place them in Your hands.

For those undergoing or waiting for the start of medical treatment, awaiting the result of tests, or recovering from treatment, and for all the medical staff caring for them. Father, we place them into Your hands.

For those who are mourning the recent loss of loved ones, for those who struggle with loneliness and find it hard to cope when there are many pressures to do all that they need to do. Father, we place them into Your hands.

For those who struggle financially and have difficulty coping with the ever-rising cost of living. For those who are homeless and sleeping rough. And for all the charities working to help those in need and in many cases, struggle to make ends meet themselves. Father, we place them into Your hands.

For those suffering from the horrors of war, in so many places in the world at this time. Father, we place them into Your hands.

For those dealing with the dire effects of disasters, either natural or man-made. Father, we place them into Your hands.

For our Minister, our Elders and members, and all who have particular responsibilities for our Church as we act as a witness to the Gospel in our local community. Father, we place them into Your hands.

For those members of our congregation who used to worship with us regularly but can no longer do so. Father, we place them into Your hands.

For those whom we have known and loved and who now rest in Your eternal care. Father, we place them into Your hands.

And finally, for ourselves, as we try to live our daily lives effectively as Your disciples. Father, we place ourselves into Your hands.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Our closing hymn, "Since Jesus came into my heart" (MP 748) was introduced by Fred. We sang the first three verses only. Then Fred prayed a closing prayer. As always, we sang to each other "May God's blessing" (MP460).

As I promised, here are the words of our first hymn:

Here are the words of our first hymn:

Lord Jesus, of You I will sing as I journey.
I'll tell all my neighbours about You wherever I go.
You alone give us life, give us peace, give us love,
Lord Jesus, of You I will sing as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise You as long as I journey,
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of You.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song,
Lord Jesus, I'll praise You as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me Your servant,
To carry your cross and to share all Your burdens and tears;
For You save us by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me Your servant.

Marian



This letter came from the Food Bank. Please read it. It ends with a prayer, based on the Lord's Prayer which I thought you would appreciate.

Dear Church,

Thank you for your continued support of Wirral Foodbank over the years.

We really appreciate the ongoing contributions you make - churches are vital partners to us and to the network of Trussell Trust food banks across the UK.

Sadly, food banks are at breaking point and Wirral Foodbank has to be here for people in our community who have no other options this winter. The soaring cost of living is driving record numbers of people on the lowest incomes to our food bank - and the amount of help needed is outstripping the donations we're receiving.

We don't think it is right that we are seeing more and more people needing food banks like ours. This isn't the kind of society we want to live in, and Trussell Trust is working to ensure people have enough money for the essentials in the future. Until then, we will do everything we can to provide emergency support.

IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A COLLECTION POINT

We have received a lot of food this year from Wirral Churches but we are still desperately short of stock. We would be so grateful if you could talk about the need for emergency food during your services and pray for our work and for all the people who need us.

Please could you display our poster on your Church noticeboard. It includes a shopping list of urgent items to share with your congregation.

This prayer, based on the Lord's Prayer, was written by John who is part of the Trussell Trust group of Christians who have lived the experience of using a food bank.

“Our Father in heaven, but close to us in our life day by day, hearing our prayers and answering with kindness. Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Help us to make earth more like heaven by being kind to one another, helping each other out and showing compassion whenever we can. Give us today our daily bread. Please make sure we all have enough to eat today and when we have more than enough, help us to share with those around us. Forgive us our sins. We all do things wrong, please forgive us when we make mistakes as we forgive those who sin against us. Help us to keep caring for people around us even when they are difficult, because we know you love us even when we are difficult. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.”

Please do let us know if there is anything more you need to help us both build the connection between the food bank and the church. We really value our partnership with you.

From

Wirral Foodbank

The poster is on the noticeboard in the hall.

Jean



Christian Aid Week

12th to 18th May 2024

This is the message I have received from Christian Aid: -

With your help, we can work towards a world where families can escape the trap of poverty and fulfil their ambitions. Seven days, so many ways to fund lasting change.

...so, I'm passing the message on to you.

I have decided that now that I have my new hips and I am able to, I will walk from Leasowe Lighthouse to New Brighton Lighthouse to raise funds for Christian Aid.

I will be walking on Saturday 18th May starting at 11 a.m. I would be delighted if you would sponsor me or join me (for all or part of it) and perhaps ask others to sponsor you. The walk is mainly along the beach and so is mainly on the flat, it is about 4.5 miles and takes about 1hour 40 minutes.

We will also have Christian Aid Envelopes for you to use to make your donations if this is what you would prefer.

Times are financially tough for lots of people, but there is inhuman poverty in many parts of the world, and we need to help those who struggle to live and to push back against this poverty.

Please Pray, Act, Give for Christian Aid this year.

Sponsor forms and Just Giving page will be available soon.

Your support will be much appreciated.

Thank you,

Heather.

From the Pews

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

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.

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.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

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.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

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 thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted pay cheques.

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

A rich man went to his Vicar and said, “I want you and your wife to take a three-month trip to the Holy Land at my expense. When you come back, I’ll have a surprise for you.” The Vicar accepted the offer and he and his wife went off to the Middle East.

Three months later they returned home and were met by the wealthy parishioner, who told them while they were gone, he had had a new church built. “It’s the finest building money can buy, Vicar,” said the man, “No expense was spared.” And he was right. It was a magnificent building both outside and in.

But there was one striking difference. There was only one pew and it was at the very back. “A church with only one pew?” asked the Vicar. “You just wait until Sunday” said the rich man.

When the time came for the Sunday service, the early arrivals entered the church, filed on to the one pew and sat down. When the pew was full a switch clicked silently, a circuit closed, the gears meshed, a belt moved and, automatically, the rear pew began to move forward. When it reached the front of the church it came to a stop. At the same time, another empty pew came up from below at the back and more people sat down. And so it continued, pews filling and moving forwards until finally the church was full, from front to back.

“Wonderful!” said the Vicar, “Marvellous!”

The service began, and the Vicar started to preach his sermon. He launched into his text and, when 12 o’clock came, he was still going strong with no end in sight. Suddenly a bell rang and a trap door in the floor behind the pulpit dropped open.

“Wonderful!” said the congregation, “Marvellous!”

From A Bucket of Surprises, J John and Mark Stibbs, Monarch Books.

WHY IT’S GREAT TO BE A DOG

No-one expects you to take a bath every day.

If it itches, you can scratch it.

There’s no such thing as bad food.

A raw bone can entertain you for hours.

If you grow hair in weird places, no one notices.

You can lie around all day without worrying about being fired.

You don’t get into trouble for putting your head in a stranger’s lap.

You’re always excited to see the same people.

Having big feet is considered an asset.

Puppy love can last.



A hint that shorter sermons would be desirable and equally efficacious was suggested by a parishioner. In the course of a sermon, the Vicar told the congregation that every blade of grass was a sermon.

Passing the vicarage next morning, a gentleman, who had attended the service, saw the Vicar using a lawn mower. “That’s right, Vicar,” was the cheery greeting, “cut your sermons short.”



THEME SONGS FOR BIBLE CHARACTERS

Noah:	“Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head”
Adam and Eve:	“Strangers in Paradise”
Lazarus:	“The Second Time Around”
Esther:	“I Feel Pretty”
Job:	“I’ve Got a Right to Sing the Blues”
Moses:	“The Wanderer”
Jezebel:	“The Lady is a Tramp”
Samson:	“Hair”
Salome:	“I Could Have Danced All Night”
Daniel:	“The Lion Sleeps Tonight”
Joshua:	“Good Vibrations”
Peter:	“I’m Sorry”
Esau:	“Born to be Wild”
Jeremiah:	“Take This Job and Shove It”
Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego:	“Great Balls of Fire!”
The Three Kings:	“When You Wish Upon a Star”
Jonah:	“Got a Whale of a Tale”
Elijah:	“Up, Up, and Away”
Methuselah:	“Stayin’ Alive”
Nebuchadnezzar	“Crazy”

From A Bucket of Surprises, J John and Mark Stibbs, Monarch Books.

A sign supposedly seen on a farm gate:
“Trespassers may enter free. The bull will charge later.”

ROTAS FOR APRIL 2024

Duty Elder

April	7th	Jean Bayley
	14th	Shelby Ambrose
	21st	Fred Foulkes
	28th	Sue Jones

Communion Elders

April	7th	Shelby Ambrose & Fred Foulkes
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Door Duty

April	7th	Elaine Parkin, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	14th	Jean & Les Bayley, Joan Bradley
	21st	Pauline Green, Margaret Higson, Sue Jones
	28th	Barbara Jones, Barry Lawrence, Elaine Parkin

Readers

April	7th	Joan Bradley & Barry Lawrence
	14th	Glyn Roper & Philip Roper
	21st	Heather Hughes & Shelby Ambrose
	28th	Fred Foulkes & Jean Bayley

Prayers of Intercession

April	7th	Pauline Green
	14th	Sue Jones
	21st	Barry Lawrence
	28th	Claire Thomas

Church Flowers

April	7th	Jeanette Adams
	14th	
	21st	Marian Davies
	28th	Julie Jones

ROTAS FOR MAY 2024

Duty Elder

May	5th	Elaine Parkin
	12th	Pauline Green
	19th	Jean Bayley
	26th	Shelby Ambrose

Communion Elders

May	5th	Pauline Green & Sue Jones
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Door Duty

May	5th	Jean & Les Bayley, Joan Bradley
	12th	Sue Jones, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	19th	Margaret Higson, Heather Hughes, Elaine Parkin
	26th	Pauline Green, Barbara Jones, Barry Lawrence

Readers

May	5th	Marian Davies & Joyce Holland
	12th	Pam Lawrence & Barry Lawrence
	19th	Joan Bradley & Philip Roper
	26th	Glyn Roper & Marian Davies

Prayers of Intercession

May	5th	Heather Hughes
	12th	Jean Bayley
	19th	Pauline Green
	26th	Philip Roper

Sound System

May	5th	Marian Davies
	12th	Elaine Parkin
	19th	Marian Davies
	26th	Elaine Parkin

Church Flowers

May	5th	
	12th	Elaine Parkin
	19th	Pauline Green
	26th	Claire Thomas