

PRENTON NEWS

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



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 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

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL AND THE WORKINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I know that sometimes the routine of being church can often obscure the huge impact the Gospel and the workings of the Holy Spirit can have on the lives of individuals, but I'd like to share three instances that have happened in the last couple of weeks that show how the Holy Spirit works the Good News of Jesus in the lives of people.

I was asked by St. George's school to deliver a number of assemblies introducing the Gospel, so I decided to explain that the Gospel means Good News and in particular, the Good News about Jesus so I shared a story by Max Lucado called 'You are special'. It tells the story of a small wooden people, the Wemmicks, who were made by Eli, the woodcarver. The Wemmicks went about each day giving one another gold stars or grey dots depending on whether they thought the other Wemmicks were good or bad. Ultimately though, it was what Eli thought about each Wemmick that mattered. And because Eli had made each Wemmick, each Wemmick was special to him despite the stars and dots.

After I shared the final assembly, one of the teachers stood up and told the whole school that the day she had been having up to this point had been a bit 'comme ci, comme ca', but after hearing that story about the Wemmicks and the Good News that we are each special to God because He made us, her day was now 'très bien'.

I then got a phone call about a baptism. I get a lot of phone calls from parents asking for baptisms for their children, particularly at Prenton and initially thought it was one such request. So, I asked the person on the other end of the phone how old the child was and explained that I did not normally baptise children and could I come and speak to them.

He then explained to me that the baptism was for him and his partner, and that over the few months they had been together they had been talking about Jesus and the need to have him in their lives. He told me that neither of them or their families had ever gone to church, but they just couldn't stop talking about this need to have Jesus in their lives and they knew baptism was something they needed to do. We had a long conversation which ended in me asking him to talk things over with his partner and to get back to me once they'd thought things through. It made me wonder how the Holy Spirit was working in this couple for them to want Jesus in their lives.

The final incident was following one of the Christianity Explored sessions which happen on Wednesdays at the manse. This particular week we were looking at why Jesus had to die. After we'd finished everyone headed off home and one member of the group shared that as they drove home, they started to cry at the realisation of what Jesus had done for them. And as they drove home they experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit as their body was filled with an overwhelming sensation of complete joy.

I suspect that life for that person will never be quite the same again.

I don't know about you but these stories really encourage me in my own walk with Jesus and give me a renewed desire to share the Good News of Jesus because we can see how lives can be changed.

I hope these stories encourage you too and give you a renewed strength in your faith and maybe the courage to share the Good News on your frontlines.

I look forward to hearing more stories.

God bless.

Jeff.

CEREMONIES OF THE CHURCH

WEDDING

On Saturday 22nd June 2024

Rev Jeff Hughes conducted the Marriage Service

in Church

for

SUSAN JONES

&

DOUGLAS WILLIAM JAMES KITE

We send them our love and
congratulations
and wish them a very happy life
together.



FUNERAL

On Thursday July 4th 2024

Rev Jeff Hughes conducted the Services

for

AMY MAUREEN MAKIN

at Landican Crematorium

and in Church

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

We wish **Julie & Tim** every success on their sponsored walk of 111km on the Camino de Santiago in aid of a sensory garden for Chapel House Care & Plessington Court.

We continue to remember, in our prayers, all the members and friends who are unable to join us regularly on a Sunday morning: **Jeanette, Donna, Harry & Joan, Peter & Joan, Carys, Iris, Don, Jo, Dylis & John, Nora, Glennie and Mary.**

TRIBUTE TO AMY MAUREEN MAKIN

7th June 1936 – 18th June 2024

Maureen was born in Wallasey, where she was brought up by loving parents. She remained in Wallasey during the early years of her marriage to Les. They had met during their early teens and enjoyed a long and happy marriage. Maureen never stopped missing him.

Maureen had a long career in the retail sector, working for Boots, Millican's Chemists and George Henry Lee, and it was here that she met Lorraine, who was to become a lifelong friend.

Along with Les, she was a central part of the life of Prenton URC and, for a while took on the role of serving Elder.

When I asked people what they remember of Maureen the same words and phrases kept being repeated: She was feisty, strong willed (or downright stubborn if you like), she was a giggler with a mischievous streak, she wasn't the quickest on the uptake but always saw the funny side of life, and she was just there especially if there was a job to be done.

She was brave and resilient even in her grief following her beloved Les' death, and when she got her cancer diagnosis, she accepted it as a matter of fact and tried to remain positive and wanted to keep going for as long as she could - and she did that, even offering to help with the dishes just a couple of weeks before she died.

Maureen had an overriding sense of duty even when that got her into trouble, but she always sought to love and support her family particularly through some difficult times and for the pride she had in them.

Heather and I remember that Maureen was always there at all the open days we have held at the Manse over the last 14 years.

She was always first in the kitchen to get drinks for others, making people welcome and chatting to everyone as they arrived. We could rely on her to keep people's glasses topped up with pinot or mulled wine, depending on the season!

Maureen was always very generous with little gifts and time. Never wanting to be waited on and wanting to help and look after other people right up to her last few occasions at church.

Not one to be backward in coming forward, Maureen would ask the questions that maybe we all wanted to ask, she was always wanting to be involved, still coming to Christianity Explored until just a few weeks before her death.

Maureen had lost so much weight latterly that, on her way back home from Church, when she got out of the car her trousers fell down! Maureen just stood in the car park laughing but thankfully Elaine was able to recover her dignity!

We will truly miss Maureen who has been a constant supporter throughout all our time at Prenton and we thank God for her example and influence.

DIARY FOR AUGUST 2024

AUGUST			
Sunday	4th	11.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes Infant Blessing. <i>Jesse Cowen</i>
Tuesday	6th	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday	7th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	11th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Stuart Radcliffe
Wednesday	14th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	18th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes
Wednesday	21st	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	25th	11.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m. 1.10 p.m.	Mr Ron Taylor Infant Blessing. <i>Harper-Rae Whitehead</i> Infant Blessing. <i>Charlotte May Cavanagh</i>
Wednesday	28th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch



Thank you all so much for your support for Christian Aid this year.

A combination of direct donations via Church collections, the Pie & Pudding Night and through support for the Sponsored Walk, this church raised a life changing £762.

That figure will be increased to Christian Aid when Gift Aid is taken into account, so a massive THANK YOU, so much, to all who collected, donated, walked, talked and prayed for Christian Aid.

Heather.

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

SEPTEMBER			
Sunday	1st	11.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes Infant Blessing. <i>Jessica Florence Stanhope</i>
Wednesday	4th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Saturday	7th	2.00 p.m.	Open House at the Manse
Sunday	8th	11.00 a.m.	TBA
Tuesday	10th	9.30 a.m. 1.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting at the Manse Conversations with God
Wednesday	11th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	15th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes Church Meeting Items for the October & November 2024 Magazine
Wednesday	18th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	22nd	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor
Wednesday	25th	10.00 a.m.	Warm Welcome Space MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING
Friday	27th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Sunday	29th	11.00 a.m.	The Elders

The Vicar was astonished to hear little Mary say that a person must be very brave to go to church these days.

"Well," she said, "I heard my uncle tell my aunt, last Sunday, that there was a canon in the pulpit, that the choir murdered the anthem and that the organist drowned the choir."

CHURCH MAGAZINE

Philip has received the following feedback regarding our June & July magazine.

From Anne Bedford

Thank you very much for sending me the magazine. It was good to see the pictures of the Christian Aid walkers.

My brother met up with Heather & Jeff when he acted as Chaplain for the URC minister's pre-retirement course in Hertfordshire. It was quite unusual for Paul to be asked if he was related to me whereas I am constantly asked about being related to him!!

Two ministers in one family is a bit strange I know, and then in addition there is the Rev David Bedford to whom we are not related but we all began as babies and grew up in New Malden Congregational Church where our parents and grandparents were active members.

Editor: Anne took action regarding the article on handwritten letters and send me a letter, which arrived on the Tuesday following the magazine being available on the Sunday! Thank you, Anne.

From Anne Mackenzie

Thank you, Philip. It is always good to have news of Prenton URC. Lots of good memories going back to 1951!

Peace and good wishes.

Brief messages of thanks were also received from **Jenny Capper** and **David Hughes**.

A former Bishop of Chester's cook was complimented upon her cheerful hymn singing in the early mornings.

'I like "The Church's One Foundation" best' she said. 'One verse for soft-boiled; two verses for hard-boiled.'

CARING FOR EACH OTHER – BEING GOD FOR EACH OTHER

Did you read in the last magazine what Jeff wrote about prayer cards? I thought I would write this article to remind those who came to church on Sunday July 7th what we are undertaking to do, and it will inform those who were not at church on that day what it is about, so if you come on another day, you can join in.

Everybody was given a folder as they came into church, containing two prayers, two cards, and a blank sheet of paper. During the service, we learned that we can pray over varying times: during a day, for a week and even for a whole month. Firstly, for and with one person – our “prayer buddy” for today. Whatever we say is completely confidential. We are speaking to this one person as if they are God for us. And they are speaking to us as if we are God to them. We said a prayer to each other:

*“May God envelop you in the warmth of His love,
And place a circle of protection around your life.
May He surround you with His loving care
And enfold you in His peace – peace within and peace without.”*

Later in the service, we looked at the first card, on which is written, “During the next week I will pray for” and the name of one church member is on the card. Whoever it is, we will pray for them during this first week, we write their names on our piece of paper, and bring the card back to church, to exchange it for a second one.

The idea is that over a number of weeks, everyone receives cards with different names on, and prays for each person. Finally, if we remember to write down all those names, we will be praying for everyone in our church, including ourselves.

The second card works in a similar way, but it works over a month. The names on the cards are of individuals and groups over the whole world. They may be in foreign countries, they may be workers in this country. All these names or groups are also on display at the back of church, so you can pray for them even though you haven’t had the card yet.

When you take a card, please don't rummage in the box until you find the person you like. You will find them given to you over the next few weeks, but there may also be people you find it difficult to like or pray about. They need your prayers too. And at the end of our experiment, we should all be praying by name for everyone else in our fellowship, not just our favourites!

We began this idea on the same day as our Strawberry lunch. I put up some notices with a picture of a strawberry on, and the comment: "A strawberry is a fruit surrounded by all its seeds on the outside, and it should remind us of our church, here we are all together surrounding our fellowship, and caring for each other. In this way we can grow the future of Prenton URC."

What difference do you suppose it will make to our fellowship if we are all praying for each other by name, and knowing specific problems and worries or thanks that we can bring to the Lord on other people's behalf, and each of us knowing also that more than thirty people are praying for us too?

Marian

"Cash, cheque, or charge?" the clerk asked after folding the items a customer wished to purchase. As the customer fumbled for her wallet, the clerk noticed a remote control for a television in her purse. "Do you always carry your TV's remote control?" she asked.

"No," the customer replied, "but my husband refused to come shopping with me, so I figured this was the most legal evil thing I could do to him."

WHAT A FANTASTIC FEW WEEKS IT HAS BEEN FOR ENGLISH SPORT!

It started with Lewis Hamilton winning the F1 Grand Prix at Silverstone for the 8th time.

Cricket. We won the first Test Match against the West Indies and Jimmy Anderson played in his last Test Match with a world record in the number of wickets he has taken – 704! and now we have won the second Test Match as well!

At Wimbledon on the final weekend Henry Patten with his Finnish partner won the Gentlemen's Doubles followed by Alfie Hewitt winning the Wheelchair Gentlemen's Singles and a few hours later he won the Wheelchair Gentlemen's Doubles with his Scottish partner, Gordon Reid.

Earlier in the week Sir Andy Murray played his last Wimbledon with his brother Jamie in the Gentlemen's Doubles.

Then came the "blips" – England's footballers were runners-up in the European Cup.

Justin Rose was runner-up in the Open Golf Championships played at Royal Troon in typical Scottish weather.

But the summer continues with the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris and hopefully some Gold Medals!

JEFF AND HEATHER'S OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 7th September

Between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

We would like to invite the fellowship of Prenton and Wallasey Village Churches to join us and share some refreshments at our home.

This is our way of saying 'Thank You for your love, prayers and support over the last 12 months.'

We would be delighted to see **YOU.**
Please pray for some good weather.

Jeff and Heather x

ROTAS FOR AUGUST 2024

Duty Elder

August	4th	Pauline Green
	11th	Elaine Parkin
	18th	Jean Bayley
	25th	Shelby Ambrose

Communion Elders

August	4th	Shelby Ambrose & Fred Foulkes
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Door Duty

August	4th	Sue Kite, Barry Lawrence, Elaine Parkin
	11th	Jean & Les Bayley, Barbara Jones
	18th	Pauline Green, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	25th	Sue Kite, Barry Lawrence, Elaine Parkin

Readers

August	4th	Jean Bayley & Joyce Holland
	11th	Marian Davies & Philip Roper
	18th	Pam Lawrence & Fred Foulkes
	25th	Shelby Ambrose & Glyn Roper

Prayers of Intercession

August	4th	Pauline Green
	11th	Claire Thomas
	18th	Barry Lawrence
	25th	Jean Bayley

Sound System

Heather Hughes
Elaine Parkin
Heather Hughes
Marian Davies

Church Flowers

August	4th	Barbara Jones
	11th	Suzanne Holland
	18th	
	25th	

ROTAS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Duty Elder

September	1st	Marian Davies
	8th	Fred Foulkes
	15th	Pauline Green
	22nd	Sue Kite
	29th	Elaine Parkin

Communion Elders

September	1st	Jean Bayley & Marian Davies
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Door Duty

September	1st	Jean & Les Bayley, Barbara Jones
	8th	Pauline Green, Sue Kite, Barry Lawrence
	15th	Elaine Parkin, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	22nd	Jean & Les Bayley, Barbara Jones
	29th	Pauline Green, Sue Kite, Barry Lawrence

Readers

September	1st	Philip Roper & Barry Lawrence
	8th	Jean Bayley & Joyce Holland
	15th	Marian Davies & Barry Lawrence
	22nd	Pam Lawrence & Shelby Ambrose
	29th	Fred Foulkes & Jean Bayley

Prayers of Intercession

September	1st	Heather Hughes
	8th	Philip Roper
	15th	Pauline Green
	22nd	Sue Kite
	29th	Claire Thomas

Sound System

Elaine Parkin
Elaine Parkin
Heather Hughes
Marian Davies
Marian Davies

Church Flowers

September	1st	Heather Hughes
	8th	
	15th	
	22nd	Sue Kite
	29th	Anne Foulkes