

PRENTON NEWS

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



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2025

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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

Monday	Little Movers	10.00 a.m.
	1 st Tranmere Rainbows,	
	Brownies & Guides	5.00 p.m.
Tuesday	Guitar Jam Group	6.30 p.m.
Wednesday	Welcome Space	
	Coffee	10.00 a.m.
	Lunch	12.15 p.m.
	House Group	7.00 p.m.
	Men's Group	7.30 p.m.

Donations towards the cost of the magazine would be appreciated.

FROM THE MANSE

A SEASON OF REST AND RESTORATION

You can tell summer has arrived - we have heat wave warnings and threats of drought and water rationing. But to be fair, we have had some good weather recently even this far North.

I often say I was made to live in warmer climes because I love summer so much. I love the warmth of the sun, the life it brings, and the renewed vigour and energy I feel and the benefit of the longer days.

The other reason I love the summer is that the pace of life slows just a little as some of our regular meetings cease for a few weeks. For me, I take it as a hint from God that I need to take some time for rest, reflection, and restoration. For many of us, summer is a time of holidays, family gatherings, outdoor adventures, and long, quiet evenings. It's also a season that reminds us of the importance of stepping back, taking a breath, and allowing God to restore our souls.

Psalm 23 says this, *"He [God] makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul."* These words carry special meaning in the summer months when nature itself seems to echo God's invitation to pause and be renewed. The frantic growth of spring is over, and nature itself seems to revel in what God has done. And, just as the land needs a season to replenish, so do our bodies, minds, and spirits.

Rest is not a luxury; it is a gift from God. In the very beginning, after creating the heavens and the earth, God rested. And throughout Scripture, we are reminded that true rest is found not just in sleep or time off, but in drawing close to the One who gives peace beyond understanding. This was a habit of Jesus - finding time to rest and restore for the next thing God had planned.

This summer, whether you're travelling, staying home, working, or simply trying to find time to catch your breath, I encourage you to make space for Sabbath moments - quiet times with God, laughter with loved ones, walks in creation, unhurried prayer. These moments nourish our spirits and strengthen us for the seasons ahead.

Let this be a summer not only of activity, but of intentional stillness. A time not only for enjoyment, but for deepening our relationship with God and one another. May we return from this season refreshed, re-centred, and ready to serve with renewed joy.

With every blessing for a restful and restorative summer.
Jeff.

May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow,
May the soft winds freshen your spirit.
May the sunshine brighten your heart.
May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you.
And May God enfold you in th Mantle of His Love.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

We continue to remember in our prayers, the members and friends who are unable to join us regularly on a Sunday morning and we want them to know that they are not forgotten.

Rev John Wadhams

I am sorry to have to tell you of the death of John Wadhams. John was our Interim Moderator for some time and was a big help to us at a difficult time for the church. He had just retired and moved to Heswall and was glad to have a church to look after as he did not feel ready for retirement.

He became a good friend to Prenton and supported us in many ways. When we got our new minister, he continued to preach for us regularly, until age eventually caught up with him. He was always pleased to receive our news. We send our sympathy to Sheila and the family and will remember them in our prayers.

Jean

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for all the lovely cards I received on my 90th birthday. It is nice to read in Prenton News all that is going on.

I would love to be worshipping with you on a Sunday and sing all the lovely hymns but I am not able to get out.

I am deeply grateful to still be in touch.

With love to you all.

Dylis

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JEFF AND HEATHER'S OPEN HOUSE

Saturday 30th August 2025

Between 2.00 p.m. and 6.00 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.

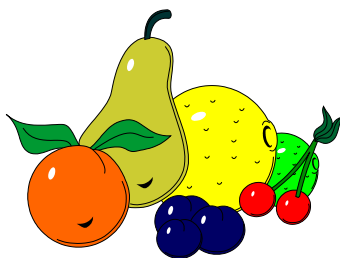
Please pray for some good weather.

Jeff and Heather x

Wednesday 24th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning.



Sunday 5th October - Harvest Festival followed by a Church Lunch.



We will decorate the Church on Saturday 4th October from 10 a.m. and distribute the Harvest Gifts on Monday 6th October from 10 a.m.

On ***Sunday 19th October*** we will be having a visit from the Missions Aviation Fellowship. This is a very worthwhile cause - you can find out more by Googling it, or asking Marian or Pam, or even by waiting to hear what the speakers have to say.

Stan and Anne will be bringing an assortment of things including a Power Point presentation, some items for display, and other items for purchase.

We will be taking a Retiring Collection as well, so you will definitely need to bring your purse or wallet!

We will remind you a couple of weeks before that date, on Harvest Sunday, and again on the Sunday before MAF come.

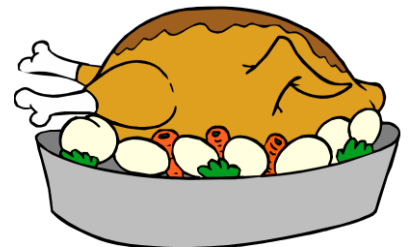
Marian

Saturday 1st November - Our "Vision Day" in the Church Hall from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. followed by a Faith Lunch.

Sunday 2nd November - Church Meeting

Friday 28th November - Thanksgiving Day party starting at 6 p.m. Food and entertainment

Friday 19th December - Christmas Lunch at the Masonic Temple in Clifton Road at 1.00 p.m. More details nearer the date.



LIVING FAITH DAY

There were 6 of us from Prenton who went to this event on 7th June, and it was well worth going.

The keynote speaker Cris Rogers was excellent and gave us much to think about and encouraged us to look at how we live out our faith. I hope that we will be able to introduce some of the suggestions to the rest of the fellowship.

This was the launch of a 2 year synod theme, so there will be more to come.

Taking our faith seriously means that the way we live our faith will change the way we live our lives.

Please be prayerful as you seek to live your faith.

Heather.

As we seek to live out our faith I want to say a big -

THANK YOU



The total raised for Christian Aid by this church this year was £310.

Thank you to all who contributed.

And to encourage you to start collecting now for:

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

I know it seems like a long way off and we still haven't had our summer holidays yet, but I'd like to ask you to start thinking about collecting items for shoe boxes.



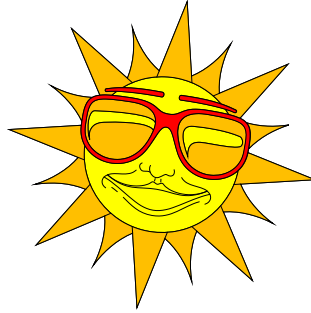
During the summer you may find small toys and gifts that can be included in the boxes.

In future magazines I will give you more detailed information, in the meantime if you have any questions about what can go into boxes please ask me.

Thank you,

Heather.

Heatwave



Heatwave

*Summer suns are glowing
Over land and sea,
Happy light is flowing
Bountiful and free
Everything rejoices
In the mellow rays,
As earth's thousand voices
Swell the psalm of praise.*

William Walsham

*For the fruits of his creation,
Thanks be to God!
For his gifts to every nation,
Thanks be to God!
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping;
Future needs in earth's safe seeking,
Thanks be to God!*



F Pratt Green

DIARY FOR AUGUST 2025

AUGUST			
Sunday	3rd	11.00 a.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes
Tuesday	5th	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday	6th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	<i>Welcome Space</i> Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	10th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs Marian Davies
Wednesday	13th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	<i>Welcome Space</i> Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	17th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes
Wednesday	20th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	<i>Welcome Space</i> Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	24th	11.00 a.m.	Wirral Food Bank
Monday	25th		Bank Holiday
Wednesday	27th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	<i>Welcome Space</i> Coffee Morning Lunch
Saturday	30th	2.00 p.m.	Open House at the Manse
Sunday	31st	11.00 a.m.	Mrs Sue Kite & Mr Fred Foulkes

Sign in a London Department Store: “BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS”

Sign on a Repair Shop Door: “WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR AS THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)”

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

SEPTEMBER			
Tuesday	2nd	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday	3rd	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch House Group
Sunday	7th	11.00 a.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes
Wednesday	10th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch House Group
Sunday	14th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Stuart Radcliffe Copy for the October & November Magazine
Wednesday	17th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch House Group
Sunday	21st	11.00 a.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes
Wednesday	24th	10.00 a.m. 7.00 p.m.	Welcome Space Macmillan Coffee Morning No Lunch House Group
Friday	26th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Sunday	28th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor
Tuesday	30th	1.00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting

JULY CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

Our conversations this month focused on “Making Judgements”.

In our day to day lives we do it all the time. Sometimes these judgements are positive and sometimes they are not. Sometimes first impressions prove to be correct and other times we get it so, so wrong.

We make judgements based on how a person looks, what they wear, how they walk, where they originate from, the work they do (or don't do), the colour of their skin, their name . . .

Yes, we even do that! Recent research shows that teachers judged the children they were about to teach just by looking at a list of names. More than a third said that they expected pupils with certain names to be disruptive. So, Callum, Connor, Brandon, Aaron, Chloe, Courtney and Amy are on the “watch list” before they even step into a classroom.

As a retired teacher myself I will admit that if the name Ryan appeared on my register for the year ahead, my heart used to sink!

The Bible warns us about criticising and judging each other, reminding us that God alone has the power to judge us, the power to serve or destroy.

Does this mean that as Christians, we should never address behaviour that would not please God? Of course not.

Jesus himself showed us what to do or say when we are faced with this dilemma.

In John 8 when Jesus is confronted by the woman caught

in adultery he doesn't suggest that the woman was innocent but he is gracious and forgiving with **the clear instruction, "Go and sin no more"**.

We all know the passage in Matthew 7, when Jesus says, "Why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own!"

And we all do well to take note of Romans 2 v 16, "And this is the message I proclaim - **that the day is coming when God, through Jesus Christ, will judge everyone's secret life**".

We've all got one of those, I'm off to repent! How about you?

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th August at 1, Prospect Road, 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. as usual, topic unknown (even to me) until the night before. Only certainty, cake will be served! See you there. ALL WELCOME especially if you haven't been before.

If you are unable to make these meetings, you can get a gist of the "conversations" and prayers by reading the notice board in the Church Hall.

Pauline

Still our minds as we gather to worship you.

Be with us.

Still our minds as we wait to hear your word

Be with us.

Open our hearts to your spirit.

Be with us.

Be with us now and through every waking moment.

JULY CHURCH OUTING - Sunday 6th July

Many years ago, our Church Outing followed our Morning Service and we all piled into our vehicles with our packed lunches and teas and headed off to Delamere or other Church halls in various places in Cheshire.

There was always a slight problem. Our Minister and some members had to leave the party early, to head back for our Evening Service.

The next stage of our Church Outing was to bring it nearer to home and Thurstaston became the venue and by then we had dropped our Sunday Evening Services. However, we lacked shelter from inclement weather and as we got even older we didn't like having to take deckchairs and windbreaks and all the paraphernalia required, and so it was decided to "stay at home" and sit in the garden or stay in the hall.

The latest development has been the introduction of the "Strawberry Tea" at lunchtime.

We no longer have to bring our own food because the "Catering Clan" sprang into action producing "custom made" individual "picnic boxes".

This year my box contained an assortment of crust-less finger sandwiches, fit for a Queen, pork pie, sausage rolls. mini quiche, tomatoes, a scone with jam and butter or cream, and a great big juicy strawberry which I dipped into the remainder of my cream. There were also packets of crisps already on the table. Scrumptious!!

There was also a great selection of cakes, at least one of which I understand was made by our Minister, and as they would not fit into the picnic boxes, they were brought round to each table.

As you can see from this photograph, Erin was dressed for the occasion in her 'strawberry' dress and is thoroughly enjoying her lunch.

So, on behalf of everyone, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to the "Catering Clan" for all their hard work on the Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning even before the Service. Your efforts were very much appreciated and we have been able to cover the cost of the food and send a cheque to The Ark for £200 from the donations we received.

Editor



Congratulations to the Lionesses, the England Ladies Football team on making history with their successful defence of the European Cup on Sunday 27th July 2025.



Their homecoming parade on open top buses, from Trafalgar Square, down The Mall to Buckingham Palace, with 65,000 people lining the route, was amazing.

Well done ladies, you make us proud to be English.

From the Pews

EATING IN THE UK IN THE FIFTIES

Pasta hadn't been invented and Curry was a surname.

A takeaway was a mathematical problem and pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time and only Heinz made beans.

All crisps were plain, the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.

Rice was a milk pudding, and never ever part of our dinner.

A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.

Brown bread was something only poor people ate and oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves which were never green.

Coffee was Camp, and came in a bottle whilst cooking outside was called camping.

Sugar was regarded as being white; gold and sugar cubes were considered posh.

Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi and none of us had heard of yoghurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible and prunes were medicinal.

People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy and pineapples came in chunks in a tin.

"Kebab" wasn't even a word never mind a food and whilst Muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.

Water came out of a tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

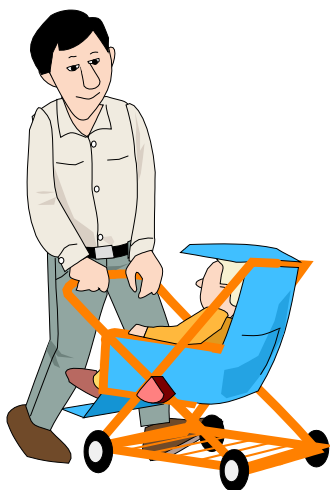
The other thing that we never even had on our table was . . . elbows!

The story is told of a nun who was sitting at her window when the post arrived. She opened a letter from home and out fell a crisp new £10 note. As she read the letter accompanying the money, her eye was caught by the sight of a poorly dressed man on the street below. Thinking the man was probably not very well off, she placed the money in an envelope upon which she wrote “Don’t Despair” and tossed it out of the window. The man picked up the envelope, opened it, and looked up at her, smiling and tipped his hat.

The next day there was a knock at the Convent door. Opening it, she found the man from the previous day holding out a handful of cash to her.

“What’s this? I don’t understand,” she said.

“Lady,” he replied, “It’s your cut. ‘Don’t Despair’ paid five to one yesterday.”



In the supermarket was a man pushing a pram that contained a screaming, bellowing baby. The gentleman kept repeating softly, “Don’t get excited, Albert; don’t scream, Albert; don’t yell, Albert; keep calm, Albert.”

A woman standing next to him said, “You certainly are to be commended for trying to soothe your grandson Albert”.

The man looked at her and said, “Lady, I’m Albert.”

ROTAS FOR AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER 2025

Duty Elder

August	3rd	Marian Davies
	10th	Pauline Green
	17th	Jean Bayley
	24th	Shelby Ambrose
	31st	Elaine Parkin

Communion Elders

August	3rd	Jean Bayley & Pauline Green
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Door Duty

August	3rd	Barbara Jones, Sue Kite, Barry Lawrence
	10th	Deryk Jones, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	17th	Pauline Green, Heather Hughes, Elaine Parkin
	24th	Jean & Les Bayley, Sue Kite
	31st	Barbara Jones, Deryk Jones, Barry Lawrence

Readers

August	3rd	Joyce Holland & Pam Lawrence
	10th	Shelby Ambrose & Marian Davies
	17th	Philip Roper & Barry Lawrence
	24th	Glyn Roper & Deryk Jones
	31st	Fred Foulkes & Pam Lawrence

Prayers of Intercession

August	3rd	Philip Roper
	10th	Pauline Green
	17th	Jean Bayley
	24th	Philip Roper
	31st	Claire Thomas

Sound System

Elaine Parkin
Elaine Parkin
Marian Davies
Elaine Parkin
Marian Davies

Church Flowers

August	3rd	Barbara Jones
	10th	Joyce Holland
	17th	
	24th	
	31st	

Duty Elder

September	7th	Fred Foulkes
	14th	Sue Kite
	21st	Marian Davies
	28th	Pauline Green

Communion Elders

September	7th	Shelby Ambrose & Elaine Parkin
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Door Duty

September	7th	Pauline Green, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	14th	Jean & Les Bayley, Elaine Parkin
	21st	Heather Hughes, Barbara Jones, Barry Lawrence
	28th	Deryk Jones, Sue Kite, Glyn Roper

Readers

September	7th	Marian Davies & Jean Bayley
	14th	Shelby Ambrose & Philip Roper
	21st	Glyn Roper & Deryk Jones
	28th	Barry Lawrence & Fred Foulkes

Prayers of Intercession

September	7th	Barry Lawrence
	14th	Sue Kite
	21st	Jean Bayley
	28th	Pauline Green

Sound System

Heather Hughes
Marian Davies
Elaine Parkin
Marian Davies

Church Flowers

September	7th	Heather Hughes
	14th	
	21st	Sue Kite
	28th	Anne Foulkes