

PRENTON NEWS

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



**OCTOBER &
NOVEMBER 2025**

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Church & Community Activities

Monday	1 st Tranmere Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	5.00 p.m.
Tuesday	Guitar 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.
Thursday	Creative Writing Group	7.30 p.m.

Donations towards the cost of the magazine would be appreciated

FROM THE MANSE

TACKLING THE ROOT CAUSE OR MANAGING THE SYMPTOMS

I seem to be spending more time at the doctors these days, a sign that old age is well and truly encroaching (some might say it has already encroached). That said, the doctor is working wonders.

My cholesterol is well managed with statins, and my blood pressure is controlled with a cocktail of tablets. All of this means that I can carry on as normal, doing and eating all of those things which, in excess, are bad for my body. So, I can carry on eating as much fatty food as I like thanks to the statins and as much salty food as I can manage thanks to the blood pressure tablets.

Of course, you know, and I know that the tablets will in time cease to have an effect if I continue to live an unhealthy lifestyle and there will come a point sooner or later when I must consider a change in lifestyle.

As we continue to consider what it means to be a healthy church it is not enough for us to try and manage those things that might make us unhealthy, we might need to change. Just like me trying to manage my high cholesterol and blood pressure there must come a point when I must tackle the problem at the root cause rather than pretending that everything is alright. In the coming weeks we will meet for a Vision Day on Saturday 1st November, (more details nearer the date) when we can have a critical look at our lifestyle as a church and consider what, if anything, needs to change.

My hope is, that rather than being an onerous process this will be both an exciting and positive meeting which I hope as many of you as possible will attend.

God has a purpose yet for us and the journey together will be an exciting one.

God bless.

Jeff.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

Elaine Parkin has changed her E-Mail address which is now emp5542@gmail.com and hopefully will be moving into her new flat soon.

Both **Anne and Fred Foulkes** have had falls recently. Anne fell whilst they were away and has her left arm in a sling and Fred fell after they got home. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Mary Thomson celebrated her 90th birthday in August. Mary was a loyal Church Member for a long time and she brought Anne & Fred to Prenton URC.

Mary was a member of the Monday Group and also the catering committee, many years ago!

When her husband died, she moved to Dumfries in Scotland to be nearer their daughter. She is now in a Nursing Home and Anne & Fred visited her in August; she looked well but unfortunately is bedridden. However, she still reads the Prenton News, so a belated Happy Birthday Mary.

We continue to remember in our prayers, all 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.

THANK YOU



Our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Wednesday 24th September, raised £170.00. Our thanks to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause.



On behalf of everyone at Wirral Churches' Ark Project, I would like to extend our deepest thanks to your generous donation of £200 to support our work with those experiencing homelessness.

Your kindness and compassion are truly appreciated - not only by our team, but most importantly by the residents whose lives you are helping to rebuild. Every contribution makes a real difference, and yours will go directly toward providing shelter, support, and hope to those who need it most.

It is heartening to know that communities like yours continue to stand with us in our mission to offer dignity, care and opportunity to those facing hardship. Your support is a powerful reminder of the strength of faith in action.

Thank you once again for your generosity and for being part of the journey toward a brighter future for our residents.

With gratitude and warm regards,
Rachel Murdock
Corporate & Community Fundraiser



Aurelia,
Alta Verapaz region
of Guatemala

Thank you so much for your incredible support, prayers and generosity this Christian Aid Week. Together, Prenton URC has raised £310.00 to help families around the world transform their own lives.

Your generous gift will help women like Aurelia in Guatemala. When Aurelia discovered the work of our partner, Congcoop, she put herself forward to attend the specialist agricultural training on offer, along with 22 members of nearby communities.

By working with Congcoop, Aurelia's gained the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. She's producing her own organic fertiliser, creating nurseries, constructing rainwater collection systems and making nutritious food and medicine for her chickens. Congcoop also provided Aurelia with seeds and tools.

Together, we can be more like Aurelia and put the unstoppable power of hope into action because a brighter, fairer future is possible.

Thank you, Prenton URC for your life changing gift. It gives us hope that, together, we can help more families push back against poverty.

With heartfelt thanks,
Your Christian Aid Week Team

FABRIC REPORT

Thanks to everyone who has been helping to keep the Church gardens looking good. Jeff for cutting the hedges and a couple of people have been cutting the lawns and others have been looking after the plants.

We had two very good donations which have enable us to purchase a new all-purpose garden strimmer and a new lawn mower.

We will be having a garden tidy up in late September or early October.

A big Thank You to Jeff & Heather and all the helpers for their Open House on a very wet and windy Saturday afternoon on the 30th August. The barbecue and food were excellent and much appreciated.

Fred

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

It has been the tradition for all God's people to thank Him for his provision to us and to celebrate harvest.

We are no exception and will be holding our Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday 5th October when we will be offering the first fruits.

This will be followed by a Harvest Thanksgiving lunch at church following the morning service.

All are welcome but there will be a limited number of places so book your place early.

There is no charge for the meal but if you wish you can make a donation to cover the cost with any additional monies going to support our Harvest charities; Charles Thompson Mission and the Wirral Foodbank.

THE STORY OF THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR

In 1916 the Rev David Railton, a Chaplain at the Front, noticed a grave in a garden in Armentières with a rough cross bearing the words: "An Unknown British Soldier". After the war, in 1920, he suggested that Britain honour its unknown war dead officially.

Between four and six bodies were exhumed from four battle areas, the Aisne, the Somme, Arras and Ypres. The remains were covered with Union Flags and brought to the chapel at St Pol. Brigadier General L J Wyatt, who was the commander of British troops in France and Flanders then selected one. The officers placed the body in a plain coffin made of oak from Hampton Court, and it was transported to Dover on the destroyer HMS Verdun.

On the morning of 11 November 1920, the Unknown Warrior was drawn through crowd lined streets on a gun carriage in a procession to the Cenotaph where King George V placed a wreath on the coffin.

At 11.00 a.m. the nation observed the Two Minute Silence and then the body was taken to Westminster Abbey and buried.

The grave contains soil from France and is covered by a slab of black Belgian marble, inscribed with these words from the Bible:

'They buried him among the Kings because he had done good toward God and toward his house.'

(2 Chronicles 24:16)

Within the first week an estimated 1,250,000 people filed past the Unknown Warrior to pay their respects to all the unidentified war dead. It is now one of the most visited war graves in the world and is the only part of the Abbey floor that is never walked on.

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, was the first Royal bride to lay her bouquet on the black Belgian marble slab.

At all ceremonies of Remembrance we hear the words:

*'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.'*

This stanza was in the poem For the Fallen composed on the Cornish cliffs by Laurence Binyon in September 1914.



This year Remembrance Sunday is November 9th and our service will start at 10.45 a.m. so that we can observe the Two Minutes Silence at 11 a.m.



There is a short Service of Remembrance at the Prenton War Memorial at the junction of Prenton Lane and Osmaston Road, also starting at 10.45 a.m.

A vision without a task is a dream. A task without a vision is drudgery. But the two together are the hope of the world.

A pile of rocks ceases to be a pile of rocks when somebody contemplates it with a cathedral in mind.



PUDSEY PIE AND PUDDING NIGHT

*Friday 28th November 2025
6.00 p.m.*

Come along and enjoy a great time of fun, food and fellowship as we raise funds for Children in Need.



Savoury Pies,
Sweet Puddings,
Quiz, Raffle and
maybe a bit of
Entertainment.

All welcome, come along with all the family
and generous donations!

(Bring your own bottle)

REMEMBERING SERVICE

November is a month of remembering and in addition to our Remembrance Sunday service we will also be hosting a Remembering Service.

This will be a quiet and reflective service when we pause to remember loved ones who have passed away.

The service will be held on **Sunday 16th November, 2025 at 4.00pm**

Please speak to Jeff for further information.

SOME MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Thursday December 4th

Mingle at the Manse
from 6.00 p.m.

Sunday December 14th
Our Toy Service at 11.00 a.m.
with Ray Craig



Friday December 19th

Christmas Lunch
12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m.
at The Masonic Temple,
Clifton Road, Birkenhead
Cost the same as last
year - £25.00

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2025

OCTOBER			
Wednesday	1st	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	<i>Warm Welcome Space</i> Coffee Morning Lunch House Group at the Manse
Friday	3rd	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Saturday	4th	10.00 a.m.	Decorate the Church for Harvest
Sunday	5th	11.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m.	Harvest Festival Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes Church Lunch
Monday	6th	10.00 a.m.	Distribute Harvest Gifts
Tuesday	7th	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday	8th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	<i>Warm Welcome Space</i> Coffee Morning Lunch House Group at the Manse
SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE CHURCH HALL UNTIL THE SPRING			
Sunday	12th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Bernie Frost
Wednesday	15th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	<i>Warm Welcome Space</i> Coffee Morning Lunch
Sunday	19th	11.00 a.m.	Mission Aviation Fellowship Stan & Anne Chedzoy
Saturday	25th	Clocks go back an hour this evening	
Sunday	26th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor
Wednesday	29th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	<i>Warm Welcome Space</i> Coffee Morning Lunch House Group at the Manse

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2025

NOVEMBER			
Saturday	1st	9.30 a.m. 1.00 p.m.	Vision Day in the Hall followed by by Faith Lunch
Sunday	2nd	11.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes Church Meeting
Tuesday	4th	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday	5th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 2.00 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Bonfire Night Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch Shoebox Packing House Group at the Manse
Sunday	9th	10.45 a.m. 10.45 a.m.	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Prenton War Memorial In Church. Rev Jeff Hughes
Wednesday	12th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch House Group at the Manse
Sunday	16th	11.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m.	Mrs Marian Davies Remembering Service Copy for the December 2025 & January 2026 Magazine
Wednesday	19th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch House Group at the Manse
Sunday	23rd	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor
Wednesday	26th	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 7.00 p.m.	Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning Lunch House Group at the Manse
Friday	28th	1.00 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies Pie & Pudding Night in aid of Children in Need
Sunday	30th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes

FROM THE PEWS

I have been off on my travels again, but only for a short break.

When I came back from my cruise in May, I popped into my travel agent to tell him about my experiences on the Queen Anne and as I was leaving I casually asked “Does anyone do a trip down to King Charles’ Highgrove Gardens in Gloucestershire?”

“Leave it with me” he said, “and I’ll let you know.”

Within a couple of hours, he phoned to say David Ogden of St Helens did a three day short break and it was on Sunday 24th August, and he had checked that there were single rooms available. The price included entry into Highgrove Gardens followed by lunch there.

“Book it,” I said “and I’ll be down this afternoon to pay you.”

I did not tell my fellow intrepid travellers, Elaine and Pauline, because I thought that their knees would not be able to cope with a two hour walk around the garden on uneven and possibly slippery surfaces!!

On Sunday 24th August, I was collected from home by a eight seater minibus and taken to Lymm Service Station. The other seven passengers on the minibus were going to Northumberland. The two coaches were waiting for us and the “Highgrove” coach only had twenty seven passengers - plenty of room to stretch my legs.

Our itinerary was that we stopped on the way down at Tewkesbury for four hours before going on to our hotel in Swindon.

On the Monday morning we would go into Cirencester for three hours before proceeding to Highgrove where we would have a tour of the gardens accompanied by a member of staff from the Garden Management Team followed by lunch and then time to spend some money in the shop before returning to our hotel. Our tickets were timed for 1 p.m. so it would be a “late” lunch.

On the Tuesday morning we would be taken to Bath for the morning and would leave in the early afternoon for our journey home.

Tewkesbury has a lovely Abbey and we were dropped off there where we were able to get refreshments in the Abbey café.

Cirencester was only just “waking up” when we arrived on the Monday morning, and this time we had a little walk down to the Market Square where the magnificent Parish Church is situated and a craft market was open and in the Parish Church there was a Church shop and a local artists exhibition.

We left Cirencester at 12.15 p.m. for the short drive through Tetbury to Highgrove.

On arrival at the entrance gate, we were joined by a gentleman who was telling our driver, Paul, about the route into the Gardens.

It was a single lane driveway, with no passing places, and overhanging trees which were banging on the coach roof and the bushes banging on the coach windows so you can imagine how wide the roadway was! The first thing we saw were the three elephants outside the entrance hallway to the Orchard Room, which are a tribute to the Queen Consort’s brother Mark.



We were split into two groups and the first one went off fifteen minutes before my group. A lady welcomed us to the gardens on behalf of His Majesty and asked everyone to switch off their mobile phones and put any cameras away before going through the big green gate into the actual gardens.

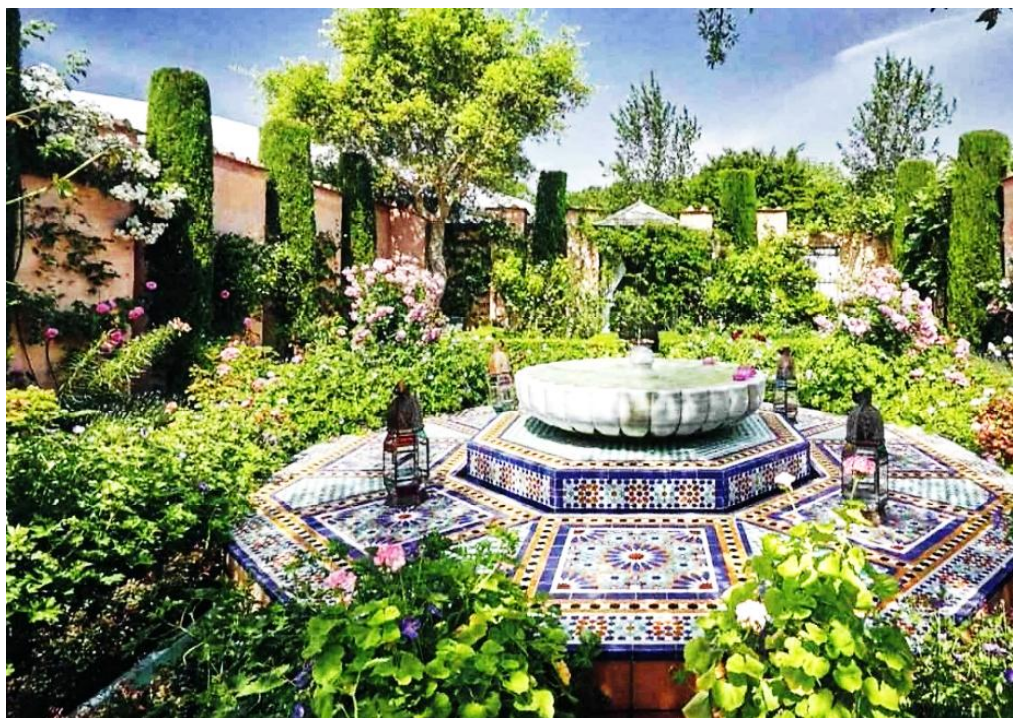
Our guide was Rob, and by now it was extremely hot and the saying “Mad dogs and English men go out in the midday sun” was appropriate. I had applied sun cream on all my bare skin; I had my sun hat on and my walking stick at the ready because the tour was approximately two hours. However, there was a very welcome water station in the Kitchen garden.

The garden is divided into “rooms” with a gate in and another gate out, so the last one in or out, had to shut the gate!

We went through the big green gate into the Cottage gardens, followed by the Mediterranean garden, past the Pergola and the Oak Pavilion; along the Terrace which is at the rear of Highgrove House with the Thyme Walk on our right hand side.

Next was the Sundial garden, which is adjacent to the house and in to the Hornbeam Avenue which took us to the Azalea Walk and the Kitchen gardens. From there we went through the Winterbourne garden to the Stumpery (quite spooky!) and on to the Lily Pond which is at the bottom of the Thyme Walk and finally into the Carpet Garden, which is alongside the Orchard Room.

The Carpet Garden was inspired by a Turkish carpet in the house and had won a silver gilt medal at the 2001 Chelsea Flower Show. It is, in many ways, a very English garden with scented roses, hydrangeas, and geraniums, but with the shapes and colours of the Turkish carpet.



The Carpet Garden



The Sundial Garden



The Orchard Room & Patio

This was the end of our conducted tour and we went into the Orchard Room for our lunch, after which we had some free time to go into the shop as well as

being able to take some photographs and at 4.30 p.m. we headed back to our hotel in Swindon.



This grass looks as bad as my lawn

On the Tuesday morning we went to Bath. We stopped by the Abbey and were joined by a Blue Badge Guide who took our coach on a tour of the City and up towards Combe Down where we had a panoramic view of Bath.

We returned to the Abbey and had four hours free time. I found a lovely café called The Bath Bun where I had coffee and then did some shopping in a proper old fashioned sweet shop where there were rows and rows of jars with all the sweets we enjoyed as children such as sherbet lemons, barley sugars etc. I then found a Fudge Shop where I sampled and bought their latest flavour - Lemon Meringue!



I returned to the Bath Bun café for lunch with Kathryn, who was from Eccles, (they don't make Eccles cakes in Eccles any more) and I had one of their specialities, a Bath Bun filled with cream and strawberries absolutely delicious! I also bought a "take away" Bath Bun to put my own filling in when I got home, but I forgot to look for any Bath Oliver cheese biscuits.

The traffic from Bath to Lymm was horrendous especially trying to get from the M5 on to the M6 and we had to stop at Hilton Park Service Station for Paul to have his 45 minute break, and I got home at 8.30 p.m. I really enjoyed the three days and I would like to go again in April or June when the gardens will look totally different.

We, three intrepid travellers, might be off again in 2026 as Elaine would like to go to the Beamish Museum and Pauline mentioned something about Bristol and Buckingham Palace is opening in the Spring with a display of Queen Elizabeth II clothes including the bridesmaid's dress she wore at the wedding of her Uncle George, Duke of Kent, to Princess Marina of Greece in 1934.

Margaret

On Nytol
sleep aid:
Warning may
cause
drowsiness

On Boot's Children's
Cough Medicine:
Do not drive car or
operate machinery.

This story is about a preacher who was getting forgetful in his old age. He had gone to assess a young preacher training for the ministry. The young man gets up to preach, “I have an admission to make”; suddenly everyone sits up and starts to listen for the potential gossip, “I have slept in the arms of a woman who was not my wife”, there were gasps all round and a few tuts and a murmur rippled throughout the congregation. “I have slept in the arms of a woman who was not my wife”, the preacher continued, “It was my mother”. Realising the joke people began to laugh as a huge sigh of relief rippled through the congregation. The old preacher was really impressed by the way this young man had grabbed the congregation’s attention that he decides to use the story next time he preached.

So, a couple of weeks later the old preacher takes to the pulpit, “I have an admission to make”, so far so good, he’s grabbed the congregation’s attention and everyone is listening, “I have slept in the arms of a woman who was not my wife”, everyone is listening now and murmurs spread across the gathered worshipers, but the old preacher pauses, scratching his head, “I have slept in the arms of a woman who was not my wife but for the life of me, I can’t remember who she was!”

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HYMNS?

Dentist's hymn	Crown Him with many crowns
Weatherman's hymn	There shall be Showers of Blessings
Contractor's hymn	The Church's One Foundation
Tailor's hymn	Holy, Holy, Holy
Golfer's hymn	There is a green hill far away

ROTAS FOR OCTOBER 2025

Duty Elder

October	5th	Jean Bayley
	12th	Elaine Parkin
	19th	Fred Foulkes
	26th	Shelby Ambrose

Communion Elders

October	5th	Jean Bayley & Fred Foulkes
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Door

October	5th	Barbara Jones, Barry Lawrence, Elaine Parkin
	12th	Jean & Les Bayley, Pauline Green
	19th	Deryk Jones, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	26th	Barbara Jones, Sue Kite, Elaine Parkin

Readers

October	5th	Joyce Holland & Pam Lawrence
	12th	Philip Roper & Marian Davies
	19th	Shelby Ambrose & Jean Bayley
	26th	Fred Foulkes & Glyn Roper

Prayers of Intercession

October	5th	Philip Roper
	12th	Claire Thomas
	19th	Sue Kite
	26th	Jean Bayley

Sound System

Marian Davies

Church

October	5th	Harvest
	12th	Elaine Parkin
	19th	Pam Lawrence
	26th	Peter Carroll

ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Duty Elder

November	2nd	Sue Kite
	9th	Pauline Green
	16th	Jean Bayley
	23rd	Marian Davies
	30th	Shelby Ambrose

Communion Elders

November	2nd	Marian Davies & Sue Kite
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Door Duty

November	2nd	Jean & Les Bayley, Heather Hughes
	9th	Barry Lawrence, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper
	16th	Barbara Jones, Deryk Jones, Pauline Green
	23rd	Sue Kite, Barry Lawrence, Elaine Parkin
	30th	Heather Hughes, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper

Readers

November	2nd	Deryk Jones & Pam Lawrence
	9th	Joyce Holland & Marian Davies
	16th	Philip Roper & Barry Lawrence
	23rd	Shelby Ambrose & Glyn Roper
	30th	Pam Lawrence & Jean Bayley

Prayers of Intercession

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

Church Flowers

November	2nd	Barbara Jones
	9th	Margaret Meade
	16th	Glyn & Philip Roper
	23rd	Jean Bayley
	30th	