

PRENTON NEWS

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



**AUGUST & SEPTEMBER
2026**

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Church & Community Activities

Monday	1 st Tranmere Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	5.00 p.m.
Tuesday	Guitar Jam Group	6.30 p.m.
Wednesday	Welcome Space	
	Coffee	10.30 a.m.
	Lunch	12.00 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

LIFE GIVING WATER.

Well, what a contrast to my last letter. At the end of May most people had winter jumpers on and the central heating as I spoke of the promise of the gentle warmth of June. So much for my prediction as I sit to write this letter during a heatwave.

The promise of spending more time outdoors in order to closer experience God's diversity in Creation has been curtailed by those who would tell us to stay inside and out of the sun. Whilst many of us enjoy the sun and the warmth it brings it is right for some to sound a note of caution because too much heat can indeed leave us weary and longing for shade and refreshment.

Last time I wrote about Green Pastures and Quiet Waters and the need of rest and refreshment as I pointed to Psalm 23 and spoke about the God who leads us beside still waters in order to restore our souls. It's not only the Psalmist who reminds us of the need of water, almost every commentator on TV is beckoning us to drink more water - they have even introduced water breaks during the World Cup games this year - so vital it is to keep hydrated.

The current heatwave is a reminder of those who find such conditions difficult: the elderly, the unwell, carers, and those who may be lonely or isolated. As followers of Christ, we are called to look out for one another with kindness and practical care. A phone call, a visit, or simply checking that someone has enough water and companionship can be a quiet expression of God's love.

When Jesus met the Samaritan Woman at the well, they had a conversation about water and the need of it. Jesus told her of the life-giving water and said, "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst" (John 4:14). Beneath our physical need for refreshment lies a deeper thirst that only Christ can satisfy. He invites us to come to Him and find rest, peace, and renewed strength.

Whatever your plans this summer - whether you are travelling, staying close to home, or simply enjoying the beauty of God's creation - I pray that you may know the Lord's blessing and His refreshing presence. And, as you drink a glass of water, so readily available; as you enjoy it's refreshment let us also remember the words of Jesus, 'Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' (John 4:14)

God bless.
Jeff.

CEREMONY OF THE CHURCH

FUNERAL

On Thursday 23rd July 2026

the Rev Jeff Hughes conducted the Service

at Landican Crematorium

for

MARY WILKIE SEGAR

We send our sincere condolences, sympathy and love to **Claire, her family and friends** on the death of her grandmother.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of our former Minister, the **Rev Richard Hambly** and we send our sincere condolences, sympathy and love to his wife, **Mary, and Mark, Oliver and Victoria** and their families at this sad time.

Richard's funeral was on 28th July 2026 at Landican and Christ Church, Port Sunlight and Rev Jeff Hughes was invited to take part in these Services.

Pauline Green and **Deryk Jones** have both had their "delayed" surgery and both have gone to stay with their daughters as they recuperate. We look forward to welcoming them back to the Wirral and Church.

Gwen Kerr is home from hospital and has a "care package" in place.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost members of their family as well as the members of our fellowship who are unable to join us on a Sunday morning.

HOUSE GROUP

The House Group which meets on a Wednesday evening at the Manse at 7.00 p.m. has now paused for the summer and is due to re-commence on Wednesday 30th September.

CHURCH SUMMER LUNCH

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped to put our lunch together when Pauline was "out of action" and in particular to Jen, a regular at our coffee mornings, who took on the task of making the sandwiches. Your help was much appreciated.

MARY WILKIE SEGAR

10th October 1927 - 5th July 2026

Mary was born in Auchinloch, Scotland to Murdoch and Eleanora Munro.

One of 10 children she grew up in that area, in beautiful surroundings just north east of Glasgow. Being a Protestant and a Royalist, Mary was obviously a Rangers football fan and very proud of her Scottish roots.

Mary met Clifford sometime near the end of the Second World War, when he was stationed close to where she lived. He proposed to her at the cinema watching Miracle on 34th Street.

Whilst most of her family stayed around the Auchinloch, Kirkintilloch and Lenzie area, Mary and Clifford moved south, initially to Liverpool where they had their two children Raymond and Evelynne. Mary loved a full name and so again for introductions it was always Raymond and Evelynne (pronounced EVElynne not Evlynne - you had to pronounce the second E!).

She was extremely proud of both of them. Raymond and his beautiful family with Dorothy, and children, Paul and David, his career, and not forgetting his time in the band Rondo! And Evelynne with her dancing, and a career as a teacher, and her beautiful family with Ian, and children Claire and Kathryn. For the grandchildren Mary and Clifford were known as Gran and Grandfather - never granddad, and Great Grandchildren Max, Isobelle and Libby.

At the start of the 70s, Mary and the family moved from

Liverpool to the Wirral when Clifford was appointed foreman on some new housing projects on the Wirral. So the family made a new home in Marston Close, Oxton - that was important, Oxton not Prenton! And Mary set up a very happy home there.

Mary always retained her Scottish accent and had very fond and happy memories of growing up in Scotland.

She was an avid gardener and writer; she loved writing poems and stories and had an amazing imagination. When the grandchildren were young, she used to tell them stories about the puddocks (Scottish for frogs) and other creatures in the garden!

Mary was an extremely intelligent, strong-minded lady going to Oxford University on her own in her 70s, to complete a course!

She loved a wee cup of tea and a rich tea biscuit at elevenses and if there's one thing Mary was famous for it was lunches for her grandchildren of skips and ham!

Mary was a huge Royalist and loved anything to do with the royal family, but especially the late Queen, and she was lucky enough to be invited to attend some events in Liverpool, when the Queen was in attendance which was something she was very proud of.

Mary started attending Prenton URC, later becoming a Church Member and Elder. Faith meant a huge amount to her, and she was actively involved in the church, until the Covid lock downs and her developing dementia prevented her from attending church.

After Clifford passed away, Mary continued living in the family home at Marston Close, until 2020 when she moved to Nazareth House due to her developing dementia, where she was cared for by an amazing team. She became very settled there, and the grandchildren have some lovely memories of going to visit her there when they had singing and dancing sessions, (Mary loved to dance), and when the “Bird Man” was in on her birthday, an owl that flew right by her head!

From Jeff

On a personal note. I knew of Mary long before I became Minister at Prenton URC as, apparently, she used to spend weekends away with my Father-in-Law on a theological training course. And then later I came across Mary again, as my youngest son was taught by Evelynne who attended my Mother-in-Law’s church in Maghull - small world.

All that said I think we should leave the final word to Mary herself from information she had written for her funeral director: “I was known as May, and I was born in Scotland. I married my loving husband Clifford, and we had a loving and beautiful relationship and two wonderful and loving children, Evelynne and Raymond.

My family meant everything to me. Sadly Clifford, Evelynne and Raymond have all passed away. Since they sadly left me, I have been very well cared for by my beautiful Granddaughter Claire. She and her family have meant everything to me.

I loved to garden, and I was a member of the Women's Institute. I also loved the Royal Family, and I liked to write.

The church was very important to me and I was an Elder at Prenton United Reformed. I was a retired Solicitor's Clerk.”
God bless you Mary.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY SEGAR

Many of you, worshipping with us now, will not know Mary. She became a member at Prenton in May 1983 and was with us until her death on July 5th. She had not been able to worship with us for many years, but while she was here she was an active member, joining in many activities.

She was a keen supporter of “Time to Pray”, a group started when Richard Hambly became our Minister. She became an Elder and started to do a course to become a lay preacher. Sadly, her husband became ill and she had to give that up to care for him. She led services for us and always focused on Mission.

Mary was a gentle, unassuming lady, who loved people. She was not someone who ever complained about her lot. I was her Elder for some years and she was a positive lady even though she not only lost her husband, but, sadly, also her son and her daughter. Eventually she succumbed to a form of Alzheimer's. She stopped answering the door and could no longer be found in her garden, which she loved. Pam, who was her Elder before I was, and I both had similar experiences. Sometimes she answered the door, but sometimes she didn't and she seemed to live with the curtains closed, which was particularly unusual as she loved to be outside in her garden, working, not sitting!

For some time we did not know where to find her, but Jeff did some detective work and found she had gone to

Nazareth House. We were pleased when her grand-daughter contacted Jeff and asked him to take her funeral service.

As a fellowship we give thanks for the service she gave to Prenton and those of us who knew her will remember her kindness and her positive attitude.

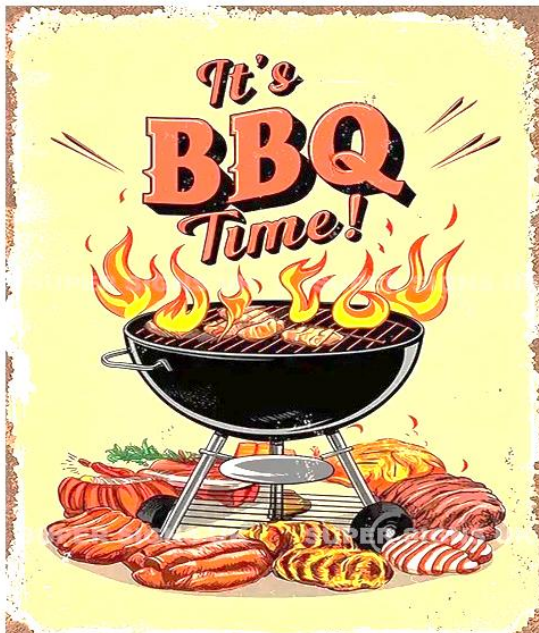
Jean

Jeff and Heather's Open House

Saturday 5th September

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

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



We hope that the weather will be good so that we can enjoy a BBQ and time in the garden.

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.

Jeff and Heather x

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 23rd September 2026

10.30 a.m. 'til 12 Noon

Please come along and join us to

Meet with friends.

Drink some coffee (or tea).

Eat and/or buy cake.

And make a generous donation

so together we can

Raise lots of money for

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

at Prenton United Reformed Church



SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER 2026

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

This year we will be celebrating
the Goodness of God at Harvest time
during our Service of Worship.

The Service will be followed by a lunch.
All are welcome, so invite a friend (or two!),
and bring them along
to the Service at 11.00 a.m.
and
encourage them to stay and join us
for lunch.

Harvest gifts of food or money
will be donated to
Charles Thompson's Mission and the Foodbank





Christmas Shoe Box Appeal!

I know that Christmas may seem quite far away, but I would be grateful if you would start thinking about it now, it will be on us before we know it!

We have a great start, (a member from Wallasey Village is on a mission to bring me a carrier bag full nearly every week!) Please collect things over the next 2 months and bring them to church, we'll store them there.

So, please collect face cloths, toothbrushes and combs or small hairbrushes, also small cuddly toys, games, toys, small dolls, cars, balls (tennis ball size - but not 'pet' balls please) and skipping ropes, playing cards, dominoes and such like, these maybe more available during the summer months.

We do have a lot of notebooks, pens and pencils, but we will need crayons, fibre tipped pens and small colouring books.

If you like to knit or sew then hats, gloves and scarves are always needed.

Please note, we **CANNOT** include sweets, soap, liquids or toothpaste.

If you are not able to bring or make things, Pam or I will be glad to take a monetary donation to buy the things we need.

Please ask me if you would like more information.

Thank you for your generosity,
Heather x

DIARY FOR AUGUST 2026

AUGUST			
Sunday	2nd	11.00 a.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes
Tuesday	4th	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God at Sue Kite's
Wednesday	5th	<i>Welcome Space with Coffee & Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</i>	
Thursday	6th	12.30 p.m.	Wedding. Gaynor Trowler & Martin Waller
Sunday	9th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs Sue Kite & Mr Fred Foulkes
Wednesday	12th	<i>Welcome Space with Coffee & Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</i>	
Sunday	16th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Jeff Hughes
Tuesday	18th	11.00 a.m.	The Prenton Prayers
Sunday	23rd	11.00 a.m.	Mr Ron Taylor
Wednesday	26th	<i>Welcome Space with Coffee & Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</i>	
Sunday	30th	11.00 a.m.	Dr Philip Roper
Monday	31st		Bank Holiday

A preacher was completing his temperance sermon and with great expression he said, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.'

With even greater emphasis he said, 'And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.'

And then, finally, he said, 'And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river.'

He sat down.

The song leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, 'For our closing song, let us sing Hymn 365: "Shall we gather at the River?"'

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

SEPTEMBER			
Tuesday	1st	1.00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting at the Manse
Wednesday	2nd	Welcome Space with Coffee & Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.	
Saturday	5th	2.00 p.m.	Open House at the Manse
Sunday	6th	11.00 a.m.	Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes
		12.30 p.m.	Church Meeting
Tuesday	8th	1.30 p.m.	Conversations with God
Wednesday	9th	Welcome Space with Coffee & Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.	
Sunday	13th	11.00 a.m.	Macmillan Support. Mrs Pauline Green & Mrs Marian Davies
			Items required for the October & November Church Magazine
Tuesday	15th	11.00 a.m.	The Prenton Pray-ers
Wednesday	16th	Welcome Space with Coffee & Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.	
Friday	18th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Sunday	20th	11.00 a.m.	Rev Geoff Felton. Moderator
Wednesday	23rd	10.30 a.m.	Macmillan Coffee Morning No Lunch
Friday	25th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Sunday	27th	11.00 a.m.	Mr Steven Hand
Wednesday	30th	Welcome Space with Coffee & Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.	
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
OCTOBER			
Saturday	3rd	10.00 a.m.	Decorate the Church for Harvest
Sunday	4th	11.00 a.m.	Harvest Festival & Holy Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes

REV RICHARD HENRY HAMBLY

15th November 1935 - 26th June 2026

Richard was born in Bournemouth to Edna & Frank. Frank was an unreliable man, absent more than he was present, so it was his mother who raised him. He spent some of the war years with his grandma in Mablethorpe, in Lincolnshire.

When he returned to Bournemouth in 1943 it was to find that he had a baby sister, Maureen. As her big brother, Richard looked out for her and encouraged her in many of her life choices.

Having started school in Mablethorpe, Richard then settled into St. Pauls Church of England Junior School and then passed his 11 plus for Bournemouth Grammar School for Boys. He was sent to Sunday School at East Cliff Congregational Church, which gave him some stability and a sense of purpose. He joined the Cubs and followed through the Scout movement becoming a Cub leader. He joined the Pilots, the youth movement of the Congregational church, and youth club.

Richard left school at 16 and joined the RAF, 69th entry of apprentices at Halton, one of Trenchard's "brats". He thoroughly enjoyed service life. Although Richard was not sporty he took up fencing and target shooting and represented Halton in both. Along with the other apprentices he lined part of the route for Queen Elizabeth's coronation, something he was very proud of.

Over the next six years he was posted to Cyprus and then Duxford, where he worshipped at the Congregational church in Whittlesford. This was a very special place for him, with a wonderful Minister, Harry Welbourne, who along with his wife welcomed Richard like a son.

It was here that Richard was encouraged to take up lay preaching and served many of the Cambridgeshire village churches.

It was during this time that he went with a group of young Congregationalists to Sweden and so began his love affair with that country. He made friends with several of his Swedish counterparts, and he kept the wheels of friendship well oiled.

In 1959, Richard felt called to the Ministry and was accepted for training at New College, London. Richard would tell you that he was not very academic, but he excelled at Church History and won several prizes and in his last year he was Senior Student.

It was during this time that Richard met Mary, their relationship blossomed and they married in 1963, the same year that Richard was ordained. He accepted the call to Hindhead Congregational Church and Hammer Free Church in Surrey.

Together Richard and Mary ran Pilots at both churches and opened up their Manse for the children of the churches for afternoons of games and picnics. During this time Richard and Mary met Missionaries, home on furlough.

Richard's second pastorate was in two more villages, Elstead and Milford, in Surrey and it was here that Richard was convinced that overseas missionary work was the next step. So, in 1972 along with Mary and their now three children, Mark, Oliver and Victoria, they set off for Samoa with the Council for World Mission (CWM).

Richard was to be the Minister of Apia Protestant Church (APC) an international, interdenominational congregation,

and he supported the Congregational Christian Church in Samoa (CCCS) theological college, and a church high school.

Their time in Samoa was a very special place for the whole family and still crops up regularly in conversations, as they remember people and places and events which had such an impact on their lives.

In 1978 the family returned to the U.K. and Richard became the Minister at Prenton United Reformed Church. His gifts quickly shone through and he proved, that he was a gifted preacher and a dedicated pastor. During his Ministry, Prenton URC thrived and became an integral part of the community.

It was while at Prenton that two interests came to the fore: The Prenton Literary & Debating Society and the Llangollen Railway. One that used his brain and the other his brawn. He applied himself to both with commitment which was his hallmark.

Richard's last years of full-time Ministry were in the Bolton North Group, 12 churches with three ministers. During this time, Richard and Mary travelled to North Carolina, USA on a Ministry exchange. He was asked to stay on there as their Minister but with two young granddaughters to get to know and with retirement on the horizon he reluctantly declined.

It was while in Bolton that Richard was invited to become Chaplain to Wigan Air Training Corps and he jumped at the chance. Each year there was a summer camp at an RAF station for which he was always amongst the first to sign up. He proved popular with the cadets, with many attending his retirement service.

On retirement in 2001, Richard and Mary came back to the Wirral, settling in Bebington. In “retirement” Richard was asked to serve in the Birkenhead Methodist Circuit and for two years was Minister of Irby & Prenton Methodist churches. For many years he was also involved in the life of several Wirral URCs, especially St George’s in Thornton Hough.

Richard re-joined the Prenton Literary & Debating Society and with Mary joined the Mid-Wirral Walking Group. Richard also re-ignited his interest in Scandinavia by attending the Liverpool International Nordic Community’s weekly lunches at the Nordic Church on Park Lane, where he made several new friends.

Richard also took up Scottish Dancing and whilst he was enthusiastic and looked good in a kilt he never quite got the hang of the dancing.

When active hobbies became too challenging Richard found comfort in music, and reading biographies, history, and anything transport-related to do with planes or trains.

When Richard became more frail, he moved to Elderholme in the grounds of Clatterbridge Hospital. He settled there very quickly and was lovingly cared for.

Richard touched and shaped so many lives in so many different ways with many speaking of his dependability, his generosity, his wisdom, his ability to listen rather than to speak, his gentle approach and his considered, thoughtful reaction to any situation. He led by example. He was a gentleman and an inspirational Minister.

God Bless you Richard and thank you for your example.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REV RICHARD HAMBLY

Richard was Minister at Prenton from 1979 to 1993 and along with his wife, Mary, they very quickly became well loved and respected members of our fellowship. It was lovely to have a young family in the Manse and we all appreciated the care, encouragement and help they brought with them.

They came to us after serving as Missionaries in Samoa, so life was very different and must have been a big challenge. They had never lived, or considered living in the north, but must have seen something in our presentation that was attractive, (Merseyside did not have a particularly good press at the time) as they came to “preach with a view” and accepted our call, much to our delight.

I remember Richard telling me at one time that he was expecting to stay in Prenton until retirement, but his sabbatical took him back to Samoa and his “*tropical storm*” experience called him to pastures new.

Every Minister brings new and different ideas, so Prenton moved forward again. We already had three different lady’s groups and a thriving drama group, our choir and a youth choir, uniformed organisations and a youth fellowship. Mary set up a group to make banners. We still display them at the relevant times along with the pulpit and lectern falls.

Time to Pray became a weekly addition and a Lunch Club, where our members served lunch to those sent by Social services. Richard and Mary always joined in with whatever they could and he was known for his pastoral care. He went to choir practice every week and persuaded all the choir members to choose the hymns that they wanted at their funerals!

He was active in The Churches Together in Prenton group and helped set up a Joint Men's Group which had members from the Anglican, Methodist and URC churches. This group started our annual Thanksgiving dinner, thanks to Richard. The men used to cook the whole meal (turkey etc) themselves and serve it.

He had interests too outside the church. His love of railways, especially the one at Llangollen where he was a volunteer, The Prenton Literary and Debating Society and the local Air Cadets, whose Pastor he became. He had himself been an Air Cadet before joining the RAF.

Richard joined us a few years after we became part of the United Reformed Church and the majority of members from St Paul's became part of our fellowship. Also. he became joint Minister to Thornton Hough as well as Prenton. It was a time of change and challenge but Prenton responded and was a hub for local activities.

He was also, of course, a family man and his family were very important to him. We will remember Richard for his care, service and deep-rooted faith and give thanks for all that he and Mary brought to us. It was a great tribute today to see Christchurch, Port Sunlight so full of people, all giving thanks for his life and service.

Jean

Did you know that certain species of animals like snails, bees and hedgehogs undergo something in summer called aestivation? It is the opposite of hibernation, in a sense – a summer sleep. When temperatures soar, these animals seek cool places to slumber.

HARVEST: REMEMBERING THE GIVER

For many of us, we can easily forget just how dependent we are for our provisions. If we're short of something; a bit of star anise for a special meal or some mangoes for a refreshing dessert, they're there, within easy, convenient reach. But because we buy our food from the supermarkets, our lives can become disconnected from the rhythms of sowing and reaping. Yet the truth remains the same: every loaf of bread, every glass of water, every breath we take is sustained by God's gracious hand.

There is something special about the season of Harvest as we are reminded that we live in a world of God's remarkable provision. There may be over 8 billion people on the earth, but farmers provide in abundance for 15 billion. Harvest Festival gives us an opportunity to pause, to give thanks, and to remember that every good gift ultimately comes from the Lord. The Bible reminds us: "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it." (Psalm 24:1)

Harvest is therefore much more than celebrating a successful agricultural season. It is an opportunity to recognise God's faithful care for all creation and to be encouraged to do the

same. Jesus Himself pointed His followers to the birds of the air and the flowers of the field as evidence of our heavenly Father's loving provision (Matthew 6:25-34). If God cares so faithfully for His creation, how much more does He care for those made in His image?

Of course, Harvest is also a time to remember those who struggle. While many of us enjoy an abundance of food, millions around the world face hunger, poverty, conflict,

and displacement. Even within our own communities, increasing numbers of families rely on food banks and practical support simply to make ends meet. Giving thanks should always lead us to generosity. As we celebrate God's goodness and abundance, we are called to become channels of that goodness and abundance too.

The Apostle Paul encourages believers:

"Whoever sows generously will also reap generously... God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7)

Harvest reminds us that generosity is woven into God's creation. A single seed produces many more. God's blessings are never intended simply to stop with us, but to overflow into the lives of others, that's what the saying 'Charity begins at home' means. So, whether through donating food, supporting relief agencies, helping a neighbour, or simply sharing what we have, we reflect the generous heart of our heavenly Father.

Yet there is an even greater harvest to celebrate. Throughout the New Testament, Harvest becomes a picture of God's saving work in the world. Jesus spoke of "the harvest" as being people ready to hear the good news of the Kingdom (Matthew 9:37-38). As Christians, we are called not only to gather food for those in need but also to pray that many would come to know Christ, the Bread of Life.

Ultimately, every earthly harvest points us towards the greatest gift God has given - His Son, Jesus Christ. Through His death and resurrection, we receive forgiveness, new life, and the promise of an eternal inheritance that can never spoil or fade. Earthly harvests come once a year, but God's grace is available every day.

As we celebrate Harvest this year, which for our church will be on Sunday 4th October may we be filled with gratitude so much that it overflows into generously as we thank God for His daily provision, and rejoice in the abundant life we have received through Christ.

May we be people who not only count our blessings but also become a blessing to those around us.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever." (Psalm 107:1)

God bless.

Jeff.

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both.

As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, "Oh, my God! Help me!

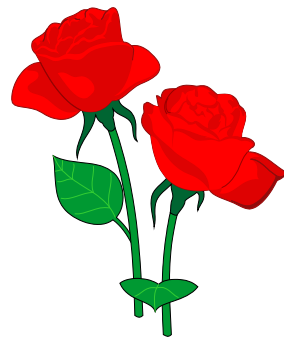
At once the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, "I thought you didn't believe in me!"

"Come on God, give me a break!" the man pleaded. "Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!"

From A Book of Delights. J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books

SONG OF SUMMER

Come sing a song of summer,
Come sing along and dance.
It's time to lift dull spirits,
And if I had the chance,
I'd soar among the swallows,
I'd buzz among the bees,
On thistledown I'd travel.
Afloat upon the breeze.
I'd pick a poppy's petals
To be my summer clothes,
And when I tired of dancing,
I'd sleep within a rose.
Sweet summer, won't you linger?
Please stay, please stay awhile,
For when the sun is shining
The whole world seems to smile.



So many people teach us as we travel through each day,
So many people lead us, guide us back when we're astray,
From nursery to schooldays; at work and in our play
We learn from those around us as they help us on our way.
Yet let us not forget, of course, we too can play our part,
We too can be wise teachers, there's no secret to the art,
We simply have to live our life with kind and loving heart,
For that's the finest lesson that we ever could impart.

Maggie Ingall

ROTAS FOR AUGUST 2026

Duty Elder

August	2nd	Pauline Green
	9th	Sue Kite
	16th	Shelby Ambrose
	23rd	Fred Foulkes
	30th	Elaine Parkin

Communion Elders

August	2nd	Jean Bayley & Sue Kite
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Door Duty

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

Readers

August	2nd	Marian Davies & Glyn Roper
	9th	Philip Roper & Barry Lawrence
	16th	Julien Megraw & Fred Foulkes
	23rd	Shelby Ambrose & Joyce Holland
	30th	Deryk Jones & Pam Lawrence

Prayers of Intercession

August	2nd	Pauline Green
	9th	Sue Kite
	16th	Claire Thomas
	23rd	Philip Roper
	30th	Barry Lawrence

Sound System

Heather Hughes
Marian Davies
Elaine Parkin
Elaine Parkin
Marian Davies

Church Flowers

August	2nd	Barbara Jones
	9th	Joyce Holland
	16th	
	23rd	
	30th	

ROTAS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

Duty Elder

September	6th	Jean Bayley
	13th	Marian Davies
	20th	Pauline Green
	27th	Sue Kite

Communion Elders

September	6th	Shelby Ambrose & Pauline Green
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Door Duty

September	6th	Heather Hughes, Deryk Jones, Elaine Parkin
	13th	Pauline Green, Barbara Jones, Sue Kite
	20th	Jean & Les Bayley, Deryk Jones
	27th	Barry Lawrence, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper

Readers

September	6th	Glyn Roper & Philip Roper
	13th	Jean Bayley & Marian Davies
	20th	Fred Foulkes & Barry Lawrence
	27th	Pam Lawrence & Julien Megraw

Prayers of Intercession

September	6th	Jean Bayley
	13th	Philip Roper
	20th	Pauline Green
	27th	Sue Kite

Sound System

Marian Davies
Marian Davies
Heather Hughes
Elaine Parkin

Church Flowers

September	6th	Heather Hughes
	13th	
	20th	Sue Kite
	27th	Anne Foulkes