

# PRENTON NEWS

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



## JUNE & JULY 2026

## CONTENTS

From the Manse	1
News of the Church Family	3
Prenton Pray-ers	4
Living Faith Now	5
Christian Aid	6
Our Summer Outing	6
How Scotland Was Created	7
Diary for June 2026	8
Diary for July 2026	9
From the Travellers	10
Rotas for June 2026	16
Rotas for July 2026	17

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### Church & Community Activities

Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> 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.
	Align Performing Arts	4.30 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

### GREEN PASTURES AND QUIET WATERS

Friends,

As I write, I'm reminded of the old saying, 'Ne'er cast a clout 'til May is out'. That of course is a warning not to discard winter clothing until the end of May, or until the Hawthorn tree (often called the "May tree") is fully in bloom. How true that is because, as I write, I'm sitting with my winter jumper on and the central heating at full blast, but the sunshine and the newness of life in the garden remind me of the promise of summer.

So, as the gentle warmth of June and July beckon us into longer slower days with moments of rest, we can revel in God's creation as the fields around us and our gardens become alive with colour, and the mornings and evenings, alive with birdsong.

This time of year, especially reminds me of one of that bit in Psalm 23, where it says, "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul."

Green pastures and still waters are the things I pray for, for you, as I know many of you have faced some difficult times recently, with some spending time in hospital and I guess maybe in sore need of some rest and recuperation.

These words from the Psalm are a great comfort through times of joy and sorrow alike, as they speak of God's

invitation to rest. And, in a world that often feels hurried and demanding, the Shepherd leads us to places where our souls can breathe again.

As sheep are nourished and find protection in those green pastures so we too need places where our faith can be fed as we rest under God's protection. Through our prayer, worship, fellowship, and studying of Scripture over the coming months let us take the opportunity to pause and notice where God is sustaining us, even in small and ordinary ways.

Those still waters mentioned to us in the Psalm speak of peace and refreshment. It reminds us that our hearts long for peace amid the noise and anxieties of life. God does not promise a life without difficulty, but He does promise His presence within it. The still waters remind us that Christ meets us in the quiet places, restoring strength we did not realise we had lost.

Perhaps this summer we might all make space for moments of stillness: a walk in the park, sitting quietly in the garden, listening to the rain, or simply taking time each day to pray and give thanks. In these moments, we may discover anew the gentle guidance of the Good Shepherd.

May the coming months bring refreshment to your body, mind, and spirit. And may you know the peace of the One who leads us beside still waters and restores our souls.

God bless.

**Jeff.**

**“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer’s day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.”**

**John Lubbock. Scientist & Philanthropist**

## **NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS**

We send our sincere condolences, sympathy and love to **Donna Birks** and her family on the death of her mother.

**Gwen Kerr** is very poorly and is in hospital and **Ron Taylor** is home following his hip surgery and we hope he will soon be back to his old self.

**Les Bayley** has had his knee operation and Jean is expecting him home by the weekend. **Pauline Green** has had her “pre-op” tests and is awaiting a date for the operation, as well as being in the process of moving house! Pauline will be staying with her daughter in Barnsley until she has the keys to her new home and **Margaret Meade** will be in charge of the Church purse strings in her absence.

**Julie & Tim Jones** are both receiving cancer treatment and we pray that they will have a positive response to the treatment.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the above named for their recovery as we also remember in our prayers the members of our fellowship who are unable to join us on a Sunday morning.

**Shelby’s** mobile telephone number is 07990521174

I recently had an e-mail from James Kealey. Perhaps you will remember that James used to play the organ here at Prenton when a schoolboy of 16. He left us to study the organ at the Royal Holloway University where he was an Organ Scholar for 3 years.

He then went on to study at The Eastman School of Music in New York where he gained his Masters.

He then spent 7 years as Organist and Choirmaster at a busy church in Rochester, a part of New York. He has won many awards throughout the USA and has given many recitals.

He wrote to tell me that he has recently been appointed Director of Music & Fine Arts at the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

He likes to keep in touch and remembers his time at Prenton where he says he was given so much encouragement.

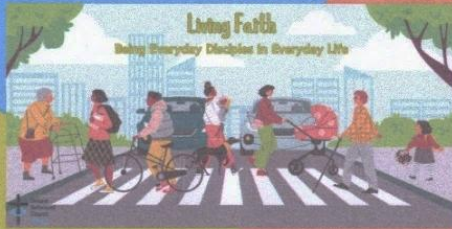
**Shelby.**

### **PRENTON PRAY-ERS**

On Tuesday 19th May, the first meeting of the Prenton Pray-ers took place in the Church. A small group arrived and we sat at the back. I reminded everyone about my plan for this prayer group, and the need for confidentiality. We began with a short prayer. Then each had the opportunity to pray about what was on their mind. At the end, there was time to have a more light-hearted five minutes, choosing to read a Biblical verse from a book about God's promises. We closed with the saying of Grace. The next meeting will be on the third Tuesday in June, the 16th at 11.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. in the church. All are welcome.

**Marian**

Saturday 6th June  
2026



10AM - 12.30PM  
Coffee and Worship  
from 9.30AM

Parkgate and  
Neston URC  
CH64 6UZ

# Living Faith Now



A morning considering how we  
live out our faith each day

Using 2 of LICC's 6 M's:

Modelling Godly Character  
**Debra Green**

Ministering Grace and Love  
**Beth Myring**

Book at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/urc-mersey-synod](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/urc-mersey-synod)



Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to the Christian Aid Week from May 10th to 17th. To date we have received £245.00 and there are further contributions to come in.

Our Annual **“SUMMER OUTING”** will be on Sunday July 19th following our Morning Service and as in recent years, we are not travelling very far - just into the Church Hall - where we will partake of a Picnic Lunch, hopefully with some strawberries or maybe raspberries or maybe both!!

Five surgeons are discussing the best patients to operate on. The first surgeon says, “I like to see accountants on my operating table, because when you open them up, everything inside is numbered.”

The second responds, “Yeah, but you should try electricians! Everything inside them is colour-coded.”

The third surgeon says, “No, I really think filing clerks are the best, everything inside them is in alphabetical order.”

The fourth surgeon chimes in, “You know, I like construction workers. Those guys always understand when you have a few parts left over at the end and when the job takes longer than you said it would.”

But the fifth surgeon shuts them all up when he observes, “You’re all wrong. Politicians are the easiest to operate on. There are no guts, no heart, and no spine, and the head and tail are interchangeable.”



## HOW SCOTLAND WAS CREATED

At the beginning of time God was discussing the creation of the world with the Angel Gabriel. Leaning back in His golden throne, He told him of His plans for Scotland.

"Gabriel," said God "I am going to give Scotland towering mountains and magnificent glens resplendent with purple heather.

Red deer will roam the countryside, golden eagles will circle in the skies, salmon will leap in the crystal-clear rivers and lochs, and the surrounding seas will teem with fish.

Agriculture will flourish and there will be a glorious coming together of water with barley to be known as whisky. Coal, oil and gas - all will be there.

The Scots will be intelligent, innovative, industrious and . . . . "

"Wait a minute!" interrupted Gabriel, "Are you not being just a wee bit too generous to these Scots?"

But the Almighty replied, "Not really. I haven't told you yet who their neighbours are going to be!"

One of my Scottish friends gave me a tea towel which had the above information on it!!

## DIARY FOR JUNE 2026

<b>JUNE</b>			
Wednesday	3rd	<i>Warm Welcome Space with Coffee &amp; Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</i>	
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
Friday	5th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
Saturday	6th	9.30 a.m.	Living Faith Now at Parkgate & Neston URC
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7th</b>	11.00 a.m.	<b>Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes</b>
Wednesday	10th	<i>Warm Welcome Space with Coffee &amp; Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</i>	
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
Friday	12th	1.00 p.m.	Masonic Ladies
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14th</b>	11.00 a.m.	<b>Mr Steven Hand</b>
Tuesday	16th	11.00 a.m.	The Pray-ers
Wednesday	17th	<i>Warm Welcome Space with Coffee &amp; Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</i>	
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
<b>Father's Day</b>			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21st</b>	11.00 a.m.	<b>Rev Jeff Hughes</b>
Tuesday	23rd	1.00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting at the Manse
Wednesday	24th	<i>Warm Welcome Space with Coffee &amp; Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</i>	
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28th</b>	11.00 a.m.	<b>TBA</b>

I am so grateful to everyone who turned up to help at the "Spring Clear Up" of the Church gardens on Saturday May 23rd. The weather was marvellous, in fact so warm that we needed to sit down in the shade to cool off before starting the next job. The results look really good. Thank you.

**Fred**

## DIARY FOR JULY 2026

<b>JULY</b>			
Wednesday	1st	<b>Warm Welcome Space with Coffee &amp; Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</b>	
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5th</b>	11.00 a.m.	<b>Communion. Rev Jeff Hughes</b>
		12.30 p.m.	Church Meeting
Wednesday	8th	<b>Warm Welcome Space with Coffee &amp; Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</b>	
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12th</b>	11.00 a.m.	<b>TBA</b>
Wednesday	15th	<b>Warm Welcome Space with Coffee &amp; Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</b>	
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19th</b>	11.00 a.m.	<b>Rev Jeff Hughes</b>
		12.45 p.m.	Church "Picnic Lunch" Articles for the August & September Church Magazine
Wednesday	22nd	<b>Warm Welcome Space with Coffee &amp; Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</b>	
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26th</b>	11.00 a.m.	<b>TBA</b>
Wednesday	29th	<b>Warm Welcome Space with Coffee &amp; Lunch from 10.30 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.</b>	
		7.00 p.m.	House Group at the Manse

I'm sitting in my garden, it's looking at its best,  
 I've had a busy morning, I'm glad to be at rest.  
 I've got some chocolate biscuits, I've made a mug of tea,  
 It's lovely doing nothing, but hey, what's that I see?  
 A weed that shouldn't be there – oh dear, that has to go,  
 Then back to claim my deckchair – ah, this is nice, but, oh!  
 I've just observed those roses – dead-heading overdue!  
 And now I come to notice, the grass needs cutting, too.  
 So this is my dilemma; it's tricky, I confess,  
 To laze, or start to labour? I think I'll let you guess!



## THE TRAVELLERS



We three have been on our travels again now that Elaine and Pauline have had their knees sorted out and our trip was to the Beamish Museum near Newcastle upon Tyne, via York, Darlington and Durham, which was on Elaine's bucket list.

We left here at 7 a.m. and arrived at Lymm Service Station at 9 a.m. via Prenton, Wallasey, Grassendale and Woolton.

Our first stop was York and we decided to go into the Minster. We were just in time to join a conducted tour which was very good and took over an hour.

York Minster charge an entry fee of £20 but the "ticket" is valid for 12 months so if anyone fancies a trip to York and would like to use our tickets between now and the 24th April 2027 please ask to "borrow" them. Amazingly York Minster does not have a refreshment room within the building, so we found a very nice café and had a cream tea before returning to the coach by 3.30 p.m.

Our next stop was Darlington and our hotel, the King's Head, which is situated in the town centre, for 2 nights.

Saturday morning, after a leisurely breakfast, we were "all aboard" at 9.30 a.m. for our day in Durham. The coach park was down by the River Wear, and the Cathedral is on the top of a hill beside the Castle.

There is a little bus, the 40A, which runs from the coach park up to the Cathedral every 20 minutes and we had just missed the one that left at 7 minutes past 10 so we decided to walk up through the city at a leisurely pace.

On route we passed a huge angle poised lamp which seemed out of place but it was, in fact, alongside Durham University's Business Studies building, so very appropriate.

Everywhere was very busy because it was Durham University's Open Day and prospective students and their families were looking around.

After a cup of coffee, we were rejuvenated and reached the Cathedral. Durham do not charge but suggest a donation of £5.00 and we were happy to oblige.

We took ourselves around the Cathedral with the aid of "A Short Guide to Durham Cathedral, the Shrine of St Cuthbert. A Place of Pilgrimage and Prayer." What struck us immediately was that it had a much warmer feeling, compared to York Minster.

There is a Chapel dedicated to the Durham Light Infantry and Pauline was delighted because she had a relative who had served in the Durham Light Infantry

and there were two Books of Remembrance, one for the First World War and one for the Second World War which were on opposite sides of a Lectern.



Durham has quite a few “modern” stained glass windows. This vibrant window is called “Daily Bread” and was donated by Marks & Spencer’s to celebrate the Millennium.



These two windows are on either side of the main doors and were gifted in the 1990’s.

The Chapel of the Nine Altars, which is behind the High Altar and beneath the Rose Window, was created to accommodate the number of priests in the Monastery and the pilgrims who were visiting the shrine of St Cuthbert and the tomb on the Venerable Bede.

One Chapel is called St Margaret of Scotland and it is thought that St Margaret may have been present at the

laying of the foundation stone in 1093. By the way, Elaine's second name is also Margaret!

We adjourned to their café for sustenance followed by a look around their Gift Shop.

Needless to say, I could not face the walk down the cobbled streets, so we got on the 40A bus, using our Bus Passes to get back down to the coach park by the river. There is a second small bus, the 40, which runs between Durham Railway Station and the Cathedral.

On our last day we packed our cases, loaded them on to the coach and we were off to the Beamish Museum.

One of the guides came aboard the coach to hand out the maps and to tell us about the events that were taking place that day - it was St George's Day - and then took us in through a side gate. We had 5 hours before leaving at 3.30 p.m. to be back at Lymm Service Station by 6.30 p.m.

The Beamish Museum site has Trams and Buses which do a circular route around the site which is approximately 1½ miles. The trams go clockwise and the buses anti-clockwise.

The site is made up of the 1820's Landscape; 1900's Town; 1900's Pit Village and Colliery; 1940's Farm; 1950's Farm; 1950's Town; Transport Depot and Rowley Railway Station.

Our first stop was a café for a cup of coffee and the first means of transport was a bus which was going around anti-clockwise, so we got off at the 1950's Town which is at the top of the site, and we easily located John's Café.

We then explored the 1950's town in and out of houses and shops which led us to the 1900's town where I managed to lose Elaine and Pauline because they had gone into the Co-operative Shop while I was looking at the Bank, the Sun Inn and the Sweet Shop. There was also a Doctor's house and surgery as well as a Dentist's and two of the adjacent houses had signs on their gates and doors saying "Smallpox". Elaine found me and we adjourned to the Tea Rooms for a late lunch.

After lunch I decided to sit beside the Bandstand in the Park and said that I would see them back at the coach at 3.30 p.m. whilst they got on a bus and went down to the 1900's Pit Village to look at the School and the Brass Band Hall.

I wandered back to the Tram Stop and joined a rather long queue. Behind me were a family of four and their Border Collie dog. The two little girls were Beavers and had walked on the circular route with the Scouts which was part of the St George's Day celebrations.



The first tram that came along had been from Sheffield and the next one was from Sunderland.

Many of the visitors had brought their dogs, all shapes and sizes, but the one that caught my eye was a Bassett Hound, just like Fred in the Daily Mail!!

All the “staff and volunteers” were dressed in the appropriate costume of the times and in some cases with the additional current “Health and Safety” requirements.

Also going around the Museum roads were all manner of horse drawn vehicles; a Brewery Dray with beautiful Shire Horses; Ponies and Traps and horses pulling farm carts.



What a wonderful weekend we had had. We walked miles and some people fell asleep on the coach as we were homeward bound! We arrived at Lymm at 6.20 p.m.

Another visit to the Museum could be on our agenda but we could do that independently.

**Margaret**

## ROTAS FOR JUNE 2026

### Duty Elder

June 7th Marian Davies  
14th Jean Bayley  
21st Sue Kite  
28th Shelby Ambrose

### Communion Elders

June 7th Shelby Ambrose & Pauline Green

### Door Duty

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

### Readers

June 7th Joyce Holland & Pam Lawrence  
14th Shelby Ambrose & Marian Davies  
21st Deryk Jones & Glyn Roper  
28th Philip Roper & Jean Bayley

### Prayers of Intercession

June 7th Philip Roper  
14th Jean Bayley  
21st Sue Kite  
28th Barry Lawrence

### Sound System

7th Heather Hughes  
14th Marian Davies  
21st Elaine Parkin  
28th Marian Davies

### Church Flowers

June 7th Joyce Holland  
14th Margaret Meade  
21st Sue Kite  
28th Joan Lawrence

## ROTAS FOR JULY 2026

### Duty Elder

July 5th Fred Foulkes  
12th Elaine Parkin  
19th Jean Bayley  
26th Marian Davies

### Communion Elders

July 5th Jean Bayley & Elaine Parkin

### Door Duty

July 5th Barry Lawrence, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper  
12th Jean & Les Bayley, Barbara Jones  
19th Heather Hughes, Deryk Jones, Elaine Parkin  
26th Sue Kite, Glyn Roper, Philip Roper

### Readers

July 5th Julian Megraw & Joyce Holland  
12th Fred Foulkes & Deryk Jones  
19th Shelby Ambrose & Barry Lawrence  
26th Pam Lawrence & Jean Bayley

### Prayers of Intercession

July 5th Claire Thomas  
12th Philip Roper  
19th Jean Bayley  
26th Barry Lawrence

### Sound System

Heather Hughes  
Marian Davies  
Marian Davies  
Elaine Parkin

### Church Flowers

July 5th  
12th  
19th  
26th Jean Bayley