



Warwick Road
United Reformed
Church



Messenger
November 2019

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They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.
– Isaiah 2.4

Events at West Orchard URC

Friday 8 November - Tea Dance 2-4 pm

**Wednesday 20 November - Midweek Walk: Fillongley to Corley Moor
(4 miles) 9.30 am in Church car park**

**Saturday 23 November – Women's Prayer Breakfast 9.30 am at
King's Table, Kenilworth**

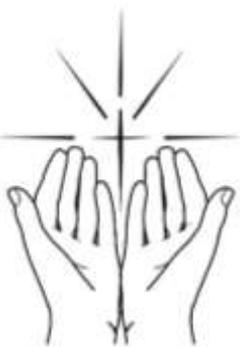
Please ring 02476 419927 or email: westorchardurc@yahoo.co.uk

DIARY - NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday 3rd	11 am	Family Service - Revd Yvonne Stone
		CAKE SALE IN CHURCH
	6.30 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion <u>at West Orchard URC</u> - Revd Yvonne Stone
Wednesday 6th	1.45-4.45	Film Club: 'Big Eyes' (2017)
Thursday 7th	2.30-3.45 pm	Poetry Café (Theme: 'Fire')
Friday 8th	11.15-11.45 am	Wholeness & Healing Service in the Quiet Room
Sunday 10th	<u>10.50</u> am	Remembrance Service - David DePledge
Sunday 17th	11 am	Family Service with Holy Communion - Revd Yvonne Stone
Thursday 21st	10.30 am-12	Reading Group in the Small Room
Sunday 24th	11 am	Family Service - Revd Peter Kimberley

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:

Tuesdays and Fridays, 10.15 - 11.15 am:
Extend exercise group for the over 60s. £2.



Prayer Meetings

Due to a fall in demand and personal circumstances, Colin has decided to cancel future dates for the Thursday lunchtime prayer meetings. However, the monthly **Wholeness and Healing** services will continue on the second Friday of the month. The next service is on **Friday 8 November at 11:15am**. All are most welcome to attend.

Dear Friends

Grow, therefore, in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” [2 Peter 3:18]

Have you ever picked up the book (or Kindle – or any other device) you were reading and, on beginning to read, felt the words were strangely familiar? And you keep on reading and yes, there is another part you remember? And then you realise that somehow or other, you had gone back a few chapters without noticing, perhaps a bookmark slipped. If you



are like me you can re-read entire chapters again before something clicks and you wonder why you have wasted so many hours going over the same old ground and getting no further forward with the book that you were before. Not that it needs a misplaced bookmark for us to do that, I am sure we have all experienced reading the same paragraph over and over again because someone or something has distracted us.

In our personal journey of faith, we can do the same. Instead of starting on a new chapter, we metaphorically get stuck on the same page. Perhaps we have neglected time with God, time for studying the Bible, worshipping, praying, sharing with others in fellowship. Perhaps we have closed our minds to the challenges we would much rather not face. Perhaps we have grown complacent or even lazy. Or maybe we just prefer the familiar. Whatever the cause our faith fails to grow as it should.

Please do not let that happen to you. Do not leave your story unfinished, incomplete. With faith there is always so much more to discover, so much more to learn. Don't settle for less.

God bless you all,

Yvonne

POETRY CAFÉ



Thursday 7 November

Theme: 'Fire'

Thursday 5 December

Theme: 'Fortunes'

Open Doors Café
Warwick Road Church Centre
2.30-3.45 pm



CITY PRAISE & PRAYER

City Praise and Prayer is an initiative that seeks to gather Christians regardless of denomination, to lift up the name of Jesus and to pray with one voice for God's kingdom to come in Coventry and beyond.

SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER – 6.30 PM

CLM – The Welcome Centre, Parkside, Coventry CV1 2HG

In partnership with





Wednesday 6 November

Big Eyes (Released 2017 rated 12)

Tim Burton directs this biographical drama which follows the story of American artist Margaret Keane who, in the 1960s, allowed her husband Walter, to claim credit for her artwork, believing that a female artist could not find success through painting. The Keanes acquired huge amounts of wealth through Margaret's work and the paintings were in high demand throughout their time living together as husband and wife. However, when they later became separated, Margaret announced to the world that she was in fact the true author of the paintings, sparking a long-drawn-out legal battle between her and her estranged husband.

Wednesday 11 December (NOTE: 2ND WEDNESDAY)

A Dog's Way Home (Released 2019 rated PG)

Based on the beloved bestselling novel, 'A Dog's Way Home' chronicles the heart-warming adventure of Bella, a devoted dog who embarks on an epic 400-mile journey home after she is separated from her beloved human. Along the way, the lost but spirited dog touches the lives of an orphaned cougar, a down-on-his-luck veteran and some friendly strangers who happen to cross her path.

Please arrive at 1.45 as the film will start at 2 pm. There will be a brief interval for ice creams and a chance to chat about the film over tea and cake before travelling home at about 4.45. **To book for the film (£4), please phone the Church Office by the previous Friday on 024 7622 0299 (money can be paid on the door). Or email: office@wrurc.co.uk.**

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND (PART 1)

Last month's Messenger reported on Cathedrals 'having fun' and Norwich having a helter skelter. Norwich also encouraged visitors to lie on mats to use binoculars to view and examine the 15th-century roof bosses, of which there are over 1,000. In three days over 12,000 visitors arrived! Next year Norwich Cathedral is hosting Dippy, (the Natural History Museum's replica diplodocus skeleton), for four months.

Attendances in 2016 of Church of England parishes was below 750,000 for the first time. However, a recent survey for chapels in the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Durham are showed that undergraduate attendance had increased. University chapel attendance is not included in the Church of England survey.

Father Conor McGrath at 32 years of age, has become the youngest Parish Priest in Ireland. He was ordained in July 2012, following the study of history and philosophy at Queen's University Belfast. As well as training at St Malachy's Seminary, he read theology at the Pontifical Irish College in Rome and was ordained at St Bernard's Church, Glengormley, and is now the Priest at Glenravel in Ballymena. Father Conor will also serve as the administrator of The Braid and provide chaplaincy services to schools in Ballymena and St Killian's College in Carnlough.

In 2017 the Willesden Jewish Cemetery became the first Jewish cemetery to be grade II listed. A £1.7 million National Lottery Heritage Fund grant has helped the creation of a £2.3 million religion and heritage centre that will tell the story of this 1873 cemetery. In 1873, this area was owned by the Church commissioners and permission was given to make this a consecrated burial ground for the Jews which, at that time was used for the grazing of sheep, some two miles from the metropolis. Approximately 40 volunteers are being trained for the opening next year of the House of Life, whose prayer hall has been described as the style of a non-conformist chapel with the Magen David (Star of David) discreetly carved into its wooden beams. There are no cremations at this cemetery.

Barry Stelfox

Smiles

A man on his Harley was riding along a Californian beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, God said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish." The biker pulled over and said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii, I can ride over it any time I want.

God replied, "Your request is materialistic, think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking. Look at the supports required reaching the bottom of the Pacific and the concrete asphalt and steel it would take! I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind."

The biker thought about it for long time. Finally, he said, "God, I wish that I, and all men, could understand women. I want to know what she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, why she snaps and complains when I try to help, and how I can make a woman truly happy." God replied, "You want two lanes, or four, on that bridge?"

(Submitted by Sandra Harper - 'Horizons - the magazine for former HSBC employees')

I recently handed over a cheque to Richard for £100 for the Roof Fund on behalf of the Reading Group, that had been raised by way of a raffle at our monthly meeting, plus the occasional sale of jams, marmalades and chutneys. From our very small group of readers, we have now contributed **£1,321.50** in total for the Roof Fund.



Ann Miles



FREE COMPUTER TRAINING

A brief reminder: One-to-one or small group tuition on any aspect of using computers, phones, tablets, etc is offered by Keith. Any subject, no matter how trivial it seems. For example, extra training for volunteers in the café using the till system. Ask in the office for details, or to book some time.

Harvest Festival on 6th October

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest. I am sure the food bank will be very grateful as our food bank bin was full (thank you Keith for your help) I would also like to say a big thank you to Janet, June, Joyce and not forgetting Richard for their help - I really appreciated it.

Pauline

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

[2 Corinthians 9:10]

Looking back on D-Day 1944

D-Day took place 75 years ago, on 6th June 1944, when over 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25th August with victory for the Allies.

It began the liberation of France – and eventually Europe – from Nazi control, and laid the foundations of victory on the Western Front. Planning for the operation involved a great deal of deception as to timing and the precise location of the landings.

The weather on D-Day was not ideal, and the operation had to be delayed 24 hours. None of the immediate goals were achieved, but a foothold was gained which the Allies expanded over the coming months. The Germans had been misled by inaccurate storm forecasts and were unprepared – with many leaders, including General Rommel, not in position.

King George VI had earlier rallied England to prayer and on the eve of battle, crowded services were held on landing crafts, ships and airfields, with chaplains urging troops to put their trust in God. In America, as news of the invasion was broadcast, stores closed, and prayer meetings were organised all over the country.

Museums, memorials, and war cemeteries in Normandy still welcome many visitors each year.

Tim Lenten – Parish Pump

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
[Ephesians 6:10-11]

“It was a different world then. It was a world that requires young men like myself to be prepared to die for a civilization that was worth living in.” – **Harry Read, British D-Day veteran**

“I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory! Good luck!” – **Winston Churchill**

This year marks a major anniversary for Remembrance.....

How Armistice Day began, 100 years ago

It was 100 years ago, on **11th November 1919**, that the first Armistice Day (now Remembrance Day) was marked in the UK. King George V had issued a proclamation calling for a two-minute silence at 11:00am to remember the members of the armed forces who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The two-minute silence was in fact adopted from a South African idea that had spread from Cape Town through the Commonwealth in 1919. The first minute was dedicated to those who died in the war, and the second to those left behind – families affected by bereavement and other effects of the conflict.

The Cenotaph was erected temporarily in Whitehall for a peace parade for Armistice Day in 1920. After a tremendous nationwide response, it became a permanent structure, and in the following years war memorials were created in other British towns and cities.

In 1939, the two-minute silence of Armistice Day was moved to the nearest Sunday to 11th November, so that it would not conflict with wartime production. This tradition continued after World War II – Remembrance Sunday is still marked with a national service, and by special services in most churches throughout the country and beyond. Americans mark Veterans Day instead.

Tim Lenton – Parish Pump

Operation Poppy

This year the Poppy Appeal is going undercover, with the help of GCHQ in their centenary year, to highlight the unseen contributions of our Armed Forces.



Undercover celebrities have accepted a mission to join forces with poppy collectors across the UK. Teaming up with some of our 40,000 Poppy Appeal volunteers, they are helping us shine a light on their efforts and the invaluable contributions being made by the Armed Forces community.

www.britishlegion.org.uk/

My Day at Red Hill Christian Centre



On Saturday 5th October, I went with West Orchard URC to Red Hill. It is set in beautiful countryside just outside Stratford-upon-Avon.

We started the day with tea, coffee, biscuits and chocolates. We then had a short service, the theme being '*It's a Wonderful World (or not!)*' The young people did an excellent presentation on pollution and global warming. They gave us some very interesting information, and food for thought.

There were plenty of activities to try, including silk painting, card making, pebble painting, colouring, quizzes, games and much more! Or, people could just sit and have a chat.

We all took packed lunches and afterwards, there was a choice of a treasure hunt in the grounds, or more crafts. Later in the afternoon we had a lovely cream tea, followed by a short closing service, led by Yvonne and Peter.

I had a thoroughly lovely day, full of fellowship.



Red Hill Christian Centre, Snitterfield



Reported in old Messenger magazines:

Twenty years ago (November 1999):

The ministers who led services in November were the Revd Brian Holroyd, the Revd Bill Mahood, the Revd Roger Hall and the Revd Dr Janet H Wotton.

Hedley and Margaret Calvert asked people to register interest in a weekend away to Barnes Close in the year 2000.

Fifteen years ago (November 2004)

Harvest Weekend saw the celebrations of the opening of the new Church Centre. Ann Miles, George Drake and May Dalton wrote very positive reflections and thoughts about the new Centre.

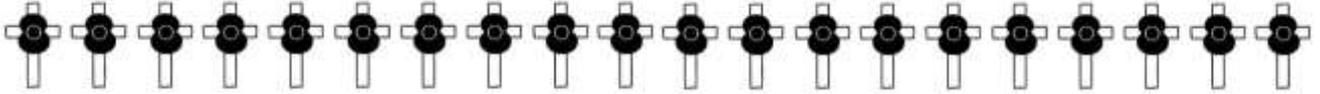
Ten years ago (November 2009)

£492.50 was raised for the St Andrew's House Appeal and Global Care. Junior Church presented a 'Games Afternoon for all the Family' in aid of Global Care. The tickets were £3 and included afternoon tea, home baking, cards and bric-a-brac.

Five years ago (November 2014)

There was a Warwick Road coach trip to Melbicks Garden Centre in Coleshill, Birmingham.

Junior church organised a 'Tea and Auction'.

**Smiles**

A German Shepherd, a Doberman and cat had all died and gone to Heaven. All three are faced with God, who wants to know what they believe in. The German Shepherd says, "I believe in discipline, training and loyalty to my master." God says, "Good, sit down at my right-hand side." Then God



asks the Doberman what he believes in. The Doberman says, "I believe in the love and care and protection of my master." "Ah," says God, "you may sit at my left-hand side." Then God looks at the cat and says, "And what do you believe in?" The cat answers, "I believe you are sitting in my chair".

The Association for Church Editors

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND (PART 2)

The oldest hospital in Great Britain has re-instated the role of 'hospitaller' after 350 years. St. Bartholomew's in London was originally an Augustine priory and hospital. The priory was demolished by Cromwell, but the hospital continued and in 1546 the chapel within became a parish church called St Bartholomew the Great. The role of hospitaller is jointly as a chaplain for patients and as a cleric for worshippers.



The Holy See (Vatican) and the Chinese Government have agreed, after decades of dispute, to allow the ordination of Catholic Bishops to help unify the country's twelve million Catholics.



A church minister who lay down on a pier to stop traffic in a protest against Sunday ferry sailings in the 1960s has died. **The Rev Angus Smith** was opposed to ferries operating between Skye and the mainland on the Sabbath. He and fellow protesters lay down on the pier at Kyleakin, Skye, in protest against the first sailings of the service in June 1965. Mr Smith was born in Govan in Glasgow to parents from the Isle of Lewis. He was a minister of Skye's Snizort Free Church and later Cross Free Church in Lewis. Mr Smith campaigned for the traditionalist wing of the Free Church, before leaving to join the Free Presbyterian Church in 1999. The father-of-four and grandfather was 90 when he died.

Barry Stelfox



Vestibule

Flowers
November



Communion Table

3rd	Helen Kershaw <i>- in memory of Libby</i>	Mrs Cath Green <i>- in memory of Olive</i>
10th	Annette & Roger Greenwood <i>- in memory of Elizabeth Bell</i>	Mr & Mrs Clive Watson <i>- in memory of 38th Scouts and all its members</i>
17th	Mrs Brenda Whiteley	The Kerley Family
24th	The Haines Family <i>- in memory of Mother</i>	Mrs Sandra Harper

THANK-YOU!

In the August Messenger there was an article about Martyn Smith. He worked at Warwick Road for more than 10 years as Caretaker/Cleaner, before deciding to hang up his cloths. He was presented with a gift voucher and here is his thank-you note:

Dear All,

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking you all very much for my golf voucher. I'm sure it's going to help me play better with what I decide to buy with it!

All my time working at Warwick Row, I have seen many changes, going from strength to strength and that's all down to excellent volunteers and staff.

Again, I would like to say how much I enjoyed working with you all and wish you well for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Martyn

ADVENT COURSE

Our Advent Course this year will follow the journey of the Magi through the Gospel of St Matthew. We will meet at **Holyhead Road URC** at 2 pm on the following dates:

20 November	Stars
27 November	Travel & Gifts
4 December	Meeting Herod
11 December	Meeting Jesus

Because we are aware that 2pm is not possible for everyone and that no everyone likes going out in the cold dark evenings we are also planning to run the course on 2 Saturdays between 11:30 and 2pm:

St Columbas URC

30 November Stars, Travel and Gifts

Holyhead Road URC

14 December Meeting Herod & Meeting Jesus

WorldSong
'Bright Morning Star'
Christmas Concert
Saturday 7 December - 7.30 pm
at Warwick Road URC
£8 (£4 under 16s)

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WARWICK ROAD CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Church Centre

Sunday 15 December at 12.30 pm

First Course: Cream of Mushroom & Celery Soup

Main Course: Choice of Roast Turkey
or Asparagus Risotto

Dessert: Choice of Christmas Pudding,

Raspberry & White Chocolate Sponge or Cheese & Biscuits

Booking form in this Messenger... also in the Church and Office.

Please book by **Friday 6 December**. £12 (£6 children)

*The deadline for contributions for the **December** edition of the "Messenger" is **Tuesday 12 November**. Please leave them at the office or email anniegay@live.com. Many thanks..... Annie*

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Open

**Monday - Friday
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BARN DANCE AND BRING & SHARE SUPPER
WEST ORCHARD URC



Saturday 16th November – 7-10 pm

Caller: Keith Stevens

Adults - £5

Accompanied children - Free

Soft drinks will be provided

Bring your own alcoholic drinks if you wish.

All proceeds to 'Christians Against Poverty'

To book tickets email:

westorchardurc@yahoo.co.uk or peterckimberley@yahoo.co.uk

or phone: 02476 419927 or mobile: 07581 710348

The Knitted Bible Exhibition

West Orchard URC

Saturday 23rd November to Sunday 1st December
2-4 pm each day, plus Saturday 23rd, Wednesday 27th
and Saturday 30th November 10.00 am -12.00

Tea/coffee/squash and mince pies available

Groups welcome. Please phone: 02476 419927

Admission free