

SUNDAY SERVICES

<u>Morning Service</u>	10.30 am
<u>Evening Worship</u>	
1st Sunday in the month	6.00 pm at Vicars Cross URC
2nd Sunday in the month	6.30 pm at Upton URC
3rd and 4th Sunday in the month	6.30 pm at Caldly Valley Neighbourhood Church
5th Sunday in the month	Ecumenical Service rotating between URC, Holy Ascension and St Columba RC
<u>Holy Communion</u>	1 st Sunday morning 2nd Sunday evening (February, April, June, August, October and December)

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday	10 00 am- 12 noon	Churches Together in Upton Coffee Morning at the Pavilion, Wealstone Lane
	6.15 pm - 8.00 pm	Girls' Brigade
Tuesday	2.30 pm (1st & 3rd weeks)	Friendship Group
	10.00 am (every 2 weeks)	NTG (New Tuesday Group)
Wednesday	9.45 am (1 st Wednesday)	Upton Amblers Midweek Walk
	6.45 pm	Prayer & Praise in the Vestry
Thursday	10.00 am	WD 40's (Women's Discussion Group)
	3.30 pm - 5.30 pm	Messy Church
	(2nd Thursday of the month)	
	7.30 pm (1 st and 3 rd weeks)	Thursday Home Group
Saturday	1.00 pm (last Thursday of the month)	Food 'n' Fun
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Church open for coffee
	10.00 am	Upton Amblers (dates vary)

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Upton United Reformed Church

GOD'S LOVE IS FOR ALL

OUR MISSION IS TO SHOW IT, SHARE IT, LIVE IT

Heath Road, Upton, Chester, CH2 1HX

Tele: 01244 373854

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MARCH 2018



The
United
Reformed
Church

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email:

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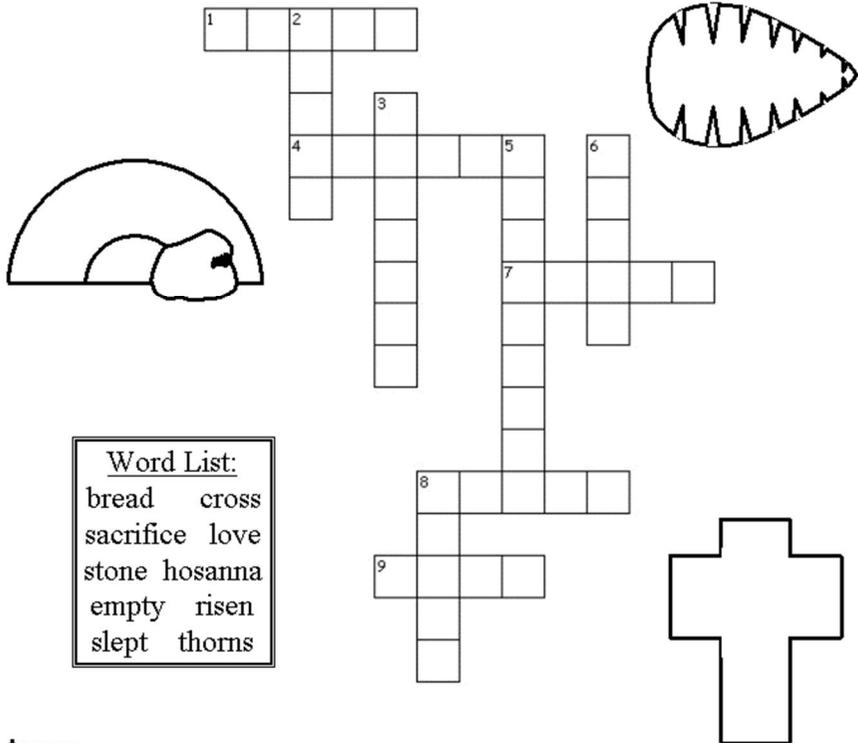
CHILDREN & FAMILY WORKER

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CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Robin Hodgkins
01244 383038

Easter Crossword



Word List:
 bread cross
 sacrifice love
 stone hosanna
 empty risen
 slept thorns

Across

- 1. Taking this during the last supper symbolized Jesus' body.
- 4. Jesus was forced to wear a crown made of these instead of a crown meant for a real king.
- 7. The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, Jesus isn't here; He has ____!"
- 8. Instead of praying the disciples did this when Jesus went off to pray by himself.
- 9. The main reason that God gave His only son, Jesus to die for each of us.

Down

- 2. On Sunday the two Mary's didn't find Jesus but a tomb that was ____.
- 3. The word people shouted to Jesus that means blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lon
- 5. Jesus became the ____ for us, so we could be forgiven for our sins.
- 6. Jesus was meant to die on this.
- 8. This was put in front of the tomb so nobody could steal Jesus' body.

Message from the Manse

I want to use my message, this month, to talk to you about membership of Upton United Reformed Church.

I know a good number of you are already members but some of our regular attenders are not.

Membership is important for both current members, as well as those who are not yet.

The United Reformed Church is nonconformist. This means that we work differently to the Church of England and the Church of Scotland.

We have a commitment to work closely with churches of all traditions, in prayer and social action and some of our churches like Caldry Valley are united with other traditions.

People often ask why they need to "join" their local church and "become a member".

The Church of England considers everyone within their parish boundary as a member whereas in the URC individuals are required to make a personal commitment to become a member.

Our members commit to supporting the church:

- through giving,
- through action and
- by taking part in Church Meetings,
- as well as through regular attendance at worship.

Attendance at Church Meeting is very important - as this is

where members are able to discern, through discussion and prayer, the will of God for the life, growth and activities of their church.

Decisions of church meeting are made by discussion and sometimes the topic being discussed comes with a recommendation from the Elders but the final decision is made by a vote.

In order to vote you must be a member of the church and you must be present when the vote is taken.

It costs the church to have you as a member but this is a fee that we happily pay because it provides the financial resources to train, equip and remunerate ministry, to support centralised services, and the world-wide work of the Church.

The number of members per church also enables the URC, along with other factors, to determine what percentage of a Minister that church is entitled to.

For churches with a high number of members, it is hoped that the workload of the church can be spread more evenly - meaning that more people will take on small tasks to prevent any one, or a small group, becoming overloaded or exhausted with meeting the needs of the pastorate.

If we want to grow the church here in Upton we need to work together:

- in discerning the mind of Christ,
- in supporting one another in building up our community and
- showing God's love, through Jesus Christ to all whom we encounter not just in the church but in the wider world too.

CHURCH ROTAS

FLOWERS

March	4	John & Margaret Hainsworth
	11	Linda Kershaw
	18	Lesley Parry
	25	Carole Mellor
April	1	David & Audrey Taylor
	8	Girls' Brigade
	15	Keith & Sue Reading
	22	Hazel Roberts
	29	Beryl Frost

CAR FERRY

March	4	Keith Reading
	11	Niall Ormerod
	18	John Hainsworth
	25	Phil Mason
April	1	Keith Reading
	8	Niall Ormerod
	15	John Hainsworth
	22	Phil Mason
	29	Keith Reading

SUNDAY MORNING TEA / COFFEE

March	4	Sue & Keith Reading
	11	Margaret & John Hainsworth
	18	Vivien Ellis & Caryl Rose
	25	Claire & Dave Nichols
April	1	Lesley & Noel Parry
	8	Debbie & Niall Ormerod
	15	Rose Harrison & Fergus O'Neill
	22	Pat Griffith & Brian Stephenson
	29	Beryl & Jim Frost

Well-known Easter hymns, but the words are mixed up!

1. lla oyrlg audl and orouhn
2. nda acn ti eb
3. hrsict het rlod si eisnr ydaot
4. i ecadd ni eht grnnimo
5. amke wya, amek awy
6. deri no, ider no ni mateysj
7. eth dol rgdeug srcos
8. heter si a negre illh raf awya
9. tnihe eb teh lgoyr
10. enwh i rsevuy the dunroswo ocsrs



??

Answers



1. All Glory Laud and Honour
2. And can it be
3. Christ the lord is risen today
4. I danced in the morning
5. Make way, make way
6. Ride on, ride on in majesty
7. The old rugged cross
8. There is a green hill far away
9. Thine be the glory
10. When I survey the wondrous cross

Inside your Newsletter this month, you will find a leaflet that gives some detail about the expectations upon members - and I would strongly encourage you to take time to read it.

Anyone who wishes to become, or to talk further about becoming a Member, should put their name on the sign up sheet at the back of church and I will be in touch to talk about it further or do please give me a call on the number below.

With your help we can continue to spread the Good News to all who need to hear.

Your church needs you so please do help us by getting

PEOPLE NEWS

- It is with regret that we have to record the death of Joyce Scott on 23 January. We send Christine, Janet, Heather, and their families our sympathy and prayers at this sad time. Joyce had been an active member and Elder in the church before her failing health. In particular, her floral displays and craft work were hugely admired and she was a valued member of WD 40's and also the Luncheon Team.
- Please pray for anyone you know who is not well at the moment, awaiting hospital results or operations.
- There are members of the church family having/ recovering from various operations and we keep them in our prayers.
- Jane Morris would like to thank the Church for the card and flowers. They were very much appreciated.

CHURCH DIARY for MARCH 2018

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERVICE / MEETING</u>
Thurs	1	10.00 am	WD 40's - Bible Study with Liz
		12 noon -	Churches Together in Upton
		1.00 pm	Fellowship Lunch in the Church Hall
		7.30 pm	Thursday Home Group
Sat	3	10.00 am	Upton Amblers - Leader Peter Milburn
		10.00 am	Church open for coffee
SUN	4	10.30 am	MORNING COMMUNION SERVICE led by Revd Ruth Wilson
		6.00 pm	SUNDAY at SIX at Vicars Cross URC
Mon	5	10.00 am	CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavilion
		6.15 pm	Girls' Brigade
Tues	6	10.00 am	NTG
		2.30 pm	Friendship Group - 'Room 101'
Wed	7	9.45 am	Upton Amblers Midweek Walk - Leader Frank Mawdsley
		6.45 pm	Ecumenical Prayer & Praise in the Vestry
Thurs	8	10.00 am	WD 40's - Coffee
		3.30 pm	Messy Church
Sat	10	10.00 am	Church open for coffee
SUN	11		MOTHERING SUNDAY
		10.30 am	MORNING SERVICE led by Mrs Liz Warrington
		6.30 pm	EVENING SERVICE led by Mrs Marje Robinson

await expectantly. It may well be the key to our future mission in this community.

Continued ...

February Reform adds Editorial comment on feminism in the church context and in 'I am ... a rough sleeper' extends the case of the have-nots and the universal credit problem featured in December/January. 'Art in Focus' brings us an impressive 'New Dawn, New Hope' photograph which is on display in Church - take a look and be inspired!

Benjamin Zephaniah shines in the Reform Interview, taking of his faith background in his poetry - it certainly keeps him moving forward. I was surprised to learn he is 60 not 26 years old!

'A good question ...' gives four views on ageing in the church, from which we here might take heart. Then 'My neighbour, the Robot' challenges us with the cover question 'Are we creating a new species?' Theologically, the answer is obvious, but the topic would be worth pursuing - the questions posed are real enough and are already affecting us all.

The final three features on one man's experience of prayer, one minister's response to change and 'Walking Together: Intergeneration of Church' all speak to our situation here and now in Upton.

Can you afford to miss Reform? I can loan back copies, but a subscription gets you a personal copy ten times each year and you can start at any time - just see me.

REFLECTIONS ON REFORM

Combined **December/January** issues of both Reform and News mean these reflections reach you nearer Easter, so the featured 'Art in Focus' probably summarises nativity well for us. Painted by Paul Gauguin, a 'dissolute rebel of lost faith from the Catholic Church', it is a Polynesian scene of mother and new-born - in a stable, of course.

Gauguin, at 48, was about to become a father by his teenage Polynesian mistress, perhaps bringing him back to his Christian up-bringing, which was to inspire his future works. Further ethnic thoughts follow (P12) with a Christian view from Barcelona on the Catalan independence issues - a parallel with Brexit?

The Reform Interview is a scoop (P14) featuring Clive Stafford Smith, the British founder of 'Reprieve', which seeks justice for condemned Guantanamo Bay detainees. As a human story it is inspiring; as an assessment of a response to extremism it is damning. A must-read (see me for back issues).

'I am ... on universal credit' (P20) is an indictment of government which should shame us all and 'A good question' gives four worthwhile angles to Peace on Earth - how? - which leads in to a report on a round table discussion 'Linking arms around the world' as Christians share thoughts on the world's problems.

Finally 'Holy habits' (P31) gives us useful background on the book which underpins the 'Walking the Way' course which we

Copy date for APRIL Newsletter

All items for inclusion to Margaret Hainsworth, please

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERVICE / MEETING</u>
Mon	12	10.00 am	CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavilion
		6.15 pm	Girls' Brigade
Wed	14	6.45 pm	Prayer & Praise in the Vestry
		7.40 pm	CTU Committee Meeting
Thurs	15	10.00 am	WD 40's - 'Brian's Australian Trip'
		7.30 pm	Thursday Home Group
Sat	17	10.00 am	Church open for coffee
		10.15 am	CHURCH MEETING
SUN	18	10.30 am	MORNING SERVICE led by
			Revd Ruth Wilson
		6.30 pm	EVENING SERVICE at Caldys Valley
Mon	19	10.00 am	CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavilion
		6.15 pm	Girls' Brigade
Tues	20	10.00 am	NTG
Wed	21	6.45 pm	Prayer & Praise in the Vestry
		7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Thurs	22	10.00 am	WD 40's - Newsletter and meal at Goodwins
			
Sat	24	10.00 am	Church open for coffee
			for
			
SUN	25		PALM SUNDAY
		10.30 am	MORNING SERVICE
			led by Revd Ruth Wilson

including the donation of Easter Eggs and Easter food

6.30 pm **EVENING SERVICE at Caldy Valley**

DAY DATE TIME SERVICE / MEETING

Mon 26 10.00 am CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavilion
6.15 pm Girls' Brigade

Tues 27 2.30 pm Friendship Group Easter Communion
Service led by Revd Ruth Wilson

Wed 28 6.45 pm Prayer & Praise in the Vestry

Thurs 29 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Cross  7.00 pm JOINT SERVICE for
MAUNDY THURSDAY at Vicars
URC

Fri 30 **GOOD FRIDAY**

10.30 am GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE at
Upton URC

Sat 31 10.00 am Church
open for coffee



MESSY CHURCH

Our next Messy Church is on
Thursday, 8 March

3.30 pm - 5.30 pm



The theme is
'Creation - Day 3 - Land and Plants'



We thank the Blakemore Foundation and the Spar for supporting
Messy Church with their kind donation towards the food which we
serve to the children and their families.



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 2 March 2018

10.30 am

at Upton URC

'ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD'

Service organised by the Christian women of Suriname

V O L N T E E R

all that's missing is U!

Do you remember being young?

Did you want to become one of the really boring adults that used to tell you what to do, say or believe?

OR

Did you want to be: Cool? Fun? WACKY???

Join us and we will (attempt) to show you how to be all of the above in a safe, caring and nurturing manner!

On the job training can be provided on:

21st February

4th April

11th April

Without you we cannot offer our services to others

Please contact Ruth or Terri if you would like to sign up

(Please Note: Minister / Children & Families Worker cannot be held personally responsible for sticky fingers, smiles, laughter, full tummies or a full night's sleep!)

The
LENT DISCUSSION GROUP ON PRAYER
continue on
THURSDAYS, 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm
in our church

1 March - No meeting

8 March - Pray alone and/or Group prayer

15 March - Variety of ways to pray

We appear to have a shortage of tea towels in the kitchen. Do you have any to spare? If so can you please drop them off in the kitchen.

Also, any kitchen hand towels would be gratefully received.
Many thanks



christian aid Chester Christian Aid

Working to end poverty and injustice worldwide

Lent Lunches

At the Quaker Meeting House

Frodsham Street Chester CH1 3LF

Organised by City Centre Churches Together

Mondays 12noon -1.30pm

19th, 26th February and

5th 12th 19th March 2018

Please join us for a simple meal

Donations to Christian Aid

PRAYER DIARY – MARCH 2018



Please pray for:

- Thurs 1 Those who cannot afford or access medical treatment.
- Fri 2 The work of the Leprosy Mission.
- Sat 3 Our Church Meeting.
- SUN 4 Our Church family who are not well.**
- Mon 5 The people who attend and run the Food Bank.
- Tues 6 Those who attend the Friendship Group.
- Wed 7 Those who have got into debt.
- Thurs 8 Children and families who attend Messy Church.
- Fri 9 The work of Christian Aid.
- Sat 10 Those who meet for coffee at our church.
- SUN 11 Mothers and women who have lost children.**
- Mon 12 The homeless.
- Tues 13 Those who work in our prisons.
- Wed 14 People who work with Mission Aviation Fellowship.
- Thurs 15 Those attending our Prayer Group.
- Fri 16 Save the Family.
- Sat 17 Those in pain and worried about their illness.
- SUN 18 Ruth, our minister, and Megan**



The Food Bank provides three days of food for local people in crisis

There are donation boxes in the Porch and in the Church Vestry

ITEMS NEEDED (UPDATED FEBRUARY 2018)

UHT juice

Instant mashed potato

Tinned spaghetti

FOOD BANK HAVE GOT PLENTY OF

Tea bags

Rice

Pasta

Beans

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A TYPICAL FOOD PARCEL CONTAINS?

Breakfast cereals

Soup

Pasta

Rice

Pasta sauce

Tinned beans

Tinned meat

Tinned fruit

Tea / coffee



Tinned vegetables Snacks

Sugar

Biscuits

ADVANCE NOTICE

Upton United Reformed Church

presents an evening with

'Farndon Brass Ensemble & Friends'

6.00pm Saturday 21st April 2018

(doors open 5.30pm)

£5.00 including interval tea and coffee

Pay at the door. Children free of charge

Bring your own picnic, nibbles and wine – soft drinks if you prefer!

Tables & chairs provided – but *bring your own candelabras and candles!*

PLEASE SUPPORT us for what promises to be an enjoyable evening of popular music and light-hearted repartee



Mon 19 Girls and leaders of our Girls' Brigade.
Tues 20 Those who work in our Hospice and Hospitals.
Wed 21 Elders' Meeting.
Thurs 22 The ladies in our WD 40's group.
Fri 23 The Street Pastors.
Sat 24 Help us to save our planet.

SUN 25 Let us wave Palm branches to our Lord.

Mon 26 For Christians living in the Holy Land under difficult circumstances.
Tues 27 For refugees trying to reach safety.
Wed 28 Help us to use our resources wisely and give thanks.
Thurs 29 Imagine being there at the 'Last Supper'.
Fri 30 Think about Jesus Christ dying for us.
Sat 31 Give thanks to the gospel writers, so we can read all about it.

Please pray for the church family on
Liz Warrington's List:

Violet Brickland and Morgan
Sheila Dunbar and Kevin Strudwick
Mary Carter
Celia and Phil Jones
Jean Needham
Kathleen Parry



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN UPTON

Churches Together in Upton was established in the early 1980's. It is an organization which enables us to have links with our three Churches in Upton: Holy Ascension, St Columba's and Upton United Reformed Church and share in activities together. There is a Committee made up of representatives from all three Churches, which meets every other month. Some of our shared events are:

- * The 5th Sunday Service which rotates around the churches
- * A Prayer Diary for the residents of Upton
- * A weekly Monday morning Coffee Morning at the Pavilion on Wealstone Lane
- * An annual Quiz Night.
- * In 2017 there was a coach outing to Lichfield Cathedral and the National Arboretum (another outing is on the cards for 2018)
- * We hold a shared Remembrance Service which rotates annually around the three churches
- * A Lent programme each year which again rotates around the three churches
- * Also the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which meets for half an hour for seven nights, culminating in a service on the eighth night
- * We also have a window in the Library at Christmas for a

nativity scene

- * There are three Fellowship Lunches each year. The first at Upton URC is in Lent; the second in May at Holy Ascension for Christian Aid Week and the third at St Columba's in October in aid of CAFOD.

The co-operation we have between the Churches is a very special relationship and one which we should value. Please try and support some, or all, of our activities and keep this friendship and fellowship alive and prospering.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN UPTON

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Thursday, 1 March

12 noon - 1.00 pm

Soup and Sandwiches

Donations to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN UPTON

Date for your diary:

Coach outing with a guided tour of Norton Priory

Afternoon Tea

Choral Evensong at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool

Wednesday, 23 May 2017

Cost approximately £18.00

Further information from Margaret Hainsworth