

## 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  |
| 3rd and 4th Sunday in the month | 6.30 pm at Caldley Valley<br>Neighbourhood Church  |
| 5th Sunday in the month         | Ecumenical Service rotating between<br>URC, Holy Ascension and St<br>Columba RC                                  |
| <u>Holy Communion</u>           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday morning<br>2nd Sunday evening (February,<br>April, June, August, October and<br>December) |

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

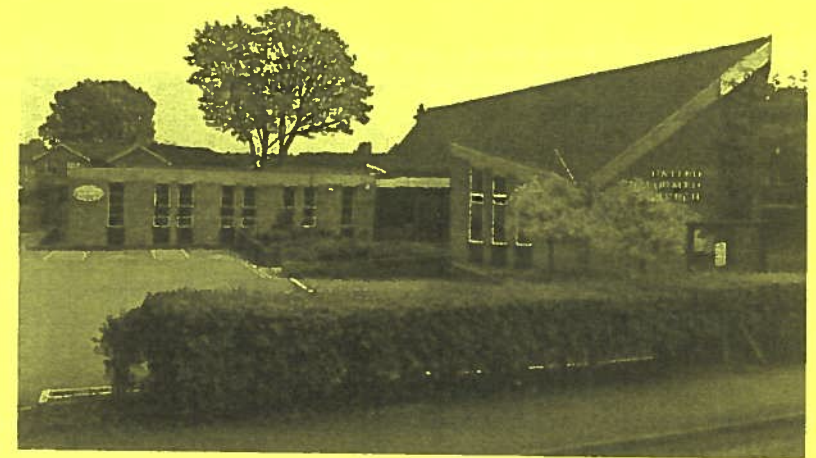
|           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| Monday    | 10 00 am - 12 noon                                  | Churches Together in Upton<br>Coffee Morning at the<br>Pavilion, Wealstone Lane |
|           | 6.15 pm - 8.00 pm                                   | Girls' Brigade  |
| Tuesday   | 2.30 pm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

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

|                           |          |                             |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Saturdays                 | 10.15 am | Church Meeting (dates vary) |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday | 7.30 pm  | Elders Meeting              |

**UPTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
**HEATH ROAD, UPTON BY CHESTER**  
**TELEPHONE 01244 373854**

# NEWSLETTER



## APRIL 2018



The  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:  
[WWW.UPTONURC.ORG.UK](http://WWW.UPTONURC.ORG.UK)

EMAIL:  
[INFO@UPTONURC.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@UPTONURC.ORG.UK)

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

As I sat to write my message, I began thinking..... April already! I can hardly believe we are already a quarter of the way through 2018 - where has the time gone?

I am noticing more and more how quickly time is passing by, probably because I have so many more responsibilities than I did when I was younger -so less time to sit and think about life.

How many of us reminisce about times gone by but are then shocked when we remember how long ago they were? Or worry about what the future will bring.

William Wordsworth said:

"Life is divided into three terms - that which was, which is, and which will be. Let us learn from the past to profit by the present, and from the present, to live better in the future."

Making mistakes is part of our life experience and hopefully we learn from them and change so that we avoid making exactly the same mistake again.

As individuals and community we are prone to making comparisons about how things are in life today, compared with times past. We are also prone to speculation about what will happen in the coming years.

Whilst making these comparisons, do we also realistically consider how we, and those around us, have changed, or will change? Often we don't and by failing to recognise this truth, we are creating a goal that can never be achieved.

I came across another quote (author unknown) that says:

"life is an open book full of blank pages, you write the story as you go."

### MINISTER

Rev Ruth Wilson

01244 372622

revruthwork@gmail.com

### SECRETARY

Mrs Marilyn Roberts

01233 678248

marilyn\_roberts@hotmail.co.uk

### TREASURER

Robin Hodgkins

01244 383038

WRHodgkins@aol.com

### NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Mrs Margaret Hainsworth

01244 381396

jm@johnmarg.plus.com

Mrs Christine Beeston

01829 740556

c.beeston688@btinternet.com

### CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Robin Hodgkins

01244 383038

WRHodgkins@aol.com

# ROTAS

## CHURCH FLOWERS

### APRIL

1 April David & Audrey Taylor

8 April Girls' Brigade

15 April Keith & Susan Reading

22 April Hazel Roberts

29 April Jim & Beryl Frost

### MAY

6 May Dorothy Carr

13 May Derek & Mary Carter

20 May Marion Gibbons

27 May Betty Steepe

## CAR FERRY

### ARIL

1 April Keith Reading

8 April Niall Ormerod

15 April John Hainsworth

22 April Niall Ormerod

29 April Keith Reading

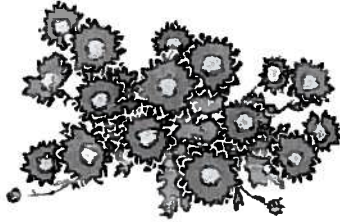
### MAY

6 May Phil Mason

13 May John Hainsworth

20 May Phil Mason

26 May Keith Reading



If we are writing the story as we go we must be careful not to re-visit past chapters in the hope that we can re-create those times. Instead we should turn the page and start a fresh new chapter every day focussing on the here and now. Every day is a new beginning and we can write our story on an unblemished page.

Scripture tells us about past, present and future:

**PAST: Isaiah 43:18-19**

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

**PRESENT: Isaiah 41:10**

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

**FUTURE: Matthew 6:34**

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

By changing our perspective we will find ourselves living for today instead of reminiscing about the past or worrying for our future.

Then, when we look back on the book of our life at Upton URC, we can say, with honesty and confidence that we spent our time well.

Let us all work for the glory of Our Lord.

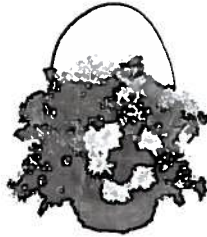
Blessings,

*Ruth*

## PEOPLE NEWS

On 28 February Judith Baritt was made a Church member and we were pleased to welcome her into our Church family.

We remember in our prayers all those awaiting operations and test results. We also pray for those who are housebound and not able to attend Church at this time.



## FLAME CHRISTIAN AND COMMUNITY RADIO

Music, teaching, news, chat and more - broadcasting from the studios in Rock Ferry, Birkenhead

1521 medium-wave/AM, DAB (Manchester) or on-line at [www.flameradio.org](http://www.flameradio.org)



Emergency food for local people in crisis

**DONATE**  
to your local foodbank

## DO YOU KNOW HOW FOODBANKS WORK?

### FOOD IS DONATED

Schools, churches, businesses and individuals donate non-perishable, in-date food to the Foodbank, usually through the 'Community Collection Box Scheme'. 'Supermarket Collections' are another way that food is donated: these are food drives held at supermarkets where volunteers give shoppers a 'Foodbank shopping list' and ask them to buy an extra item or two for local people in crisis.

### FOOD IS STORED, SORTED AND DISTRIBUTED

Volunteers sort food to check that it's in date. This is stored at the warehouse and then delivered to the distribution centres, ready to give to people in need. There are about 60 volunteers working across different centres, in the warehouse and the admin office every week.

### PROFESSIONALS IDENTIFY PEOPLE IN NEED

Every month, people go hungry because they cannot afford food. The Foodbank works with almost 50 different front-line care organisations that refer people in this situation to the Foodbank.

### CLIENTS RECEIVE FOOD

The Foodbank provide three days of nutritionally balanced food to local people in crisis. They also chat to the people over a cup of tea and may signpost people to other organisations which can support them to address the underlying cause of their crisis.

The food they give is donated by people like us so please keep on bringing your food to church. The total amount raised from our last collection was 39.4 kgs and I have been asked to pass on their grateful thanks to everyone who donates towards this very important work.

**Prayer Pointers for April 2018**

|       |    |  |
|-------|----|--|
| Sun   | 1  | Jesus Christ is risen today – Alleluia !   |
| Mon   | 2  | Men's Monday Meeting Group   |
| Tues  | 3  | New Tuesday Group, discussion and fellowship   |
| Wed   | 4  | Upton Amblers activities and supporters  |
| Thurs | 5  | For the freedom and democracy which we enjoy   |
| Fri   | 6  | Our MPs and Government, for wisdom and peace   |
| Sat   | 7  | Teachers in our local schools, for wisdom and understanding  |
| Sun   | 8  | "The Lord protects me from all danger, I will never be afraid"   |
| Mon   | 9  | Churches Together in Upton   |
| Tues  | 10 | For the support of family and friends throughout our lives   |
| Wed   | 11 | Thanks to The Lord for our many blessings  |
| Thurs | 12 | The Thursday Working Group   |
| Fri   | 13 | All those with birthdays and anniversaries this month  |
| Sat   | 14 | For all those suffering anxiety and fear   |
| Sun   | 15 | For mothers and fathers and their wisdom and love  |
| Mon   | 16 | Girls' Brigade, their supporters and activities  |
| Tues  | 17 | For the farmers and wonderful produce raised in Cheshire   |
| Wed   | 18 | For our Elders, faith and wisdom   |
| Thurs | 19 | For all those unwell and needing medical care  |
| Fri   | 20 | For those in further education or training   |
| Sat   | 21 | For all those undertaking charity work this week   |
| Sun   | 22 | Keith Reading's Pastoral Group<br>Denise Carter, Vivien Ellis, Deb and Phil Mason, Rhiannon Morgan, Caryl and Brian Rose, Michelle Stephenson, Christine Walsh |
| Mon   | 23 | For doctors and all working in our medical services  |
| Tues  | 24 | For all in the Mersey Synod, faith and peace.  |
| Wed   | 25 | For all attending children's activities at our church  |
| Thurs | 26 | Food 'n' Fun Group   |
| Fri   | 27 | For all those seeking work in Chester  |
| Sat   | 28 | Chester Street Pastors, their supporters and activities  |
| Sun   | 29 | "Put your hope in The Lord and obey his commands"  |
| Mon   | 30 | For the many community activities taking place in our church   |

**REFLECTIONS ON REFORM - and beyond .....**

March Reform offers the usual spread of inspiration - a Lenten flavour from John Proctor (URC General Secretary), 'Ideas' on a festival theme by Andrew Webb in Malvern and 'Moving On' from Shella Maxey as she says farewell to a spiritual guide of 20 years. Also, the anguish - turned - positive of a former porn addict now a counsellor, and the Reform interview with Steward Henderson on poetry and connection - 'Lines from outside'.

'A good question ....' this month tackles "what do we do about the bits of the Bible that we don't like?" Some interesting answers emerge, but to me, the problem is that without the Old Testament anthology of a quest for the 'One God' the emerging realisation of the New Testament, that the one is a loving God, and a God for all peoples, is not easily grasped.

In short, it is fine to have a mission statement that 'God's love is for all ..... but it is quite another matter to get people to stick the course and work from the beginning of the story so that they can accept the claim and live with it. The 'bits we don't like' can't be simply discarded .....that's life.

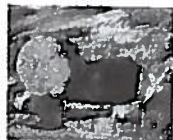
*Reference copies of Reform available from me, Brian Rose*

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN UPTON**

Thank you to all who came to the Lenten Lunch at our Church 1 March.

A total of £115 was sent to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

**CHURCH DIARY for APRIL 2018**



| <u>DAY</u> | <u>DATE</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>SERVICE / MEETING</u>   |
|------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| SUN 1      | 11.00 am    |             | <b>EASTER SUNDAY COMMUNION</b><br>SERVICE led by Revd Ruth Wilson<br>including the baptism of Oscar and Sophia Shelton<br>No SUNDAY at SIX at Vicars Cross URC |
| Tues 3     | 10.00 am    |             | NTG - <i>Easter 'Feast' Communion</i>  |
| Wed 4      | 9.45 am     |             | Upton Amblers Midweek Walk   |
|            | 6.45 pm     |             | Ecumenical Prayer & Praise in the Vestry   |
| Thurs 5    | 7.30 pm     |             | Thursday Home Group  |
| Sat 7      | 10.00 am    |             | Church open for coffee   |
| SUN 8      | 10.30 am    |             | <b>MORNING SERVICE</b> led by Revd Susan Flynn   |
|            | 6.30 pm     |             | <b>EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE</b> led<br>by Mr Ken Peters   |
| Mon 9      | 10.00 am    |             | CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavilion   |
| Wed 11     | 12 noon     |             | Wacky Wednesday  |
|            | - 3.00 pm   |             |  |
|            | 6.45 pm     |             | Prayer & Praise in the Vestry  |
|            | 7.30 pm     |             | Elders' Meeting  |
| Thurs 12   | 10.00 am    |             | WD 40's - <i>Art Exhibition at the Golf Club</i>   |
|            | 3.30 pm     |             | Messy Church   |
| Sat 14     | 10.00 am    |             | Church open for coffee   |
|            | 10.00 am    |             | Upton Amblers - <i>Leaders Anne &amp; Richard Sykes</i>  |
| SUN 15     | 10.30 am    |             | <b>MORNING SERVICE</b> led by Revd Ruth Wilson   |
|            | 6.00 pm     |             | Café Jam at Caldly Valley  |
|            | for 6.30 pm |             |  |

*Copy Date for MAY Newsletter*

*All contributions to Christine Beeston please*

**UPTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

Presents an evening with

**'FARNDON BRASS ENSEMBLE & FRIENDS'**

**6.00 pm Saturday 21 April 2018**

**(doors open 5.30 pm)**

**£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**



**UPTON AMBLERS DATES UP TO THE SUMMER**

**WEDNESDAYS**

- April 4<sup>th</sup> leaders Gordon Burgess and Noel Parry  
 May 2<sup>nd</sup> leaders Richard and Anne Sykes  
 June **NO WALK**  
 July 4<sup>th</sup> leaders Brian and Caryl Rose

**SATURDAYS**

- April 14<sup>th</sup> leaders Richard and Anne Sykes (Whitchurch)  
 May 26<sup>th</sup> leader Robin Hodgkins (Caergwrie)  
 June **NO WALK**  
 July 28<sup>th</sup> leader Chris Porteous

Please tel. Celia Jones on 381387 if you would like more information.

**SUNDAY MORNING TEA/COFFEE ROTA**

**APRIL**

- 1 April Lesley & Noel Parry  
 8 April Debbie & Niall Ormerod  
 15 April Rose Harrison & Fergus O'Neill  
 22 April Pat Griffiths & Brian Stephenson  
 29 April Beryl & Jim Frost

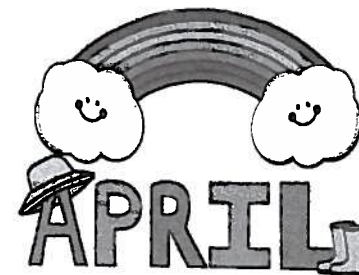
**MAY**

- 6 May Carol Mellor & Violet Brickland  
 13 May Anne & Richard Sykes  
 20 May Eleanor & Stan Hornsby  
 27 May Debbie & Phil Mason



**DAY      DATE TIME      SERVICE / MEETING**

- Mon 16 10.00 am CTU Coffee at the Pavillion  
 6.15 pm Girls' Brigade  
 Tues 17 10.00 am NTG - 'Reform' Discussion  
 2.30 pm Friendship Group - Clumps  
 Wed 18 6.45 pm Prayer & Praise in the Vestry  
 Thurs 19 10.00 am WD 40's  
 Sat 21 10.00 am Church open for coffee  
 5.30 pm Farndon Brass Ensemble & Friends  
 for 6.00 pm  
  
 SUN 22 10.30 am MORNING SERVICE led by Revd Ruth Wilson  
 6.30 pm EVENING SERVICE at Caldly Valley  
 Mon 23 10.00 am CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavilion  
 6.15 pm Girls' Brigade  
 Wed 25 6.45 pm Prayer & Praise in the Vestry  
 Thurs 26 10.00 am WD 40's  
 1.00 pm Food & Fun  
 Sat 28 10.00 am Church open for coffee  
  
 SUN 29 10.30 am MORNING SERVICE led by Mrs Liz Warrington  
 4.30 pm Churches Together in Upton Ecumenical  
 Service at St Columba RC Church  
 Mon 30 10.00 am CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavilion  
 6.15 pm Girls' Brigade



**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE at UPTON URC ON 2 MARCH**

This service was prepared for us by the Christian women of Suriname in South America. Its theme was "All God's creation is very good!" The service was led by Ellen, Sheila Dunbar's daughter, who used a day of her allotted time off work to take it for us. Hilary Salvage accompanied the singing on the organ.

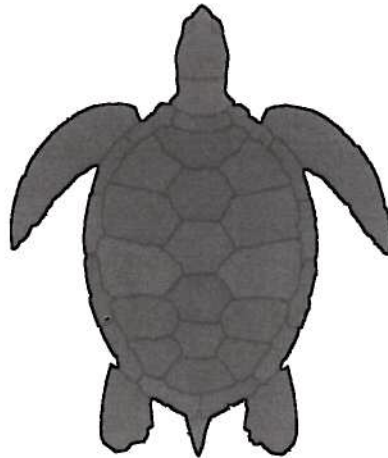
The Bible readings were from Genesis 1 verses 1 - 13 and Psalm 8. The Genesis reading was about God's creation of the world. He proclaimed it good! The Psalm reading reminded us of our place in creation and of our personal responsibilities and accountability to God as his stewards. We were also reminded of the smallness of our world within the universe and that we are just one tiny part of the whole of creation. If we think of all the riches our world contains - its natural resources, its variety and beauty - we should be thankful. We were also to think of how we could be a good steward of God's world and, in the turtle provided, write down one practical thing that we could commit to doing to care for and to preserve God's creation. Perhaps it is a message we have heard before, but it was a thought-provoking service and good to hear how this message is still the same in South America.

*This is a hymn from the service:*

God in his love for us lent us this planet,  
Gave it a purpose in time and in space:  
Small as a spark from the fire of creation,  
cradle of life and the home of our race.

Thanks be to God for its bounty and beauty,  
Life that sustains us in body and mind:  
Plenty for all, if we learn how to share it,  
Riches undreamed-of to fathom and find.

Long have our human wars ruined its harvest;  
Long has earth bowed to the terror of force;  
Long have we wasted what others have needed,  
Poisoned the fountain of life at its source.



Earth is the Lord's: It is ours to enjoy it,  
Ours, as God's stewards, to farm and defend.  
From its pollution, misuse, and destruction,  
Good Lord, deliver us, world without end!

*Margaret Hainsworth*



**PRIORY AND TWO CATHEDRALS COACH TRIP**

**WEDNESDAY 23 MAY**

**LEAVE UPTON URC/ST COLUMBA'S AT 10.00 AM**

**RETURN at 7.15 PM**

**VISIT NORTON PRIORY WITH GUIDED TOUR**

**TEA AND SCONE AT LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL**

**CHORAL EVENING PRAYER AT THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL**

**COST £20 including admission and guided tour at Norton Priory, Tea at  
Liverpool Cathedral and donation at the Metropolitan Cathedral**

**Further details and booking from JOHN BUTLER Telephone 383703**

