

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 Caldley 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
	1.00 pm (last Thursday of the month)	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)
3rd Wednesday	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting

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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MAY 2018



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

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www.uptonurc.org.uk**

**email:
info@uptonurc.org.uk**

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CHURCH ROTAS

FLOWERS

May	6	Dorothy Carr
	13	Derek & Mary Carter
	20	Marion Gibbons
	27	Betty Steepe
June	3	Debbie Ormerod
	10	Christine Walsh
	17	Joan Peters
	24	Joan Perken

CAR FERRY

May	6	Phil Mason
	13	John Hainsworth
	20	Phil Mason
	27	Keith Reading
June	3	Niall Ormerod
	10	John Hainsworth
	17	Phil Mason
	24	Keith Reading

SUNDAY MORNING TEA / COFFEE

May	6	Carole Mellor & Violet Brickland
	13	Anne & Richard Sykes
	20	Eleanor & Stan Hornsby
	27	Debbie & Phil Mason
June	3	Vivien Ellis & Caryl Rose
	10	Margaret & John Hainsworth
	17	Brenda Bentley & Joan Peters
	24	Claire & Dave Nichols

Message from the Manse

So we have celebrated Easter morning and the resurrection of Christ so what now.....

For those who do not "do church" it might appear that church life simply trundles along once Easter has passed, counting the days until our next festival of Harvest.... but they'd be wrong! We don't stop working or looking for opportunities to engage with our fellow human beings.

The URC has recently launched a missional discipleship resource to support churches wanting to look at the ten 'Holy Habits' listed in Andrew Roberts' book of the same name.

Holy Habits, the book, helps us as we seek to follow Jesus, and is about Christian discipleship".

The 10 Holy Habits are:

Biblical teaching, Fellowship, Breaking bread, Prayer, Sharing Resources, Serving, Eating together, Gladness and Generosity, Worship and Making more disciples.

The ten Habits can be approached in any order and will help individuals, small groups and churches consider areas of discipleship; to learn from Jesus' teaching whilst also being challenged, transformed and guided so that we can engage more fully with one another, and with our community, in ways that we hope will build strong and positive relationships.

The resources produced by the URC consist of separate booklets each looking at one Habit. All offer suggestions of how participants can engage through learning, developing and growing in knowledge and practice of each subject.

I will, in the coming months, be working, with the Education and Discipleship Group, to determine:

- * in what order we approach the Holy Habits,
- * what resources we will use and how
- * how we encourage, include and involve the congregation in participation.

As followers of Christ, we must always be ready to consider opportunities to grow as disciples and develop our engagement with the wider community.

More details will follow as they become available, so please watch this space...

Ruth
May 2018

PEOPLE NEWS

- On Sunday, 1 April we welcomed into the church family by baptism, Oscar and Sophia Shelton - son and daughter of Jodie Cowley and Tom Shelton.
- It is with regret that we record the death of John Derrick Rich on 18th March and whose funeral was held on 12 April. We send our prayers and sympathy to his family at this sad time.
- Please pray for Brian Stephenson who is in hospital, Catherine Hinchcliffe who is unwell and Marjorie Kemp who is recovering from an operation. Also to anyone who is unwell, awaiting an operation or test results
- We send special birthday wishes to our minister, Ruth, and to Pat Griffith who have special '0' birthdays this month.

A SHORT BREAK ... ?

It all started in November looking to go away for a few days in December.

Found one I liked the look of, so off to Bournemouth for five days including, on the last day, an outing to a Christmas Market, which sounded very nice.

The hotel was nice, not too big, good food and evening entertainment. There was a dance floor and three ladies I had made friends with and myself would get up and do a bit of movement, can't say dancing really but we enjoyed ourselves - until the penultimate evening when at 9 o'clock the Big Break happened and I went down with a big bang - one smashed hip. Two weeks in Poole Hospital, then another two weeks in the Countess of Chester - what a short break!!

What is all this about? It is to say a very big Thank You to all the people who prayed for me, sent cards and came to see me in hospital and at home. Many thanks.

By the time you read this, I hope to be up and running again but I don't think I will be dancing for a while!

Brenda Bentley

Christian Aid Week 2018 - 13-19 May

Christian Aid is the official relief and development agency for 41 British and Irish Churches, and works to support sustainable development, stop poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

We are taking part in the Annual Christian Aid Week street collection again this year. Packs of envelopes for distribution and collection will be available in the church foyer from Sunday 29 April. If you can carry out a collection in a road in Upton please take some envelopes, sign the form to show which road you will be covering and return the filled envelopes to church on Sunday 20 May.

You may not receive a Christian Aid Week envelope at your house, since it is no longer possible to collect from all roads in Upton, but envelopes will be available in church on Sunday 13 May, which you can use if you wish to donate to Christian Aid. They can be returned during the offering at either service on May 20.

John Hainsworth Saving to Share Committee



Minister's Madness

Saturday 16th June

from 4.00pm - 6.00pm

at Upton URC

It is a "No presents but your presence" birthday party!

so please come and help Ruth to celebrate

her 50th birthday

food, drink, fun and games are all provided

There are a limited number of tickets available

the invitation is open to members and friends

of both Upton and Vicars Cross URCs

So....

If you are free, and would like to join, please speak to
Carole Mellor to collect an invitation.

Ruth

Treasurer's Report

The annual accounts for 2017 have been independently examined and were approved by the March Church Meeting. If you have not had a copy and would like to receive one, then please ask. There was a healthy and rather unexpected surplus over the year. The Expenditure was roughly in line with the budget. However, the income substantially exceeded the budget figure. This was largely due to two factors: Both Offerings and Property Income each exceeded the budget estimate by about £3.5k.

The Church Meeting also approved a revised budget for 2018. Both Offerings and Property Income have been set at about £3k below that reached in 2017. The first because of the reduction in the number of members and the second because the level of income for use of the premises is not guaranteed and users who may drop out cannot be immediately replaced. The budgeted level of expenditure reflects that for 2017 with one exception. We have allowed an additional £6 for improvements to the church premises. This leads to an estimated deficit of about £4k which would be met from the surplus in 2017. Keith Reading presented to the Church Meeting an outline of the improvements being considered by the Property Group for 2018. Some feedback was received at the meeting and further consultation and estimates are being undertaken.

In addition to the above we have a designated fund set up to cover the expenditure for 3 years for the Children and Family Worker. We receive a grant of £3k per annum from Synod which is not included in our accounts as Synod pay this

OT. Which is regrettable, because from a familiarity with the idea of a wrathful, judgemental Jehovah it is much easier to appreciate the forgiving, loving God of the New Testament Good News.

An what of the resurrection question - the really big one?

Well, it's all of a part with that other supernatural story of the Nativity and I'm rather inclined to think that the all-loving God may have had a twinkle in the eye at such a neat way of showing the powerful that you can't have the last word if you cross the Divine AND giving the grieving, perplexed disciples a massive boost at the same time! In fact, the boost that would launch a church lasting almost 2,000 years - so far!

Brian Rose

MESSY CHURCH



Our next Messy Church is on

Thursday, 10 May

3.30 pm - 5.30 pm

The theme is

'Creatures of the Air and Sea'

REFORMand the big issues!

Last month's 'A Good Question?' - what do you do about the bits of the Bible you don't like? is followed in the Easter issue by 'Do you have to believe in the resurrection to be a Christian? WOW!

The answers are significant for us all as we 'Walk the Way' Beginners on the journey could easily be deterred by such questions. They certainly make the rest of us sit up and take notice! The 'letters' responses to the earlier question offer some clues - they chime with my childhood and youth, when I first revelled in the graphic tales from the Old Testament, then rejected it in favour of the Good News of the New Testament.

Pretty natural responses perhaps, but modified in my twenties and thirties through Alan Dale's excellent 'The Winding Quest', a narrative re-working of the OT for young people (and his 'New World' is doing a similar thing for the NT). This was pure gold for me, since by this time I was working with young adults so not only I, but they too, gained a proper appreciation of what the Bible really offers: a record of the quest of an ancient people for an understanding and relationship with ONE GOD - 'The Winding Quest'.

Once we had a proper understanding of the primitive - often bloodthirsty and sometimes quite salacious - parts of that quest, we were much better able to understand the developments of the Gospel and young churches which followed in 'New World'.

Adult Christians today, sceptics, agnostics and to some extent believers too, seem to play down, ignore or actively reject the

directly. This means that the designated fund is sufficient to cover the expected expenditure over the 3 years. We have also received specific grants for the Holiday Club which are in a Restricted Fund and can only be used for that specific purpose. This has offset some of the expenditure we would otherwise have incurred.

As at the end of March offerings are running at an annual rate of about £3k below budget and Property Income is running at an annual rate of about £2k above budget. We have already received in March the Gift Aid refund relating to 2017 and I am aiming to claim the Gift Aid on Small Donations refund shortly. We hold reserves sufficient to meet the expected deficit this year but I would ask members to review their level of giving if they haven't done this recently. Using the Freewill Offering Envelope Scheme (contact Vivien Ellis or me) or contributing by Bank Transfer (Standing Order forms at the back of the church or see me) help to provide the church with a regular income. Don't forget that if you pay tax then your offerings or donations can be increased by 25% by signing a Gift Aid form (available at the back of the church or from me).

I would like to thank all of you for your generous contributions to the church and also those who have assisted me in running and organising our finances: John Hainsworth (Assistant Treasurer), Carole Mellor (Free Will Offering Steward), Vivien Ellis (Free Will Offering Secretary), and Christine Walsh (Independent Examiner).

Robin Hodgkins

CHURCH DIARY for MAY 2018

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERVICE / MEETING</u>
Tues	1	2.30 pm	Friendship Group - Clumps
Wed	2	9.45 am	Upton Amblers Midweek Walk - Leaders Richard & Anne Sykes
		6.45 pm	Ecumenical Prayer & Praise in the Vestry
Thurs	3	10.00 am	WD 40'
		7.30 pm	Thursday Home Group at 2 Grangeside
Sat	5	10.00 am	Church Coffee Morning
SUN	6	10.30 am	MORNING COMMUNION SERVICE led by Mrs Joan Colwell
		6.00 pm	SUNDAY at SIX at Vicars Cross URC with Revd Ron Reid
Mon	7		Bank Holiday
Wed	9	6.45 pm	Prayer & Praise in the Vestry
		7.30 pm	Churches Together in Upton Committee Meeting
Thurs	10	10.00 am	WD 40's
		3.30 pm	Messy Church
Sat	12	10.00 am	Church Coffee Morning
		10.15 am	Church Meeting
SUN	13	10.30 am	MORNING SERVICE led by Mr Ken Peters
		6.30 pm	EVENING SERVICE led by Revd Ruth Wilson

Copy date for JUNE Newsletter
All contributions to Margaret Hainsworth please

Christian Aid Week 13 - 19 May

fields and along quiet country lanes, and had a lovely lunch spot, at Brown Moss, overlooking the lakes.

Wednesday walks in this period have been to the Countess Country Park and city walls, Shotwick and Gresford, and have been very well supported. Sadly, our very first ever serious injury occurred in March, when Frank Mawdsley's friend Elizabeth had a nasty fall, and dislocated and broke a bone in her shoulder. We all wish her well, and pray for her speedy recovery.

Celia Jones

Stewardship Group – Two new projects for 2018

At Church Meeting we decided to look at two more new projects for the church buildings in 2018:

- 1) Redecorating the church hall and toilets
- 2) Making a proper church office so that Ruth can work in the vestry.

If you would like to make some input to these decisions, or join a small group to make the proposals, then please let me know and we can pull our ideas together and make the best decisions for all involved. We would like to have your input.

Many thanks.

Keith Reading

UPTON AMBLERS

The day of our February Saturday walk started out very cold, but dry, and looked really promising. 18 of us went to Rhosesmor village, and Dave Oultram led us on an absolutely glorious route of approx. 6 miles. We had a steepish climb at first, but the winter sunshine was beautiful, and we thankfully had the chilly easterly wind at our backs. When we reached the trig point at the top of Halkyn Mountain, we found sheltered spots for our lunch stop, and then returned along the lower slopes. The ground underfoot had dried out really well, and we got back with no muddy boots to clean for once. Many thanks to Dave for a lovely day.

In March, the planned walk had been on the Wirral, starting from the promenade at West Kirby, but it was yet another very wet week, and the leader, Peter Milburn, decided to switch walks. He led a group of 14 on a circuit of Delamere Forest, where there would be more shelter from the weather. However they mostly stayed dry, and enjoyed their day. Maybe we can do the original planned route next year.

Our April walk leaders were Anne and Richard Sykes, and they took 11 of us to Whitchurch. We had a glorious sunny day at last, and although there were some muddy patches to negotiate, it really felt as though spring had arrived, especially with the wild flowers appearing in the hedges, and listening to the birds singing. We completed a 7 mile amble, through

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERVICE / MEETING</u>
Mon	14	10.00 am 6.15 pm	CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavilion Girls' Brigade
Tues	15	10.00 am 2.30 pm	NTG Friendship Group - 'The other side of the camera' with Niall Ormerod
Wed	16	12 noon - 1.00 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm	Churches Together in Upton Christian Aid Lunch at Holy Ascension, Kempe Room Prayer & Praise in the Vestry Elders' Meeting
Thurs	17	10.00 am	WD 40's - Outing to see the Terracotta Army at Liverpool National Museum
Sat	19	10.00 am	Church Coffee Morning
SUN	20	10.30 am	Pentecost Sunday MORNING SERVICE led by Revd Ruth Wilson
		6.30 pm	EVENING SERVICE at Caldly Valley
Mon	21	10.00 am 6.15 pm 7.30 pm	CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavilion Girls' Brigade Churches Together in Upton Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Songs of Praise in the Sanctuary, Holy Ascension Church
Tues	22	2.30 pm 6.30 pm	Friendship Group CTU Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Holy Ascension Church, Kempe Room
Wed	23	10.00 am 6.45 pm	Churches Together in Upton Outing to Norton Priory, Liverpool Metropolitan and Anglican Cathedrals Prayer & Praise in the Vestry No meeting for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

DAY	DATE	TIME	SERVICE / MEETING
Thurs	24	10.00 am	WD 40's
		6.30 pm	CTU Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Holy Ascension Church, Kempe Room
		7.30 pm	Thursday Home Group at 2 Grangeside
Fri	25	6.30 pm	CTU Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Holy Ascension Church, Kempe Room
Sat	26	10.00 am	Church Coffee Morning
		10.00 am	Upton Amblers - Leader Robin Hodgkins (Caergwrie)
		6.30 pm	CTU Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Holy Ascension Church, Kempe Room
SUN	27	10.30 am	MORNING SERVICE led by Revd Ruth Wilson
		<u>4.30 pm</u>	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service in the Sanctuary, Holy Ascension Church
Mon	28		Bank Holiday
Tues	29	10.00 am	NTG
Wed	30	12 noon	Wacky Wednesday
		- 3.00 pm	
		6.45 pm	Prayer & Praise in the Vestry
Thurs	31	10.00 am	WD 40's
		1.00 pm	Food & Fun
		7.30 pm	Thursday Home Group at 2 Grangeside

Building on Firm Foundations Lego® Competition 2018

Do you like Lego®? Do you like a challenge?

Why not enter our Lego® competition?

The competition is open to everyone. It is free to enter. You can enter as an individual or as a group/family.

There are three themes:

- Noah's Ark
- Peace
- Church in Bricks

You may enter a model in each of the categories or just one.

All models will be on display in the church from the weekend of 14th and 15th July 2018 and judging will take place on 21st July 2018.

For more information and to enter please contact us by email or telephone with your name and contact details.

stgeorgesurch@gmail.com

07769 966484

ST GEORGE'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ST GEORGE'S WAY

THORNTON HOUGH

CH63 1JJ



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN UPTON

CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH

Holy Ascension Church (Kempe Room)

Wednesday, 16 May

12 noon - 1.00 pm

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN UPTON

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

at Holy Ascension Church

Monday, 21 May	7.30 pm	Songs of Praise in the Sanctuary
Tuesday, 22 May	6.30 pm	Kempe Room
Wednesday, 23 May	No meeting - CTU Coach Outing to Norton Priory and Liverpool	
Thursday, 24 May	6.30 pm	Kempe Room
Friday, 25 May	6.30 pm	Kempe Room
Saturday, 26 May	6.30 pm	Kempe Room
Sunday, 27 May	<u>4.30 pm</u>	Sanctuary

ANNUAL PAUSE FOR HOPE

SERVICE this year will be held in Chester Cathedral on Saturday, 3 June at 3.00 pm.

"To ease, through prayer, the burden of cancer on individuals, their loved ones and the community and to pray that the day will come quickly when all cancers can be prevented or cured.

(www.pauseforhope.org.uk)

Chester Mystery Plays

27 June - 14 July

in the nave of Chester Cathedral

A rare and treasured part of Britain's cultural heritage, the Chester Mystery Plays are returning to Chester to be performed by a community cast of hundreds. Tales of ambition, intrigue, betrayal and passion drawn from iconic Bible stories are guaranteed to enrapture, astound and delight. For more information, to view the seating plan and book tickets visit:

chestermysteryplays.com

PRAYER DIARY – MAY 2018



Please pray for:

- 1st. - Tuesday** - Let us begin by thanking God for the month of May 2018 and His faithfulness towards us.
- 2nd. - Wednesday** - "Put your hope in the Lord and obey his commands"
- 3rd. - Thursday** - For those suffering ill health and those waiting for medical tests and results.
- 4th. - Friday** - Thank you for all who work for peace
- 5th. - Saturday** - Mary Carter's Pastoral Group: Jean Collyer, Pat Griffiths, Ruth Geddes, Hugh Hughes and Lesley and Noel Parry
- 6th. - Sunday** - We pray that world leaders will act with wisdom, justice and compassion.
- 7th. - Monday** - For local medical practices and hospitals and all who work in them.
- 8th. - Tuesday** - Pray for all who make our Church feel welcoming and comfortable.
- 9th. - Wednesday** - Thank you God for the many gifts of love.
- 10th. - Thursday** - Ascension Day, "Go tell the good news"
- 11th. - Friday** - Lead us to be generous with our time, possessions and money.
- 12th. - Saturday** - Thank you for the care-workers in our community.
- 13th. - Sunday** - Pray for all involved in 'Christian Aid Week' whose vision is a 'World without Poverty'
- 14th. - Monday** - For those who are recently bereaved.
- 15th. - Tuesday** - "Surround yourself with God's words"

- 16th. - Wednesday** - Elders, as they meet this evening, pray for wisdom, vision and direction.
- 17th. - Thursday** - All who are unemployed.
- 18th. - Friday** - Pray for spiritual knowledge and inspiration.
- 19th. - Saturday** - The 'Foodbank' emergency food for local people in crisis.
- 20th. - Sunday** - Day of Pentecost, Whit Sunday.
- 21st. - Monday** - "For health and strength and daily food, we praise your name O God".
- 22nd. - Tuesday** - Pray for the church secretary and treasurer.
- 23rd. - Wednesday** - Pray for our Minister and family.
- 24th. - Thursday** - 'Churches Together in Upton'.
- 25th. - Friday** - For all the groups in church.
- 26th. - Saturday** - "Prayer illuminates, throwing light into dark places. Prayer joins, redeems and unites."
- 27th. - Sunday** - For all young people preparing for exams.
- 28th. - Monday** - The goal of the Christian Faith is not to know something, but to do something with what you know.
- 29th. - Tuesday** - Pray for our community, for those who suffer hardship, are lonely and burdened.
- 30th. - Wednesday** - "Messy Church" and "Wacky Wednesday" clubs.
- 31st. - Thursday** - Pray for those on holiday, may they be refreshed.