

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 Caldby 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	Food 'n' Fun (last Thursday of the month)
Saturday	10.00 am - 12 noon	Church open for coffee
	10.00 am	Upton Amblers (dates vary)

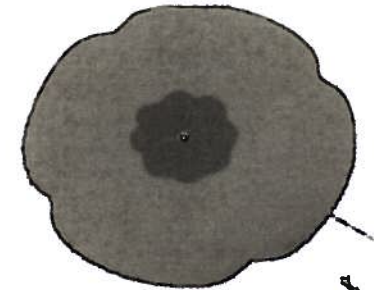
MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Saturdays	10.15 am	Church Meeting (dates vary)
3 rd Wednesday	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting

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

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018



Lest We Forget

Remembrance Day
November 11



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.UPTONURC.ORG.UK

EMAIL:
INFO@UPTONURC.ORG.UK

Message from The Manse

November has always been a very thought provoking month for me and this year is even more poignant as it is the 100th Anniversary of the end of The Great War.

As a child brought up in church I have many memories of walking from the church to the Cenotaph each year for the Remembrance Parade. I knew that we were remembering and showing respect for all who have given their lives in active service so we can live in freedom, but didn't quite understand the significance. My Father and Grandfather both served "Queen and country" so it was taken for granted that we would all be there without any real explanation of why.

Today, we are more open to discussing and reflecting on the effects of war, destruction and loss. Helping us understand that it is not only "The Fallen" that we remember and give thanks for but also those who have been injured or suffer the life-changing effects of serving their country.

I believe this is a good thing, as it helps to highlight the magnitude of issues relating to power and control that humankind has created and is continuing to create around our beautiful planet.

Our Lord calls us to be counter-cultural and instead work towards bringing about lasting peace, acceptance and unconditional love of humankind

(So let us show love in action in everything we do, as we seek to build a peaceful and loving community, country and world.

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CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

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ROTAS

CHURCH FLOWERS

NOVEMBER

- 4 November Dorothy Davies
11 November Christine Beeston
18 November Vivien Ellis
25 November Dorothy Carr

DECEMBER

- 2 December Ivison Family
9 December Flower Box
16 December Flower Box
23 December Flower Box
30 December Flower Box

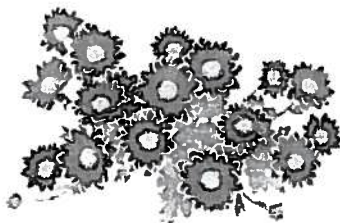
CAR FERRY

NOVEMBER

- 4 November Phil Mason
11 November Keith Reading
18 November Niall Ormerod
25 November John Hainsworth

DECEMBER

- 2 December Phil Mason
9 December Keith Reading
16 December Niall Ormerod
23 December John Hainsworth
30 December Phil Mason



Romans 12:9-21)

***Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.***

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord.

On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.'

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Grace and peace

Ruth

November 2018

PEOPLE NEWS

We send our love and prayers to all those who are not well or housebound and unable to attend Church for any reason.

We especially remember in our prayers those who are attending hospital or awaiting test results. We also remember those who have been bereaved or feel lonely for any reason.

Reach out and touch the Lord as He goes by

You'll find he's not too busy to hear your heart's cry

He's passing by this moment your needs to supply

Reach out and touch the Lord as He goes by

Hymn 569 from Mission Praise

ALARM CODE CHANGE KEY HOLDERS AT UPTON URC

If you hold a front door key to Upton URC please can you contact Robin Hodgkins by SUNDAY 25TH November 2018.

We are in the process of updating our key holder list and security arrangements. The alarm entry code is being changed, so if you need access please contact Robin by the 25th November. If, however, you no longer need access please return your key to Robin by the same date.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Sadly, although he had left instructions with one of the group, apparently the rest had not heard about it, and panic ensued when they realised their leader had mysteriously vanished and they did not know which way to go. Poor Richard had to rush back up the steep hill to restore order!!! As if this was not excitement enough for one day, the B group had an even bigger story to tell. Dave Oultram's ambition from when he was a 10 year old schoolboy was to see a kingfisher, but he had never done so. I happened to say "What is that bird on the fence?" when it took off, and we all saw the wonderful brilliant blue as the kingfisher darted along the river. We also spotted a kestrel, and at lunch a grey heron flew to its perch above the river, and sat there for about 20 minutes, posing for photographs. Later on the 2 groups joined up and we returned up the beautiful valley below Youlgreave. What a stunning day we all had.

On our last morning we drove to Bakewell and all completed a 4½ mile walk, partly along the Monsal Trail, and then returned on paths above the town, with views of the beautiful church and its spire.

This was the only Amblers Break away that Philip and I can remember when we both only needed to wear trainers on our feet, and the only rain we saw was when we reached Kelsall on the way home.

At our AGM we all expressed our grateful thanks to Anne and Richard Sykes, who had worked so hard planning everything so meticulously for us, and giving us such wonderful memories of a very special 3 days.

CELIA JONES

Walk dates to the end of 2018

Wednesday 7th November - leader Celia Jones

Saturday 17th November - leader Phil Jones

Wednesday 5th December - leaders George and Jean Coward

Saturday 15th December - leader Christine Walsh

UPTON AMBLERS

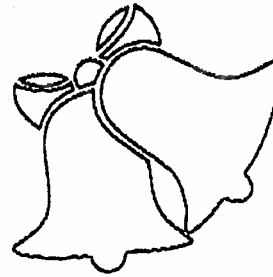
Alan and Angela Simpson were our leaders for the September Saturday amble, and they had prepared a route starting from the Candle Factory at Burwardsley. Some of our regulars were away on exotic holidays, and some had medical issues, so there was a reduced party of 12. It turned out to be a 8 ½ mile walk, including part of the Shropshire Union Canal, Sandstone Trail and Eddisbury Way, with a lovely lunch spot at Wharton Locks. They enjoyed sighting a heron, lots of swans, and masses of very tasty blackberries and damsons, and had a very enjoyable day, with very kind weather.

Our annual walking holiday was from Tuesday 9th to Thursday 11th October this year, instead of a weekend, because our hotel concentrates on weddings and other events then. In a way this was an advantage for us as we were visiting very popular weekend walking areas. On our first day we met up at Dovedale, and were soon crossing over the famous stepping stones. We all negotiated them safely, but saw 1 or 2 dogs who were very reluctant and had to be coaxed across (as did my husband). This is a beautiful dale, and the water sparkled in the strong sunshine. The B group crossed over the bridge at Ilam Rock, and lunched on the river bank before retracing our steps, but the A group continued up the valley, and had a wonderful lunch place, with ice creams available. However there were lots of very persistent ducks who made strong efforts to pinch their sandwiches.

Afterwards we all returned to the Peak Edge Hotel, which was as excellent as last year, with beautiful large (but maybe too warm for some) bedrooms, lovely food and very friendly helpful staff.

Wednesday was an absolutely magical day, sun and pure blue sky all day and really warm for the time of year. Our routes started from the square in Middleton in Youlgreave. The A and B walks were mostly in the same direction, but with the harder way on higher ground, but we twice had views of each other in the distance. One member of the B group (Famous Five) had left his walking stick behind somewhere, but knew he had lost it and was not bothered, but several phone messages passed back and to, and at the bottom of a steep hill Richard Sykes, our ever gallant A leader, appeared with the newly found stick.

CHRISTMAS 2018



RING OF BELLS FESTIVAL
(including Christmas Fayre)

24 November 2018
10.00 am – 12.30 pm

Please donate any of the following items to help contribute to the success of our event -

Tombola - new gift items such as toiletries, toys, stationary, accessories, chocolate, bottles etc, etc.

Home Produce - cakes, bread, biscuits, scones, jam, marmalade etc.

Luxury items for the Raffle

Please leave your donations in the box provided in the church lounge by 20 November.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR EVENT

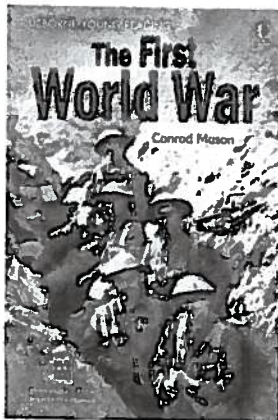
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

We are now approaching Remembrance Sunday which has particular significance since it will be the centenary of the end of the First World War 'The War to end all Wars'. We would like, within the service, to capture some of the experiences and recollections of members of the congregation arising from the effect of wars and conflicts on their own lives and those of their families.

Members may also wish to suggest readings, prayers, hymns or other material which we can share in the service, perhaps not just about remembering the past, but also our hopes and concerns for the future.

If members would like to bring items for display, we can place them on a table in the hall along with some explanatory words.

Please do speak to Sheila Dunbar, Margaret Hainsworth or Robin Hodgkins if you can help in any way.



PRAYER DIARY November 2018

- Thu 1 For the success of the November campaign promoting men's health awareness this month.
- Fri 2 For the homeless, that they accept the support available to them.
- Sat 3 For the safety of those celebrating Guy Fawkes night this weekend.
- Sun 4 For those undertaking ministerial training.
- Mon 5 For the work of the emergency services.
- Tue 6 For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies.
- Wed 7 For wisdom for the leaders of our country to make right and wise decisions.
- Thu 8 For all those who work and volunteer in our local hospices.
- Fri 9 For the addicted, that they find a way out of their situation.
- Sat 10 For the pleasure of creating and listening to music.
- Sun 11 For all servicemen and women on Remembrance Day and all those affected by War as we commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1.
- Mon 12 For the bereaved.
- Tue 13 For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night.
- Wed 14 For the work of the Food Bank.
- Thu 15 For our friends and family.
- Fri 16 For Children in Need.
- Sat 17 Make me a channel of your peace.
- Sun 18 Give thanks that we are able to worship freely.
- Mon 19 For the opportunity to be a blessing to someone today.
- Tue 20 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child.
- Wed 21 For those suffering from domestic abuse.
- Thu 22 For a more even distribution of the world's resources.
- Fri 23 For those preparing for our Ring of Bells Festival and Christmas Fayre tomorrow
- Sat 24 For the success of our community event today.
- Sun 25 For our church family.
- Mon 26 For prisoners of conscience.
- Tue 27 For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given.
- Wed 28 For those seeking employment.
- Thu 29 Thank you for the joy of fun and laughter.
- Fri 30 For Save the Family and their work to keep families together.

**ST COLUMBA'S, CHESTER
LOOKING AT THE READINGS FOR ADVENT**

**A series of short talks by David Savage on the Advent
readings for the Year of Luke**

LUKE

- TUES 20 NOVEMBER:** "Luke in Context" Iona Chapel
TUES 27 NOVEMBER Week 1 "Your liberation is near at hand" Holy Ascension
TUES 4 DECEMBER Week 2 "A Baptism of repentance" Holy Ascension
Tues 11 DECEMBER Week 3 "Someone more powerful" Iona Chapel
Tues 18 DECEMBER Week 4 "John leaps in the womb" Upton URC

7.30 pm

**A warm welcome is extended to all interested parishioners
and friends**

Bring a Bible

More information from David Savage 01244 380626

Church Anniversary 2 DECEMBER 2018

**FOLLOWING THE MORNING SERVICE YOU ARE
INVITED TO STAY FOR LUNCH**

EVERYONE WELCOME

**PLEASE SIGN THE LIST ON THE NOTICEBOARD AT THE BACK OF
THE SANCTURY BY 25 NOVEMBER TO INDICATE YOU WILL BE
ATTENDING FOR CATERING PURPOSES.**

SUNDAY MORNING TEA/COFFEE ROTA

NOVEMBER

- 4 November** Susan & Keith Reading
11 November Beryl & Jim Frost
18 November Rose Harrison & Fergus O'Neill
25 November Robin Hodgkins & Brian Stephenson

DECEMBER

- 2 December** Debbie & Phil Mason
9 December Lesley & Noel Parry
16 December Carol Mellor & Margaret Bartlett
23 December Brian Stephenson
30 December Anne & Richard Sykes



CONNECTIONS!

Weekly 'Wacky Wednesday' was a great success: both the young people and their parents looked forward to the fun and sharing - and the willing band of helpers enjoyed it too! Bravo!

Special thanks to Ruth and Terri and Megan and Emily for their enthusiastic leadership and the bonus is that they have become connected with Mersey Synod and URC National Youth work through FURY (Fellowship of URC Youth). So watch this space, because there is quite a history of this Church being inspired through its young people - Saving to Share and Upton Ambler's walking group among others.

We endeavour to connect you all, locally through the Newsletter, regionally through Lookout - and if you follow Reform you can be inspired and connected nationally and internationally!

To take up the challenge, see me to join the group of subscription at any time, or see Reform to become a private subscriber - either for paper or on-line versions. You can see current and past issues at Church.

Why not act now, you could be part of inspiring us as well.

God bless

Brian Rose

REFORM

Our REFORM group subscription is now due for renewal. If you wish to be connected to the Church nationally and worldwide, Reform is your best link. Annual subscription is £28.50 or £18 for digital version.

Please let me know if you wish to renew or join the group.

Brian Rose

<u>DAY DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERVICE / MEETING</u>
Thurs 15	10.00 am 7.30 pm	WD 40's - Making Christmas Bells Thursday Home Group
Sat 17	10.00 am 10.00 am	Church open for coffee Upton Amblers - Leader Phil Jones
SUN 18	10.30 am 6.30 pm	MORNING SERVICE led by Mrs Liz Warrington EVENING SERVICE at Caldy Valley
Mon 19	10.00 am 6.15 pm	CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavillon, Girls' Brigade
Tues 20	2.30 pm	Friendship Group - Holy Beetle
Wed 21	6.45 pm 7.30 pm	Prayer & Praise in the Vestry Elders' Meeting
Thurs 22	10.00 am 1.00 pm	WD 40's - Newsletter and Christmas Bells Food & Fun
Sat 24	10.00 am - 12.30 pm	RING OF BELLS FESTIVAL
SUN 25	10.30 am 6.30 pm	MORNING SERVICE led by Revd Ruth Wilson EVENING SERVICE at Caldy Valley
Mon 26	10.00 am 6.15 pm	CTU Coffee at the Pavilion Girls' Brigade
Tues 27	10.00 am	NTG
Wed 28	6.45 pm	Prayer & Praise in the Vestry



INDONESIA TSUNAMI

On behalf of the Church, Saving to Share have sent £200 to the Disasters Emergency Committee Tsunami Appeal.

CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2018

<u>DAY DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERVICE / MEETING</u>
Thurs 1	10.00 am	WD 40's - Bowls & Skittles
	7.30 pm	Thursday Home Group
Sat 3	10.00 am	Church open for coffee
	10.15 am	Church Meeting
SUN 4	10.30 am	MORNING SERVICE led by Revd Ruth Wilson
	6.00 pm	SUNDAY at SIX at Vicars Cross with Elizabeth Bentley
Mon 5	10.00 am	CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavillon,
	6.15 pm	Girls' Brigade
Tues 6	2.30 pm	Friendship Group - 'Lest We Forget'
Wed 7	9.45 am	Midweek Amblers - Leader Celia Jones
	6.45 pm	Ecumenical Prayer & Praise
Thurs 8	10.00 am	WD 40's - Beetle Drive
	3.30 pm	MESSY CHURCH
Sat 10	10.00am	Church open for coffee
SUN 11	10.30 am	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE led by Ms Sheila Dunbar NO EVENING SERVICE
 <i>Copy date for DECEMBER/JANUARY Newsletter</i> <i>All contributions to Christine Beeston</i> 		
Mon 12	10.00 am	CTU Coffee Morning at the Pavillon,
	6.15 pm	Girls' Brigade
Tues 13	10.00 am	NTG
Wed 14	6.30 pm	Prayer & Praise in the Vestry
	7.00 pm	Churches Together in Upton Committee Meeting



Cold, Grey & Lonely?

Autumn has certainly arrived, the nights are drawing in, we are all tempted to turn the thermostat up a little, prepare a hot meal, shut out the outside world and stay warm inside. Soon the clock will go back and we shall struggle to get home from work or school before the daylight fades! In recent years we have been asked to keep an eye on our elderly or less able neighbours, checking if milk is left on the doorstep for longer than usual or curtains not moving? Some will even go to visit, ensuring any shopping is done if a trip to the shops is out of the question.

Did you know, or, had you realised however that there are growing numbers who are suffering during the winter months who do not fit into these usual groups? Last winter there were young families who were unfortunately lost in the freezing conditions that we faced.

Is this an exception to the rule?

In 2016 a study showed that more than 2.3 million families were living in fuel poverty and a recent, follow-up report believes this number to be rising! Almost 60,000 homes in Birmingham alone were unable to afford to heat their homes during the winter of 2017!

So, why as a Children & Families Worker am I writing about this? I think that we are the lucky ones but in all honesty those who are in the most need are often the ones who will hide / deny it! I know that a number of families who join us at our Wacky Wednesdays may seem on the outside to be managing just fine but are struggling in so many different ways! I know that those families are only the tip of the iceberg! I also know as a Christian I should do all I can to ensure those around me are happy, safe and well!

We do not have a Wacky Wednesday in November or December so we are unable to provide even in our own little way. We do however have our Food Bank donation point which, if the projected need is proved right, is grateful of any donations big or small! We are lucky in Chester to have Share Shop who cater for the homeless on the spot by providing them with a warm coat, hat, scarf etc as they can from donations others in a more fortunate position make. Soul Kitchen, a group of Chester locals who work together to feed those facing food poverty or the homeless each Saturday evening.

Messy Church & Christmas Lite will again have a donation box for Food Bank towards Christmas but I am asking that as we face the oncoming winter with warm homes and tummies can we all find the warmth in our hearts to think of and pray for ALL of those in our community who are struggling and do what we can?

THE GREAT WAR – SOME THOUGHTS

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 the guns fell silent. The armistice that came into force between the Allies and Germany ended more than four years of fighting. The fighting subsequently became known as the Great War.

Compared with the Second World War, the Great War has undeservedly suffered in the national memory. It has had what many would call, a bad press. This is unfair. It demeans the sacrifice made by so many who fought in the Great War. It overlooks the reasons why the Great War was fought.

The sheer brutality and the evil of the Nazi regime has meant that the Second World War is looked upon as a clear open and shut case of why this nation needed to go to war and defeat Hitler's Germany between 1939 and 1945. The reason why Britain fought in the later conflict has obscured why we went to war in 1914. Although the Kaiser did not stoop to the evils of Hitler and the Nazis, the Kaiser was autocratic, had no regard to the normal rules of diplomacy and international engagement and was ambitious to establish Germany as the dominant power in Europe. None of this would have mattered had not he possessed the best equipped and best trained army in the world. Once he went to war, his army stopped at nothing. In its invasion of Belgium, the German army killed 7,000 Belgian civilians and burnt down villages and universities. German occupation of most of Belgium and large swathes of northern France was brutal. Men were taken off into forced labour and the civilian population was suppressed by draconian military law.

In its waging of war, the German army had little regard for the Hague Convention. It used gas against French and British troops indiscriminately after first trying it out on the Russians on the Eastern Front. Gas led to men suffocating to death or being blinded. German troops made widespread use of flamethrowers. Many of those who were on the receiving end were burnt alive.

In the ten years or so after the 1918 armistice, there was a general view that British soldiers had fought well against a better equipped and more experienced German army. British soldiers were lauded for their service. Then in the 1930s the attitude to the Great War shifted. With the prospect of another war against Germany looming, many wondered whether the four years of fighting in the Great War had been worth the effort. The grumble went up that the peace following the Great War had been unjust and sowed the seeds for the rise of Hitler.

This is unfair on the soldiers. The army waged the military campaign and politicians were left to make the peace. The politicians got it wrong, as usual. The commander-in-chief of the British army, Douglas Haig, warned the government not to make a peace that was too hard. They ignored him and the resultant economic and social chaos in Germany led to the rise of the Nazis.

After the end of the Second World War many contrasted the swiftly moving and less costly warfare that had just been fought with the static and bloody nature of the Great War. This criticism ignores the ghastly attrition on the Russian front in the Second World War where millions upon millions of Russian perished in the attempt to bring the German war machine to a halt. This criticism also ignores the reality of warfare. Armies have to fight with the weapons they have at hand. In the Second World War armies could move swiftly because they had fast moving, reliable tanks and attack aircraft. In the Great War, the weapons of static defence – heavy howitzers, machine guns and barbed wire – dominated. Fighting in these conditions led to heavy casualties. It was inevitable. All the armies – not just the British army – suffered heavy casualties.

We need to acknowledge the long and arduous, and ultimately victorious, campaign fought by British soldiers between 1914 and 1918 in the most difficult of conditions and sometimes against all the odds. The ordinary soldier did his duty by our country, and our country should be proud of his courage and sacrifice.

Let me end by quoting from an ordinary British soldier who fought for much of the latter part of the Great War on the Western Front and whose sketches and diary have only recently been found:

'The fighting man is often shown as an eternally miserable being who was always amongst bursting shells, full of fear, and sometimes cowardice, ever cold, hungry and in a state of hopeless despair.....All of this is most unfair to those who died and those who served and survived..... The majority of fighting men were just ordinary, decent citizens, who, whilst in the service of their country, did what they conceived to be their duty in a quiet, steadfast manner'.

Pericles wrote – 'the secret of happiness is in freedom, and the secret of freedom is in courage'. Thank God for the courage shown by so many in the Great War.

Alan Robinson Member at Vicars Cross United Reformed Church