

# SOLIHULL

United Reformed Church

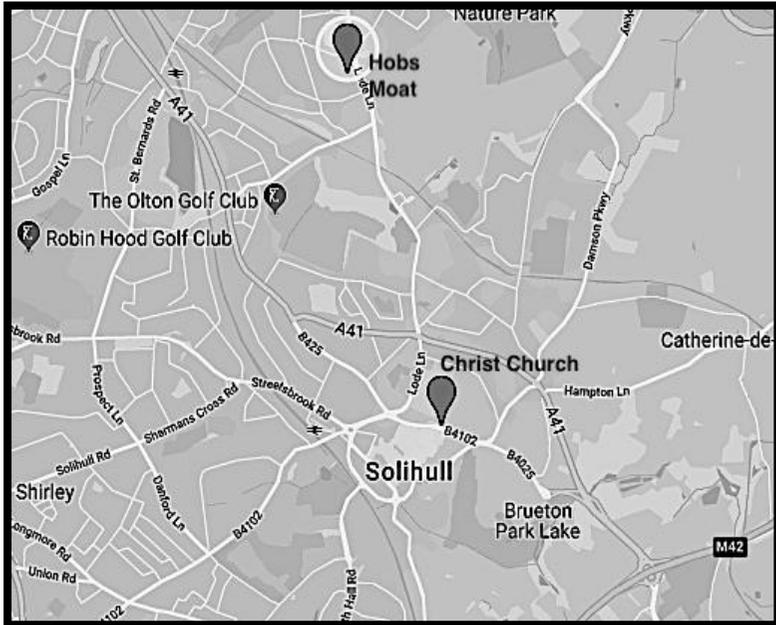
Christ Church - Hobs Moat – Olton

## March 2019 Newsletter

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

***Philippians 4: 6-7***





## **SOLIHULL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

Solihull URC has united three congregations from Olton, Hobs Moat and Christ Church (town centre). We retain premises in Hobs Moat and at Christ Church. Sunday worship is focussed in the town centre, but we seek to witness in all three communities

We share our mission with other Churches and in partnership with others in the community. We invite you to join us as we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

**[www.solihullurc.org.uk](http://www.solihullurc.org.uk)**

**[www.centralsolihullchurches.org.uk](http://www.centralsolihullchurches.org.uk)**

## **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**VACANT - Minister**

**Gordon Justham - Church Secretary & Elder**

**Chris Harman - Treasurer & Elder**

**Linda Faber - Mission Enabler & Lettings Administration**

**Maureen Butler - Elder (worship & prayer, charities, social activities)**

**Trixie Harman - Elder (Youth & Children)**

**Barrie Jones - Elder (Property, Health & Safety)**

**Elaine Jones - Elder (Administration, Data protection, Catering)**

**Jackie Justham - Elder (charities, social activities)**

**Gordon Laurie – Elder**

Areas of special responsibility are listed in brackets.

All Elders have responsibility for pastoral care.

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all. This is my first opportunity to write to you in our church magazine. As we say farewell to Mark, we thank him for his leadership both physically and spiritually and for his guidance and compassion. We shall certainly miss him but we go forward in faith, knowing that we serve a living Saviour. I am grateful to the Elders for allowing me to lead several of the services at Solihull URC and I shall endeavour to do my best to be guided by the Holy Spirit and look forward to being with you all on a more regular basis – along with Gordon and Linda.

The month of March this year marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Just as we set aside time to spiritually prepare for Christmas Day, it makes sense to set aside time to prepare for the two most important days of the Christian year. Like Advent, Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

But unlike the childlike joy associated with the season of Advent, with its eager anticipation of the precious baby Jesus, Lent is an opportunity to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the Cross - and it wasn't pretty. But ultimately, the purpose of Lent does not stop at sadness and despair - it points us to the hope of the Resurrection and the day when every tear will be dried. It is a special time for Christians and I am sure we all can look back to special moments in our lives. I remember when I first moved to Solihull I became a member at Olton Congregational Church – why? - because I was personally invited to do so by a friend who worshipped there. She not only invited me to the service but also to Sunday lunch with her and her husband.

As a result I stayed at the church, taught in the Sunday School and led the Scouts there. All this because someone took the trouble to invite

me to the church. That was nearly 50 years ago and I'm still a member of the URC and so is the lady who first invited me there!

Christ asked his disciples to, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Do we go out letting others know of God's love for them or do we merely think about it, discuss it, read about it or study it? Although we were drawn to Christianity in search of joy, it's the Cross that keeps us coming back day after day, year after year. It is this time of year, known as Lent that we are reminded of what Jesus did for us. When we look into the eyes of our suffering God, we're in awe - suddenly the complexity of our Lord, the love of our Lord, the humanity of our Lord shows through.

We realize God is not just some nebulous energy source or a grandfather sitting in the clouds - He is so much more. The Cross is where our faith stand. Christ's sacrifice and his subsequent resurrection are the true "cruxes" of the Christian faith. Without one there would be no salvation, without the other, no hope. This is why Good Friday and the following Easter Sunday are the most important dates on the Christian calendar - even more so than Christmas.

Father, give us eyes to see these people through your eyes. How can we love and serve them?

Jesus, Carpenter King, give us eyes to see this work through your eyes. How would you have done it?

Spirit of Truth and Grace give us faith to know that you will turn this whispered prayer, this labour offered, this day lived for you, into fruit for your glory.

**"Here I am Lord I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart."**

May I wish you every blessing as we go through the period of Lent approaching the sadness but then the great joy of Easter. **Ian**

## DIARY FOR MARCH

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10am:** Holy Communion – Ian Carnell

**2:30pm:** Family Quiz, John Palmer Hall

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments Café

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, 2pm:** Hobs Moat Wednesday Club

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Tots & Tales

**2pm:** Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Worship – Linda Faber – Lent 1

**11am:** Church Meeting

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments Café

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am:** Neighbourhood Coffee Morning @ Hobs Moat

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Tots & Tales

**2pm:** Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Worship – Elders & Heather Alford – Lent 2

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments Café

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am:** Tots & Tales

**2pm:** Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Worship – Gordon Justham – Lent 3

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments Cafe

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am:** Neighbourhood Coffee Morning @ Hobs Moat

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Tots & Tales

**2pm:** Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>, 10am:** Café Style Worship – Linda Faber – Lent 4

(Mother's Day)

## JOB ADVICE

Every Monday morning from 10.30am @ Christ Church (Story Room). If you know anyone in need of support or advice with CVs etc. let them know about this or speak to Trixie Harman.

## **SUNDAY DUTIES**

The response to the recent plea for more volunteers to come forward to carry out some of the Sunday duties was a very pleasant success. Several members put their names down for the first time and there was little difficulty in covering the following months. Now I think there are some folk who are happy to do some of the duties but do not manage to get their name down in good time. I would ask these folk to try to get into the habit of looking at the table at the back of the Church every week. In addition to the rotas, there is usually plenty of other interesting material - it is worth a look. **Alan**

## **LEPROSY MISSION**

On Sunday March 17th Heather Alford will be talking about the work of the Leprosy Mission in our morning worship. Please come and hear about this important work. **Janet**

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

The idea of having a world day of prayer came from Canada and the USA in the 19th century. In 1887 women from different denominations were joining together to organise days of prayer for missionary work at home and overseas. In 1910 they celebrated 50 years of women's missionary activity by organising a series of events across the USA, providing a powerful experience of ecumenical co-operation. The World Day of Prayer came into being in 1926 after copies of the worship service has been sent to many countries worldwide and been received with great enthusiasm.

By 1968 127 countries were participating. Scotland held its first service in 1930, followed 2 years later by England. Wales followed in 1933 and the Republic of Ireland in 1935. All participating countries have a national committee, with local committees in most of the large towns and cities. Each year one country is asked to provide a service which

can be used by all the member countries on the chosen date. This is provided by the women of that country.

Today 170 countries participate and all hold their service on the first Friday in March. The first service is held in Samoa and great waves of prayer sweep through the world on the same day until the sun sets over American Samoa.

For many years the organisation was called “The Womens Day of Prayer”. In 2018 each committee was invited to discuss whether or not they wished to revert to the name last used in 1935 - “The World Day of Prayer”. In Solihull we decided it was time to drop ‘Womens’ from the title. An overwhelming majority of the committees came to the same decision. However the service will continue to be provided by the women of the country being celebrated.

This year we are celebrating Slovenia on 1st March in St Augustines Church at 10.30. All the churches in central Solihull will be participating. Refreshments provided by St Augustines will follow the service. Everyone is invited and it would be good if we could have a sizeable number from SURC - hope to see you there, both men and women. **Judith Kembery**

### ***FRESH FROM THE WORD: THE BIBLE FOR A CHANGE***

It is time to order the 2019 edition of this helpful IBRA book which will inspire your reading of the Bible in a changing world. It is led by theologians, scholars, creative writers, church leaders and activists from around the world, and offers notes, prayers and suggestions for further thought for every day of the year. It will be approx. £10. If you would like a copy, please contact Marian Batten (07855 516687) or Irene Bound (0121 449 6367).

## **LONELINESS; MUSINGS FROM MY SACRED SPACE.**

'All the lonely people – where do they all come from: all the lonely people; where do they all belong? So sang the Beatles in the days of my youth. I freely admit I have often wondered why lonely people don't go out and join clubs or even set up self-help groups. But that takes confidence and loneliness can take away people's self-esteem and thereby their confidence. So they need help and encouragement to join in group activities.

In my sacred space at home I say many prayers as you probably recall - and I meditate, giving time for God to speak to my heart. Lately 'Loneliness' has become one of the subjects I talk to God about. This topic has been aired a number of times in the media too. What is the answer to so many lonely people in our society and why is it now a much talked about social issue?

GP's surgeries have been asked to help address the problem, as loneliness causes mental health issues, including depression. My own view is that asking doctors to get involved in solving this social problem is yet another pressure on a very over-stretched service. Yet I was very touched when a nurse at my own GP surgery clearly empathised with the fact that I am registered at the Practice as a full time carer for my husband who has Alzheimer's and dementia. Carers of dementia patients are not physically lonely since they are on duty 24/7. But mentally it can be a lonely place: gradually, day by day, you are losing your loved one. The nurse said that if ever I need to talk to anyone, to feel free to go and talk to her. How kind but equally importantly how professional. This is what holistic medicine is about – treating the whole person – the body and the mind. We Christians would say, 'both body and soul'!

On the radio someone recently observed that in the past more people went to church and got involved with church activities and this helped to prevent loneliness. I certainly think there is some truth in this statement. Outreach activities at SURC doubtless help alleviate loneliness for some people in need and there is much credit in that. Jesus doubtless approves!

What advice does the Bible give about loneliness? 'Love one another' is the obvious quote which springs to mind. In treating others in a loving and considerate way we help alleviate loneliness. At SURC there are activities such as Moments cafe, the neighbourhood coffee morning at Hobs Moat, Lunch Club, The Singing for Pleasure choir – to name just a few of our activities. Well done to all who give their time to help with these activities, which doubtless bring joy to people in the community. Being out of work can be a lonely experience too. The Job Club is much appreciated I am sure by those in need. It is not just about getting a job – it is about companions along the way helping you to do so. And that helps alleviate loneliness.  
God bless you all, **Carol**

### **HOBBS MOAT COFFEE MORNINGS**

Dates for Tuesday Coffee Mornings at Hobs Moat from 10.30am until 12 noon.

- 12 March
- 26 March
- 9 April
- 23 April
- 7 May
- 21 May
- 4 June
- 18 June

All are welcome for a cuppa and chat.  
Anne and Annette

## **MORE ABOUT LETTING OUR ROOMS OUT**

Thank you to those who took the time to speak to me or write up your ideas following the question I put in the newsletter last month which we also spoke about at church meeting. I asked about our letting out of our rooms and if, or how, a church might undertake this activity differently to a community suite of rooms.

Some responded that they hoped there were some activities which would not be accommodated as they are not compatible with our faith and belief (such as extremist groups, combative groups).

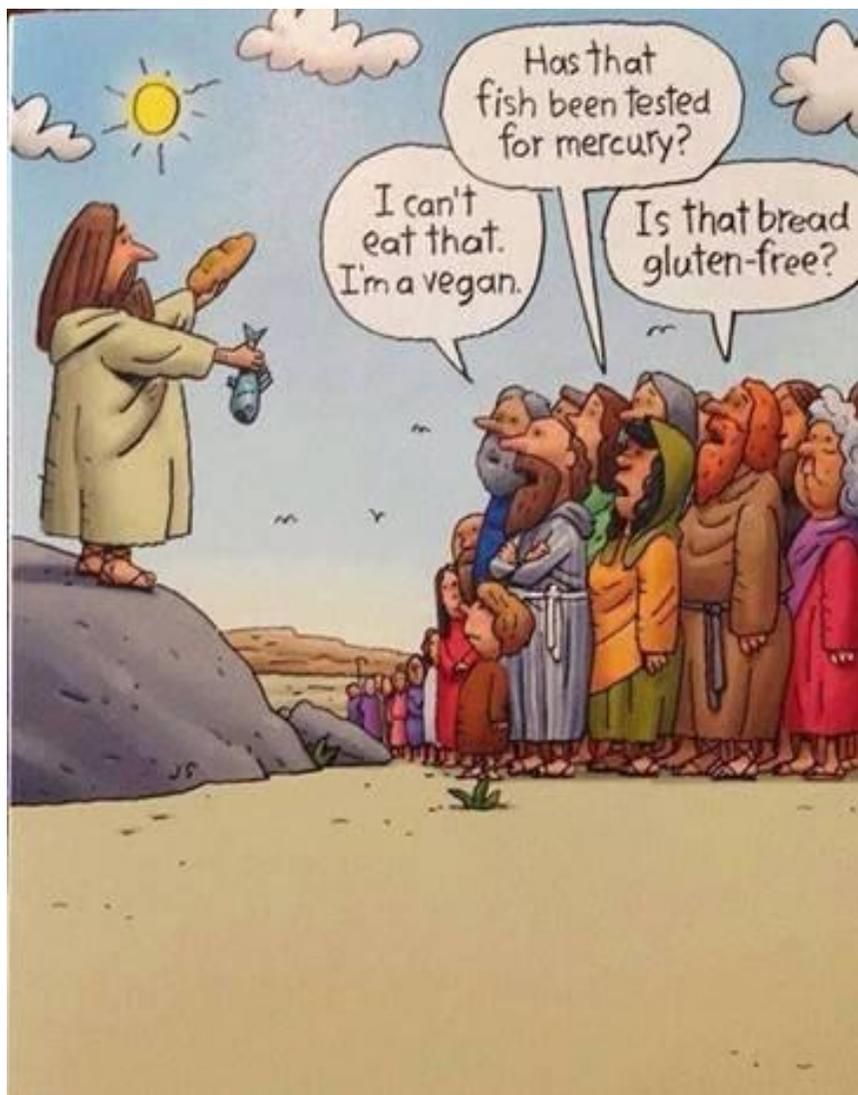
We currently don't have a policy about this and we do currently have bookings for groups which we would not automatically accept if some such policy were in place (we don't have any extremist groups using the building – just to reassure you – but we do have a combative group and several groups whose activities come out of a philosophy contrary to Christian belief). Do you think it would be appropriate to put some such policy in place and what should we do about the existing users?

Some responded to the initial question by talking about hospitality and welcome. Is issuing keys and telling people to let themselves in, and turn their own heating on, the best that can be done? (Does the insurance company know we give out keys to 'anyone' and would they insure us if they did know?) We have uncovered in recent conversations that there are several people (from both buildings) who have been using the rooms for multiple decades who didn't know the buildings were churches. What does this say to us?

There is a lot that can be done differently. There are many other churches whose example we could learn from and possibilities that would be within our capabilities. You may have seen, or know, some yourself. I certainly have experience in this area which I think would be useful in this. Do we have the will to make the necessary changes though?

I would love to hear any more thoughts you have on this, or any other church related, issue.

**Linda**



## **ABBEY-CWM-HIR, WALES**

**Thursday 18th April**



Within a setting of breathtaking beauty, history and romance, The Hall, with its 12 acres overlooking the ruins of a 12th century Cistercian abbey, is listed as one of Wales' finest examples of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture. Bought in 1997 10 years have been spent on its restoration. Each of the 52 rooms contains their original features and they are bursting with interior design ideas. With so much to see inside there will be little time to explore the grounds with its walled garden, lake and waterfall and many other features **We have been asked to bring slippers as the rooms are carpeted.**

There is no restaurant as such although drinks and cake are available so you may wish to bring your own picnic.

All trips will start at 8.30 prompt from West Warwicks Sports and Social Club in Grange Road and should be booked by ringing Val on 0121 706 9687 at least one week before the trip.

Cancellation charges will apply and the cost for this trip will be no more than £34. A tip for the driver is included.

**David Argall**

## **WORSHIP GROUP**

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to be part of a Worship Group which will organise at least one service in 2019. A meeting will be arranged in the New Year. It is not too late if anyone else would like to join this small group, just let me know.

In addition, anyone who is willing to prepare and read the Intercessionary Prayers occasionally, please tell me. **Maureen Butler**

# Solihull URC **All Welcome** *including:* **Pancake Party**

**Tuesday**  
**5<sup>th</sup> March**  
**5.45-7.15pm**

**Job Club**  
**Lunch Club**  
**Messy Church**  
**Moments Dementia Cafe**  
**Neighbourhood Coffee Morning**  
**Saturday Café**  
**Shout Out for The Girls**  
**Singing for Pleasure**  
**Sunday Worshippers**  
**Tots & Tales**



Please  
collect your  
**TICKETS** from  
**Linda Faber**  
or the office  
or a group leader.

Please feel free to invite family,  
neighbours and friends. Children must be  
accompanied by an adult

**Adults £1, Children Free**

## **GIFT AID**

One source of income we have not pursued since the joining together of the three churches, is the tax refund from gift aid contributions. Since we are a 'new charity' we need to action this. It is not a straight forward process, hence the reason for the delay. Our weak financial performance has spurred us onto rectifying this shortcoming.

There are some Gift Aid forms on the table at the back of the church. These are for taxpayers, and just require names, addresses, a signature and a date.

A few points...

- Gift aid can be claimed going back up to 4 years. I have the records going back to the joining of the three churches.
- If a husband and wife both have Freewill envelopes, and only one of you pay tax, then the tax payer can include the non-taxpayer's contribution in their return.

If you are unclear about anything please come and see me. **Chris Harman**

## **FAMILY QUIZ - 3rd March**

There will be a family quiz on Sunday 3 March starting promptly at 2:30 pm in the John Palmer Hall. It will finish around 5:00pm. Tickets priced £2.50 per person are available from Gordon and Jackie Justham who are your hosts and quizmasters for this event. It is designed for teams of up to six players but don't worry if you cannot get a team together as we will put folk together to create teams if necessary. There will be a wide range of questions and therefore a good mix of ages in your team may be appropriate! Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be served in the interval. Proceeds will go to the nominated Church Charities.



## Tickets on sale now

Alan Bennett's 'The Wind in the Willows', with enchanting songs, is a delightful adaptation, of Kenneth Grahame's classic tale of river-bank animals with a contemporary slant.

The wealthy 'Toad' finds himself in prison after stealing a motor car but manages to escape, but not before Toad Hall, his pride and joy, has been overrun by the wicked Weasels. Thanks to the efforts of his kind and concerned friends Mole, Rat and Badger, however, all ends happily, after an exciting battle to regain Toad's home.

Venture with us down the riverbank, in to the wild wood and out in to the wide world in this joyous ingenious adaptation, of one of the most beloved classic stories.

**WEDNESDAY 10th, THURSDAY 11th & FRIDAY 12th at 7.30pm**

SOLIHULL URC, WARWICK ROAD, SOLIHULL, B91 3DG

ADULTS £14 | CONCESSIONS £12 | FAMILY RATE £45

**BOX OFFICE: 0121 705 6762**



From Our Postbag – Winter 2018

**Our postbag this time is predominantly from students who have been sponsored by us throughout their Secondary schooling and who are now at a further education college or university. It is especially pleasing to hear from them and to read about their experiences.**

**Reading through their letters reinforces my knowledge of how completely their lives have been changed because of EducAid Africa and people like yourselves. Here are young people, mostly from a background of abject poverty who have been able to lift themselves out of their situations by being provided with the education that they really deserve. Their influence on their families, villages and society as a whole will be so marked. For this they are truly grateful.**

Once again I say thank you for this support since I was in high school until now. Thank you for taking me this far. It is through your support that I am going to attain my career of becoming a primary teacher. I believe that through your support and God's help, I will actually achieve my goal. It is my hope that, after the two years course, I will become a well-trained primary teacher and, through this, I will be able to support my family. May God bless you abundantly for your help. I cannot hide my joy and happiness for the sponsorship you have given to me for all my four years at High School. May the Lord bless you forever. Concerning my career choices, I chose Law, Economics, Education and Accountancy as my degree choices. For my Diploma choices I chose accountancy, teaching and economics. I pray to God to help me so that I can achieve my goals.

I am happy to be at the Teacher Training College and I promise to work very hard to achieve my goal. I thank you for providing to me all the requirements that were needed.

**It is always interesting to learn more of their experiences at college.**

I am very happy to join this college. At first I felt it too difficult to cope with the environment and also the weather as it is too cold – but gradually I got used to the cold weather. The college has well trained and experienced tutors. It has a conducive learning environment but there are disturbances such as noises from industries because it is located a few metres away from the town. This college is among the best colleges in the country and it produces good results. (Teacher Training College)

I have been moving on well with my studies and I can see an improvement each and every time. Although things have not been that easy, I have been trying my best and thank you for your support. (Kenyatta University)

On 24 September I was admitted to Egerton University and it was the beginning of an adventurous journey. At first it was a challenge trying to adjust to campus life, taking into consideration that from my hostel to college premises is a thirty to forty-five minute walk but I believe a determine soul is able to pursue its goals no matter what obstacle comes its way. Our semester came to an end on 17th December before which we did continuous assessment tests. We also had a final exam when we were tested on what we had learned for the past three months. We were informed that since we are in Town Campus, there will be no long holidays for us. This means that we will be into books for the whole year, which according to me will be good since most of my time will be focussed on books.

We have just completed our end of term one year at Teacher Training College. I am taking a diploma in Education, main subjects Mathematica and Geography and support subjects Education, Physical

Education, Entrepreneurship, Library, Science, Environmental Education, Communication Skills, ICT and Guidance and Counselling.

**Occasionally students start at a particular college and then get the opportunity to move to another which enables them to fulfil their dreams.**

I joined college for my higher education at Mount Kenya University Nairobi Campus for my diploma course in Community Development and Social Working. It was quite a good time on the course and enjoyable too. My term lasted for three months before we broke up for the festive season in December. I sincerely appreciate your continuous help. However I happened to get an opportunity which offered me the chance to join a Teacher Training College which was subsequently fruitful. Therefore I will have to change my current course and join the Teacher Training College for a diploma in Primary School Teacher Education from early 2019.

**In this day and age we learn about so many countries which are suffering from war and conflict – sometimes caused by neighbouring countries, so it is good to read how some students are actively wanting to learn about peace and handling conflict.**

I will be commencing my fourth year of study in September. I am enjoying my course as it involves learning and also knowing what peace is all about. I took exams during my third year in “Teaching Methods for Peace and Conflict Studies”; “Global Architecture for Peace,” “International Law and Human Rights,” and “Emerging Issues in Peace and Conflict Studies.” The course is interesting and involves learning about peace building, conflict transformation, human rights, law, multicultural education, humanitarian assistance, environment and peace.

We did research on the fact that the evolution of peace studies was from the profound effects of the two World Wars after which scholars

began to teach about peace and the effects of war. It was through community based peace education where people saw that universally shared knowledge could bring a road to peace. When I graduate I hope to undertake my Masters Course and after that I hope to work so that I help communities in peace building and conflict transformation initiatives.

**Sometimes the college course includes visits to places of particular interest.**

We had a wildlife trip to the Masai Mara game reserve where we saw the different wildlife species and, even more interesting, was seeing the wildebeest migrate from Tanzania to Kenya to look for pasture and water. We learned a lot about the importance of wild life as a source of income due to tourism both local and international. Many tours visit the reserve to see the wildlife.

I came home for a two week holiday and I am honestly enjoying my family's company. Next year will be a busy year for me and I hope it will be full of God's blessings too. I am really grateful for your sincere support throughout my education journey.

**I do hope that you found these excerpts from the letters of interest to you and share with me the pleasure of seeing such young lives changed so positively by education. Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." We are using this weapon to enhance the lives of so many young people in Kenya by paying for the education that they most certainly need and deserve.**

**Thank you for your continued interest and support – it means so much.**

Best wishes

Ian D. Carnell

Chairman of the Trustees

EducAid Africa - [info@educaid-africa.org](mailto:info@educaid-africa.org)

## **JACK'S REPORT IS IN**

Can I just check that everyone has taken the opportunity to look at the display about building issues at the back of the church. If you haven't please make yourself aware.

Over the last few newsletters I have been asking you to formulate your views about our buildings and how we use them and how we might want to use them in the future. Only a few people have taken the opportunity to tell me their thoughts. I would like the rest of you to engage in the conversation as it will have a long implications for our church. I am going to both of our Fellowship Groups to listen, but if you don't belong to one of those, either come along specially, or catch me for a conversation at another time.

We have begun consulting outside our congregation, as I told you in the last newsletter, inviting Jack Marris, a Christian building consulting friend of mine to come and look around. I received his report, about the Sanctuary area only, before Christmas and the Elders and I will be looking at it together at the next Elders meeting. It is not a plan that we will implement but a document to allow us to say 'yes, we like that idea.' Or 'no, that wouldn't work for us.' We will begin to make more widely known the bits that we might like to explore further, in due course. If you would like to read the whole report I can email it to you, just ask.

Keep thinking, keep praying, keep talking.

**Linda Faber**

## **REQUEST**

*This request has come from the Solihull URC website.*

In 1966 I visited Solihull with a group from the United Church of Christ, Geneva, Ohio. I am searching for the family I stayed with and unfortunately do not know the name. I am hoping someone in your congregation might remember the group & can help me locate them for a long overdue apology.

Thank you, **Leslie Thackwell**

## POSTAGE STAMPS

Many of you used to bring your old postage stamps to Church for Sheila Durant to send to a Leprosy Mission.

I believe that so far no one has picked up the baton since Sheila has been unable to attend our services, so I am suggesting we should start collecting again and send them to the RNIB - the Royal National Institute for the Blind. They will provide all that we need for the collection and the despatch to their Head Office in post-free envelopes. There are three rules they would like us to follow: -

- To trim the stamps with approximately 1 cm of the envelope left around the stamp.
- Not to collect the large PO printed labels, nor any pre-printed stamps.
- To separate British and Foreign stamps.

We can all start with the Christmas card envelopes! **Judith Kembery**

## FLOWERS

Do you enjoy the flowers each Sunday? Is it good that we can send them to someone who is unable to come to church? If you answer yes to both of these questions perhaps you could offer to bring in a bunch to stand on the Communion table for our worship and then to be taken out to a friend who needs cheering up!

We really need your help and you do not need to be a good flower arranger, just a willing shopper, who can put a bunch of flowers in a vase. This request is for men as well as ladies!! There may even be help available. Please let me know if you can help with this worthwhile task. Thank you. **Trixie.**

## A VERY BIG 'THANK YOU'

The wonderful 'send-off', generous greetings and gifts you gave Judy and I on 17th February will stay with me for a very long time. The whole day was fabulous and we are so grateful to those who beavered away, baking and washing up etc.

It is so hard to sum up eight years of friendship, going 'through the mill' as we have done, and exploring our Christian faith and witness in varied ways, but it has been a very rich experience for me, returning to pastoral ministry as I did after fifteen years doing the 'ecumenical thing'.

It is the greatest privilege being allowed into people's lives in a way that only ministry allows, and your invitation and welcome is what has made this possible again and again.

A time of change is ahead for all of us. You, as a church community a period of vacancy will call that bit extra from each. Myself, adjusting to a non-24/7 way of life and, hopefully more time for family and my artistic pursuits. Judy will be continuing her mentoring of struggling youngsters with This Way Up and being responsible for our grandsons two days each week, but we will also have more time for each other!

In all this we will continue to be 'shaped' by God, the Potter, and benefit from his abundant grace and love.

So, thank you for these last eight years and may the Lord enrich your life together in your own ministry and witness.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

## KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

### **Minister**

VACANT

### **Church Secretary**

Mr. Gordon Justham: 07540 289855 - 01564 776229 -  
gordonjustham@talktalk.net

### **Website**

[www.solihullurc.org.uk](http://www.solihullurc.org.uk)

**Hall Lettings** in Hobs Moat or Christ Church – 07925 573259

**Generations Project** - enabling the Church in care homes

[www.generationsssolihull.org.uk](http://www.generationsssolihull.org.uk) [generationsssolihull@icloud.com](mailto:generationsssolihull@icloud.com)

### **Moments - a dementia cafe**

Mondays 10am—12 noon@ Christ Church

## **APRIL NEWSLETTER**

Material for the April edition

Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393

[stuartkmills@gmail.com](mailto:stuartkmills@gmail.com)

by Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March please.