

# SOLIHULL

United Reformed Church

Christ Church - Hobs Moat – Olton

## October 2017 Newsletter

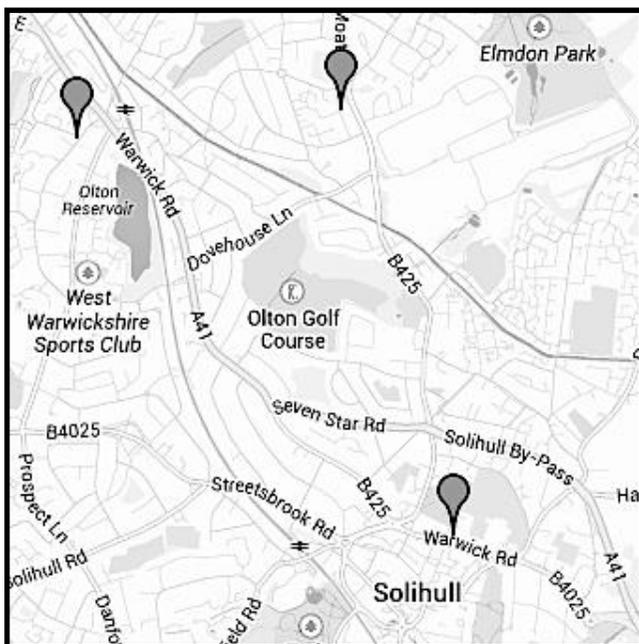
*“Works are the fruits and signs of faith. God judges people according to these fruits. These fruits spring from faith in a way that publicly indicates whether or not we have faith in our hearts.*

*God will not judge us by asking whether we are called Christians or whether we have been baptised. He will ask each one of us, “If you are a Christian, then tell me, where are the fruits that demonstrate your faith?”*

— Martin Luther

(Sunday 29th October marks the 500th anniversary of the beginning of Martin Luther’s Reformation)





## **SOLIHULL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

A single fellowship of Christian people, our history leads us to offer our witness in three neighbourhoods (central Solihull, Hobs Moat and Olton). Our worship on a Sunday is focused at Christ Church, but is also offered at different times in a number of care homes and in our other premises.

We share our mission with other Churches and seek partnerships 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)

## **HOW DO WE GET OUT OF THIS MESS? - MARK KNOWS A WAY!**

I imagine that this is quite a common question in people's minds, given all that is going on for our country and in the world at the present time (do I need to expand on this?). Apart from the gravity of the issues that are at stake, it would seem that it is a sense of helplessness and lack of influence over events that aggravates the way we feel.

The world's champion of democracy, the United States, is struggling with a very different style of leadership and is rather keener for power and influence of a more violent kind. Our own government is embroiled in argument about whether our representatives will get a say in changes to the law when we exit the EU.

Apart from our own sense of impotence, we are presented with a rather narrow set of options for the future from which to choose, which I suspect contributes to the apathy of many when it comes to elections. We swing between two particular political viewpoints - one which places us at the mercy of unfettered financial markets, the other which places all responsibility with the state to act as a benevolent carer. Here are two 'stories' or 'narratives' that have shaped our lives for decades. But can there not be others?

George Monbiot, an author and newspaper columnist, has in a recent book encouraged a greater imagination to develop a new 'story', which he sees as being founded on our natural human inclinations to community, cooperation and mutual aid. These things are basic elements of human nature which we witness coming to the surface in times of crisis, whether that is terrorist attacks or hurricane devastation. These gifts of humanity are so often overwhelmed by the influences of the market or the state, but may be given space to flourish in a different 'story'.

It strikes me that what Monbiot is hinting at is certainly a different story to the ones we are used to hearing, but it is not new! To read

the Bible, the story of God, his creation and people, is to discover the narrative that has shaped all existence from the outset in God's imagination. Yes, it is an account of human weakness and failing, but ultimately it is one of community, sacrificial love, economic interdependence and new creation! We discover that the narrative of the God we recognise in Jesus is one that can overcome all human ideologies, and can indeed shape our everyday life and relationships.

At the end of October, around the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's challenges to the corruption of the church, we might well consider how in our own day the movement known as the Reformation may continue. In the centuries that followed Luther's challenges society as well as the church underwent great change. The world was indeed 'reformed' and it all happened around Luther's affirmation that the salvation of humankind is to be found only through faith in the love and forgiveness of God, known in Jesus Christ.

And so to answer the question "How do we get out of this mess?"

It is true that the church as an institution has lost a great deal of influence in our society, but this does not make us impotent in our faith. The values that build community, cooperation and mutual care, whether local or on a world scale, are those we find in the heart of Jesus. We are each called as disciples to live these values as we walk with Jesus and share a transforming way of life. It is in this sharing that society is transformed.

So we are called to live our faith. To let the love of Jesus shape our way of living. To let it so inspire us that we will give a voice to generosity, compassion, forgiveness and the rest!

It is always exciting when grassroots movements bring about change outside the scope of established systems. We find inspiration in such as 'The Great Get Together' which, in the wake of the murder of MP Jo Cox, sparked the most community events since the Queen's

Jubilee. Might we get excited about and join the movement that is the Disciples of Jesus, each of us playing our part to bring his change, his salvation, to the world?

### **DIARY for OCTOBER**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>, 10am: Holy Communion @ Christ Church - Mark Fisher

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am: Community Prayers @ Olton

Moments Cafe @ Christ Church

10.30am: Job Advice @ Christ Church

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10.30am: Neighbourhood Coffee morning @ Hobs Moat

11am: Worship @ St Francis Lodge

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Make & Mend @ Christ Church

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Tots & Tales @ Christ Church

2pm: Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Worship @ Christ Church - Ian Carnell

Monday 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Moments Cafe @ Christ Church

10.30am: Job Advice @ Christ Church

7.30pm: Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat Monday Fellowship evening

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>, 11am: Holy Communion @ Hampton House

12.15pm: Elders' Meeting @ Christ Church

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Tots & Tales @ Christ Church

2pm: Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>: Synod Meeting @ Holiday Inn, Birmingham

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>, 7pm: 'I have a name' - concert for homelessness @ Solihull Methodist Church

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Worship & Church Meeting @ Christ Church

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Moments Cafe @ Christ Church

10.30am: Job Advice @ Christ Church

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am: Neighbourhood Coffee morning @ Hobs Moat

11am: Holy Communion @ Tudor Lodge

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Worship @ The Grove

6.45pm: Churches Together in Central Solihull

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Tots & Tales @ Christ Church

2pm: Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>: Church Away Day @ House of Bread, Birmingham

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am: Worship @ Christ Church

11.45am: Worship @ Star & Garter

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10am: Moments Cafe @ Christ church

10.30am: Job Advice @ Christ Church

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am: Messy Church @ Christ Church

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Dementia Marketplace @ Christ Church

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, 2pm: Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Cafe Church @ Christ Church

Monday 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am: Moments Cafe @ Christ Church

10.30am: Job Advice @ Christ Church

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>, 10.30am: Neighbourhood Coffee morning @ Hobs Moat

## **LIFE on the FRONT LINE**

How do we respond when, in particular settings, being a Christian is difficult? How might we be more faithful to Jesus? These are questions we will be answering as we further explore our Christian discipleship this month.

## **CAFE CHURCH - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

Reformation Sunday and the 500th Anniversary of when Martin Luther nailed his 95 'theses' or challenges to the Church, seeking to affirm that salvation cannot be bought, but comes through faith in Christ alone. This was a seminal point in a movement that changed the face of Europe and the world as well as the Church.

We will consider what reforms may be necessary today within the life of the church and how faith in Jesus Christ might lead to reforms in society.

## **AWAY DAY - Saturday 21st October**

There is an open invitation to anyone who is associated with our church fellowship in any way to share in this opportunity to explore "What sort of church do we need to support and encourage us as disciples of Jesus?"

We will be spending the day together at The House of Bread in Burmington, near Shipston on Stour. A coach will depart from Hobs Moat at 9.00am (50min journey), and will arrive back at Hobs Moat by 5.00pm. A sandwich lunch will be provided, **but we need offers of scones for afternoon tea.**

It is hoped that all who are part of our church fellowship will consider sharing in this important day as it will begin to shape what sort of church we need to be in the future. **Please sign up on the list at the back of church or tell an Elder you will be coming.** There is no charge for this day. Further details are at the back of church and will be made known at Church Meeting.

## **CHURCH MEETING - Sunday 15th October**

Our business will include approving a Constitution to enable our registration as a charity, working towards a decision on whether we wish to register for the conduct of same-sex marriages, agreement to renew our Covenant in Churches Together in Central Solihull, and the appointment of a new Church Secretary.

A Bulletin, with the appropriate background information for each of these matters will be available on the first Sunday in October.



### **SHOUT OUT FOR THE GIRLS**

*- a practical project supporting a village community in Uganda -*

This project, seeks to help with sanitary protection for young girls in Uganda; most girls stay home from school for several days each month as they can't afford (or access) sanitary protection, A pack has been designed which can be made and shipped out to project partners on the ground in Uganda to be distributed to the girls in high schools.

An initial workshop will take place at the Manse towards the end of October. Volunteers can come and go as they please. Coffee, lunch, tea and cakes on tap. No particular skills required. The session will be led by Gill and Cilla from Frodsham Community Church in Cheshire, who are leading this project. The day and time will be publicised when known, but if you are interested in taking part, please chat to Judy Fisher meantime.

## **COACH TRIPPERS UNITED**

### **Chesterfield**

**Thursday 19th October**



Chesterfield is famous for the "Crooked Spire" of St. Mary and All Saints Church. The 228 foot Spire stands on the skyline like a question mark; how did it happen? It was originally straight and why it now 'leans' 9 feet 8 inches from its true centre is something of a mystery. Legends surround it but the truth probably lies in the weight of the lead tiles that cover the wooden structure – all 32 tons of it.

Chesterfield is a Market Town with many interesting features, including the "River Hipper" on which we shall be enjoying a short boat trip.

The coach will leave Olton URC at 8.30am. The fare will remain at £18 which includes a tip for the driver. The person to contact if you would like to come is Val Cross on 706 9687. Please contact her at least ten days before the event, so that the coach can be booked.

## **COACH TRIPPERS UNITED NOTICE OF AGM**

There will be an AGM of Coach Trip Members On Thursday the 16th November 2017 at 12.30pm at Moseley Cricket ground (opposite Robin Hood Crematorium).

There will be a free buffet and the agenda will be 1) to discuss the future of the group, 2) Trips for 2018 dependant on the outcome of (1). We will be requiring suggestions for future trips which you should be prepared to present to the group for a vote to then take place.

This is a most important meeting for the future.

David Argall, Chair

## CHURCH SECRETARY

I will shortly be taking over from Chris Harman as Church Treasurer and relinquishing my current role as Church Secretary. I would like to thank Chris for all the hard work (and hours) in the service of the church. It has been a particularly onerous role with merging three church accounts and accounting systems into one. Therefore a big thank you Chris from all of us for a tremendous job well done.

However, we need to find a new Church Secretary. I cannot fulfil both roles. It would be stupid to even contemplate it. Therefore a volunteer needs to step forward. I summarise below some of the principal tasks associated with being Church Secretary

- Principal point of contact for Synod and Church House primarily for mailings
- Dealing with the Annual Return to Synod: not onerous
- Dealing with correspondence on behalf of the Church
- Assisting the Chairman of Elders' Meetings and Church Meetings in preparation of agendas
- Preparing the minutes of Elders' Meetings and Church Meetings (a task that could be delegated to a Minutes Secretary)
- Keeping records of Church Membership, Marriages, Baptisms etc for inclusion in the Annual Report (delegated to an administrator)

There is training available and, in fact, there is a Church Secretaries training and support day on Saturday 11 November at Wylde Green URC (10:00am start – 2:30pm finish) and session 1 of 3 is entitled "Being Church Secretary". I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the role. Please give prayerful consideration to whether you can respond to the call to be Church Secretary. Thanks.

Gordon Justham

**Bereavements:** Pat Combe and all of her family are in our thoughts and prayers after her husband Tom passed away peacefully in the early hours of September 1st after a very short stay in Solihull Hospital. In the past Tom was a very active member of Hobs Moat and an officer in the Boys Brigade there. He will be very sadly missed by Pat, their family, relatives and friends. We pray that God's love and peace will surround each of them at this sad time.

**Housebound or in care:** Alf Roberts, Jean Mather, Joan Shaw, Beryl Pullin, Vera Atherley, Thelma and Phil Phillips, Kath Bishop, Sheila Schwartz, Pam Tovey, Norma Clement.

**Health Issues or increased frailty:** Margaret Agnew, Irene Kettle, Andrea and Phil Holt, Rosalind Smart, Peggy Crosby, Celia Stephens, Jean and Albert Holmes, Rosalind, Thea, the Jenkins Family, Margaret Toogood, Sheila Durant, Enid Chapman and her sister, and Ian and Jean Alder. We pray for all of these friends and their carers and pray for God's blessing on each of them.

### **House Move**

Ron & Iris Webb are moving (again!). From Thursday 21 September, their address will be: Apartment 27, Brueton Place, Blossomfield Road, Solihull, B91 1PT. Phone: 0121 709 2445

### **SCAH**

Fundraising concert at Solihull Methodist Church on Saturday 14th October featuring "The Choir with no name" Tickets are £8.00 for adult and £4.00 for children. Please see Bridget for tickets ASAP.

### **SHOE BOXES**

That year has gone quickly! It will soon be time to start putting our boxes together ready for the beginning of November. You can find

the leaflets, with helpful instructions, on the table in church. I have the photos of last year's trip together with an account. Please ask me if you would like to see them.

Thank you for your support in this.

Anne Cherry

**Letter from Solihull URC's Sponsored Pupil who attends St George's High School in Kaloleni near Mombasa in Kenya. English is his third language. Thank you for sponsoring him for his secondary schooling. Maybe someone might like to send a reply via Ian Carnell.**

Dear Sponsors

How are you? I hope you are fine and well there. As for me I am okay here in school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the books you brought to us. Honestly the books are helping us very well in our studies and, God willing, we will improve our grades.

However, we thank God for protecting us up to this term. The term has been going well and there was no problems that affect our studies.

May I once again thank you for your support and I promise you that I will work hard in my studies. Thank you very much and may God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

Salim Munga

## KEEP ON INVITING

Last month Tim (our student minister) and I both laid out some plans in the newsletter explaining some of the things that are going on this Autumn within our church community and facilities. In the article I wrote I told you about our vision for putting extra effort in to inviting people to come to various things that are going on in the next year. We have already had a couple of those events but there are still more to come. Inviting is important. People won't come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour if we don't introduce them to Him, which is a form of inviting. So we need to be better at it. Beginning by asking people to come to church, or other activities, where they can meet more people who also know Jesus is a first step for many. We need to keep sharing our story and talking about all the things that God is doing in our lives too. We need to befriend those who do come along to things so that they feel welcome. We were delighted to enjoy the company of a few people who came along to the BBQ at Mark and Judy's house in September who may not ordinarily have joined in with something going on at church. The invitation was accepted. But it was only accepted because someone invited them!

Inviting someone to something isn't always successful first time. We may need to invite loads of different people before someone says, 'yes'. You may need to keep asking the same person over and over if they are a little interested but busy on 'this' occasion. Don't give up.

Our aim is to invite 200 people to things this year - not a tall order if everyone makes several invitations over the course of the year. There is nothing special about the number 200 other than I wanted us to focus on stretching ourselves. If you invite someone to something be

sure to colour in a box on our lighthouse picture at the back of the church. This is so we can see how we are getting along towards our target and to encourage everyone that we are all making an extra effort to shine our light amongst those we know. We all know lots of lovely people and they deserve the chance to meet Jesus for themselves and experience the love of Christian community. For most of these events or activities there are printed leaflets or invitations - make sure you take one and hand it to someone with a smile and a warm personal invitation.

### **Calendar**

If you haven't noticed yet, there is now a calendar on the noticeboard at the back of church. If you are organising an event please make sure you add it to the calendar so everyone can see what is going on and it helps us not to have things clash where it is not necessary.

Linda Faber

### **LIFE AS A CARER**

I'll always remember our much loved church member Gweno Nichols becoming a carer. It happened very suddenly - her husband Ken had a stroke - a serious one that left him disabled and totally dependent on care. Gweno became his 24/7 carer overnight and unexpectedly. This meant both she and he lost much of their freedom and independence. Gweno was a Marie Curie nurse, and Ken had not yet retired. Needless to say Ken had to retire on health grounds and Gweno retired not long after, to be his full time carer and nurse.

For me life as a carer has happened much more slowly. My husband John is 13 years older than me - he is 82. He has always been a bit absent minded; my Mum used to call him 'the absent minded professor'. Though not an actual professor he is/was very intelligent with an IQ far above the average, according to an assessment of his brain 10 years or so ago.

I am not sure when I first noticed he was more forgetful than usual - it happened gradually - almost imperceptibly, creeping in, so we hardly noticed. I've always done most of the shopping and cooking. Like many men John hates shopping. So it didn't dawn on us quickly that he could no longer remember his bank card pin number, until one day when he went to fill up the car with petrol and then realised, embarrassingly, that he couldn't remember the number to pay. John has always been good at remembering numbers, maths was one of his academic strengths, yet he'd forgotten a 4 number sequence, whereas for many years he could remember quite long sequences of numbers. That was just one small hint something was wrong.

And so the forgetting has gradually become worse - again almost imperceptibly. John forgets where I am if I go out shopping or to church or Singing for Pleasure with Janet. I write notes about my whereabouts; we now have a collection of them and I prop appropriate ones by the kettle where he is likely to find them. That worked well until I realised he sometimes forgot to make himself a drink, so didn't see the notes by the kettle. I would come back and he'd say, 'I thought you'd emigrated'! If his medication is due he is likely to forget it, so I have to remind him and preferably watch him take it.

I reckoned it would be a good idea to have an assessment. As part of this John had mental tests and we went to the QE for a brain scan. When the result came through it was a shock as the diagnosis not just dementia but also Alzheimer's and at some time a stroke must have taken place that we never knew about. All this showed up on the brain scan and I was told that he can no longer manage on his own - so I am his 24/7 carer; willingly of course. I get very tired needless to say but we still enjoy each other's company and we chat. He loves that.

Some days are better than others: some days he may appear to be almost normal. But his memory is unpredictable and he is inclined to lose his way if he goes out cycling. Yes the doctor says he can still do this! - but it is such a worry for me as you can imagine. Some days he has anxiety attacks, and keeps losing things. We spend ages looking for things like his spectacles or his wallet. He puts them down in the daftest places and gets very anxious as we look.

I try not to leave him for long now, and preferably not go far from home, so I can get home easily if he needs me. I always carry my mobile phone with me, switched on.

I need to tell you all this as I shan't be appearing at church much now. Firstly I feel I am away from him too long. And secondly I feel too far from home and can't get back quickly and easily. I realise Solihull is only 3 ½ miles from Olton but it takes me around ¼ hour in the car and longer on the bus. I am not really a car person any more but do drive when needs be; I am much happier and more relaxed on a bus and, as you already know, I love the buses!

I have resigned as elder - reluctantly as we need all the help we can get at SURC but I am sure you understand John has to come first. I would hope every one of you would take the same decision in the circumstances; marriage is till death us do part and 'in sickness and in health'.

I shall still attend early morning prayers at St Margaret's when I wake in time. It is only a short service and I need to worship. John sleeps a lot and is rarely up at that time of morning. St Margaret's is two minutes' walk from home. Occasionally I may go to a service at Olton Baptist Church; it is 5 minutes from home and in my road.

It is not that I don't love you; please understand that. And I still want to be a part of our church family. I can keep in touch via the newsletter of course and I'm hoping I can still attend Singing for Pleasure and help Janet. I can also represent us on the Olton Churches Together team I hope. Yesterday I attended an OCT meeting at the Friary and came home to check on John midway through the meeting - it only takes 5 minutes.

I will pray for you all and I know you will pray for me and John. Hopefully I will eventually convince John he'd enjoy our 'Moments' cafe - and then I can share some more moments and fellowship with you!

God bless you all and much Christian love,

Carol

## MOMENTS

We are 2! Earlier this month the Dementia Café aka Moments celebrated its 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. 2 years ago we started modestly, around one small table with 2 clients and their carers. We now average 8-10 for 2 hours every Monday morning.



The carers have an option to go off shopping or for some 'me' time and what do we do? Monday mornings are joyous occasions and benefit is gained by everyone who is there. We celebrate all birthdays with cards, cake and singing. We do jigsaws, games, puzzles, colouring, scrap books, craft work, gardening and cooking to name a few. Not all on the same day, of course! Sometimes we have great fun just playing balloon tennis. Head massage and nail painting are met with enthusiasm. Some clients just like conversation.

Highlights have been a BBQ and visits from animals. Marilyn's dog Ruby went down very well as did Trixie's 2 lambs. We are fortunate to have the help of Dean, a man with special needs who helps with the drinks and washing up. We always end with a sing song and we are very lucky to have Martin, one of the carers, who not only accompanies us on his keyboard but teaches us action songs to get us moving and to make us laugh. We try to operate on a one to one basis, therefore on some occasions we require more volunteers as the present 8 volunteers are not able to be there every week. So come and join us. This is such a rewarding way to spend 2 hours on a Monday morning.

Moments Team



From the Postbag September 2017

***Greetings again from EducAid Africa. Here are snippets from some of the many letters we and other sponsors receive. One thing that is resoundingly clear is the difference people, such as yourselves, make to the lives of these pupils. These pupils would never have enjoyed the benefits of a good education without your care and generosity. Several of our sponsored pupils have lost one or both of their parents and would not have had the opportunity to go to Secondary School.***

My father died a long time ago when I was very young in 2004. He was suffering from Yellow Fever. He was operated in his stomach. When the operation was over, my father never woke up again. He died at that time. As a result my mother was not able to pay the school fees for my brother or sister so they did not go to secondary school. I am the only child in our family who went to secondary school. If it wasn't for your kindness in helping me, I don't know where I could be at this time. Thank you so much!

My daily life at school is well and I am proceeding well in my academics - my favourite subject is still Physics and I also like Chemistry, Business Studies and CRE (Christian Religious Education). I spend my leisure time revising my work and playing football. I have a well programmed timetable which is guiding me in my daily activities. My family is still wanting because I lost my mother on 10th June and she was the one who was in charge of us.

I left school a week early because my grandmother was unwell and requested to see all her grandchildren. So my mum had to ask for a Parent Request for me to go and see her.

***Life at school is mainly academic but there are opportunities to take part in a variety of activities.***

During the term, elections of the school Student Council took place. The students proposed names for those who they want to be leaders. I was chosen among these names which were taken to the teachers for confirmation. They were checking the students' behaviour. The school voted and I was elected to become the Boarding Captain of the school – that is being Head Prefect of all the dormitories in the school compound. I pray to God to help me carry out my job fairly and just.

During the second term we hosted the Olympiad - a maths and science contest. This is usually held once a year where many schools are invited. Since we are the hosts, all our Form 4 students sat for at least 2 papers. The papers which are done during the Olympiad are Mathematics, Biology, Physics and Chemistry. I chose to do the Maths. Our team emerged the second best when ranked at our school level. I thank God for the positive attitude I have developed.

***It is not only the school fees that we cover but also items beyond their financial capability such as revision books and school uniform.***

Please appreciate my thanks in plenty for buying me revision books that I have been in need of and also for catering for my physics trip.

I thank you for the revision books that you purchased for me - they have really helped me, especially in mathematics. I now know where I am heading and before I sit for my Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education I will be in a better position than before.

I thank you for providing me with some revision books because they have been of great help to me. I usually utilise my time properly and do things at the right time. I also thank you for buying me nice school uniforms which are a skirt and a blouse.

***Many of the students, not sponsored by us, have had to be sent home regularly because their school fees have not been paid. Some never return as their parents' money has run out, other return but have missed out on vital lessons. Our students are so grateful that they do not have to worry about such lack of finance. Indeed some of them regard their sponsors as their "parents".***

I should like to appreciate your aid in keeping me at school by paying my full fees on time because there are some of my fellow students who are being and have been sent home many times for fees. How glad I am for having you as my parents that God granted to me, though not biological, but caring and ready to help. My dream is to work hard to do marine engineering or computer programming as a course.

You have been my helper since I joined the school and there has not been even a single day in which I was sent home for school fees. I thank almighty God for giving me life up to this level and I thank God for you. I shall always remember your goodness.

***The very successful students often go on to university which has only been possible by your selfless giving. Thank you to those who kindly responded to our recent appeal for funding for some of our ex-pupils who have managed to get into university. That is the aim of so many of our students.***

The graph of my performance has been going down up to now but let me assure you that this is its elastic limit! The sound C in my report form as a grade – forget it! My aim now is that I have (must) join university to pursue the course I wanted.

I would like to thank you for your great help towards me for the last four years. You are so merciful and helpful. I do not know how to thank you for you have showed mercy and readiness to support me through my education. You have really made me the person I am today. May the Lord shower you with blessing and guide you through

His ways. I sat for the KCSE exam and I have been called to the University of Embu to pursue the Bachelor of Science degree course (Microbiology and Biotechnology).

It has been quite a busy year with a lot of research work. I researched on the topic “The Role of Women in Conflict Transformation. This dealt with how women took part in conflicts and how they can be used to de-escalate the conflict. My favourite units were language, media and peace, comparative education, politics, culture, human rights and social justice and post-modern colonialism. All these units were interesting and the content of the units comprised of issues to do with everyday life. I am a member of the Human Rights Club, the Presidential Awards Club and the Peace Club. *(Margaret is working towards a BA in Peace Education at Laikipia University).*

***Thank you again for all you have done, are doing or will be doing to support these needy students. It is a rare opportunity to change a person’s life so dramatically as you so often do. “Where there was no hope you gave me hope”***

### **EUNICE THOMSON – TRIBUTE**

Family and friends all met at Olton United Church to celebrate the life of our friend Eunice. Eunice loved coming to the church for the fellowship, and was disappointed when she could no longer attend. Eunice was very proud of her family, especially her nephews. The hymns chosen were first class and her sons gave a moving tribute. Our very own Rev Irene Bound also gave a moving tribute.

Rest in peace Eunice,

Mary Newbery

## **MYLIFE WORKSHOP**

Starting on Tuesday 17 October (7pm to 8:30pm), we will be running a six-week course called MyLife Workshop. The course location will be Starbucks in the Touchwood Centre.

The course is designed to help people reflect on their lives so far and work out what is important to them going forward, including of course, exploring the spiritual dimension to life, which people often overlook because they are focused on other areas such as career development or nurturing significant relationships. Each session has a theme based on a visual image – coin, book, bridge, music, band-aid, treasure – and individually all of course participants use these themes to develop their life insights using a MyLife map. There will be lots of opportunity for conversations amongst participants as they consider how their lives and their spiritual journeys intersect.

We will be ordering printed flyers to advertise the course and these will be delivered to people's homes in the Central Solihull, Hobs Moat and Olton areas. It would be great if as a church we could be praying regularly for this course over the coming weeks and for the participants who wish to explore the spiritual dimension of life.

Please do contact me if you would like any further information: 07825 220071 or [tim.reith@live.co.uk](mailto:tim.reith@live.co.uk).

Tim Reith

## KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

### **Minister**

Revd. Mark Fisher: 07950 399615 - 0121 291 4726 - mjf.urc@me.com

### **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, Olton or Christ Church - details are on the website.

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

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

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

Mondays 10am—12 noon@ Christ Church

Details from Mark Fisher - contacts above

## **NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Material for the November edition

Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393

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

by Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October please.