

SOLIHULL

United Reformed Church

Central Solihull - Hobs Moat – Olton

June 2019 Newsletter

O Lord, all the world belongs to you and you are always making all things new. What is wrong you forgive, and the new life you give is what's turning the world upside down.

Verse 1, Hymn 90, Rejoice & Sing (Patrick Appleford)



SOLIHULL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Solihull URC has united three congregations from Olton, Hobs Moat and Christ Church (town center). We retain premises in Hobs Moat and at Christ Church. Sunday worship is focused in the town center, 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
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.

Answered Prayers

I wonder if you have heard about the planned national landmark which will be built on our patch? It is currently called 'The Wall' and will be built of 1 million bricks, each one of them representing an answered prayer. Just like The Angel of the North it will be a sight you can't miss as it will be built near the M42 and M6. There will be a visitor's centre with trained staff and each brick will be specifically identified with an answered prayer - the story for which someone has submitted to the wall builders. Using technologies of a 'chip' in the brick and a smart phone you will be able to read about the answered prayers for each brick. This is an exciting project to celebrate our Christian heritage. You can read more about it at www.thewall.org.uk and I have printed off a factsheet about it which I have put on the noticeboard in the church. You might even decide to submit a story of answered prayer yourself or offer to pay for a brick for someone else.

Sometimes a wall can be used as a means of division and the designers are aware of this but this wall seeks to emphasise the positive nature of a wall such as protection and safety.

Division has been on my mind. It is so easy to make divisions. In our church we are seeking a vision for the coming few years especially as we seek a new minister. As we ask questions we can upset each other if we do not listen and take seriously the thoughts and feelings of others. As we look ahead we are asking questions such as: What is going well? What changes should we make? What do we develop? What do we thank God for and leave behind?

I am writing this after our Annual Church Meeting and an afternoon of discussions. About 30 people stayed after church to talk about our future. We had a whole range of ideas expressed sometimes from opposite viewpoints and have put together a rough list of a few things to tackle quickly and a few bigger ideas to pursue in the longer term. Some people want rapid change and some don't want any, with most somewhere in the middle. We have to be patient with one another.

Whatever else happens in the next year or two, I want to see answered prayers not a monument of division.

On another matter, while we are without a minister would you like to write this opening article one month in the future? Elaine Jones is compiling a list of willing volunteers so please speak to her.

Linda Faber

DIARY FOR JUNE

Sunday 2nd, 10am: Holy Communion – Rev Mary Burgess

Monday 3rd, 10am: Moments

Thursday 6th, 10am: Tots & Tales

2pm: Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Saturday 8th, 2pm: Pleasant Saturday afternoon

Sunday 9th, 10am: Pentecost – Ian Carnell

Monday 10th, 10am: Moments

12:30pm: Elders Meeting

Thursday 13th, 10am: Tots & Tales

2pm: Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Sunday 16th, 10am: Father's Day Worship – Rev Richard Alford

Monday 17th, 10am: Moments

Tuesday 18th, 10:30am: Hobs Moat Neighbourhood Coffee Morning

Thursday 20th, 10am: Tots & Tales

2pm: Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Saturday 22nd, 2:30pm: Boules at the Harmans

Sunday 23rd, 10am: Worship (Guest Service) – Linda Faber

Monday 24th, 10am: Moments

Thursday 27th, 10am: Tots & Tales

2pm: Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Sunday 30th, 10am: Worship (Café Style) – Gordon Justham

All regular groups meet as usual. Please see your group leader for further information and ask them to put specific dates in the newsletter each month. Don't forget to use the calendar at the back of church.

HOBBS MOAT COFFEE MORNINGS

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

- 4 June - Cancelled
- 18 June
- 2 July
- 16 July
- 30 July
- 13 August
- 27 August
- 10 September
- 24 September

All are welcome for a cuppa and chat. Please note 4 June is cancelled.

Anne and Annette

SUNDAY 2ND JUNE

Our Communion service will be led by Rev Mary Burgess. Our dear friend Mary was a former minister at Hobs Moat URC. She is looking forward to seeing you all.

NATIONAL WEEKEND OF INVITATION IS GETTING CLOSER

Sunday 23rd June 2019 is the National Weekend of invitation. We are planning to join in with this initiative aimed at encouraging Christians to invite those they know to come to church with them. Details have been circulated – please pick up a sheet from the church and begin praying about who you might invite. **Linda Faber**

STILL NEEDED

Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness (SCAH) give out emergency packages of items for people who have nothing who are moving in to accommodation. There are about 100 items in each pack such as kitchenware, bathroom ware and bedding. These all need purchasing by volunteers. Are you someone who can do some shopping on behalf of SCAH. Please see Linda or Bridget if you might be able to give some time for this project.

OLTON AND HOBBS MOAT

I am sure most of you know by now that Olton URC now belongs to the Islamic charity, 'The Olton Project'. They have an interesting website and Facebook page – do have a look if you can. I am happy to tell you they clearly love the building and are very interested in its history. So I am enjoying making new inter faith friendships and sharing what I know about the area and the old church. They love the structure of the old buildings and are keen to retain the character, which is fortunate as the church and two of the halls are locally listed.

I related the story of our centenary yew which, I am happy to tell you, is now special to them too as they know why it was planted. They also love the old trees – which again is a good thing as in the Olton Conservation Area sizeable trees are protected. I discussed the idea of an inter faith forum which went down well – I hope to attend such meetings. But nothing can be planned from my point of view, as everything I do has to fit in with John's care – as you know he has dementia and Alzheimer's. Anyhow life is moving on here in Olton – and yes I admit it, there is a sense of excitement and anticipation – mixed with a little trepidation. What a good thing we have God beside us to guide us along the new paths of life's journey!

Change is not easy though and I realise many of you must be feeling sad about the imminent closure of Hobs Moat URC. Feel the warmth of my love and empathy among you. At least one member of SURC has been attending that church since childhood some 60 years ago – and there will be many who have similar long memories of the Hobs Moat church. Inevitably there is sadness – we felt it similarly about Olton URC. For a while I felt we had failed.

But turn that thought upside down and be glad for what was achieved in these two churches. Think of the welcome and love we gave to the two communities in Olton and Hobs Moat. Love does not die despite the closure of buildings! Think of how we served - and the Christian faith we hopefully passed on to others. Sometimes when we plant seeds of faith it is not immediately apparent that those seeds have taken root and will grow. But some do – remember the Biblical parable of ‘The sower and the seed’. So be glad for what we have done – and furthermore what we can still do, as much as we are able. We do not retire from being Christians however old we get. We can still pray for our friends in the three communities; Olton, Hobs Moat and Solihull.

And, when we meet people it is still our aim to pass on our Christian love and the Good News of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

Smiles and loving blessings to all, **Carol Andrews**



Thank you all for supporting Christian Aid week this year.

The coffee morning held at the Methodist Church raised the sum of £2025.27. Our bookstall contributed £137.50 towards this. Thank you for your contribution of books and also thank you to all the volunteers who manned the stall during the morning.

Our house to house street collection raised a total of £2013.77. Many thanks to our street collectors for their time delivering and collecting the gift envelopes. **Myles Ensor**

Do you know you can send your old computer toner cartridges to Christian Aid? They send them on for recycling and receive £1 for each cartridge. Pick up a plastic envelope from the shelf at the back of church and send your cartridges free of charge. This is an on-going scheme and is not just for Christian Aid week, so keep on collecting.

Linda Faber

POSTAGE STAMPS

The stamps have been pouring in. I guess we may have collected a couple of thousand stamps. I have sent one large bag of stamps to the RNIB. All is going well. **Alan Kembery**

TOOLS WITH A MISSION (TWAM)

This is a charity which the church has supported a long time ago, and one which I have recently used. Their main work is collecting tools and equipment and then passing these on to the 400 partner communities. The tools are sorted into “trade kits” before being taken to their central depot where they are moved into containers which are shipped to the partner communities, mainly in Africa but also in Asia, the Americas and Eastern Europe.

The tools may be carpentry, building, plumbing, garden tools, computers, bicycles, wheel chairs etc.

TWAM is a Christian organisation with depots around the UK. Every year they send about 22 containers to their partners.

If you wish to contribute you may bring the tools etc., to my house where I have cleared a corner of the garage to store them. I will periodically take them to the TWAM depot in Coventry.

This is quite separate from the official Church charities which we have adopted at a Church Meeting.

Alan Kembery



HOBBS MOAT SINGING FOR PLEASURE

invite you to

A PLEASANT SATURDAY AFTERNOON

on Saturday 8th June at 2pm at Hobs Moat Church, Faulkner Road.
Come and be entertained or you can tell a funny story, read a poem,
play an instrument, dance or sing a song.

Followed by tea and cakes. Donations will go to a chosen charity.



DRAGONFLY CRUISE, BRECON

Thursday 20th June

We shall be having a 3 hour cruise from Brecon at twelve noon. There are drinks available on board but a picnic is recommended and there are tables to facilitate this.

The Monmouth and Brecon Canal hugs the mountainside above the River Usk. Throughout the four seasons there are superb views and an abundance of wildlife to be seen. With 200 years of history you can travel on this fantastic feat of engineering built before roads and railways. Cruise through a canal lock and over an aqueduct over the river Usk.

This will be a popular trip so book early by ringing Val on 0121 706 9687 at least one week before the trip. Both trips will start at 8.30 prompt from West Warwicks Sport and Social Club in Grange Road. Cancellation charges will apply and the cost for this trip will be no more than £37 including a tip for the driver.

DAVID ARGALL



POWIS CASTLE, WALES. NATIONAL TRUST

Thursday 18th July

Once a stark, medieval fortress, Powis Castle has been transformed over 400 years into an extravagant family home with an exceptional collection of art, sculpture and furniture collected from Europe, India and the Orient. Outside you can enjoy the delights of a world famous garden with dramatic 17th Century terraces, lavish herbaceous borders and breathtaking panoramic views across the Severn Valley.

There is a shop and restaurant which serve lunches.

Please remember to bring your National Trust card.

Make your booking by ringing Val on 0121 706 9687 at least one week before the trip. All trips will start at 830 prompt from West Warwicks Sport and Social Club in Grange Road. Cancellation charges will apply and the cost for this trip will be £20 plus an entry fee for non N.T. members. A tip for the driver will be included.

DAVID ARGALL

BOULES

Do you remember the one wet weekend of last summer?
Yes, our Boules afternoon was truly rained off!

So, take 2...

On Saturday 22nd June 2019, you are invited to join us for an afternoon of cake, tea and Boules.

Starting at 2:30pm you can try your hand against a few experts but mainly amateurs at this fun game, as well as sampling various cakes and goodies. This will take place, whatever the weather, indoors or out, so come and enjoy the company (definitely), the sport and good weather (hopefully).

Please invite your friends, as we are raising money for the church charities, namely The Colin Choyce Hostel in India, and Citizens Advice Bureau, Solihull, from this 'donations only' event. **Trixie Harman**

FAIR TRADE

After many many years of selling Fair Trade, Gerry Candy would like to relinquish this position. If anyone would be interested in filling this role please have a word with Gerry. Thank you. **Elaine Jones**



OLTON PARKLIFE

**SATURDAY 29TH JUNE 12—4PM
LANGLEY HALL PARK**

**FREE
ENTRY**

**ACCESS ON
FOOT FROM
SWANSWELL RD.**



**ACCESS WITH
FREE PARKING
AT LANGLEY
SECONDARY
SCHOOL B92 7ER**

**FUN DOG SHOW • FANCY DRESS COMPETITION (THEME = PARKLIFE)
FOOD & ICE CREAMS • ANIMALS • CRAFTS • BEER TENT • STALLS
MUSIC AND DJ • BOUNCY CASTLE & RIDES • ALLOTMENT PRODUCE
DONKEY RIDES • DANCE GROUPS & ENTERTAINMENT**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MEMBERS OF OLTON COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTED BY OLTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, OLTON SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES. PART OF THE MAYOR'S COMMUNITY WEEKEND, SUPPORTED BY NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING AND THE WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

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**

SUNDAY DUTIES

Recently there have been plenty of names put on the blank rotas but there are usually two or three gaps. Let us see if we can now get a full house each month. There are some folk who occasionally put their name down and might be tempted do it slightly more frequently. If anyone who has never done a duty wants to give it a go have a word with me, I will be very reassuring. **Alan Kembery**

THANK YOU

Just to say “thank you” for my lovely flowers delivered to me by Ann. Thank you for your prayers for me and Alan, they meant a lot, we felt God’s presence all the time. And thanks to John who was there for me in my hour of need. God Bless all of you, **Mary Newbery**

EDITOR'S POEM

You might see an angel anytime and anywhere. Of course you have to open your eyes to a kind of second level, but it's not really hard. The whole business of what's reality and what isn't has never been solved and probably never will be. So I don't care to be too definite about anything. I have a lot of edges called Perhaps and almost nothing you can call Certainty. For myself, but not for other people. That's a place you just can't get into, not entirely anyway, other people's heads.

I'll just leave you with this. I don't care how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. It's enough to know that for some people they exist, and that they dance.

Mary Oliver (1935 – 2019)

KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Minister

VACANT

Church Secretary

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

Website

www.solihullurc.org.uk

Hall Lettings in Hobs Moat or Central Solihull – 07925 573259

Generations Project - enabling the Church in care homes

www.generationsssolihull.org.uk generationsssolihull@icloud.com

Moments

Mondays 10am—12 noon@ Central Solihull

JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Material for the July/August edition

Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393

stuartkmills@gmail.com

by Sunday 23rd June please.