

# SOLIHULL

United Reformed Church

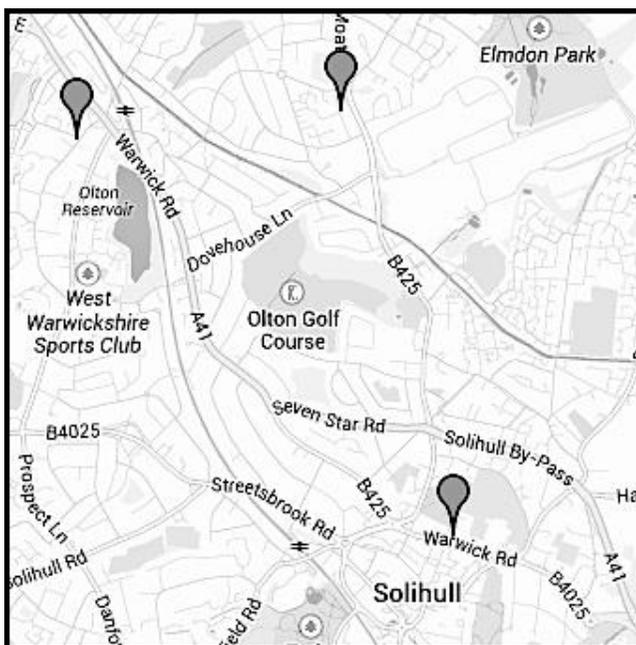
Christ Church - Hobs Moat – Olton

## July/August 2018 Newsletter

*God is our strength and refuge,  
our present help in trouble,  
and we therefore will not fear,  
though the earth should change!  
Though mountains shake and tremble,  
though swirling floods are raging,  
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!*

***After Psalm 46, Richard Bewes (born 1934)***





## **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 SECURE?...Mark wonders...**

We have all had to deal with the General Data Protection Regulations of late, with a bombardment of communications from those who hold our personal information for one reason or another. It is good that even we, as a church, are being encouraged to be careful with the information we hold and might share, even though it is causing us to make some changes. I have to say, though, that I am none the wiser regarding who is doing what with information about me. For the most part, I am not concerned if a vast computer somewhere knows the patterns of my shopping habits, or which websites I find it interesting to read regularly. However, when it comes to bank accounts and the like there is a need for care and it is annoying when adverts popping up on my computer screen relate to things I have just bought and I don't want another of whatever it is.

Elsewhere in our world there has been concern about security of different kinds. Secure borders and the movement of both people and trade, the protection of markets and a sense of security arising from military strength are all things we read of daily.

However, there is a sense in which it is all an illusion. I don't really know where my personal information is kept and how it is used. The strengthening of national borders will impoverish countries through restricting trade and cultural exchange. The growth of military strength has an end which is inevitably negative, in violent conflict and the sapping of economic resources.

At home, we ensure we have locks and alarms and CCTV, but it is all fallible.

The reality is that we cannot shut ourselves off completely. We are created for relationship with others. Culture and economics, and all that makes up human life, thrive in the widest possible relationships. These relationships need to be generous and loving rather than

suspicious and selfish if they are to offer security. They need to be founded in God.

*“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”*

*(1 John 4.18)*

A security found in loving relationships, in God himself, is not something for this world and life only. It is that ongoing relationship that is Jesus' resurrection promise of eternal life that is secure.

The Psalmist makes reference in a number of places to the security of God's people. One can understand this in the context of the political and cultural turmoil of the time, which has remained a reality for the Middle East to the present. But it must also be understood in the context of faith - God's faithfulness to his people and their faith in him. This is our true security.

*Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.*

*The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.*

*I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*

*Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.*

*(Psalm 16)*

## DIARY FOR JULY

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

**11:30am:** Church Volunteers Training & Lunch

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am:** 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>, 12pm:** Generations Lunch Hour

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

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

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, 12 – 4pm:** Olton Park Life, Langley Hall Park

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Worship including Commissioning of Gordon

Justham as a Lay Preacher

**11:45am:** Worship @ Star and Garter

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

**10:30am:** Job Advice @ Christ Church

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

**7:30pm:** Music for Worship - planning - venue TBA

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>, 2pm:** Hobs Moat Fellowship

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

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

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Sunday Worship and Church Meeting

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments Cafe

**10:30am:** Job Advice @ Christ Church

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am:** Neighbourhood Coffee Morning @ Hobs Moat

**11am:** Worship @ Tudor Lodge

**12:30pm:** Solihull Churches Prayer Lunch

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

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

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

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Fellowship Prayers @ Hobs Moat

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am:** Café Church

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

**10:30am:** Job Advice @ Christ Church  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>, 2pm:** Hobs Moat Wednesday Club  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Tots & Tales @ Christ Church  
**2pm:** Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Worship – Mark Fisher  
**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments Café @ Christ Church  
**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:30am:** Neighbourhood Coffee Morning @ Hobs Moat  
Messy Church @ Christ Church

## **DIARY FOR AUGUST**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Holy Communion - Ian Carnell  
**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>, 11am:** Worship @ St Francis Lodge  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>, 2pm:** Hobs Moat Wednesday Club  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Worship - Blair Kessler  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments Cafe  
**12:30pm:** Elders Meeting  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, 11am:** Holy Communion @ Hampton House  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Worship @ The Grove  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Worship - Mark Fisher  
**11:45am:** Worship @ Star & Garter  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments Cafe  
Fellowship Prayers @ Hobs Moat  
**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2pm:** Hobs Moat Wednesday Club  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Cafe Church  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>, 10am:** Moments Cafe

## **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.

## **CHURCH AWAY DAY**

We are hoping to have another Away-Day on **Saturday 29th September** for which plans are being made. Please put the date in your diaries. We will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Sunday 30th September.

The AGM will give opportunity for us to share any hopes we may have for an Away-Day.

## **FLOWERS**

Everyone enjoys the flowers which are on the communion table every week but someone has to provide them. There is a calendar on the noticeboard at the back of the church inviting folk to select a date when they can provide the flowers. If you are not happy with arranging flowers that does not matter as someone else will do that for you but you might like to make a donation instead.

We would encourage anyone visiting someone to take some flowers from church, they are always appreciated and there is paper and gift cards to go with the flowers, if you are unsure of where to find anything please have a word with a member of the flower committee. Now that the church is always locked it is a shame to leave them in situ where no-one will see them. **Judith Kembery**

## **HOBBS MOAT WEDNESDAY CLUB PROGRAMME**

July 11<sup>th</sup> - Growing up in an orphanage. A talk by Betty Foster.

July 25<sup>th</sup> - Read your favourite poems etc.

August 8<sup>th</sup> - Linda Williams, singer.

August 22<sup>nd</sup> - Phil Sayer singing and playing the keyboard.

September 5<sup>th</sup> - Our A.G.M. An opportunity to have your say.

All start at 2pm. **Jeanne Brown**

## **HOSTING GUESTS TO OUR PREMISES**

Each week we welcome around 40 different community groups into our premises either in Hobs Moat or Christ Church. It is a privilege, enabled by simply having the premises, and it is an opportunity to have a share in groups that support people through health, artistic, social and charitable activities. What we would like to do is to express our support in a more personal way. This has been modelled by Marcia and Judy as they have managed our lettings over recent years. We are now seeking volunteers who would be willing to 'pop in' to group meetings from time to time, to express interest and to be a personal link with the church and ensure that we serve groups in the best way possible. Hosts would also be the initial point of contact (by phone) if groups wish to raise matters with the church, although for practical matters this would be passed on for the appropriate person to respond. If you feel able to have responsibility for one session of a week (morning, afternoon, or evening), willing to occasionally visit or make contact with the groups who meet at that particular time, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

## **GORDON JUSTHAM**

Gordon will be commissioned as a Lay Preacher on Sunday 8th July. It is hoped that as many as possible will be able to be present to support Gordon in prayer.

## **CHURCH MEETING**

Sunday 15th July within worship. Amongst other things we will be preparing for our Away Day in September, offering things to think and pray about in the meantime. This will be an important 'looking ahead', so please do your best to be present.

## **SATURDAY CAFÉ URGENT REQUEST**

We've had an excellent response for volunteers over the last 3 years which has meant that we each helped on a Saturday morning for between 3.5-4 hours approximately once every 6 weeks. We have found it very rewarding, in enabling us to have conversations with those who use the café and building relationships.

Unfortunately four of our volunteers have come off the rota which leaves us short especially if anyone is on holiday or unable to cover. If you are able to come and join us and help to keep the café open please contact me and I will talk to you about the details. I look forward to speaking to you.

Many thanks, **Elaine Jones**

## **HOBBS MOAT COFFEE MORNINGS**

Dates for Tuesday Coffee Mornings at Hobs Moat from 10.30am to 12 noon, for the rest of 2018.

- 3 July
- 17 July
- 31 July
- 14 August
- 28 August
- 11 September
- 25 September
- 9 October
- 23 October
- 6 November
- 20 November
- 4 December
- 18 December

All are welcome for a cuppa and chat.  
Annette

### **MARIE CURIE HOSPICE GARDEN**

The Marie Curie Hospice Garden will be open to the public on Sunday 1st July, from 11am – 4pm, as part of the National Garden Scheme. Address is Marie Curie Hospice, Marsh Lane, Solihull, B91 2PQ. Tickets are £3.50 for adults, children go free. Onsite parking is available for blue badge holders only. The Daffodil Choir will also be singing inside the hospice on that day from 2pm to 2:30pm. **Gweno**

### **THANK YOU**

Sam Mills wishes to thank everyone who sponsored her for her Pretty Muddy 5K run, raising money for Cancer Research UK. She got very muddy and had a great time.

Thank you for your prayers, cards and get well wishes sent to my husband, Eric Bignell, following his cardiac arrest in February. Your continuing prayers are very much appreciated.

God bless. **Marcia**

### **SINGING FOR PLEASURE**

Singing For Pleasure will be taking a summer break from Thursday 19th July until Thursday 13th September. **Janet**

### **LETTER FROM SALIM MUNGA**

Dear Sir/Madam (Solihull URC),

How are you? I hope that you are fine there. I am fine here in school. I thank God for protecting me until this moment, as usually the studies are proceeding well and there are no obstacles that have occurred. I just want to tell you that the end-term exam was a bit tough that I manage to get a C-, however this result does not affect my studies because I am working hard for the National Exam (K.C.S.E).

I conclude by praying for you, my parents at home teachers, and my fellow students. Thank you very much and may God bless you.

Yours Faithful,

Salim Munga

St George's High School

### **WHO ARE WE?**

When my husband was first diagnosed with dementia and Alzheimer's I recall him saying to me, 'You must still do what you like doing; you must still be who you are'. Bless him for those poignant selfless words. But, as a Carer, the much loved other always comes first – and it is a huge lesson in sacrifice. This is done willingly I have to say - but always putting someone else's needs before your own is, without doubt, a sacrifice. Sometimes I feel I am losing who I am.

That said, 'Who exactly am I?' –and, by the same token, 'Who are you?' What actually defines us? We are not defined by our names – we may be identified by them but our names do not define who we are. Many women change their names when they marry – but after the wedding they are still the same people.

Neither are we defined by what we look like or what we wear. I love wearing bright colours and people often identify me from behind by my hair bows. But what I wear does not define me – and the same goes for you.

So who are we? In my view we are defined very much by what we do. And that is dependent on those talents and gifts that the dear Lord gave to us, through His grace, at birth. Some may be good at home making and creating a welcoming environment for family, friends and strangers alike. That is a talent in its own right.

Others, including myself, may find it easy to talk to strangers – and make real friendships which last. That is another God given gift. Not everyone can do this but everyone has a talent and most have several. Those talents are given to be shared – to enable us to help others – and they are an important part of what defines us.

Some people are musical. This is a gift which is also for sharing – it is not given for us alone. A talent for music helps to define us. I could go on and on – just think about it and relate the topic to what defines you. There is a famous saying to ponder on, ‘You will not be remembered for what you say; but you will be remembered for what you do!’

God bless you all, **Carol**

### **PLEASANT SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

The ‘Singing for Pleasure’ summer term 2018 is drawing to a close. We have enjoyed so many companionable and musical Thursday afternoon sessions at Hobs Moat URC, under the leadership and guidance of Janet Ince. Janet is an inspirational conductor and musician; so no wonder the choir members enjoy it! New members will be most welcome when we re-convene in mid-September.

The highlight of our summer term was Pleasant Saturday Afternoon’, held on Saturday 9th June, at our usual Hobs Moat URC venue. This year we had more people than ever in the audience and a good time was had by all! The choir sang old favourites like, ‘When I’m 64’ [by the Beatles] a traditional folk song ‘Leaving of Liverpool’, Seventy six trombones [which was much enjoyed by the audience!] and 4 songs from the musical ‘Oliver’ including the well known ‘Oom-pah-pah’. Our minister Mark accompanied everyone in the room on the piano while we sang well known hit songs from way back when! Old and young alike sang these with enthusiasm. The Faber girls played their guitars to us – how lovely to hear them. Other individuals played and sang and recited poetry. It was amazing how many talented people were among us.



Then we had tea and yummy cakes and there was time for a chat with old and new friends. The proverbial icing on the cake was the amount raised for the Breast Cancer Haven charity in Olton – £239! At such an event everyone wins – including the charity! Now we shall start practising again for our next event – watch this space! And don't forget – we always welcome new members – so do think about joining us in September!

Smiles and blessings, **Carol**

### **AN AFTERNOON OF BOULES AND TEA, COFFEE AND CAKES!**

Saturday 28 July 2018 from 2.30pm

At: Yew Tree Cottage, Barston, B92 OJU

*Phone 01675 442 859*

Donations in aid of The Colin Choyce Hostel in Durgapur, North India  
A charity that supports and provides a home for vulnerable children, in danger of being 'trafficked', giving them:

- loving care, nutritious food
- school uniforms (also shoes, stationery etc)
  - regular medical checkups
- training in the use of computers, self defence (Taekwondo), playing musical instruments, classical dance and singing in a choir, art, drawing and crafts, growing food in the kitchen garden

UNION  
THEATRE  
*presents*



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**PHANTOM**  
of **saigon** and his  
**THOROUGHLY MODERN**  
**DREAMCOAT** of **HORRORS**

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## **BARNSDALE, RUTLAND WATER WITH BOAT TRIP**

*19<sup>th</sup> July 2018*

From 1984 until his death in 1996 Barnsdale Gardens was the base from which Geoff Hamilton presented BBC2's Gardeners' World. Originally a Victorian farmhouse with 5 acres of pastureland Hamilton was interested in making gardening affordable by offering practical ideas for gardeners to recreate in their own home. Barnsdale is home to Britain's largest collection of individually designed gardens. The Chelsea Gold Medal winning plant nursery sells a wide range of choice and unusual garden plants. There is a rose garden, Japanese garden, rock garden, knot garden, kitchen garden, bog garden and orchard.



There is a Tea Room with garden and a gift shop. This will be followed in the afternoon by a cruise on the nearby scenic Rutland Water, a reservoir created in 1976.

The coach will leave from our new departure point THE WEST WARWICKS SPORT CLUB, GRANGE ROAD, SOLIHULL B91 1DA at our usual time of 8.30am. As agreed at the AGM the revised charge will be £20 a person excluding any entry fees but including a tip for the driver. May I respectfully remind you of the cancellation guide and that you should ring Val on 706 9687 to book at least 10 days before the event.

**DAVID ARGALL (CHAIR)**

**OLTON  
PARKLIFE**  
SATURDAY 7TH JULY 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 • FOOD AND ICE CREAMS • 'WILD SIDE' ANIMAL  
EXPERIENCE • TREASURE HUNT • BIKE ACTIVITIES • BEER TENT •  
SWING BAND • LOCAL CRAFTS • STALLS • BOUNCY CASTLE AND  
RIDES • ALLOTMENT PRODUCE • DJ • ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE •  
PLUS A PICNIC—IF YOU BRING ONE!**

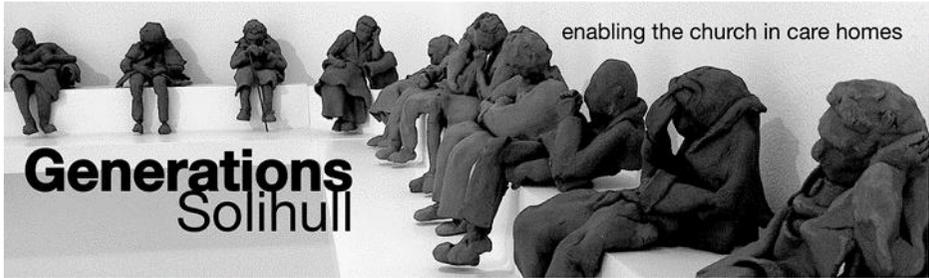
**BROUGHT TO YOU BY MEMBERS OF OLTON COMMUNITY AND  
SUPPORTED BY SOLIHULL COUNCIL, OLTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION,  
OLTON U3A, OLTON SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.**

This community event is supported by the churches who will aim to demonstrate generosity towards and interest in the community, and to proclaim Christ in ways that intrigue rather than confront.

Your support is invited:

- Prayer - Tuesday 3rd July 7.30pm, meet at Langley Hall Social Club car park.
- Cake baking - individual muffins or cupcakes in a named tin.

You can have some fun for yourself too!



Between 2012-15 some mission funding from the United Reformed Church helped to support and encourage the central Solihull churches in their engagement in care homes through the Generations Project. The Anglican and Catholic parishes each have a eucharistic ministry in a number of homes. The Generations Project sought to enable contact in more places and in ways other than formal worship, including having Pastoral Link people to visit regularly and share in the life of a home.

Changes in ministry in the central Solihull churches in 2019 mean that some fresh plans need to be put into place if the 'church in care homes' is to continue to expand its reach and variety.

To explore possibilities and all that already takes place an open lunch meeting is planned for:

**Wednesday 4th July, 12 noon in the Meeting Place @ Christ Church**

All are welcome - bring your own lunch - drinks are provided  
The variety of activities involved include: Traditional worship, Reflection and reminiscence, Art/craft, Bible reading, Pastoral conversation, Prayer, Music/singing.

## **BE A MOUTHPIECE FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE – WITH LOVE!**

In my sacred space at home I have just finished reading through the whole of 1 Corinthians. When I reached chapter 13 there was reluctance to move on. I kept re reading the much loved and familiar chapter on love. 1 Corinthians 13 is often read at weddings of course – and is familiar to many of us. Go on – treat yourself – read it again: reflect on it and enjoy!

Eventually I moved on to complete my reading of 1 Corinthians – all 16 chapters. And in chapter 16 my eyes honed in on the words, ‘Be alert, stand firm in the faith; be brave, be strong. Do all your work in love.’ And again I thought of Chapter 13!

My mind also pondered on the wording of our M series that we are studying at church - and in particular ‘Be a Mouthpiece for truth and justice. There are times when being a disciple means speaking up for things that are true, just and good. It takes courage, wisdom and prayer’.



What wise words - but also quite challenging ones for some of us to actually do. It takes a lot of courage to 'go against the flow of public opinion' – despite the fact we have freedom of speech, thank God, in our country. But as Christians we shouldn't be backward in coming forward and speaking our minds, even if others disagree. It is part of our Christian mission.

There is a fine line between destructive criticism and constructive criticism however. It helps if we can find something positive to say before adding the all-important proviso 'BUT'! Being totally negative puts people's backs up and sometimes destroys self-esteem, which is not good as that makes people want to give up or else ignore our advice. Worse still it can also make people angry - which is why it takes courage to 'be a Mouthpiece'.

Keeping the mantra, 'What would Jesus say?' in our minds can be very helpful. And prayerfully asking God to help us say the right thing in a diplomatic and loving way is also the key to success. What a challenge – but don't give up on this particular 'M' for 'mouthpiece'. Sometimes we simply have to speak our minds and give the Christian viewpoint. But do it with love!

*Ephesians 4:29 'Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.'*

Smiles, love and blessings, **Carol**

## KEY CONTACTS & INFORMATION

### **Minister**

Revd. Mark Fisher: 07950 399615 - 0121 291 4726 - [mjf.urc@me.com](mailto:mjf.urc@me.com)

### **Church Secretary**

Mr. Gordon Justham: 07540 289855 - 01564 776229 -  
[gordonjustham@talktalk.net](mailto:gordonjustham@talktalk.net)

### **Website**

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

**Hall Lettings** in Hobs Moat or Christ Church - details are on the website.

**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  
Details from Mark Fisher - contacts above

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Material for the September edition  
Is due to Stuart Mills: 07931 614393  
[stuartkmills@gmail.com](mailto:stuartkmills@gmail.com)  
by Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August please.