

SOLIHULL

United Reformed Church

Christ Church - Hobs Moat— Olton



October 2015 Newsletter

A Prayer for Current Times:

Lord God,
no one is a stranger to you
and no one is ever far from your loving care.
In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war,
those separated from their loved ones,
young people who are lost, and those who have left home
or who have run away from home.

Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,
and help us always to show your kindness to strangers
and to all in need.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.





SOLIHULL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Solihull United Reformed Church is a fellowship with roots in the three communities of Hobs Moat, Olton and Central Solihull. Our mission activities seek to serve these communities and are often fulfilled in partnership with other local Christian churches.

Sunday worship is focused at the Christ Church Centre in central Solihull, but we endeavour to pray for all the communities on different occasions.

You are warmly invited to share in our life and worship, details of which are found in this Newsletter and on our Website:

www.solihullurc.org.uk

One Man Two Guv'nors - Mark reflects

On the evenings of 15th - 17th October, Union Theatre will be performing 'One Man Two Gov'nors' in Christ Church. Just the title reminds me of the words of Jesus, *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other."*

The play, an English adaptation of an 18th century Italian comedy, naturally deals with things such as loyalties, jealousies, honesty and deception, all of which serve to prove the truth of Jesus' teaching! I am writing this around our Harvest weekend, when we considered the harvest of our work, so my mind naturally turns to how it is that we serve Jesus as our Lord, while also serving other 'Guv'nors' such as work bosses, the claims of financial security or the desire for security etc.

The play includes some audience participation, with questions being asked, so I wonder how you might respond to this one? As Jesus meets the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well (John 4) he declares, *'my food is to do the work of the One who sent me'* This is what sustains him and, as we know, this is all about sustaining life in others and giving of oneself. It is about serving God before all others.

All this thrusts us into a consideration of the relative places of self/ others/God in our lives. I think we deceive ourselves if we think that working for self is serving God (perhaps kidding ourselves that 'he made me to live abundantly'). I am certain that we need to be more honest about how far God has a part in our lives and what motivates us.

This is not a straightforward question and is likely even more complex than the plot in One Man Two Guv'nors, but it is key that we as Christians face up to the various loyalties we have and the jealousies they encourage, our honesty before God and how much we deceive ourselves with regard to faithfulness.

This is clearly a serious matter, but I hope that if you get to see the play you will have more than a few laughs!

Mark Fisher

Saturday 17th Synod continues
 9.30am - 4pm Dementia Matters @ QE Hospital

Monday 19th 10.30am-12.30pm Moments Dementia Cafe @CC
 7.30pm Elders' Meeting @ Hobs Moat

Tuesday 20th 10.30am Neighbourhood Coffee Morning @ HM
 11.am Holy Communion @ Tudor Lodge

Thursday 22nd 2pm Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat
 7.30pm Cell Group Leaders' @ Jill Hughes

Saturday 24th 10am Praying with the Papers @ Olton

Monday 26th 10.30am-12.30pm Moments Dementia Cafe @ CC

Tuesday 27th 10.30am Messy Church @ CC

Thursday 29th 2pm Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

SHOE BOXES

I hope you have managed to find the leaflets which are needed for each box, and also help with ideas for what to put in. There is also a more comprehensive list which might help.



I have a few bits and bobs left over from last year which I shall put in church so please help yourself to anything useful.

Just a reminder that the boxes need to be ready by the end of October Thank you to everybody who is involved in this.

Anne Cherry

WORSHIP & PRAYER DURING OCTOBER

Thursday 1st 10am at Olton Word & Prayer

Sunday 4th 10am at Christ Church Holy Communion - Mark Fisher

Sunday 11th 10am at Christ Church Cafe-style worship with Church Meeting - in the hall

Friday 16th 10am at Hobs Moat Fellowship Prayers

Sunday 18th 10am at Christ Church Worship - Mark Fisher

Saturday 24th 10am at Hobs Moat Praying with the Papers

Sunday 25th 10am at Christ Church Worship - Ian Carnell

LECTIONARY READINGS

October 4th

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26 Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16

October 11th

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Psalm 22:1-15 Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 and

Psalm 90:12-17 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31

October 18th

Joel 2:21-27 and Psalm 126 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Matthew 6:25-33

October 25th

Job 38:1-7, (34-41) and Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c Isaiah 53:4-12 and

Psalm 91:9-16 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45

COACH TRIPPERS UNITED

LIVERPOOL

Thursday, 15th October

By popular request we are returning to Liverpool for our last trip of the season, to see the sights that we didn't have time for last time. As well as the waterfront attractions and the Mersey Ferry, the on/off bus which runs frequently gives access to the Albert Dock and the two Cathedrals.

If you would like to come, please contact Val Cross (706 9687) by Sunday, 4th October.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 19th November

As last year, we will be having a finger buffet lunch (for which there will be no charge) at 1pm in the Sunny Room at Olton, before the meeting to vote on the places that we will be going to next year. We are holding it in November rather than January to give more time for arrangements to be made (some things had to be changed last year due to early bookings). Please keep the date free and come and help decide our destinations for 2016.

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it....

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

OUR HARVEST OF WORK

Harvest was significantly different this year, for we were not only celebrating the harvest of creation but also our own harvest of work. What a lot of different jobs and careers we have had in our church family! This variety is a celebration in itself and I'm really looking forward to our tree of life and looking at all your postcards!



Mark rightly pointed out that many (though not all) of us have retired and are no longer in paid employment. This does not mean we have retired altogether of course, as Christians never retire from serving and loving one another and others in the world. Christianity is a job for life – and one we do for love! It is very obvious at church: people who serve in all sorts of ways— pouring tea and coffee, preparing food for us to share, reading from the Bible, meeting and greeting, making the church look lovely with flowers— the list of jobs is endless, and all the people who serve in any way whatsoever are much appreciated - thank you all on behalf of us all.

In our lifetimes many of us have had careers in which we used our God-given talents in the service of others. During my own career I first taught young children and hopefully passed on my own enthusiasms for music, art, dance, writing and reading stories. I was always grateful when other teachers offered to take my classes for PE or maths and, in exchange, I took their classes for the subjects I loved. I'd willingly exchange teaching PE for music any day! It's the same in church isn't it? We use each other's strengths and appreciate them. We are all different, and God has given us different talents to be shared.

In my later years of teaching I taught adults art, crafts and embroidery and wrote several craft books and co-authored a local history book on

Olton. This was my way of sharing the interests and strengths God had given me. I imagined I'd spend much of my retirement with a paintbrush or needle and thread in my hand – but it was not to be. I found that I simply couldn't do things just to please myself. I had to do things that could be shared with others, as God had other plans for me. Thus, surprisingly, I have spent some of my retirement supporting a large number of trans-gender people who, through no fault of their own, were born in the bodies of the opposite gender. Sometimes they feel very down and need some loving support: I am there for them and there are over 1000 people in our group. I am the only genetic woman among them, and am so thankful I was 'born in the right body', i.e. a body that matches my gender.

So you see sometimes our harvest of work takes surprising paths – and we have to listen to God for his advice and follow the paths he wants us to take. I've still got a guitar in hand of course – some of the time anyway. Some things don't change! If you want to ask me about my voluntary outreach work with trans-gender people don't hesitate do so – I am always happy to talk about it.

Carol Andrews



Our minister Mark Fisher talking to Franc Kelly and his wife after the Harvest Festival service on Sept 20th. Franc was the warden at Christ Church for 36 years and has just retired. He was presented with a retirement gift during the service.'

*Thank
you*

I would like to thank Revd. Mark Fisher and all friends for their kindness and prayers at the loss of Harold. The collection for Brookvale Residents amounted to £650.00. God bless you all.

Peggy Crosby

I have felt supported and comforted by the thoughts, prayers, cards and telephone calls of my Church friends following the sad loss of my dear Grandson Lawrence, and would like to thank you all.

Marian Batten



"A TASTE OF FRANCE"

7.00 to 9.00pm Saturday 10th October

At Christ Church

Come and join us for an enjoyable evening of music,
film, fun and chatter

With nibbles and a glass of wine

ZIMBABWE - Extract from Stories for Change 114

Challenges and lessons

While mobile solar water pumping kits have reduced the burden of carrying water from a holding tank to the plants in the garden, they have not released time for women to do other tasks because they have to stand guard of the kits as they slowly deliver the water.

Experience in using the solar driven pumps in the past few months has shown that some of them are too small for the gardens they are irrigating. All the units were installed with 0.5 hp pumps. Dabane Trust would like to replace some of the pumps with at least 1 or 2 hp. The mobile unit could also be modified to include an inverter, battery and ports for cell phone chargers.uuoo

Productivity levels still remain low among producers for various reasons; the major ones being limited quality of inputs.

Commitment for Life Prayer:

We pray for those who are thirsty because they are denied clean water, and those who are thirsty for living water, for the right to live. We are committed to life.

BOWL AWAY

Bowlers got off to a cracking start on the 15th and I now confirm the following dates for your diary.

Meeting at Solihull Indoor Bowls, Brick Kiln Lane, Solihull, for an 11 am start (so be there a little before please) on the Tuesdays:

September 29th, October 13th and 27th, November 10th and 24th.

Payment of £15.00 will be due on the 24th November for the next booking of 6 dates. There is still room for more players, so if you are interested then please see me for further details.



David Argall

CHRIST CHURCH

Prayer Fellowship .

Barbara and Keith Fisher, Brenda Cotes, The Jenkins Family, Doris Thompson, John Calvin, Syd and Michelle, Thea, Gordon Straight . The family of Millie Mercer as they mourn her loss.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all these people.

Bridget

HOBBS MOAT

We ask for God's blessing on these folk who need our thoughts and prayers at this time:

Jean and Brian Mather, Joan Shaw , Thelma Phillips, Vera Thomas, Irene Lambert and partner Keith, Alf Andrews, Nita Renshaw, Peggy Crosby; and also two members of the Monday Night Club who have recently been in hospital, Kath Bishop and Pat MacClean.

Jeanne.

A Big Thank-you !! to Irene Lambert. She has worked so hard in making the garden at Hobbs Moat look really nice and cared for, with new plants, shrubs and bark. We really appreciate it, Thank-you Irene, and God Bless you.

from all your Church Friends

OLTON

PRAYERS for, and NEWS of OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In our thoughts and prayers we remember **Mark** and **Judy**, and each member of our **Church Family**.

We pray especially for **Marian Batten** and her family, offering our deepest sympathy and our loving concern following the sad, tragic loss of her grandson.

Both **Pam Tovey** and **Norma Clement** have important birthdays to come in October—**Pam** will be celebrating her 90th on 10th October, and **Norma** her 80th on 11th October. We send each one of them our congratulations, love and very best wishes for a **Happy Birthday**.

Some of you may remember **Norma and Frank Loader** who were regular worshippers before they moved to Devon. I am sorry to have to report that Frank has passed away after a long illness. We think of Norma and offer her our condolences at this time.

Rita

Encourage one another;
Be of one mind; live in peace.



2 Corinthians ~ 13:11

MICHAELMAS

Aiming my camera lens at Michaelmas daisies in our garden, I paused to wonder about the common name of this member of the Aster (Daisy) family. Why are they called Michaelmas daisies – and what is Michaelmas?

Michaelmas – literally meaning ‘Michael’s mass’ - originates in the Roman Catholic church and is the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel. It occurs on 29 September – when the Michaelmas daisies are in full bloom in many a garden! In medieval England, Michaelmas marked the ending and beginning of the husbandman's year – a time when the harvest was over and the bailiff of the manor would be making out the accounts for the year.

In Christianity, the Archangel Michael is the greatest of all the Archangels and is honoured for defeating Lucifer in the war in heaven. Archangel Michael is one of the principal angelic warriors, seen as a protector against the dark of night, and the administrator of cosmic intelligence. 29 September is now kept in honour of Michael and all Angels throughout the Western Church.

On several occasions I have visited a medieval church in Morteheo, Devon, in which there are four stained glass windows depicting the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and Uriel. I took photo's of all four - as you might guess! The illustration here is Archangel Michael – complete with his symbolic spear.



Folklore in the British Isles suggests that Michaelmas is the last day that blackberries can be picked. It is said that when St. Michael expelled Lucifer, i.e. the devil, from heaven, he fell from the skies and landed in a prickly blackberry bush. Satan cursed the fruit, scorched them with his fiery breath, and stamped and spat on them so that they would be unfit for eating. Thus, according to folklore, it is considered ill-advised to eat blackberries after 29 September; when a Michaelmas pie may be made from the last blackberries of the season.

European Michaelmas Daisy - *Aster amelius* – gets its name as it blooms around the time of St Michael’s Day (Michael the Archangel) which is celebrated on 29th September.

The Michaelmas Daisy

The Michaelmas Daisy, which flowers late in the growing season between late August and early October, provides colour and warmth to gardens at a time when the majority of flowers are coming to an end.



This purple daisy is probably associated with Michaelmas, as mentioned previously, St Michael is celebrated as a protector from darkness and evil, just as the daisy fights against the advancing gloom of Autumn and Winter.

The act of giving a Michaelmas Daisy symbolises saying farewell, perhaps in the same way as Michaelmas Day is seen to say farewell to the productive year and welcome in the new cycle.

Carol Andrews

A pastor asked a little boy if he said his prayers every night.

”Yes, sir” the boy replied.

And do you always say them in the morning, too? the pastor asked..

”No, sir”, the boy replied. “I ain’t scared in the daytime”.

