

SOLIHULL

United Reformed Church

Christ Church - Hobs Moat— Olton

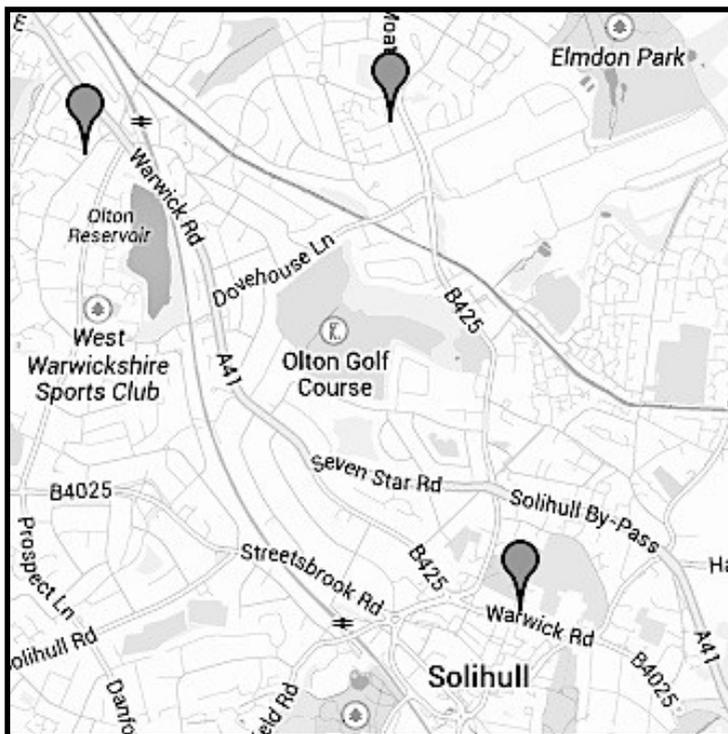


November 2015 Newsletter

No man is an island,
entire of itself;
every man is a piece of the continent,
a part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less;
as well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manor of thy friend's
or of thine own were.
Any man's death diminishes me
because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know
for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.

John Donne





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

ISLAND LIVING - Mark Reflects

The idea of escaping to live on an island can be very appealing at times, even if unrealistic! Anglesey is a favourite family haunt of ours and, even though it is far from deserted and has permanent links to the mainland, it has the 'feel' of an island and offers the sense that one can be alone without ties to any other. It is not, however, reality, and inhabitants of even the remotest island would admit to a degree of dependence in a wider world.

John Donne in his poem (front cover) expresses the truth that we are, none of us, entirely independent and the fate or fortune of other people holds a direct relationship to our own. Donne's reference to the loss of a clod diminishing Europe seems to play into the debate about the place of the UK in that wider relationship of nations. A Christian celebration of All Saints at the beginning of November takes our focus even wider, to include those who have not only lived before us but continue to be part of God's rich dispensation in the life to come. The notion that our everyday existence is part of God's eternal Kingdom is, of course, central to our Christian faith and our part as disciples of Christ. It is affirmed each time we say the Lord's Prayer: *"Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as in heaven"* .

Within the ecumenical life of the Church it means that we cannot be mind-less of what our sisters and brothers of other traditions are about. Within the life of our own fellowship it means that attention needs to be given to our relationships one with another, acknowledging the inter-dependency that essentially exists.

One can readily observe that those who have found their 'ideal' place on an island are not usually very ready to share it. There is never an open invitation for everyone who wishes to join them. There are echoes here of current debates regarding migration to the UK! I appreciate the bridge that takes me to Anglesey and the welcome it represents. Also, the return to the 'real world' of wider relationships and dependence, and that I can pray the Lord's Prayer with some sense of sincerity and faith.

Mark Fisher

We are supporting Open Doors in their service of the persecuted church as part of our charitable giving. You may be interested to learn more of their work at this event:



The Greatest Adventure - Saturday 14 November

9:30am - 5pm

The International Convention Centre, Birmingham
(lunch and refreshments provided)

CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Be inspired as we journey together, starting with Brother Andrew's first venture of faith, through the milestones and miracles of the past 60 years, to the challenges for our persecuted family today and our vision of faith for the future. Open Doors 60th celebrations are for everyone who wants to be part of God's good news story to the world.

http://www.opendoorsuk.org/events/60th_celebrations.php

Footsteps: Faiths for a Low-Carbon Future



A multi-faith vigil to uphold those working for a low-carbon future at the Paris Climate Summit.

7pm Saturday 28th November Birmingham

- Send off at 7pm from St Martin in the Bull Ring, B5 5BB
- Walk of witness through Birmingham City Centre
- Vigil 7.30pm at Bull St Quaker Meeting House, B4 6AF

Blessing of the Crib - Mell Square

Sunday 29th November 3pm



We pray that shoppers will recognise the presence of the incarnate Christ in their lives. Do join us.

QUIZ

Saturday, 7th November

NIGHT

7.00pm at Hobs Moat

Come and join a team!

MESSY CHURCH

Our fourth session of Messy Church, in October, looked at the story of Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea.

Each session is based on a story from the Bible, so the craft activities and food all reflect this theme

Our next Messy Church is on...

Tuesday 24th November, from 4.00pm to 6.00pm

We invite everyone to join us, age is no barrier.....do bring a friend. You will be able to join in craft activities, sing songs on the same theme, and finally enjoy some food!

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd 10.30am Moments - dementia cafe @ Christ Church

Tuesday 3rd 10.30am Neighbourhood Coffee Morning @ Hobs Moat

Thursday 5th 2pm Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Saturday 7th 7pm Quiz Night @ Hobs Moat 

Monday 9th 10.30am Moments - dementia cafe @ Christ Church

12.30pm Generations Lunch Hour @ Christ Church

Thursday 12th 2pm Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Sunday 15th Church Meeting (domestic business) after the service

Monday 16th 10am Fellowship Prayers @ Hobs Moat

10.30am Moments - dementia cafe @ Christ Church

7.30pm Elders' Meeting @ Hobs Moat

Thursday 19th 2pm Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Monday 23rd 10.30am Moments - dementia cafe @ Christ Church

Tuesday 24th 10am Praying with the Papers @ Christ Church

Thursday 26th 2pm Singing for Pleasure @ Hobs Moat

Monday 30th 10.30am Moments - dementia cafe @ Christ Church

CHURCH MEETING

Full agendas often mean that some domestic matters get left out of the discussions. It is likely, therefore, that we will have a shorter 'business' meeting following the service on **Sunday 15th November**. If there are matters you wish to have included, please notify Gordon Justham.

WORSHIP & PRAYER IN NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st 10am Holy Communion @ Christ Church - Mark Fisher
11.45am Worship @ Star and Garter

Sunday 8th 10am Remembrance Sunday Worship
@ Christ Church - Bob Ash

Tuesday 10th 11am Holy Communion @ Hampton House

Wednesday 11th 10.30am Remembrance Day @ Newholme Gardens

Sunday 15th 10am Worship @ Christ Church - Mark Fisher

Monday 16th 10am Fellowship Prayers @ Hobs Moat

Tuesday 17th 11am Holy Communion @ Tudor Lodge

Wednesday 18th 10.30am Worship @ The Grove

Sunday 22nd 10am Worship @ Christ Church - Ian Carnell

Tuesday 24th 10am Praying with the Papers @ Christ Church

Sunday 29th 10am Advent Sunday Worship @ Christ Church -
Mark Fisher & Cell Groups
3pm Blessing of the Crib in Mell Square
4pm CT in Olton Advent Service

FAIRTRADE GOODS

We hope to test whether sales of Fairtrade goods on Sunday mornings would be viable on a regular basis. I have a few Tradecraft catalogues available or you can look on line at *traidcraftshop.co.uk*. I hope to place a pre-Christmas order in November (9th) so if you want specific items, especially Christmas cards, decorations or gifts, let me know so I can include them in the order.



Gerry Candy (0121 705 3969) dngcandy@waitrose.com

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the recent Commitment for Life collection which raised £130.

Gerry Candy

LECTIONARY READINGS

These may not be used on a Sunday but may be helpful for personal devotions.

November 1st All Saints Day

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 *or* Isaiah 25:6-9 and Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44

November 8th Remembrance Sunday

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 and Psalm 127 1 Kings 17:8-16 and
Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

November 15th

1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Daniel 12:1-3 and
Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25 Mark 13:1-8

November 22nd

2 Samuel 23:1-7 and Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18) Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
and Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

November 29th Advent Sunday

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

COACH TRIPPERS UNITED

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.

GOD'S LOVING CARE

It was just one year ago, on 10th October, when I was walking hurriedly to get a bus, that I collapsed on the pavement with no warning at all of any pain or feeling ill. For the next 45 to 60 minutes my experience was of an empty blackness – a 'nothingness'. What happened next was what other people have told me. A lady passing in her car saw me fall and stopped to phone the paramedics. A small group of people gathered round me. One lady was a neighbour of mine and recognised me, and replied to a young man who asked what he could do to help. She told him to fetch our house manager in the block of flats where I live, who quickly came across the Warwick Road and kindly took charge. The staff at Redfords Men's Outfitters generously offered accommodation until the ambulance arrived. When I regained consciousness the paramedics were there to take me to Heartlands hospital.

But the point of unfolding my experience is to proclaim God's care for me. I fell on the grass verge and hurt the left side of my face. Had I fallen on the concrete I would have been much worse off. My spectacles were not at all damaged, and nothing was taken from me. When I was at my very lowest point and had no control of my movements, God was in control. The Lord was protecting, helping and restoring me. We cannot drift beyond his love and care.

Enid Chapman

FRESH FROM THE WORD

This is an IBRA publication which will inspire your reading of the Bible in a changing world. Daily notes are followed by a prayer and questions to stimulate your imagination and prayer. If you would like to order this publication for 2016 at a cost of £9.00, please let Marian Batten (0121 689 8213) know.

A MOVING STORY

As from 10 November Iris & Ron Webb's address will be as follows:

Apartment 213 Bournville Gardens

49 Bristol Road South

Birmingham. B31 2FS



Visitors will be most welcome but biscuits may be in short supply.

REFORM MAGAZINE

In view of Iris & Ron Webb's impending move we urgently need someone to take over the ordering and distribution of the Reform Magazine. The duties are not onerous.

If you feel that this is a small task that you could undertake, please see Iris or Ron as soon as possible. Thank you.

WANTED

Singers, especially Ladies, to join our friendly Hobs Moat **Singing for Pleasure Group**.

Thursdays at 2pm at Hobs Moat Church. No audition needed.

More details from Janet Ince (706 0204).



Who am i?

While praying one day a woman asked, "Who are you God?"

He answered, "I am".

"But who is I am?" she asked.

He replied:

"I am Love, I am Peace, I am Joy, I am Strength, I am Safety, I am Shelter, I am Power, I am The Creator, I am The Comforter, I am The Beginning and The End, I am The Way, The Truth and The Light".

With tears in her eyes she looked towards Heaven and said, "Now I understand. But who am I?"

God tenderly wiped the tears from her eyes and whispered, "You are Mine".



Thank you for all the good wishes, cards and flowers sent to me on my recent birthday. It was a great day.

Pam Tovey

JIGSAW PUZZLES

A few of us enjoy doing 500 and 1,000 jigsaws and then passing them on to each other. If anyone would like to join in, please contact Marian Batten (0121 689 8213).



HANGING BASKETS



If anyone has any old hanging baskets (complete with chains) of any size that I can re-use at the Hospice, I will be grateful to have them.

Gweno Nichols

Hobs Moat Ladies' Monday Night Club

We meet each Monday at 7.45pm to 9.30 pm and all are welcome to join us. Our programme for November is:

- 2nd Attaye - singer
- 9th Musical evening with Tony and Rob.
- 16th Talk by Solihull Police.
- 23rd Handbag and jewellery sale.
- 30th. Andre- Classical Pianist.

Come and join us for our **Christmas Concert** at Hobs Moat with the Contact Choir **on 7th December**.. There will be a raffle and a collection for our chosen charity; also tea and mince pies will be served after the concert.

Jeanne and the Committee.

HOBS MOAT

The following friends need our thoughts and prayers. They all have to cope each day with their individual health problems. We pray for God's love and peace to surround them and their carers:

Alf Andrews, Peggy Crosby, Jean & Brian Mather, Maureen Bellamy, Joan Shaw, Vera Thomas, Nita Renshaw and family, Irene Lambert & Partner Keith, and Thelma Phillips.

Jeanne

THANKYOU! To my Hobs Moat friends for your prayers and cards. It helps a lot and keeps me going with this life. God Bless you all. My prayers are with you all.

Joan Shaw

OLTON

PRAYERS for, and NEWS of OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The news this month seems to be full of congratulations to various people for various reasons: on 22nd September **Pauline** and **Nigel Motl**'s second grandson, **Harry**, was born to their daughter, **Joanne** and her husband, **Daniel**, a happy event for the whole family, including big brother, **Thomas**; **Eileen** and **Howard James** will be celebrating their 67th Wedding Anniversary on 6th November, and we pray there will be yet more years to come; and **Gerry** and **David Candy**'s granddaughter, **Laura Kane**, will be marrying **Oliver Balmford** on 14th November— we wish them a long and happy life together. We send our congratulations and best wishes to all these folk and their families as they celebrate these special occasions.

Of course, in the midst of noting these joyous events, we are not forgetting **Mark** and **Judy** and **each member** of our congregation as we ask that **God** will hold us all in his loving care and protection.

Rita

CHRIST CHURCH

May the following people be in our thoughts and prayers:
Gordon Landreth, Keith and Barbara Fisher, Brenda Cotes, the
Jenkins Family, Doris Thompson, Gordon Straight, John Calvin, Thea.

Bridget

The Lord's Prayer

From the New Zealand prayer book.

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the
world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and
come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for-
ever.

Amen

PREPARING FOR CHURCH

By the time we meet again I hope that I shall have achieved a long-held ambition to walk across the fields to church again. I've done it once before – to the same ancient church in Morteohoe, Devon. Some of you may have seen photo's of that church in my 'Carol sings Faith – Come to a Place' video on Youtube. The old church, which dates back to the 14th century, is amazing and I love it.

But it is also amazing to walk across two fields to church – arriving probably in wellies, which I shall leave in the church porch as the fields will likely be muddy in late October. So why do I want to walk to church this way? Simply because I know that for centuries this was the way many people got to church. Walking through the countryside is the most marvellous way of preparing for a church service. There is time to contemplate and pray – and time for God to speak to our hearts; a time of true meditation. My mind and heart will be ready to hear God's word in church – and receive his message. For me, travelling to church by car or bus can never match that peace I know I'll find on a short peaceful country walk.

How can we generally achieve that nowadays, and prepare for church with hearts at peace? In modern Solihull that is not easy. In times gone by Olton was certainly rural and many folk would have walked to church. The same could be said for the old Congregational church in Solihull – 'Urbs in Rure' it truly was – 'town in the country'. Hobs Moat was very rural of course, though there was no Congregational Church there to my knowledge. When the mind and heart are properly prepared for worship, one enters church in reverence. The peaceful mind is then prepared for God's word and his message fills the soul.

Sometimes I think we maybe chat too much at the start of a service and our hearts are not relaxed enough to obtain the deep peace worship of the Lord can bring. It's natural of course – many of us

haven't seen our much loved church family for a week and there is so much to tell one another. However we do have time to chat over tea and coffee after service. So maybe a little stillness before the service would be a good idea, possibly listening to a hymn or two.

What do you think?

Carol Andrews



*You are the
Light for our
lives, dear Lord.
Be with us and
live in our hearts.*

