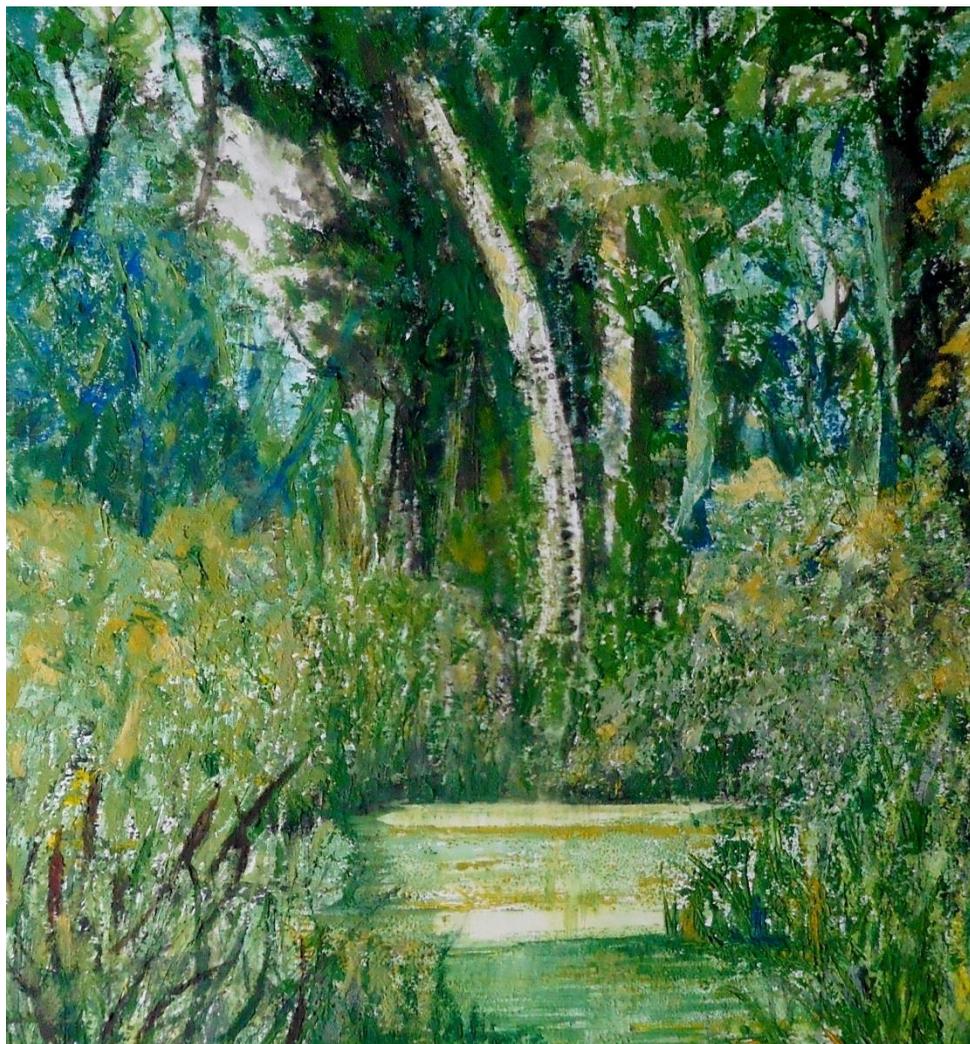


WHEATLEY URC NEWSLETTER



MAY 2019

Covering Thoughts

Lent was a time of dryness, aridity, desert, rocky places and loneliness. May, in contrast, is a time of greenness, growth, new life and promise. So the image this month is of a green pond at Waterperry. You will find it to the left of the little stone bridge.

I discovered it last year covered with verdant green algae. It was so completely covered that had I not known it was water I would have ventured to walk over it to the other side. It is a beautiful, peaceful place and sitting there sketching was a restorative experience as the green shade felt life giving and healing.

Bobbie's dancing with the monks and mystics has taken me back to Hildegard of Bingen, a German Prioress and mystic whose writings influenced me many years ago. One of her visions involved a belief in viriditas or greening so I will finish with some of her words.

Good people,

*Most royal greening verdancy,
rooted in the sun,
you shine with radiant light.*

*In this circle of earthly existence
you shine
so finely,
it surpasses understanding.*

*God hugs you.
You are encircled
by the arms
of the mystery of God.*

Christine

Pastoral letter

Each year our church commits itself to a theme. Last year it was *Walking the Way*. This year it is *God's World in our Hands*. It is a challenging theme, as it reminds us of our awesome responsibility to wake up to how close we are to the edge of a very deep abyss. The planet won't wait until Brexit negotiations are complete, or until the US has changed its president. While we are distracted by other concerns, whole swathes of the globe are become deserts, and we continue to pump masses of carbon into the atmosphere. Is there anything we can do?

Recently, I found hope in a meeting with a South African economist, Anton Cartwright. Before I tell you about his work, I must declare an interest. Anton is married to my niece, Katie, herself an extraordinary person, who would not mind my telling you is proud to be an ex-patient of a certain Dr Malcolm Benson. Phyllis and I spent time with Anton, Katie and their children on our recent trip to South Africa.

So where did I find hope? Anton is the founding Director of the not-for-profit organization Promoting Access to Carbon Equity (PACE). As an expert on Africa's emerging green economy, sustainable urbanisation, climate change adaptation, sustainable trade and water resource management, he was appointed to work with the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC) on their report into the impacts of 1.5°C on urban development pathways.

Anton's work includes South Africa's first voluntary carbon market registry, *Credible Carbon* which raises funds for projects that both alleviate poverty and mitigate carbon in South Africa's rural and informal communities (townships) through the carbon market. I was delighted to find that anyone could participate in this work. First, of course, we can all work to reduce waste and consumption to reduce our carbon footprint. But you may find, as I do, that some of our life involves driving or taking flights across the world or burning gas in our homes. What do we do then? Anton's team have developed a web-site to help. It's called *crediblecarbon.com*. The website has a carbon offset calculator that will

help you calculate how much carbon you have used (in driving, taking flights, in your household). It then allows you to buy carbon credits and, if you choose, “retire” them immediately to release the funds to a number of poverty alleviating (carbon reducing) projects in Africa. (I tried it out for flights to and from Heathrow to Johannesburg and it worked very well. *Hint:* My bank sent me a message asking “Are you sure you want to pay funds to an address in South Africa?”, but once I said “Yes” they were fine!)

Perhaps nothing we do will be enough to prevent us falling into the abyss. The earth will have the last word, and it may be ‘goodbye’. But we can try, as individuals and as church, to work to see how God’s world is indeed in our hands. I was delighted to find a small and hopeful thing I could do, and I hope you don’t mind my sharing it with you. May we all be richly blessed in our receiving and in our giving.

Mark Williams



Prayers

Please remember in your prayers the members in Charles Bennett’s pastoral group: Catherine and Robert Harding, Malcolm and Wendy Benson and Pauline and Chris Shelley.

We also ask you to pray for the members of the Finance Team: Chris Shelley, Robert Harding, Bob Webster and Christine Bainbridge.



Forever Blest

God took the one we loved away,
And tears ran free on that sad day;
The Winter sun seemed darkened o'er,
Yet - dawn broke on some distant Shore;
For all her suff'ring is now done;
The victor's crown of gold is won!
Though here, for now, pain fills each heart,
Her spirit's song will never part
From those who ever hold her dear;
Safe in Love's arms, she still is near,
And yet she lives beyond the skies;
For her, the music never dies!
Rejoice! Her Lord has paid Love's price!
For her, Christ opened Paradise!

David Herring

In loving memory of Gillian (12-05-1934 - 07-03-2019)

~ ~ ~

Christian Aid Week



12-18 May Christian Aid Week - UPDATE

Thank you to envelope deliverers. Envelopes may be brought to any of the Churches **OR** the Benson's letterbox; 82 High Street Wheatley **OR bring them to the Merry Bells forecourt and coffee room on Saturday 18th May 10am to 3pm.**

Proceeds from the Coffee Morning at the URC on Thursday 2nd May will be donated to Christian Aid, this month

~ ~ ~

New Wheatley Area Churches Welcome Leaflets

As from this month we have new coloured **welcome leaflets** for distribution to new residents in the village, instead of the old shiny blue and white A5 welcome packs, that we have been using for the last decade or so. The new multi coloured leaflets are smaller (A4 folded three ways), brighter and altogether more appealing and easier to use for both deliverers and recipients.

There is a supply of these leaflets on display in a prominent position in each of our churches for you to pick one up and hand it, with a welcoming smile, to any new resident or family that arrives in your immediate neighbourhood. If you prefer not to knock on your new neighbour's door to introduce yourself on behalf of **all** the Wheatley churches, please speak to me or another committee member of Wheatley Area Churches, who will be happy to call on the new resident, instead. **Tony Barry** (872293)

~ ~ ~

Wheatley Area Churches AGM

Sunday 19th May 2019 at *The Merry Bells*

Shared lunch at 12.30 pm followed by the meeting at 1.30 pm.

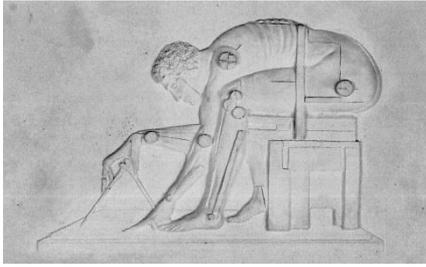
Please put this date in your diary, now. The Committee looks forward to meeting you there and having your comments and support for the work of WAC.

~ ~ ~

Maggie's Kitchen table event

A big thank you to everyone who supported our food and friendship afternoon. Ellen Webster was the winner of the longest cake and Geoff Yeates guessed the number of sweets in the jar. Through your generosity £412 was sent to Maggie's. **Richard and Christine**

~ ~ ~



Technology and the Human Spirit

an illustrated talk & discussion

The imminent roll out of 5G (fifth generation mobile communication networks) will be a major change in the role of electronic technologies in our lives.

‘What is it that is driving the technological revolution and where exactly is it heading?’

‘Is there an endpoint towards which it is taking us, and if so what does our human future look like?’

And, most importantly, do we have any choice about it?’

Tuesday May 14th 7.00pm – 9.00pm

United Reformed Church Wheatley



Speaker: Jeremy Naydler, holds a PhD in Theology and Religious Studies. He has written several books on religious life in antiquity and on the history of consciousness. His most recent book is *‘In the Shadow of the Machine: The Prehistory of the Computer and the Evolution of Consciousness’*

This is an **open talk** for people of all faiths or none, organised by the Wheatley United Reformed Church

Book your **FREE** place on ‘Eventbrite’ www.eventbrite.co.uk

Technology and the Human Spirit

or contact Bobbie Stormont on bobbiestormont@gmail.com

There will be a retiring collection to cover expenses

Journey with Quaker, Parker Palmer's Book

'A Hidden Wholeness - Towards the Undivided Life'

Taster Session – Tuesday June 18th, 7-9pm

at Wheatley United Reformed Church

with Cara Heafey and Bobbie Stormont

Most wisdom traditions believe that every person has an inner teacher, a source of inner truth, often called the soul in the Christian tradition.

Parker Palmer, in his book, 'A Hidden Wholeness', suggests that in our culture of noise, talk and constant acquiring of information, we can lose track of our inner truth, forever on our way to somewhere else, becoming separated from what is true for us. As a result we live a divided life, often feeling disconnected, out of step with our inner self.

Sometimes we need to;

- pause, disconnect from technology and be still
- explore where we are on our journey
- reflect on and listen to our inner teacher
- listen and be listened to
- know our own truth more and more so we can make life-giving choices

*In this **taster session** you are invited to;*

- watch Parker Palmer talking about 'A Hidden Wholeness'
- use Parker Palmer's grounded principles and practices, to create a space that is safe, encourages the inner journey and welcomes the soul
- reflect on and listen to your inner teacher, using a poem, story or wisdom tale, journaling, conversations and silence
- learn how to speak, listen and respond in a way that welcomes and honours each other's individual journey

This taster session, organised by Wheatley United Reformed Church, is free of charge and welcomes people of all faiths or none.

For more information or to register your interest, please contact Bobbie on 01865 358364, or email bobbiestormont@gmail.com

Science Corner - Let's Make it From Wood

In material science labs around the world there is a lot of interest in using wood to replace plastic, steel and concrete. Engineers in Japan have designed a car made almost entirely from wood, which they anticipate will be unveiled at the 2020 Olympics. This trend is part of the urge to get rid of hydrocarbons – oil, gas and coal – which are the main cause of global warming.



But it is not wood as we know it. Although wood is strong, yet light and flexible, it also burns, cracks and rots. The new wood is called **cross laminated timber** which is created by layering the grain of wood sheets at right angles to each other and gluing them together. This makes the new timber extremely strong and can be used to make buildings almost entirely of wood, such as the Mjøsa tower in Norway (left) which is due to open soon and will be the tallest wood building in the world. Such very large buildings can be built but the biggest impact will be on medium rise buildings which can be prefabricated off site and then assembled on site in

a few days.

Jim Watson

~*~

Open Studio Event

Welcome to Christine's Open Studio event in May this year. It runs from May 11th - May 19th every day from 11am - 6pm. Do come and enjoy the garden and refreshments as well as looking at her latest paintings.

3, Barns Close, Holton OX33 1QB.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MAY 2019

Everyone is invited to stay for coffee or tea after 10 am Sunday service

Date	5 th May	12 th May	19 th May	26 th May
Service	Morning Service with H.C.	Morning Service	Morning Service with H.C.	Morning Service
Time	10 am	10 am	10 am	10 am
Worship Leader	Rev. Pauline Main	Rev. Donald Norwood	Rev. Colin Thompson	Peter Pay
Vestry Elder	Phyllis Williams	Malcolm Benson	Peter Devlin	Moira Watson
Welcomer	Charles Bennett	Pauline Shelley	Robert Harding	Tom Goss
Steward	Ann Hardiman	Barbara Joiner	Angela Holdaway	Joel Rasmussen
Reader	Liz Barry	Sybil Beaton	Charles Bennett	Ann Bettess
Prayers	Ellen Webster	Joel Rasmussen	Robert Harding	Ellen Webster
Flowers	Zena Knight	Catherine Harding	Wendy Benson	Sybil Beaton

Elders' names in **bold** are on Communion duty

Simple evening worship in the style of Taize will be held at 3 Barns Close
at 7.30 pm on Sunday May 26th

~ ~ ~

COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS leaders may use other readings

Date	5 th May	12 th May	19 th May	26 th May
First Reading	Acts 9: 1-6	Acts 9:36-43	Acts 11: 1-8	Acts 16: 9-13
Psalm	Psalm 30	Psalm 23	Psalm 148	Psalm 67
New Testament	Revelation 5: 11-14	Revelation:7: 9-17	Revelation 21: 1-6`	Revelation 21: 10,22 – 22:5
Gospel	John 21: 1-19	John 10: 22-30	John 13: 31-35	John 14: 23-29

OCCASIONAL EVENTS IN MAY 2019

2 nd May	Thursday	10am – 12 noon 7.20pm	Coffee Morning Elders Meeting
5 th May	Sunday	11.30am 2.30 to 4.30 pm 6.30pm	Foodbank Church Meeting Afternoon tea in the Church Pulse Group -Discussion 17 Bell Lane
12 th May	Sunday Summertown Wheatley	Celebration of 4.00pm 6.00pm 6.30 pm 7.30pm	New Facilities Exhibition and refreshments Celebration Service Pulse Group - Games URC Hall No Taize
13 th May	Monday	2.00 to 4.00 pm	Not So Young Club
14 th May	Tuesday	1.00pm	Lunch Club Two
19 th May	Sunday	8.30 am 6.30pm	Morning Meditation Film Night - 17 Bell Lane
26 th May	Sunday	6.30pm 7.30 pm	Pulse Group – No Meeting Half Term Taize at 3 Barns Close, Holton
28 th May	Tuesday	2.15 pm	St Mary's Guild

~*~

WEEKLY EVENTS (NB several activities are term time only)

<i>Brownies & Rainbows (term time)</i>	<i>Monday 5.30 to 7.00 pm</i>
<i>Choir Around the Piano (term time)</i>	<i>Monday 7.30 to 9.00 pm</i>
<i>Wheatley Singers (term time)</i>	<i>Tuesday 7.10 to 9.00 pm</i>
<i>Pre-School Music Group (term time)</i>	<i>Wednesday 9.30 am and 10.30 am</i>
<i>Guides (term time)</i>	<i>Wednesday 7.00 to 8.30 pm</i>
<i>Prayers and Breakfast</i>	<i>Thursday 8.30 am</i>
<i>Mindfulness Sitting Group</i>	<i>Thursday 8.50 to 9.40 am</i>
<i>Table Tennis</i>	<i>Friday 10.00 am to 12 noon</i>
<i>Hymn Practice</i>	<i>Sunday 9.30am</i>

Oxford: The darker side of life

When I hear people saying that judges are out of touch, I can't help wondering if they are aware of half the things I see daily in my job as a judge: every day in court, I have to deal with some of the poorest, most disadvantaged and needy people in society. Although I have sometimes to take people's children and homes away from them, the law is mainly about the problems people have in their conflict with the state and with others and it is my job to be the arbiter of those conflicts and resolve them. Oxford is considered a very rich area and it is to some extent, but this image is incomplete and deceptive as there are huge social problems existing not far from the surface. There is a much darker side to life in the City of Dreaming Spires, largely unseen by the public but that I see every day in the areas of housing, debt, violence and care of children.

Housing

Many tenants are in receipt of Universal Credit (UC) which brings under one roof all existing benefits, including help with their rent. It is paid in arrears and directly to the tenant rather than to the landlord. This means that many frightened and indebted tenants use the rent element of UC to pay those other creditors who shout the loudest leaving rent unpaid with the risk of losing their homes. Many come to court after a possession order has been made to prevent last minute eviction, too frightened to contact the landlord and unable to budget or to manage the complexities of claiming state benefits. Our policy as judges is to be merciful to tenants and give them a final chance. The phenomenon called "cuckooing" is also becoming increasingly common in our city whereby drug dealers take over the property of single mothers or vulnerable tenants and use the property as a base for drug dealing. This in turn can lead to tenants being evicted by the courts for anti-social behaviour while in reality, the tenants are simply being exploited and much too frightened to take any action themselves.

Debts

The poor pay more to access money! Some people are desperate for cash and with no security to offer may pay up to 1300% APR to borrow small sums. "Logbook loans" are common: The car registration document has to

be left with the lender and if the loan is not paid the car is confiscated. Borrowers are often frightened to answer their door or the phone as they are relentlessly pursued by lenders. There is help available both to stop harassment by lenders and on debt management from CAB and CAP (Christians against Poverty) but their available resources are hugely stretched and in any case many people who would benefit are unaware that help is available.

Violence

Every week, my colleagues and I have to deal with several women fleeing their family home and seeking the court's protection from violent, controlling men. In our country where 3 women are murdered every week by their partner, domestic abuse is taken seriously, and I make orders every week excluding violent partners from the home and forbidding them to use violence, abuse or threat against their partner. If such orders are broken, the offender is arrested. Some women who initially flee to a women's refuge can find themselves a hundred miles away as there is a huge shortage of such places in this area and so they feel even more isolated.

Children

There has been a huge rise in the number of children taken into care recently. In fact, our courts are overwhelmed by the numbers. There are 74,000 children in care in this country because they have suffered significant harm from their parents whether physical or emotional. The decision to remove a child from his/her natural parents is the hardest I ever have to make. Some are removed at birth, born into drug- ridden filthy homes or abused sexually or emotionally. I recently dealt with a case when a one-day-old child had to be removed. A combination of chaotic lifestyle, drugs, mental health problems and violence is often behind the parents' inability to cope.

There are of course laws to protect the vulnerable but that means effective access to justice, a fundamental human right but drastic cuts in Legal Aid means in practice that many have NO access to justice whatsoever. It is often up to private citizens and organizations to pick up where the state is found wanting, unable to deal satisfactorily with marginalized people. Many volunteers live out the gospel message that the poor and

disadvantaged are indeed our “neighbours.” They include the CAB, CAP, foster parents, adopters, churches, food banks, anonymous benefactors, charities and social funds of large organizations.

Peter Devlin

~ ~ ~

Letter from Across the Pond

May I commend all of you for a brilliant newsletter for April. Every article was interesting and thoughtful. I will be using much of it myself in the future, especially Christine's account of meeting her relatives. That was a true moment of grace.

And the charities that you sponsor, and the info on the Oasis of Peace (which I will be contributing to) and the reference to the author of a book on Mary Mag who lives in Detroit and we shall try to get to Erie for the Jefferson Ed Soc with one or two of the local churches - all this was terrific.

And the progress on the new building in the previous newsletter is going very well indeed. What an amazing church and how you have grown spiritually in the past 20 years. Liturgically I am not allowed to use this word in Lent, but I am going to do it anyway - Hallelujah!

Love, Charles

~ ~ ~

Disclaimer: The Editors of this Newsletter welcome letters, articles and announcements from individuals and organisations but reserve the right to publish or not, and to edit.

Deadline: Wednesday May 15th is the deadline for the June Newsletter. Please always send copy for the newsletter, link or website to newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk - A paper copy can be given to Moira or Jim Watson.

~ ~ ~



**Stepwise
is coming!**



What is Stepwise?

Stepwise is the new intergenerational United Reformed Church discipleship development programme. It is for people of all ages and backgrounds. Stepwise is an integral part of *Walking the Way – living the life of Jesus today*, the United Reformed Church's focus on whole-life discipleship and mission.

Further information about the programme is available from the URC website on the Stepwise page.

<https://urc.org.uk/stepwise/Stepwise-flyer.pdf>

Wessex Synod is pleased to confirm that Stepwise will soon be rolled out in our Synod. A Synod Stepwise Advocacy Group was formed last autumn and they have been working hard to make sure that all the procedures are put in place to ensure safe recruitment and orientation of voluntary facilitators and mentors. We hope that we will have some groups following the Faith Filled Life Stream in Wessex later this year. If these are not in your area – please don't worry – groups will be starting at different times in different areas according to numbers and need.

This is what you need to know

- All participants wanting to engage in the Stepwise programme will have to begin with completing Faith Filled Life
- If you want to participate in Faith Filled Life, go to our Synod website and fill in an application form, and send this to Ruth Heine, development@urcwessex.org.uk You will then be contacted by a member of the Synod Advocacy Group.
- Synod will identify where the learning Hubs will be located within the Synod
- Groups will be formed logically for participants, and appointed facilitators will be asked to travel (where appropriate). Groups will

then be registered with the Stepwise hub at Church House and you will receive a login for your online learning.

- You will have a mentor throughout Stepwise, and if you are unable to identify one from your church, you will be given help to find one.
- Following on from Faith Filled Life, there will be Faith Fuelled Leadership, Faith Filled Community and Faith filled Confidence. Then the final stream will be Faith Filled Worship.

You can do all of these or just select what you feel God is calling you on to **after** completing Faith Filled Life.

If you want to know any more about this, please contact

Mary Thomas dso-s@urcwessex.org.uk or

Ray Stanyon dso-n@urcwessex.org.uk

~*~

Bi-blog by Laurence Devlin

For the 8th and last instalment (all good things must come to an end!!!) in our series on Biblical women, we will have a look at **the daughters of Zelophehad**. This is a relatively obscure episode that never appears in the Lectionary which is a shame as it shows how determined women can challenge laws and traditions weighing against them and sometimes even manage to redress injustices if they are prepared to take risks.

The story is in the Book of Numbers, a book which recounts the second stage of the Israelites' journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, a long and difficult journey of 40 years in the wilderness where the band of slaves who fled Egypt has to face huge challenges: learning to become a nation, welcoming the opportunities that freedom offers without taking refuge in false nostalgia and starting to create a kind of society based on covenant, collective responsibility and the rule of law, something that did not exist in the ancient world of the time. Let's turn then to the story of Zelophehad's 5 daughters whose lovely names are Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

*“Then the daughters of Zelophehad came forward. Zelophehad was son of Hopher son of Gilead son of Machir son of Manasseh son of Joseph, a member of the Manassite clans. His daughters stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and all the congregation, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and they said, “Our father died in the wilderness; he was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah, but died and he had no sons. Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father’s brothers.” Moses brought their case before the LORD. And the LORD said: The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father’s brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them. You shall also say to the Israelites, “If a man dies, and has no son, then you shall pass his inheritance on to his daughter. If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the nearest kinsman of his clan, and he shall possess it. It shall be for the Israelites a statute and ordinance, as the LORD commanded Moses.” **(Num, 27: 1 to 11)***

The story starts with an innocuous but tremendously important little sentence: *“Then the daughters of Zelophehad came forward.”* As Lynn Japinga¹ rightly remarks “This is an understated summary of an action that took a great deal of courage” as many characters who “came forward” in the book of Numbers reaped very unhappy results like Miriam (Num. 12) or Korah (Num. 16) and several others. “Coming forward” in order to present a request in front of all the assembled clans was not a neutral action but amounted to questioning authority, a daring action if there was one, in that sort of society.

But in the exceptional circumstances that prevailed in the wilderness, the 5 young women must have been inspired to challenge cultural norms and rules. A community is shaped by its laws and traditions, always born of specific circumstances and contexts but when these particular elements change, as they inevitably do, some of these laws and traditions become irrelevant *or unjust* and need to be changed. According to the young

women, the injustice resided in the fact that only sons could inherit their father's property and if a man died without sons, his property was given to other males of his family.

Instead of protesting about this, discreetly to Moses in a private meeting, as you would have expected of women in that sort of patriarchal society, the daughters proclaim the injustice boldly and very publicly: *"Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father's brothers."* You can almost hear the disapproving murmurs from the shocked men and elders: What! Who do they think they are? Do they think they can change the laws enshrined in Deuteronomy just like that? Are we going to tolerate this? Moses must have realised that any decision he would take would be highly divisive so, as often among the heroes of the Bible, he appeals directly to God as the supreme arbiter.

God's answer is surprising but unequivocal: *"The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father's brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them."* This is big: it is not merely an exception to the rule for this time only, but the abolition of the old rule in favour of a revolutionary new one! The women are vindicated and justice triumphs ... except that it is not that simple! At the end of the Book of Numbers (chap. 36), members of Zelophehad's tribe ask Moses what would happen to the land so dearly won by the young women if they married outside the tribe. This was a valid concern as the system of land distribution practiced by the Israelites provided each family with a roughly equal section, according to their needs. If a woman inherited land and then married outside the tribe, the land (such an important element of the covenant) would pass to her husband's tribe, therefore seriously compromising the system of equality as the husband tribe would acquire more than its fair share. Moses recognised that the concerns expressed by the heads of the ancestral houses of the clans are justified and again he relays God's command: *"This is what the LORD commands concerning the daughters of Zelophehad: 'Let them marry whom they think best; only it must be into a clan of their father's tribe that they marry, so that no inheritance of the Israelites shall be transferred*

from one tribe to another; for all Israelites shall retain the inheritance of their ancestral tribes.”(36: 6-7)

Given the fact that the 5 women accepted that compromise and married cousins, it looks like once again, women are shown as compliant, doing what they are told to do but they are in fact given the radical freedom “to marry who they think best” which, as Lynn Japinga remarks, “allows them an unusual amount of choice in a culture where women were usually given and taken, without any regard for their preferences.” So in this episode, we see women who took the risk to put their head above the parapet by “coming forward” rewarded with both their father’s land and the freedom to choose who they wanted to marry. Not a bad result!

Another important lesson is the ability to judge when a community’s laws and social practices should be preserved and when they should be changed. As the saying goes: “Tradition is not about worshipping the ashes but about keeping the fire alive.” Social attitudes evolve over time and it is obvious that some laws, attitudes and practices are antiquated and should be abandoned: slavery and the exclusion of women from voting are examples from the past. I would suggest that one change in our time might be the attitude towards LGBTQ people in the church.

¹ Lynn Japinga, *Preaching the women of the Old Testament: who they were and why they matter*, 2017 (Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, Kentucky)

~ ~ ~

Save the Date - Summer Fête

Doctor Flury’s Garden 116 Church Road

Bank Holiday **Monday 27th May 14.00**

Refreshments, live music, stalls

All Welcome



High Street, Wheatley, OX33 1UE
CHURCH CONTACTS

Minister: Revd. Pauline Main 01865 513581
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Church Secretary: Phyllis Williams
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