

# WHEATLEY URC NEWSLETTER



September 2020

## Covering Thoughts

*When I was seeking inspiration for the August noticeboard I returned to exploring Holton Park. With the school on holiday it was a pleasure to roam the grounds on the hottest day and to find the deepest shade under the huge Turkey Oak. This magnificent tree is situated by the back gate to Oxford Brookes University, and while it can be marvelled at from the no through road, to experience its character it is essential to go closer and explore.*

*Looking upwards at its canopy I was filled with astonishment at its size and the weight of its massive branches. I examined its leaves which have an elongated elegance, marking it out from the English oak. With my camera I took photos from every angle wondering just how the grandeur of this old tree could be conveyed on the noticeboard. The conclusion was that it should fill the whole board, but how to do this was a problem, as I had nothing large enough to work on and during lockdown no easy access to materials. In the end the choice was cardboard, and what better medium could there be than one made from wood pulp. It had to be rough and weighty like the massive branches, but light enough to fix on the board. The size was limited by the packaging available but that left space for two favourite quotes. The quote here is an extract from a poem by Mary Oliver.*

### ***When I am among the Trees***

*Around me the trees stir in their leaves  
and call out, 'Stay Awhile'.*

*The light flows from their branches.  
And they call again, 'It's simple', they say  
'and you, too, have come  
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled  
with light, and to shine'.*

*I do hope that you will seek out the old turkey oak for yourselves and feel the same astonishment.*

***Christine***

## Pastoral Letter

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ..."*  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

At this time of year, I often think the seasons seem to get a bit mixed up: the weather can be hot and sunny, but the evenings begin to shorten noticeably; Christmas catalogues are beginning to appear (my first one came in July!) but many people are taking advantage of good weather and the relaxing of restrictions to take a break. I am a sports fan, as many of you know, and this year more than ever things are very muddled in that arena because of coronavirus: Wimbledon was cancelled; the football season has seemed never ending, yet the new one will be starting any time soon, and the cricket is in full swing, though all of this without any spectators.

By the time you read this, we'll be just into September, and beginning to look towards autumn, and whatever that will bring. It's always sad to leave summer behind, but especially in this strange year, when the sunshine has enabled us at least to visit friends and family in their gardens, even if we couldn't go inside. However, the turning of the seasons does give us time to draw breath – to give thanks for the good times, and perhaps to begin to move on from the strange and difficult days of past months.

*"a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance ..."* (Ecclesiastes 3:4)

There is time to draw breath, to take stock. I think that's something of what we can find in that passage from Ecclesiastes. It's not that times for weeping and laughter, mourning and dancing are in any sense ordained by God, rather that inevitably they happen in life, but they don't last for ever. They have their season, as it were: after an enjoyable holiday, we return to everyday routine, hopefully refreshed and renewed. Even the difficult times do pass, and gradually become easier to cope with, though they remain with us in our hearts, part of our experience, part of who we are. This will, I pray, eventually be our experience with covid, as time passes, track and trace improves, a vaccine is found, and life continues to return to normal.

And we can draw from the passage the thought that God has all of life – birth to death and beyond – in his hands. We are in God's hands, under God's care. The

passage closes by saying that God *"has made everything suitable for its time."* (Ecclesiastes 3:11). When we are struggling to cope with everything going wrong at once, this can seem far away from our experience. But these words, and the whole passage, do remind us that we do not struggle alone – God is there, and often as we look back we realise we have felt touched by his presence.

*How good is the God we adore,  
Our faithful unchangeable Friend!  
His love is as great as His power,  
And knows neither measure nor end!*

*'Tis Jesus the First and the Last,  
Whose Spirit shall Guide us safe home,  
We'll praise Him for all that is past,  
And trust Him for all that's to come.*

May this autumn season be one of fruitfulness in all our lives.

Love and prayers,

**Pauline** (Rev Pauline Main, Minister)

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## Prayers

**Please remember in your prayers** the members in Peter Devlin's pastoral list: Bobbie Stormont & Tom Goss, Sybil Beaton, Lynette & Richard Wood, Annie Hughes, Dave Crosby & Elliott, Moira & Jim Watson.

**We also ask you to pray** for the members of the Maintenance Care Team: Tony Barry, Malcolm Benson, Chris Shelley, Tom Goss.

## Deadlines

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020** is the deadline for the October Newsletter. Please send copy to: [newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk). Paper copy can be given to Jim Watson.

## Disclaimer

The Editors welcome letters, articles and announcements from individuals and organisations, but reserve the right to publish or not.

## Annual General Meeting & Church Meeting

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm by Zoom.

Meeting ID: 837 8548 9474

Passcode: C1795

## Harvest Festival & Invitation

**Harvest Service:** Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 10am by Zoom.

**Invitation:** You are invited to take a photo or short video of the harvest from your garden or allotment and send to Phyllis - [phyllwill@gmail.com](mailto:phyllwill@gmail.com) – by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. These will form part of a short presentation for our Harvest service.

## Church Opening

**“Quiet Time”:** The church is also open for “Quiet Time” from 4pm-5pm each Wednesday and Sunday. “Quiet Time” is a time for individual prayer in the church. Hopefully, if the situation with regard to public health improves, we will soon be moving toward being able to offer times for ‘shared prayer’ in the church.

Remember to consider your personal risk and comply with the guidance to protect yourself and others.

In particular:

- Bring a face-covering to wear inside the building.
- If you would like to read a bible or other book, bring it with you and take it home, we will provide printed reflection sheets for you to use and take home.
- You will be asked to register your presence and follow a one-way system through the building.
- There will be a steward to advise and guide you in the new procedures.
- Be prepared for a different “experience” to that you are used to: the church may look quite “empty” and the “feel” will be different.

## Community Emergency Foodbank (CEF)

Now that the church is open for a short while on Sundays and Wednesdays, it might be possible for people to bring donations of food to the church. I can collect them when Roger and I are going to make deliveries. We can also help with financial contributions. The website [www.cefoxford.co.uk](http://www.cefoxford.co.uk) has links to Just Giving and the Charities Aid Foundation, and also gives bank details for direct donations. People are still having problems with Universal Credit, along with the economic effects of the Lockdown. CEF has supported many more people this year than last. Many thanks for all your support!

**Ann B.**

**RIDE + STRIDES**  
for Churches

**12 SEPT. 2020**

Over 500 churches and chapels in Oxfordshire will be open.

Help preserve the history on your doorstep by raising funds for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

All funds raised go to OHCT and 50% can be passed on to a church or chapel of your choice

**Join Us**

**Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust**  
Supporting Oxfordshire's Churches since 1966

County Organiser: Hilary CokerbreadHall  
Email: [rideandstrides@ohct.org.uk](mailto:rideandstrides@ohct.org.uk)  
Tel: 07831 490524

Find out more at [www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride](http://www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride)

Sponsor forms and more information can be available from

**Tony**

## Common Lectionary Readings – Sept 2020

Note: leaders may choose to use other readings

| Date                 | Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> | Sept 13 <sup>th</sup> | Sept 20 <sup>th</sup> | Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>    |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>First Reading</b> | Ezekiel 33: 7-11     | Genesis 50: 15-21     | Jonah 3: 10 - 4:11    | Ezekiel 118: 1-4 & 25-32 |
| <b>Psalm</b>         | Psalms 119: 33-40    | Psalms 103: 8-13      | Psalms 145            | Psalms 2: 1-13           |
| <b>New Testament</b> | Romans 13: 8-14      | Romans 14: 1-12       | Philippians 1: 21-30  | Philippians 2: 1-13      |
| <b>Gospel</b>        | Matthew 18: 15-20    | Matthew 18: 21-35     | Matthew 20: 1-16      | Matthew 21: 23-32        |

**6<sup>th</sup> Sept:** There is not a country in the world which is in no danger of falling into the throes of violence. [Hellder Camara]  
**13<sup>th</sup> Sept:** If you want to rest here below, and hereafter, in all circumstances say, Who am I? and do not judge anybody. [Joseph of Panephrisis]  
**20<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Most people's wilderness is inside them, not outside. [H.A.Williams]  
**27<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Being vulnerable is part of the human condition but most of us try to make ourselves invulnerable.....we are trying to be like our image of God.....Jesus on the contrary is being what we are created to be .....and in this way mirrors God, as we should. [Jane Williams]

Richard B

~\*~

## Zoom Services Rota for September

| Dates            | Worship leaders     | Readers            | Intercessors            |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Pauline Main (HC)   | <i>Marston and</i> | <i>Summertown folks</i> |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | Richard Bainbridge  | Barbara Joiner     | Robert Harding          |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Colin Thompson (HC) | Malcolm Benson     | Bobbie Stormont         |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Dr Shawn Henson     | Phyllis Williams   | Tom Goss                |

Ellen

## What Astonishes You?

### Instructions for living a life

Pay attention  
 Be astonished  
 Tell about it

*Mary Oliver*

It is often quite simple and extraordinary what astonishes us when we pay attention. Some people from our community took up Mary Oliver's invitation and here are their 'tellings'.

### A Surprise



At the start of lock-down I decided to photograph every new "sign of spring" in nature that we saw on our daily walks. Nearly every day brought a new surprise and a purpose to the walk.

When I saw the photo itself in close up, I had no idea that feasting on these vetch flowers in early May were several ants. I was too busy looking through the lens to see what was in front of my eyes.

Ellen

### A New World – A Beautiful Place

Walking home along the London Road, assaulted by noise and fumes, I cut across the field to Roman Road. The other side of the hedge was an astonishing new world - immediately calm and quiet apart from the bird song.

I am astonished to discover how quickly a field I knew as a scruffy fallow field, has grown into a beautiful place for nature with trees, bushes, wild flowers, birds and other wonders of nature.

Frances

## Hands

My hands and what they can do; holding 2 sets of keys, adjusting them to find the right one to lock the door, transferring them from hand to hand, fingers manipulating with dexterity. No conscious thought required. This often astonishes me!!

from a friend of mine (Bobbie)

## As We Sang .....

For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

*F. Pratt Green*

## A Small but Mighty Lens

Many years ago I went on a 4 day retreat to the home of Esther de Waal on the Welsh/England borders. Her son, Edmund de Waal's pottery was now a comfortable space for one retreatant. Each evening I met with Esther for a glass of sherry and some peanuts and we talked about my day. On the second day she sent me out walking with a small magnifying glass to look more closely at things in the hedgerows that 'caught' my attention. Well, I was invited into another world. It was astonishing. This small but mighty magnifying glass led me to discover in a seemingly ordinary flower, leaf, caterpillar or stone, such surprise, awe and mystery. I was left speechless. I could only look and draw in breath. I was so excited. I now have my own magnifier (a gift from Tom) and take it with me round our garden or on walks further afield. I am always surprised, always astonished.



**Ann H.**

**Bobbie**

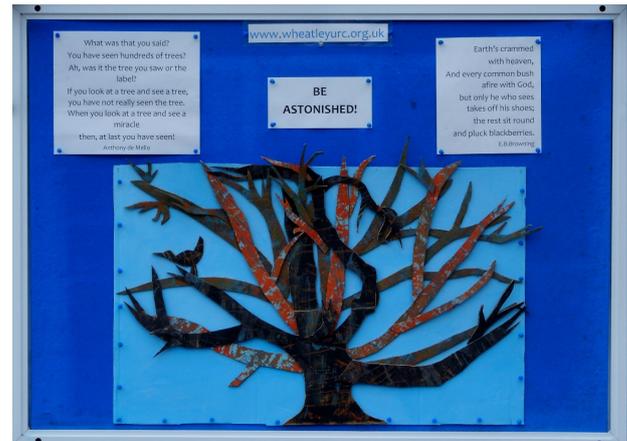


## Entrancing

This Scarlet Tiger moth entranced me when stumbling upon it in our garden. I could not take my eyes off it even though its scarlet underwings were not revealed.

**Rob**

## Be Astonished!



## Wayside Pulpit

Here is the latest outdoor Church Noticeboard from Christine. Through her contribution, we hope to reach out to those passing by with art, poems and inspirational thoughts which often come from members of our community.

## Our Lord Jesus

I walked among a garden  
With flowers bright and fair,  
And in the peace and beauty,  
I thought I saw Him there.

I stopped at evening sunset  
To ease my woes and care;  
A Master's art unfolded –  
I thought I saw Him there.

I looked at her expression  
Of pain and love, so rare,  
And in those eyes deep searching,  
I thought I saw Him there.

I met a man all aged,  
His life now hard to bear,  
But as he shook, he smiled;  
I thought I saw Him there.

And if ere long I'm taken  
To a Land on High somewhere,  
With myriad shining angels,  
I know I'll see Him there.

**David Herring**



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### **CHURCH CONTACTS**

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