



# WHEATLEY URC NEWSLETTER

***High Street, Wheatley, OX33 1UE***

## **CHURCH CONTACTS**

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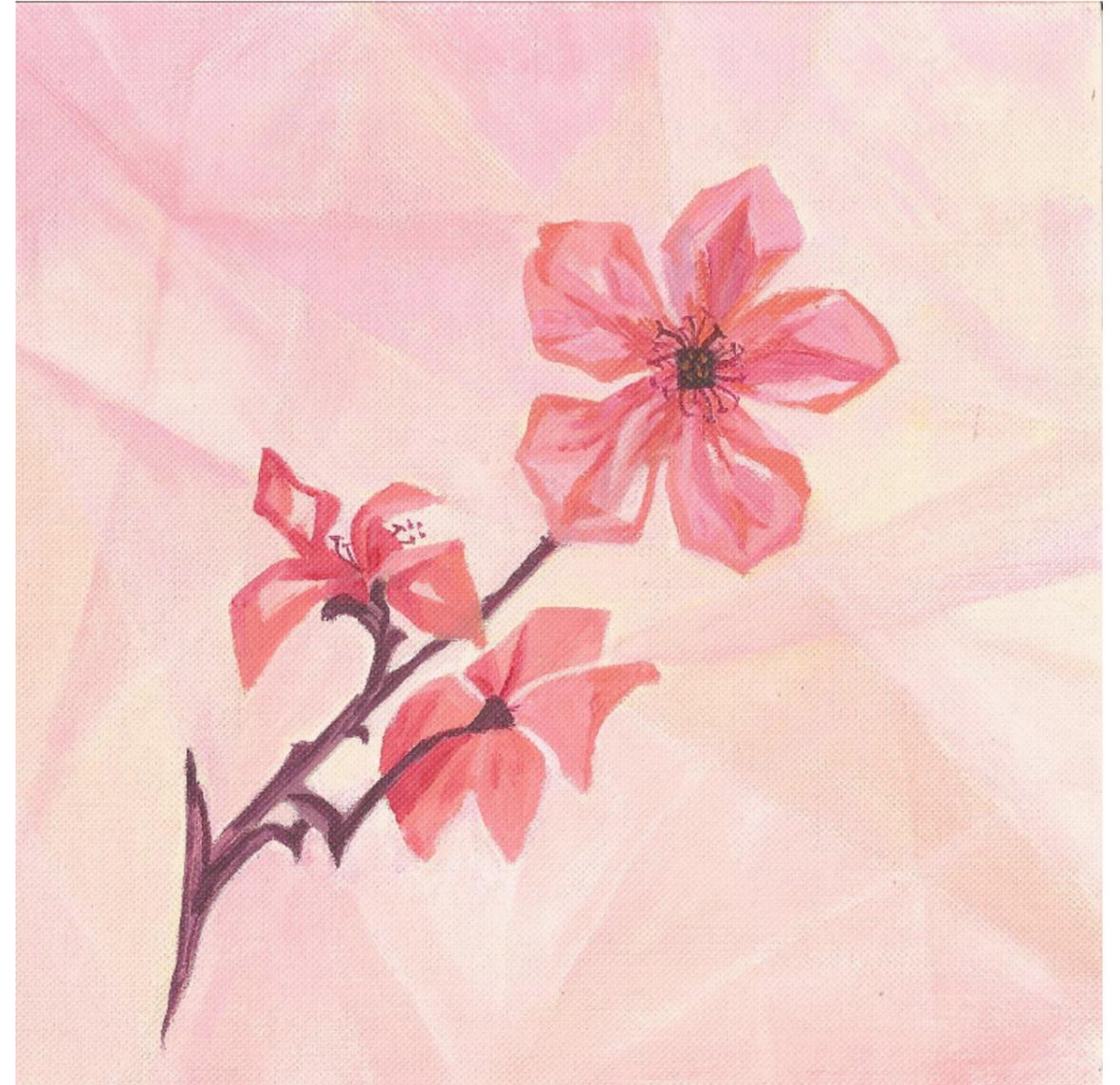
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## **MARCH 2016**

## *Covering Thoughts*

*When I was a young child Sunday meant visiting my grandparents. My mother and I would travel upstairs on the number 37 bus where I always felt travel sick amidst the thick atmosphere of smoke. To take my mind off this I remember one year we took to counting all the trees with pink blossom. The winter had been severe and it thrilled me to see these signs of new life and to be told that spring was on its way.*

*When I first read the prophet Jeremiah I discovered that he too was moved by almond blossom which for him became a sign of God's living presence. Jesus also spoke of signs and used images from the natural world to explain his message. The poetry of the lilies of the field, the growth of the small mustard seed, the yeast in the dough, all these and many other images stay alive in our memories and continue to enrich our thinking.*

*I believe there are many more signs to be discovered. Day by day we can look for them. Sometimes we can touch them, even work with them in our garden or kitchen. Insight may come through reading or engaging with others. We pause to reflect and ask ourselves how these signs of hope can enrich our living. The opportunities for such discoveries are endless when we allow ourselves to be open to the present moment.*

*After his death Jesus went over his teaching with two disciples as they travelled the road to Emmaus. We do not have his physical presence with us today but I believe we have more than written records and memories to help us through life. There are living signs of hope to be discovered even in the bleakest of situations. As we recognize and share them we become signs ourselves of the reality of resurrection.*

*Christine*

## **WEEKLY EVENTS**

Brownies & Rainbows (Term time)	Monday 5.30pm to 7pm
Choir Around the Piano (Term Time)	Monday 7.30pm to 9 pm
Carers and Toddlers (Term Time)	Monday 9.30am to 11.30am
Pre-School Music Group (Term time)	Wednesday 9.30am and 10.30 m
Guides (Term time)	Wednesday 7pm to 8.30pm
Prayers and Breakfast	Thursday 8.00am
Mindfulness Sitting Group	Thursday 9.00am to 9.40am
Brownies & Rainbows (Term Time)	Thursday 5pm to 6.30pm
Table Tennis	Friday 10.30am to 12noon
Hymn Practice	Sunday 9.30-9.45am
Pulse Youth Club	Sunday 7.00-900pm

**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.

## OCCASIONAL EVENTS- March

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thursday	10.00am- 12.00 7.20pm	Coffee and cake in the hall and church open Elders Meeting
4 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	2pm & 7.30pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Services (see poster)
5 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	12 noon	Lenten Soup Lunch
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	8.00am 2.30-4.30pm	Prayer Breakfast & Food Bank Sunday Tea, cake & a chat URC Hall
8 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	1. 00pm	Lunch Club Two
12 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	12 noon	Lenten Soup Lunch
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	11.30am	Church Meeting followed by Food Share Lunch
15 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	1.00pm	Lunch Club 01844 215513
19 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	12 noon	Lenten Soup Lunch
21 <sup>st</sup>	Monday	6pm	Meditation at URC led by Christine & Richard Bainbridge
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday	6pm	Meditation at URC led by Christine & Richard Bainbridge
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	6pm	Meditation at URC led by Christine & Richard Bainbridge
24 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	8am 7.30pm	Prayer Breakfast Maundy Thursday HC followed by Tenebrae
25 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	8am  10am	Meditation & Prayer Breakfast led by Tony Barry Procession of Witness from Crown Square (See poster)

Dear Friends in Wheatley,

Robert has asked me, as your Interim Moderator, to write the pastoral letter for March and I am very happy to do so. Since, this year, Holy Week and Easter fall so early, my thoughts travel in that direction. And they begin with orchids. I'll explain.

For many years, friends have been giving us orchids so that we now have a dozen or more. Often regarded as tender specimens, I have found them quite robust - at least able to withstand my self-taught husbandry. Now, as one bloom wilts and dies, I live in expectation of a new shoot emerging even if I have to wait a while. When it does, in response to the life force within the plant, I always notice its tendency to seek out the light. Thus, I keep turning the plant with its new shoot to train the bloom into an elegant curve. The power of light alone achieves this. Those who travel in high summer among the vivid sunflower fields of France will have noticed how the flower heads turn like radar dishes, in formation, to track the sun. They are drawn to the light and it becomes the source of their growth, indeed, their life.

The events of Holy Week and Easter leave us with the choice to do the same. We witness first the power of evil to distort and disfigure human lives until it is hard to describe them as human at all. It marks but one dark episode amongst humanity's proliferation of dark deeds. The innocent and vulnerable, the frail and the young, are its victims as, indeed, are truth, beauty and love. Crucifixion is a perpetuating reality. Aleppo is today's Golgotha. But Jesus proclaims that all our deeds will be brought out and exposed to the light. When Easter dawns, its light exposes all that hides in corners. John's Gospel, at its very beginning, makes the Easter affirmation that 'light has come into the world and the darkness cannot subdue it'. So, whilst Easter was once an event, it remains a living experience. Whatever the friends of Jesus made of those confusing times, the 'Light of the World' was risen. Surely, they were 'risen' also – transformed - new people.

From that moment, the infant church's mission was to 'bring people to the light'. Not easy. But only those who turn towards that light find freedom. Paul (as Saul) resisted it. 'Why do you kick against the goads?' says the voice from heaven. Many others have done, still do. It is a choice. Sometimes, turning to the light is discomfiting, and like Paul I resist. I have no wish to be 'shown up'. But I know that when I choose to 'let the light in' and I track the 'light of the world', even with all its potentially unbecoming revelations about me, my life has the hope of coming into bloom. It may also

equip me (and you) to follow Paul when he urges the folk in Philippi to 'shine like stars amidst a crooked and perverse generation'. Thankfully, very many people still do today and in them I find the very best fulfilment of Easter's hope and reality.

Go well! Duncan.

### **Possible Interim Ministry at Wheatley URC**

#### **A message from the Vacancy Committee and the Elders**

As most of you will know by now, the Elders, through the 'vacancy committee' have been looking at the idea of having an interim minister for the time being, while the situation regarding URC ministry in the whole of the Oxford area becomes clearer. We had an excellent meeting with Revd. Pauline Main, under the chairmanship of Revd. Duncan Wilson our 'interim moderator'. We unanimously decided to continue on this path and have invited Pauline to join us on **Sunday 13th March** for a food share lunch, following our church meeting. This will be the first chance many of you will have to meet her. Then on **Sunday 17th April** we have invited her to lead worship and 'preach with a view' to being called as our interim minister. Following coffee and chat, especially with Pauline, we plan to hold a special church meeting, that day, to discern if we would wish to issue a call.

Please take some time to read Pauline's profile which she has provided for the newsletter.

from the inside, to free worship from the domination of the Temple that he perceived as a sterile and corrupt institution and to adopt a more flexible approach to Jewish law. Both the Pharisees and Jesus preached righteousness, compassion and loving kindness and both believed in the superiority of private rituals. Another similarity is the extensive use of parable as a teaching tool and a great number of the motifs of rabbinic parables of the first centuries of our era, are similar to those of Jesus: a king who hires labourers who later complain about the way in which wages are distributed, a king who gives a banquet and many of those invited fail to respond appropriately or a father who lovingly accepts the return of a penitent son...

So why do the Pharisees appear in Luke but even more in Matthew to be so hostile to Jesus and are presented as hypocrites preoccupied with the minutiae of the Law? Essentially for theological reasons: It was incomprehensible to the early Jewish-Christians that their fellow Jews would not accept the Messiahship of the risen Lord. So from its earliest days the development of the early church is one of a progressive "de-Judaization". Then after the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, as the Pharisees became the dominant sect (in fact the only one) of Judaism, the Pharisees enter in competition with the nascent church so it was naturally against the Pharisaic tradition, or at least as it was remembered, that the emerging church saw its struggle. Once the church had identified her enemy, Christianity's rejection of Judaism erupted full-force. The church moved progressively through quarrels with the Jews over observance of the Mosaic Law, to blaming the Jews for the crucifixion, to finally judging them to be blind hypocrites or worse. So we can see how the conflicts reported in the Gospels (especially in Matthew who often inserts the Pharisees into passages where Mark names no specific group) reflect much more the debates and arguments that later Christians had with their Jewish contemporaries than what really happened in Jesus' time.

Let's remember this when we next hear in our Gospel readings less than flattering words to describe the Pharisees!

Temple but it is more usually argued that they wanted to “be separate” from the common people by following stricter purity regulations. They were certainly strict on purity but it is important not to exaggerate that strictness as, if they did aspire to a level of purity *above* the ordinary, they were *well below* what was required of priests or what was prescribed among the Essene sect in Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. In any case purity was a common ideal for ALL Jews but the Pharisees seem to have pursued it more thoroughly.

More importantly they were at the cutting edge of redefining and renewing Judaism. To the Pharisees, the Written Law of the Pentateuch was irrelevant unless it was supplemented by the Oral Law, that ancient but unwritten religious tradition of approved interpretation and application. Knowledge of the Oral Law demanded constant study beyond the confines of the biblical text and to this end, lay-academies were established, emphasizing further the value of knowledge and training. Oral Law was not a revolution in the eyes of the Pharisees, but a restoration, a gradual unfolding within history, transmitting the authoritative and true intention of the written biblical law given to Moses.

Of all the sects in existence at the time of Jesus (Sadducees, Essenes and Zealots) the Pharisees garnered the most support from the population, at least according to the historian Josephus, and some of the most respected masters of Jewish thought such as Hillel and Gamaliel, belonged to the Pharisees. Paul himself was very proud to call himself a Pharisee (Phil. 3:5 or Acts 23:6) and studied the Law precisely under Gamaliel “a man of great honour” according to Acts 5:34 who used his influence to try and persuade the Sanhedrin not to condemn Jesus’ apostles to death.

The Sadducees, on the other hand, were compliant and compromising in their relationship to the Romans and totally unresponsive to the changing spiritual needs of the people who hankered after a decentralized system of worship through more personal religious practices in opposition to the Temple sacrificial system. The Pharisees seemed to have been more attuned to those changing needs and it may be the reason why they were the only Jewish sect who survived after the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE. In fact, the rabbinic Judaism of modern days based on the life of the synagogues, study and home life is the direct heir of Phariseanism.

But what is particularly interesting for us is that Jesus’s teachings seemed to have had quite a lot in common with the Pharisees. Let’s not forget that Jesus’ intention was **never** to create a new religion, but to reform Judaism

## Personal profile summary – Rev Pauline Main

**Date of Birth:** 27th September 1953      **Date of Ordination:** 14th July 2007

Currently minister of Summertown URC and Marston URC (*half time shared across the two churches*) and Free Church Chaplain at HMP Bullingdon (*Fridays and some Sundays*)

I live just off the Oxford Ring Road, which is convenient for my two churches and the prison, and would also be so for Wheatley.

### Personal faith

I am conscious that my faith has developed over the course of my life; there has been no one-off conversion experience, but a process of growing and, I hope, deepening in Christian faith, further deepened, I feel, by my experience of ministerial training, and by ministry itself and chaplaincy work.

A strong influence on my life and faith has been the contact with disabled people which I had earlier in my working life, firstly at the Royal National Institute for the Blind and later as a Trustee of Church Action on Disability. The disabled people I have met have taught me much about the meaning of wholeness and of what it means to be human. I have found their approach to daily living, and in some cases their strong Christian faith both challenging and inspiring.

### Theological approach

My outlook is “liberal”. I am committed to Reformed tradition of thoughtful Biblical exploration trying to understand the context and background of the Biblical material whilst also seeking its message for us today. For me, the core message of the gospel is God with us, in Jesus Christ, in all aspects of our lives as human beings and as human communities.

I believe therefore that the local church must be part of its local community, showing the love of Christ as well as telling people about him. The role of the minister, here, I feel, is to help the local congregation to discern its mission and ministry – no church can do everything – and to encourage it to work in

partnership, with fellow-Christians, with others in the community, and as a fellowship together.

### **Skills and Experience**

35 years' experience as preacher and worship leader in all kinds of settings, in the URC and Methodist churches, with some experience of leading and presiding at Anglican services.

Considerable experience of ecumenical working, nationally and in local churches.

10 years' experience in prison chaplaincy, firstly in Holloway (female prisoners) and for the past five years in Bullingdon (male prisoners). This has, I feel, developed my pastoral skills, given me insights into "how the other half live", and made me better able to cope with the unexpected.

I am a very experienced and keen user of technology in my working and personal life.

### **Ordination training 2002 - 06**

I trained on a part-time course where the majority of the students were preparing for the Anglican priesthood. This Anglican "slant" has been invaluable experience for my subsequent ministry. I completed my training with an internship year at Trinity URC in St Albans and Bricket Wood URC, in association with Westminster College, Cambridge. The two churches were very different but worked well together, and I was able to spend some time making a study of what factors made the relationship work.

### **Current ministry: *Summertown 2007 – present; Marston 2012 - present***

Overall, I find it challenging but refreshing to be minister to two congregations which are diverse but both trying to serve God to the best of their ability. I have tried to bring the two churches closer together, encouraging the congregations to attend each other's events, offering a regular coffee morning at the manse for people to share fellowship, and annual Awaydays at Aston Tirrold. Another fruitful link has been the involvement of the churches' worship groups in leading services in each other's church.

## **Proposed Retreat at Los Olivos, Sierra Nevada**

The dates proposed for the Bible study retreat at Hacienda Los Olivos in the mountains south of Granada are 4-9 September 2017 or 19-24 June 2017. In order to book the one which is most convenient, I'd be grateful if those who have expressed an interest (fourteen so far) would let me know if they have a preference or are happy with either. There may still be room if you haven't yet decided, and I can always open a reserve list.

Colin Thompson

colin.thompson@stcatz.ox.ac.uk

## **Something New for Holy Week**

As most of you know, for many years we have held early morning meditations followed by shared breakfast during Holy Week. This year we are trying something new. At 6.00pm on Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd in the church, Richard and Christine Bainbridge will lead short meditations on the theme *Looking for signs of Hope*. Everyone of course is welcome. See elsewhere in this publication for details of other Holy Week events. Robert Harding

## **BI-Blog by Laurence Devlin**

"Hypocrites!", "offspring of vipers", "whited sepulchres" are the words that Jesus apparently used against the **Pharisees** in the Gospels. These accusations and the conflicts he had with them are at the root of the very negative image that the sect has had among Christians for centuries. This image however is, according to modern commentators, totally undeserved and is in fact a caricature. Why does it matter to try and restore a more accurate portrait? Firstly because the significant presence of the Pharisees in the Gospels affects our understanding of the historical, sociological and theological context of "the Jesus movement". Secondly because that negative and distorted image has been often used in the past as a pretext for widespread Christian anti-Semitism.

For over a hundred years or so before Jesus' lifetime, the Pharisees (whose name comes from the Hebrew word "separate") prospered. They were educated laymen who did not belong to the aristocratic priestly caste of the Sadducees. They might have named themselves Pharisee precisely because they saw themselves as "separate" from these aristocratic leaders of the

Each session will last an hour, starting with a twenty minute illustrated presentation followed by forty minutes of general discussion and summary.

Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30 pm in The United Reformed Church  
Is durable recovery possible? The impact of faith.

Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm in The United Reformed Church  
Can people and societies become more resilient to disaster and conflict? The Christian challenge.

Ian Davis, a recent member of St Mary's church, is Visiting Professor in Disaster Risk Management in Kyoto, Lund and Oxford Brookes Universities. He was trained as an architect and his PhD in UCL was on *Shelter following Disasters*. In 1996 he became the first British citizen to be awarded the United Nations Sasakawa Prize for his Contributions to International Disaster Prevention. He has been a board member of four NGOs including Tearfund and was one of the founders of Traidcraft, which became a leading Fairtrade organization. He is the author or editor of over 20 books on Architecture, Disaster Risk Management and Development.

### **Living the Questions: John Dominic Crossan DVD Victory and Peace or Justice and Peace?**

The **ACE** team invite you to engage with this thought provoking DVD, the excellent material it encompasses and the enjoyment of the discussion it will undoubtedly generate.

There will be four viewings followed by an informal discussion after each viewing.

It will be shown on the following Monday evenings: 29<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup> March. Venue: Roger and Ann Bettess, 7 Anson Close, Wheatley, OX33 1YD.

Each meeting will be limited to twelve people so book early to avoid disappointment.

I am used to working collaboratively, and I like to think that my leadership style is a collaborative one. I see the leadership of the local church as a team effort between minister and elders, and have, I hope, an excellent working relationship with the elders in both churches, and very much appreciate their support for me.

#### **Worship**

Overall, the worship I lead tends to have a fairly traditional structure. Within that framework I am always keen to use different ways to help people participate. I have tried to be true to each church's traditions of thoughtful biblical preaching, but also gently introduced some appropriate new elements, particularly through the use of projector slides for illustration or as a focus for prayer and reflection. At Summertown we try to include the children in the worship, with regular "family festival" services. I am not musically gifted, so very much welcome input from those who are.

I am actively involved in ecumenical life in the two contexts. In Summertown this includes a licence to preside at communion in the Partnership's Anglican churches, a real privilege. In Marston, the link with the Sisters of the local Convent is a particular blessing.

#### **Pastoral care**

In both churches, the bulk of the visiting is done by elders. I try to visit – with communion if requested - folk who are ill or in hospital, housebound members, and others when time allows. I also try to keep in contact by phone with anyone going through a difficult time. Obviously there are also visits and contact for funerals, as well as baptisms, weddings (one or two) and other special occasions.

I lead three services a month across the two churches (rather than one in each church), and share fellowship afterwards, in order to keep in contact with people. Coffee mornings and church activities also serve this purpose and help alert me to anyone in particular need.

**Chaplaincy: Holloway Prison September 2005 – August 2010 (female prisoners)**

**Bullington Prison January 2011 – present (male prisoners)**

The chaplaincy work I do is mostly pastoral – the “statutory duties” of visiting new prisoners, and those in the Healthcare and Segregation units, alongside responding to particular pastoral needs. The chaplaincy is a multi-faith environment (our manager in Bullingdon is the Muslim Imam). I have always been comfortable with this, and appreciated the opportunity to get to know colleagues of other faiths and discover what we have in common. I often (perhaps too often!) share insights and stories from the prison context with my congregations, and ask for prayer for individuals and situations (obviously whilst keeping confidentiality). Both congregations have been very supportive to me in the work and welcomed this participation in it. I have also given talks to a number of local groups.

*Pauline*

Women’s World Day of Prayer, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. There will be two services, in Wheatley this year, (created by the women of Cuba), one at 2.00 pm in the URC and the other at 7.30 pm in St Mary’s.

Palm Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, will start with members from all the church congregations meeting outside The Merry Bells at 9.45 am for a short meditation and hymn singing as we process together with palms along the High Street, before moving on to our own services.

During Holy Week there will be half hour meditations at the URC at 6.00 pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and at 8.00 am on Maundy Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> & Good Friday 25<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday meditations will be followed by breakfast. The Cross Procession will take place on Good Friday at 10.00 am.

For details of all our events and services over the Easter Weekend (25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March), please see the posters outside our churches and in other parts of the village. WE WISH YOU A HAPPY EASTER

### **LENT COURSE 2016 DISASTERS: A CHALLENGE TO FAITH?**

Leader - Ian Davis

All too often our TV screens and newspaper headlines are filled with distressing images of disaster. We can recall a devastating earthquake in Nepal, or nearer to home floods in Somerset and Cumbria, possibly resulting from climate change and desperate refugee families escaping from Syria and North Africa.

For forty-four years Ian Davis has been studying such threats in about fifty countries, advising and training officials in UN Agencies, the European Union, Governments and NGOs on effective Disaster Risk Management. For three evenings in Lent, he will introduce topics for general discussion that will explore the nature of these tragedies and how they challenge our Christian faith.

RECEIVE CHILDREN. RECEIVE ME

Friday  
4th March  
Women's  
World Day  
of Prayer  
All are welcome



Praying for Cuba

2:00pm at URC followed by refreshments and 7:30 at St Mary's

**WHEATLEY AREA CHURCHES (WAC)  
CHAIRMAN'S BLOG FOR MARCH 2016**

Our Lenten journey together is now well under way, starting with a very well attended Ash Wednesday service at St Mary's. By now the first three of our six Lent Soup Lunches will have taken place at the URC hall in Wheatley with each church that makes up WAC having taken its first turn at hosting the lunches. The lunches in March are from 12 noon on Saturdays 5th, 12th & 19th. Donations from these lunches will support the work of **Christian Aid** worldwide. The lunch on Saturday 12th March will have a particular emphasis on Fairtrade, as it just falls within Fair Trade Fortnight (29th Feb to 13th March).

Don't miss the Three Lenten Talks (followed by discussion and coffee) on the theme "Disasters: A Challenge to Faith?" that will take place at The United Reformed Church at 7.30 pm on Wednesdays Feb 24th, March 2nd & March 9th (for more details, see posters at church and entries elsewhere).


 St Bartholomew's  
Holton  
 Our Lady of Lourdes  
Roman Catholic Church  
Crown Road  
 St Mary's  
Church Road  
Wheatley  
 St Mary's  
Waterperry  
 Wheatley Community Church  
WCC in The Merry Bells  
High Street  
 St Leonard's  
Waterstock  
 Wheatley URC  
United Reformed Church  
High Street  
 St Helen's  
Albury

**Wheatley Area Churches**

**PALM SUNDAY 20th March  
Joint Procession of Palms**

9.45 am meet at The Merry Bells then proceed to individual services:-  
 St Mary's - Holy Communion 10am  
 URC - Communion 10am  
 WCC - All Age Service 10.30 am  
**United Service**  
 St Mary's, Waterperry - 10.30am

**HOLY WEEK  
Mon 21st - Wed 23rd  
Holy Communion**

12 noon  
at St Mary's, Wheatley  
Meditations  
6pm at the URC

**MAUNDY THURSDAY  
24th March**

**Prayer Breakfast**  
8am in the URC  
**Shared Service & Tenebrae**  
7.30 pm at the URC



**GOOD FRIDAY 25th March**

**Meditation & Breakfast**  
8am at the URC  
**Reflections on the Cross**  
9.30am at Our Lady of Lourdes  
**Procession of the Cross**  
starting 10.00 am  
from Crown Square  
arrives at  
St Mary's, Wheatley  
10.45am for  
**Sharing of Hot Cross Buns**  
**Dramatised Meditations**  
11am at St Mary's, Waterperry  
**At the Foot of The Cross**  
2pm at St Mary's, Wheatley  
**Music & Meditations**  
**Bach: Stabat Mater Pergolesi**  
7.30pm at St Mary's, Wheatley

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES**

for R.C. Mass see Corpus Christi, Headington

8am St Mary's, Waterperry	✠	8am St Mary's, Wheatley
9.30am St Helen's, Albury	✠	9.30am St Leonard's, Waterstock
10am St Mary's, Wheatley	✠	10am Wheatley URC
10.30am Wheatley Community Church	✠	11am St Bartholomew's, Holton

**HAPPY EASTER**

## Church Calendar March 2016

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

Date	6 <sup>th</sup> March	13 <sup>th</sup> March	20 <sup>th</sup> March	27 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Service</b>	<b>Morning Service +HC</b>	Morning Service	<b>Morning Service +HC</b>	<b>Morning Service +HC</b>
<b>Time</b>	10 am	10 am	10 am	10 am
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Revd. Colin Thompson & John Fox*	Richard Bainbridge	Revd. Colin Thompson	Revd. Duncan Wilson
<b>Vestry Elder</b>	<b>John Kidd</b>	<b>Ann Bettess</b>	<b>Joan Kidd</b>	<b>Ann Hardiman</b>
<b>Welcomer</b>	<b>Joan Kidd</b>	<b>Ann Hardiman</b>	<b>Liz Barry</b>	<b>Phyllis Williams</b>
<b>Steward</b>	Moira Watson	Christine Bainbridge	Pauline Shelley	Andy Walkey
<b>Reader</b>	John Kidd	Pauline Shelley	Phyllis Williams	Ann Hardiman
<b>Prayers</b>	Tom Goss	Bobbie Stormont	Liz Barry	Robert Harding
<b>Flowers</b>	Allison Towner	Catherine Hughes	Team Decoration	Team Decoration

**Traidcraft stall on occasional Sundays.**

*Elders on Communion Duty are shown in bold letters.*

*There is a crèche on the first four Sundays of the month.*

**Guest Worship Leader:**

*\*John Fox is a local historian, retired teacher and Roman Catholic. He has also recently become chair of a village group charged with the task of developing a neighbourhood plan.*

## Common Lectionary Readings March 2016

**Note: leaders may choose to use other readings.**

Date	6 <sup>th</sup> March	13 <sup>th</sup> March	20 <sup>th</sup> March	27 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Old Testament</b>	Joshua 5: 9-12	Isaiah 43:16-21	Isaiah 50:4-9a	No Reading
<b>New Testament</b>	2 Corinthians 5: 16-21	Philippians 3: 4b-14	Philippians 2: 5-11	Acts 10: 34-43 & 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 32	Psalm 126	Psalm 31: 9-16	Psalm 118: 1-2 & 14-24
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 15:1-3 & 11b-32	John 12: 1-8	Luke 22: 14-23 & 56	John 20: 1-18

**Simple Sunday evening worship in the form of Taize, will take place on March 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm at 3 Barns Close, Holton.**

**Please remember in your prayers the members of Ann Hardiman's Pastoral Care List:** Phyllis & Mark Williams, Annie Hughes & Elliott, Richard and Lynette Wood, Allison & Colin Towner, Ellen & Bob Webster and Ann & Roger Bettess.

**We also ask you to pray for the members of the Children's Education Ministry Team:** Malcolm Benson, Wendy Benson, Rebecca Bullard, Ann Hardiman & Annie Williams.

*Owing to other commitments over Palm Sunday weekend the editors would request that the deadline for the April newsletter is brought forward to 6pm*

*Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Please send email copy to*

*[newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk) or paper copy to Andy Walkey,*

*5.Littleworth Rd, Wheatley, Oxon OX33 1NW*