

WHEATLEY URC NEWSLETTER



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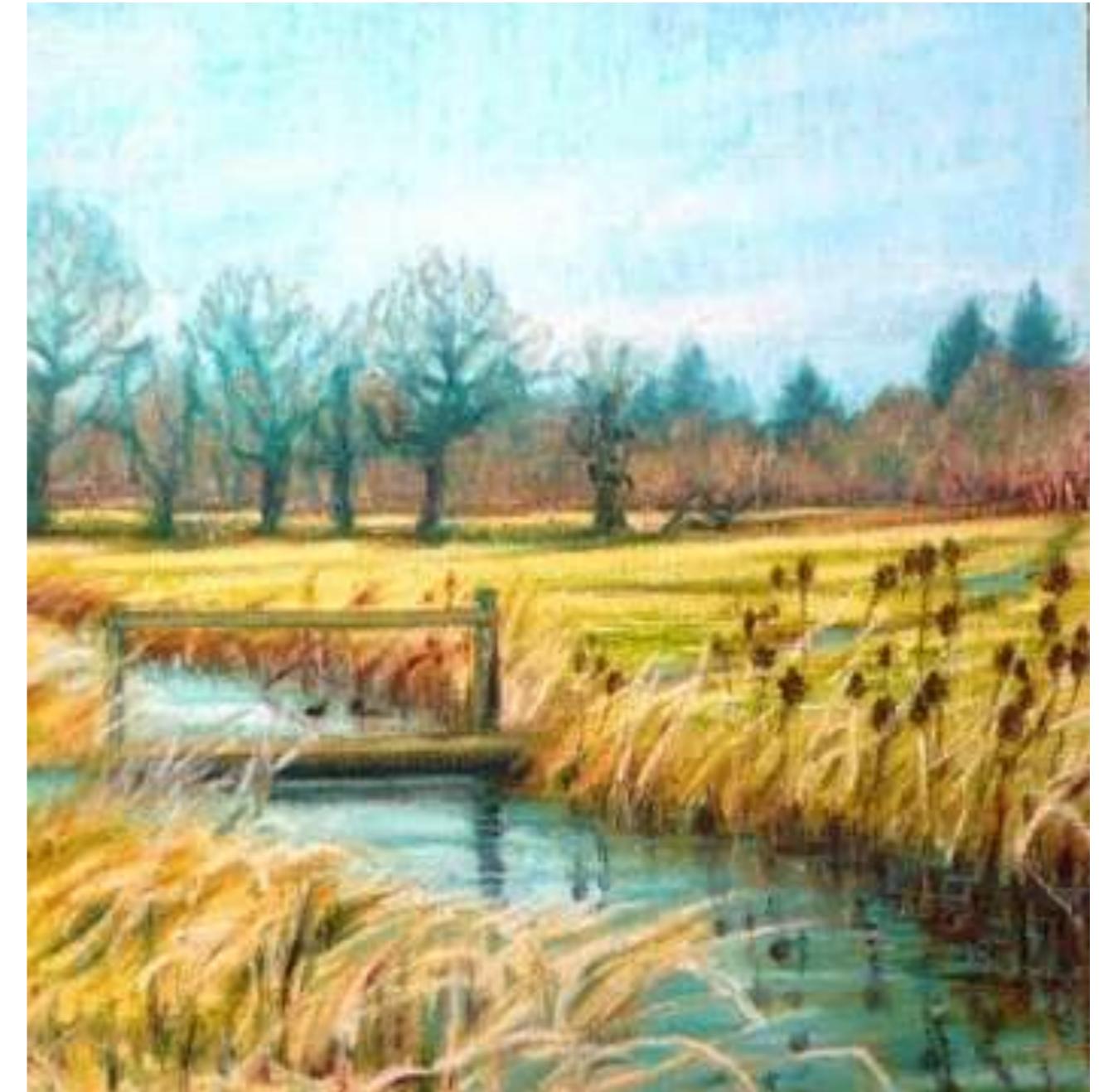
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APRIL 2016

Covering Thoughts

Even only one or two miles from home it is possible to experience a sense of remoteness, wide skies and distant vistas. On my walks I rarely see a soul so it was a surprise as I was standing sketching this month's cover to hear the squelch of boots coming across the flooded field. A young man with rucksack crossed the ditch and smiled. He was overawed by the loveliness of the meadow which he described as 'gob smackingly beautiful'.

It was only after he had passed that I realized that as a newcomer to the area he would find the way ahead difficult. The arrow on the stile pointed in the wrong direction, and a vast field had been ploughed leaving no obvious path to the village.

By the time I had considered all this he was on his way and at first I felt that I had failed him. But then I began to reflect on how easy it is to focus on problems and to offer solutions of our own. It could detract from the euphoria he was feeling in the present moment and therefore spoil it. Also what I imagined would be a problem might not trouble him at all. After all he had only to follow the footprints through the mud to discover the way himself.

I was reminded of a coastal walk which had a particularly difficult stretch. Meeting a couple who had come through it from the opposite direction it was disturbing to listen to their complaints and warnings. It raised my anxiety and took away the enjoyment of part of the walk.

These experiences helped me to reflect on our current theme of journeying. I concluded that it is good to embrace both solitude and companionship. I became aware too that it is possible to pull each other down by unnecessary warnings and too much advice. Ultimately we have to take responsibility for our own choices and must allow others to do the same. These reflections are open to dispute but I think one helpful thing on which we could all agree is the necessity of encouragement.

Christine

OCCASIONAL EVENTS- April

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------------------|--|
| 4 th | Thursday | 10.00am-12.00 | Coffee and cake in the hall and church open |
| 6 th | Sunday | 8.00am 2.30-4.30pm | Prayer Breakfast & Food Bank Sunday Tea, cake & a chat URC Hall |
| 12th | Tuesday | 1.00pm | Lunch Club Two |
| 19 th | Tuesday | 1.00pm | Lunch Club 01844 215513 |
| 21st | Thursday | 7.30pm | Three Faiths Forum |
| 23rd | Saturday | 2.00pm-5pm | Wheatley Recreation Ground |

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 |
| Wheatley Singers'(Term Time) | Tuesday 7.10pm to 9pm |
| Pre-School Music Group (Term time) | Wednesday 9.30am and 10.30 am |
| 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 Pulse Youth Club | Sunday 9.30-9.45am 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.*



Minister's Letter

Dear friends

It was a strange winter – too wet, too warm, too stormy. Daffodils and primroses were out in my garden before Christmas Day. It didn't feel seasonal at all most of the time, and our hearts went out to those whose homes were flooded, in some cases for the third or fourth time in recent years. Now, however, spring has arrived. The blackthorn is out in the hedgerows and the first summer migrants are winging their way across astonishing distances to raise their young here. You can see new life springing up everywhere, and feel it in the air. It fits the Easter season so well. And yet....

Five years ago I was in Buenos Aires a few days before Christmas. It was hot and sunny and coming up to midsummer, but that didn't stop the shops from displaying Santas and Christmas trees and the traditional winter scenes. It seemed so incongruous. My Australian friends regale me with stories about barbies on the beach on Christmas Day, which belong to a different world from our season of short days and long nights, when it's more appropriate to curl up in front of the fire with the front door firmly shut. The annual renewal of nature in spring is a wonderful thing, as green shoots emerge from the bare earth, the trees come into leaf and birdsong fills the air. It makes it just a little easier to feel our way into understanding the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. So spare a thought for those who live in the Southern Hemisphere, for whom Easter falls in autumn. They celebrate this sign of the victory of God's love over human hatred and cruelty when the days are growing shorter and plants complete their cycle of growth. Does that make it harder for them? John Donne wouldn't have thought so. He once wrote: 'In heaven it is always autumn' and the reason he gave was this: 'his mercies are ever in their maturity'.

It has never been easy to believe in the Resurrection. If you find yourself wondering if it can possibly be true, it's not just because we live in modern times and know that science has explained so much of what was unknown before. In fact, you are in exactly the same position as the first disciples – not only Thomas – who greeted with incredulity the report of the women who had gone to the tomb and claimed to have seen the Lord.

Christian Aid Week

During May our church will be collecting from house-to-house as part of Christian Aid Week.

We'll be delivering envelopes in our local community and we really need people to join us.

Would you be able to spare a few hours of your time?

Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Christian Aid Week is one way our church puts this into practice, reaching out to our local neighbours in need.

Together we achieve incredible things. Along with 20,000 other churches, we raised more than £ 11 million last year, making sure some of the world's poorest people have enough to eat and a safe place to live.

With your support we could help more people like Morsheda, of whom we shall hear more, living at the mercy of flooding in Bangladesh.

Let us know if you can join us: Pauline & Chris Shelley, Liz & Tony Barry.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: MAY 15-21.

In the Gospel accounts and in the writings of Paul you will find no clever theories about what happened. People were not persuaded to believe in the Resurrection by weighing up the pros and cons, examining conspiracy theories, speculating about how it could have occurred. They came to belief simply because they found the risen Lord in their midst. Doors were locked and he was there. They went about their daily tasks and he was waiting for them. They were persecuting his followers and he spoke to them. In other words, it was lived experience that brought them to faith, not the persuasive powers of argument. That has been a constant of Christian understanding ever since the first Easter morning. It doesn't matter what season it is, because his presence can touch us at any moment. All that Christ asks of us is that we be open to possibilities – that goodness can overcome evil, that the creative power of God's love can transform despair into hope, that the light of divine love is always shining, however hard the darkness presses: and above all, that we live true to the vision.

Every blessing, Colin

Our Church 'Theme for the Year'

At the January church meeting we decided to adopt '**Journeying**' as our overall theme for the year. The idea is not that everything we do should have an element of journeying about it, but rather that this theme should help inform some of our activities, for example: events planned by the Adult Christian Education and Care for the World teams, ideas for the Fete, ideas that might be included in worship, (faith journeys for example, it would be really good to have one or two more this year), and the theme can help us when deciding on where to distribute our charity giving.

If you or your ministry team have ideas, please share them.

Robert Harding

What St.Paul said about 'nothing separating us' seems true to me now across an even vaster range of life and death experience than even he envisioned. It now seems to be that neither age nor infirmity, greed nor possessions, envy nor deceit, neither immigration nor destitution, terrorist nor torturer, should separate us from our want and need of the love of God in Jesus Christ and of each other. Rather, with some genuine humility, should we seek, with the help of the Word and poetry, music & art, to do our best!

**In time of daffodils who know
the goal of living is to grow
forgetting why, remember how.....'**

Robert Bailey

Robert specifically asked the editor not to change this piece in any way, as he felt his chosen font and size would add to the impact, which is why it does not conform to our agreed guidelines. Ed

THREE FAITHS FORUM

At Wheatley U.R.C.

THURSDAY 21st APRIL at 7.30 pm

**Philip Champain, recently appointed Director
will speak on the work of the Three Faiths Forum,
its aims, aspirations and activities.**

The floor will then be open for questions.

COME EARLY TO FIND A SPACE, ALL WELCOME!

Contact: Sybil Beaton

The third joy was singing. Again love came early, thanks to Stockport's wonderful system of singing scholarships to a boys' choir. Then came school concerts in a Gothic church with the harmonies of France, Spain and Germany. But it was when I learnt to sing tenor under Carolyn Brock in Wheatley and in the City of Oxford Choir that I learnt the marvels of music of all times from ancient to modern.

My parents' only journey abroad was in July 1920, to go to a demolished Ypres to find my mother's 26 yrs. old brother Robert's grave. He had died on 13 March 1918 when a gun he was unloading from a truck went off accidentally. In 1916 he had been turned down by a tribunal as a conscientious objector.

My own journeys abroad [apart from a visit to the grave in 2003] have been far happier. I have marvelled at Alpine peaks from Slovenian Alps to the Andes, at the islands of Iona & the Galapagos, been awed by the Limpopo & the Mekong. But most fortunately of all I have been granted the gift of seeing in all their soft or shining colours, on frescoed wall, altar, or gallery frame: Giotto's life of St. Francis in Assissi, Fra Angelico's sublime Annunciation, in San Marco Florence, della Francesca's mysterious Resurrection in Sansepolcro, Botticelli's Primavera in the Uffizi, Velazquez in the Prado and the Impressionists in the Musee d'Orsay. So can there be room for anything but gratitude?

As for the future? With the eyes and mind and heart, however feeble and fallible, what can a husband, father, grandfather, mystified follower of Jesus Christ, and human being do in the known face of global warming, Syria and Nepal, poverty and greed and inhumanity, but look beyond himself and work his best. When I was worried about something as a child, usually to do with school, my Mum would always say: "You can only do your best Robert". Aloud or in my head I'd reply : "But what if it isn't good enough?" I don't remember what she said then, but I know I never despaired

Bi-Blog by Laurence Devlin

I wonder how many of you, especially women, have been troubled and puzzled like I was for many years by the story of Martha and Mary recounted in **Luke 10: 38-42**. The story made no sense to me for several reasons: First I thought that portraying Martha as a bit of a complaining harridan was very unfair when what she was doing was simply fulfilling her duties of hospitality towards her guest. Secondly I thought that what Jesus was allegedly reproaching Martha did not tally at all with the ministry of humble service that he commends to his disciples so often. And thirdly the model of womanhood represented by Mary: silent, idle, passive, sitting at the feet of a man (even if that man was Jesus...) was not the sort of woman I wanted to be ... or could become, even if I tried! So I kept thinking "I can't believe that story is right and I must be missing something here" ... as indeed I was.

Let's then have a closer look at the text as it usually contains hidden clues: verse 38 tells us that Jesus was welcomed into "Martha's house"... Not her father's house, not her husband's house not even her brother's house but *her own house*. In the socio-cultural context of first century Israel, that meant that *she was the head of the household, therefore independent and probably fairly well-off*. And indeed we know from the Gospels and from Acts that the itinerant ministry of Jesus and of the disciples relied heavily upon the hospitality of fairly well-off people who offer them shelter and food and with whom they could rest for a few days.

The fact that Martha was head of a fairly well-off household meant two things: First that she probably had "servants". Not servants like they are portrayed in Downton Abbey of course but rather younger members of the extended family who had come to live with her from their original remote village and help with the domestic tasks in exchange for a better life. This is exactly what is still happening very commonly in most collective, agrarian, family-orientated societies of the developing world which are very similar to the society of first century Israel. So thinking of Martha slaving over a hot stove *on her own* and therefore needing her sister's help does not fit into that socio-cultural context. Secondly and most importantly, even if we can perfectly envisage that Martha did indeed go to the kitchen to give instructions and supervise the cooking operations, it is VERY unlikely that she would have involved Jesus in women's quarrels whining to him that her sister

was not helping in the kitchen: Again it just does not tally with social conventions and proper etiquette which dictates that petty family squabbles be suspended in the presence of guests, especially a male guest with such a special status.

But what then are we to make of verse 40 which does say that "Martha was distracted by her many tasks." It is only by going back to the original Greek that we will be able to solve that puzzle. The Greek word used for "many tasks" is "diakonia" (from which we get our word "deacon") and even if it does mean serving, it does NOT mean serving at table or in the kitchen but *serving in the sense of a serving ministry*. Of the eight times that the word "diakonia" is used in Luke's Gospel and in his book of Acts, it is used in contexts that concern NOT kitchen activity but participating in leadership and ministry. In other words Martha was distracted by *too much ministry* and too many tasks of leadership within the emerging Christian community. So what she is complaining about, is not that Mary is not helping her in the kitchen but that *she is not pulling her weight in the community* and that she has left her to do the many tasks of ministry on her own.

What Jesus answers is still troubling however when we read that Mary has chosen the "better part". Is it really better to be passive, idle and silent? It would be a troubling message for women nowadays! So again we have to go back to the original Greek word to understand: "agathos" can mean better but much more often it means good, not better. So to say that Mary has chosen *the good part* does NOT mean that one choice is "better" than the other. If Mary's part is "good" it does not pitch one sister against the other, forcing an unfair comparison. Indeed Martha is definitely a most worthy person, devoted to her "diakonia," her ministry **BUT** she is doing so much of it that she is not attending to Jesus *when he is there* and forgets why and for whom she is doing all that ministry...

So Jesus' response, far from being a rebuke, is a real pastoral answer to her concern as he calls her back to the basis of her life work, to that which should sustain her ministry i.e. back to Him and he says: "Martha, Martha, I am here. Do not be troubled, come and rest and I will give you strength. Come and be loved now, come and love me now. Then you can serve. Your sister, Mary, has chosen to be present to me and that is the good part of my being with

on the pavements from here to the Yorkshire Dales and Cumbrian Lakes. And then I read in the Newsletter that Wheatley URC has a regular table tennis group and think how lucky you are not to have to face Wendy's wicked forehand, but how lucky I am not to have to envy you all; or do I fool myself?

Perhaps all this obvious self-pity around a visual impairment is embarrassing. But, using more the eye of the soul, maybe at this distance from you, after so many years so near to you, unimpaired, you will forgive me this self-indulgence and allow the following reflection, which aims to move beyond pity to thanksgiving and hope.

Looking back, outside the gift of my family past and present, who are it seems to me a brilliant source of unselfish and unconditional love, I thank God for at least four things that came to me via sight and speech and love.

From my teens the truths of the Word as revealed, clearly or mysteriously and ambiguously or paradoxically through the Bible, has been a joy to me, and never more so than when I have been granted the privilege of reading it aloud in church and school. And I owe a dear friend Geoff [later a minister in the Church of Scotland] much for taking me with him when he led services round chapels in Cheshire & Lancashire in the 1950s.

Reading poetry aloud was my second joy; from the Metaphysicals, to Keats and Pablo Neruda, with Ogden Nash and Wendy Cope for spice. It was the only skill for which I earned a prize at grammar school! It hit me between the eyes just now just how much has been lost when I walked to the bookcase to read a poem for a quotation....and stopped. Of course I could not find the volume; but the action had been so automatic.

7. Any Other Business

As a number of people will be away on the second Sunday in May it was decided to hold the next Church Meeting on Sunday 22nd May.

Date of next meeting: Sunday 22nd May 2016

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Contributed by Robert Bailey

Reaching 80 I would like to pass on some reflections on my experience of increasing partial sight. I hope you don't find this morbid or too self-indulgent. I want to help increase understanding of what it is like when one is not wholly blind but strongly impaired; it might explain, if not excuse, some mistakes, impatience, grumbling and swearing! I thank Wendy for her endless patience and help.

On NOT losing sight of the goal.....

***'I thank You God for this most amazing day:
for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a true blue dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes
now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened' e e cummings***

I have felt particularly sorry for myself of late. First there was the awareness that with Pep Guardiola's arrival to manage Man. City I would not be able to watch the intricate patterns the team might now weave, despite the 39 inch TV just purchased in Curry's post- Christmas Sale.

Secondly, we moved back to the edge of the Peak because Wendy & I rambled there in our youth, she from Sheffield, me from Stockport, and I cycled out to Mam Tor to revise my 'A' level History inspired by the beauty of Edale. Now each day we see scores of walkers & cyclists to my frustration passing through Bollington, in all weathers. This when I have just grudgingly agree to carry a white stick so I stop causing havoc

you. Do not take that away from me ... or from her. Come and share it, NOW."

So the meaning of the story is not that what Mary is doing is better than what Martha is doing but about **sound spiritual judgement** which allows us to know when to act and be busy and when to sit and listen. One activity is not better than the other, we all (women and men!) have to try to be both quiet and active but the real wisdom is to discern *when it is appropriate to choose one or the other*.

Another important aspect of the story is that both sisters are serving Jesus *but in different ways*. In other words, we don't all have the same gifts or the same opportunities and we can't be doing everything equally well, all the time. This is not what is asked of us. What is asked of us is to respond and receive Jesus as *both* sisters have responded to Jesus, using their different gifts. If we celebrate our gifts, we will be able to *discern when to use them appropriately and at the right moment*: That act of discernment is the key to a rich, fulfilling spiritual life and to a well-balanced ministry. That is a lesson I can understand and accept!

Laurence

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

The Lenten journey is over or is it just beginning, with all those good intentions for the year ahead, to live up to? The emotional roller coaster ride of Easter has come and gone. I do hope that you are now living with the JOY of resurrection, visible in our gardens and the countryside with the bursting of new life and the welcome of bright spring flowers.

To go back briefly to Lent; the six Lent Soup Lunches, that took place each Saturday in Lent were very well attended and will have raised **over £500 for Christian Aid** plus an additional £32 for The Fair Trade Foundation. Our grateful thanks to all who took part, either as makers, servers or samplers. There was certainly a great variety of delicious soups to sample – can't wait for next Lent! Then there were the three excellent Lent Talks by Ian Davis on the theme of Disasters and Faith – what a thought provoking and well produced and researched series of talks and discussions they were – thank you so much, Ian, for sharing your wisdom and experiences with us.

Although I was unable to be at either service for the Women's World Day of Prayer this year, I understand that they were well attended and appreciated by all – many thanks to the organisers and the women of Cuba, of course. It is always a joy to be able to join together with other local (and distant) churches for moments of "celebration" such as this and Palm Sunday, when we sung and processed together to welcome Jesus into our village high street. As I write, we wait in anticipation for all that is promised for Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Day.

Looking forward to April and May, we have Fusion's St George's Day Festival actually on St George's Day this year and a shared lunch at The Merry Bells, with Wheatley Community Church on Pentecost Sunday (15th May), to be followed by the "WAC" AGM.

Then be ready for **Christian Aid Week between 15th and 21st May**.

Next "WAC" Committee Meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 6th April at the URC – agenda items to Frances and me before, please.

Tony Barry

ii) Worship – The worship rota is now planned until end July. Details of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter were confirmed. A Godly Play service is being prepared for 3rd April. On 15th May there will be an LEP service at St Mary's, followed by a shared lunch at the Merry Bells, hosted by the Community Church. The Church Anniversary will take place on 26th June, with Pauline Main as guest preacher. Thanks were offered for the variety of speakers/preachers whom we have heard on Sunday mornings.

iii) Communications – Christine Bainbridge has been clearing up the church hall and might have moved some personal property in the process – please speak to her if relevant.

iv) ACE – A friend of Sybil Beaton's is to speak on 'The Three Faiths Forum' on 21st April at 7.30pm. On 1st October there will be session entitled "Journalling the Journey". A Religious Question Time is planned for the autumn and the team are hoping to prepare some Bible studies for next year.

v) Finance – The new cooker had been purchased at a cost of £1842 – of this £1564 had been raised from donations and a generous offer had been made to cover the shortfall.

vi) Care for the World – Thanks were offered to those who supported the soup lunch on 12th March during Fairtrade Fortnight. Ideas are invited for this year's One World Week in the autumn. Thanks were also expressed to all who participated in the Women's World Day of Prayer service.

vii) Hospitality – It has been decided that two people will be assigned to oversee the kitchen for each event involving catering. The Sunday coffee rota is in need of new volunteers as Joan and John Kidd wish to stand down.

5. Christian Partners - The church will be running the refreshment stall at the St George's Day festival on 23rd April and help is requested both on the day and in providing cakes. Malcolm Benson had attended the induction mass of Fr Mervyn Tower, the new priest at Corpus Christi Church. Our Lady of Lourdes church will now hold Saturday evening services, in place of Sunday mornings. This might make it easier to have more inclusive WAC services. This year Easter posters have been prepared in lieu of Easter cards: help is sought to display them.

6. Dates

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17 th April, 12noon | Special Church Meeting |
| 21 st April, 7.30pm | Three Faiths Forum |
| 23 rd April, 2pm | St George's Day Festival |
| 30 th May, 2pm | Church fete in Dr Flury's garden |
| 26 th June | Church Anniversary |

**WHEATLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
MINUTES of the CHURCH MEETING, 13th MARCH 2016**

Chair: Robert Harding

1. Apologies: Wendy Benson, Laurence Devlin, Liz Stuart, Andy & Elizabeth Walkey

2. Minutes of last meeting: The Minutes of the meeting of 10th January 2016 were accepted and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Pastoral Care Plus. News and concerns about members and friends were shared.

4. Ministry Team Reports

i) Elders – a) Vacancy up-date: The Vacancy Committee had met with Revd Duncan Wilson and Revd Pauline Main; the church profile and Pauline's personal profile had been exchanged beforehand. All present at that meeting felt that the two profiles were very well matched. Pauline is currently minister of two Oxford URC churches which amounts to a 50% scoping; she also spends one day a week at Bullingdon prison. If we were to invite Pauline as Interim Minister, her scoping at Wheatley would amount to approximately 30%. If she becomes our interim minister Pauline would prefer to spend time getting to know our congregation before deciding on priorities and how best to apportion her time at Wheatley. It was pointed out that Pauline might only be able to lead one Sunday service per month at Wheatley. The Elders were unanimously in favour of inviting Pauline to meet people at a shared lunch today, after which she would preach "with a view" on Sunday 17th April. The appointment would be for a defined term until the end of 2017, with a review four months ahead of that. Depending on the situation of all the Oxford URC churches at that stage, it could be possible to extend Pauline's ministry if appropriate. Our service on 17th April would be followed by a time for questions and discussion, then an Extraordinary Church meeting chaired by Duncan Wilson to consider the invitation. A vote by church members would need a majority of 80% to be carried and this was agreed after short discussion.

b) Pastorate Profile: The new profile has been finalised and the meeting was asked if it could now be adopted before sending to Synod. Sybil Beaton proposed the adoption, seconded by Moira Watson; the document was then accepted by those present. Thanks were expressed particularly to Malcolm Benson and Phyllis Williams for their hard work in preparing the Profile.



**Saturday 23rd April 2-5pm
Wheatley Recreation Ground**

St George's Family Fun Day, now in its **11th year**, will actually be taking place this year on St George's Day: 23rd April. Please put the date in your diary and come along with family and friends to join in the fun.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out with the various activities (craft, face painting, monitoring the bouncy castle, biscuit decorating and many more). If you are able to help, please contact Caroline Showell-Rogers (caroline.showellrogers@googlemail.com) or Jennifer Newton (jen@cjnewton.co.uk or 01865 876066). We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on the day!

Church Calendar April 2016

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

Traidcraft stall on occasional Sundays.

| Date | 3 rd April | 10 th April | 17 th April | 24 th April |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Service | Morning Service +HC | Morning Service | Morning Service +HC | Morning Service |
| Time | 10 am | 10 am | 10 am | 10 am |
| Worship Leader | Revd. Colin Thompson + Godly Play | Richard Bainbridge | Revd. Pauline Main* | Revd. Duncan Wilson |
| Vestry Elder | Phyllis Williams | Joan Kidd | Ann Bettess | Liz Barry |
| Welcomer | John Kidd | Ann Bettess | Ann Hardiman | Ellen Webster |
| Steward | Charles Bennett | Liz Stuart | Bob Webster | Tom Goss |
| Reader | Moira Watson | Elizabeth Walkey | Liz Barrry | Jean Boxall |
| Prayers | Ellen Webster | Ann Hardiman | Rebecca Bullard | Liz Barry |
| Flowers | Phyllis Williams | Allison Towner | Jean Boxall | Zena Knight |

Elders on Communion Duty are shown in bold letters.

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

Guest Worship Leader:

- Revd.Pauline Main is "Preaching with a View." Please see her Personal Profile Summary in the March edition.

Common Lectionary Readings April 2016

Note: leaders may choose to use other readings.

| Date | 3 rd April | 10 th April | 17 th April | 24 th April |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Old Testament | No Reading | No Reading | No Reading | No Reading |
| New Testament | Acts 5: 27-32 Revelation 1: 4-8 | Acts 9: 1-6 Revelation 5: 11-14 | Acts 9: 36-43 Revelation 7: 9-17 | Acts 11: 1-18 |
| Psalm | Psalm :118 | Psalm: 30 | Psalm: 23 | Psalm 21: 1-6 |
| Gospel | John 20: 19-31 | John 32: 1-19 | John 10: 22-30 | John 13: 31-35 |

Simple Sunday evening worship in the form of Taize, will take place on Sundays April 17th & 24th 7.30pm at 3 Barns Close, Holton.

Please remember in your prayers the members of Ann Bettess' pastoral group Angela & Rob Holdaway, Wendy & Malcolm Benson, David & Catherine Hughes, Moira & Jim Watson, Rebecca Bullard & family, Lynnette & Richard Wood, Liz Stuart and Joan & John Kidd.

We also ask you to pray for the members of the Finance Ministry Team:
Chris Shelley, Christine Bainbridge, Ann Hardiman, Bob Webster

The deadline for the May newsletter is 6pm on Sunday 17th April. Please send email copy to newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk or paper copy to Barbara Joiner, 11 Old Farm Close, Worminghall, HP18 9JU