

WHEATLEY URC NEWSLETTER



November 2021

Covering Thoughts

There is always the temptation on chilly autumn mornings to stay cosily in bed, perhaps with a book and a cup of tea. But when I am away by the sea every morning is an opportunity to experience the dawn: the cloud formations, the changing light, colours reflected on wet sand and the distant views sharp or obscured by mist. The cover painting is a record of one such morning which was painted later back at the beach hut.

By the time I began to paint the clouds had filled the sky and there was a strong wind lifting the sand into dunes along the promenade until heavy rain damped it down. That moment of light was lost, but because I had experienced the time out on the beach it was possible to bring back the memory with the aid of a sketch and a photo on my phone. The experience was extended through the wet morning while I painted.

To extend our positive experiences into the future is a helpful thing, while dwelling on the negative ones can have a depressing effect unless we find ways to transform them. One way may be to use humour, another to find practical solutions to a problem, or simply moving on to something new that engages our attention may lift our spirits.

Christine

“Every dawn renews the beginning, and to behold the earth struggling out of the formless void, out of the night, is to witness the act of creation.”

Sholem Asch

Pastoral Letter

Lockdown Project No 143

It all started when the pushbutton at the top of the toilet cistern jumped out one day. We realised that it had come adrift for good, and although Blu-Tack did a pretty good job, it wasn't that permanent, and it started to get loose again. It was lock-down. I had time to spare. I tried to repair it. Unfortunately, I dropped the critical piece behind the cistern and it was lost forever.

Everything still worked except the dual flush had become a single flush.

I wasn't happy with the imperfection.

Usually, I would allow Phyllis to mend this sort of thing, but I thought 'I'm grown-up now; I can do this by myself.' That was a mistake.

I ordered the part from the Internet. It came pretty quickly.

I looked hard at it and it looked hard at me and we agreed we were made for each other. Unfortunately, the part was not made for the toilet.

I sent it back.

Then I noticed that the part which was left on the cistern said "Heritage" on it. 'That's a comforting name,' I thought. 'I'll see whether Heritage still exists.' It did. I got in contact. They were very nice. 'Can you send us a photograph of the cistern so we can check,' they said.

This was very encouraging. I took a photograph of my toilet. I still have it. I'm very proud of it.

I sent them the photo and they identified it as a Zaar system from 2007 or 2008.

This was beginning to sound really good. The bad news was that they couldn't just give me the little top part that had broken. I had to buy all the internal workings of the cistern as well. It cost more than I thought it should, but I paid it.

It came very quickly and I was pleased.

I looked at the instructions.

Incomprehensible.

I thought to myself, I can't ask Phyllis to repair it now because I've started - so better finish. I looked again at the instructions. They would involve taking the innards out of my cistern and I knew that I needed at least a degree in engineering to do this. Phyllis has a degree in engineering; but I'd already decided that she should not be involved in this project. She is busy on other things like zoom technology.

So in order to show how competent I was, I got in touch with Taylors. Adam came round and said 'yeah we can fix this', but when he got the cistern apart, he said 'They've sent you the wrong part. This is too big for the hole in the bottom of your cistern'.

I rang up Heritage when Adam was here and talked to a senior person in their office. He said, 'that doesn't seem to be our cistern at all - it's a completely different cistern'. Then added more bad news. 'No-one makes that cistern anymore.'

However, they said they would refund me my money. That was very encouraging. I boxed up the cistern innards and taped it all round so it wouldn't spill out in the middle of its Royal Mail journey.

Later in the week Adam returned. He'd found the parts that fitted. He fitted it. Phew.

At various points in this journey, Phyllis has looked on with various degrees of bemusement, as I travelled from trying to correct one tiny imperfection in something that was working pretty well, to creating my very own arena of mini-disaster.

I reflect: perhaps leaving the so-called imperfection alone might have been a better strategy; for things, and for people too, if I think hard about it. But thinking hard is probably best left to others when you've just put your toilet out of action for no good reason at all.

Mark Williams

Falcon October School News

(late 2021)

WE FINISHED THE ROOF!

We should all give ourselves a big pat on the back ... part of our recent donation was used to finish the roof on the nearly completed teachers' accommodation.

This was vital before the seasonal rains descend and it means the Falcon team in Harare can now get on (helped by the remainder of our donation) with completing the internal structural work (floors, ceiling, window frames, plastering etc.).



finished
at last!



We also mentioned at the last update in church that some of our money would be used towards a 'boiler' system! ... just to clarify it will simply be a clever little mini-solar unit on the roof which powers a small hot water 'geyser' (similar to the old 'Ascot' heater, remember?!)

On a very economic basis this will provide small but essential amounts of hot water for hygiene and washing purposes.

Here's an example of the mini-solar unit below on a nearby roof:



Finally, some of our donation will also be used to lay pipes from their bore hole to this building so teachers and pupils have a direct water supply.

STOP PRESS BOOK SALE

At the time of writing, we have just held our Book Sale in aid of Falcon School ... total takings were slightly over £400 .. a fantastic result!

Thank you to everyone for helping or donating, a good time was had by all ...



And so, to close by repeating Wilbert's words in response to our latest donation:
'As for you (Wheatley URC) it's only God who knows what He is going to do for you.

My prayer is that He blesses you without measure'

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

PS: Pupils in video thanking
Wheatley URC!



Care for the World Ministry Team



Prayers

Please remember in your prayers the members in Liz Barry's pastoral group; Edna Ackroyd, Sybil Beaton, Ann Hardiman, Bev Paton & family, Frances Simpson, Annette Wright and Ann Wild.

Also remember members of the Children and Youth Ministry Team; Malcolm Benson and Ann Hardiman

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Blended Service Rotas for November 2021

Dates	Worships Leaders	Readers	Intercessors	Vestry	Welcomer/ Door Steward
7 th Nov	Pauline Main - Remembering those we have lost	Richard Wood	Liz Barry	Robert Harding	Ann Gajda
14 th Nov	Richard Bainbridge	Christine Bainbridge	Ellen Webster		Elaine Matejtschuk
21 st Nov	Colin Thompson	Ann Bettess	Robert Harding	Moira Watson	Malcolm Benson
28 th Nov	Cara Heafey	Ellen Webster	Ann Hardiman		Liz Barry

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Common Lectionary Readings November

Note: leaders may choose to use other readings

Date	7 th Nov	14 th Nov	21 st Nov	28 th Nov
First Reading	1 Kings 17: 8-16	Daniel 12: 1-3	Daniel 7: 9-10 and 13-14	Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Psalm	Psalm 146	Psalm 16	Psalm 93	Psalm 25: 1-10
New Testament	Hebrews 9: 24-28	Hebrews 10: 11-14 and 19-25	Revelation 1: 4b-8	1 Thessalonians 3: 9-123
Gospel	Mark 12: 38-44	Mark 13: 1-8	John 1: 33-37	Luke 21: 25-36

Nov 7th Charity begins at home but should not end there (Thomas Fuller).
Charity begins at home, but justice begins next door (Charles Dickens).

Nov 14th In Barton-on-Sea there is a monument to the Indian soldiers who died in the war. There is also a Buddhist temple for the Thai community and visitors.

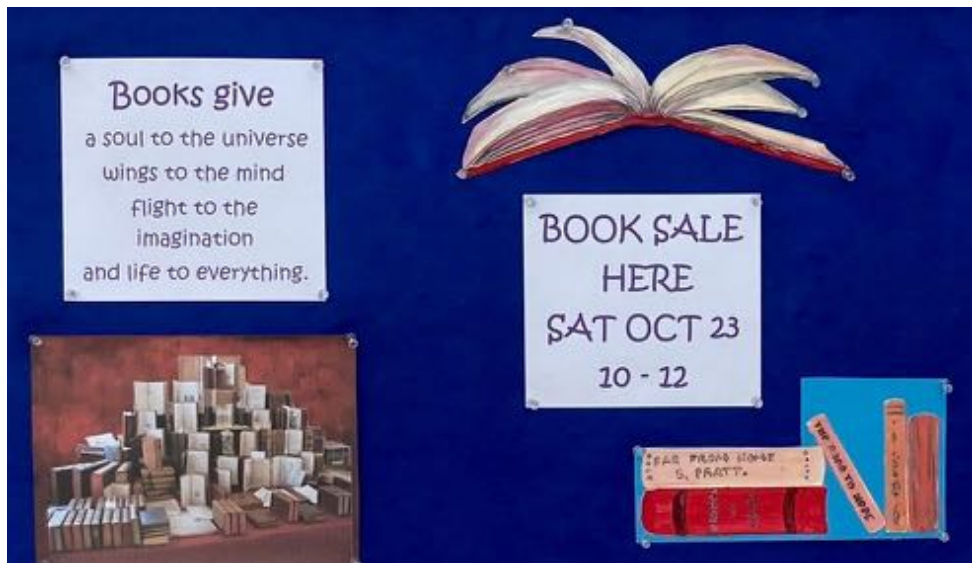
Nov 21st There is a well known anecdote about Queen Elizabeth 11 when she was young. One day a stranger asked, 'Who are you?' 'Oh, I am no one' she replied, 'but my father is the king.'

Nov 28th Two people were walking across a wasteland. One commented on a single blade of grass pushing through a tiny crack. Years later, they returned to the site and found the sea of concrete now covered in a carpet of grass.

Richard Bainbridge



Our Current Noticeboard



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A word of thanks from Colin Thompson

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who helped to make the delayed celebration of the Golden Jubilee of my Ordination to the Christian Ministry such a memorable occasion. Without the constant support and friendship of so many people I doubt I should ever have lasted the course.

So my warm thanks go to all of you who took part in the service: to Pauline Main, for beginning and ending it (and for assuring me that my many mistakes are forgiven!); to Wendy Benson, for reading so beautifully and with such feeling the two translations of Spanish poems from the sixteenth century; to my old friend David Jones, who read a lesson all those years ago, for his video recording of the reading from Ezekiel 47 so that a precious link with the past could be made; to Laurence Devlin, for leading the prayers of thanksgiving and intercession with such sensitivity and grace; and to Mark Williams, for opening out the Scriptures to us, taking us back to that day over fifty years ago and reflecting so movingly on all that has happened since;

to Phyllis Williams and Roger Bettess, for their sterling work in preparing and masterminding the technology on which we depend, so that everything ran smoothly, both in church and on Zoom;

to all of you who came in person or followed the service on Zoom, including some who were present on 19 June 1971;

to all the members of the hospitality team who organised, prepared and served the tea (not to mention the champagne) and cleared up afterwards, for so much hard work behind the scenes. My mother, who knows a thing or two about these things, said that when she came into the Hall the tea was set out as it would be in a first-class hotel, and so it was. Practical hospitality of this kind is worth its weight in gold. So thank you for enabling us all to have such a good time of it after the service;

to Laurence, again, for putting together the Book of Celebration so imaginatively and artistically, and to all whose memories are held in it;

to Siobhan Fraser for her icon of St John of the Cross, in its subtle, muted tones, which capture the spirit of the man. It now hangs by the window in my study at which I work, and looks down on me even as I type these words;

to Frances and Jeff, for the organ music before and after the service, which lifted our spirits and expressed the joy of the day;

to all of you who contributed to the icon and to the cheque I was presented with. I could not believe how generous you had been when I opened it. I can't yet say what it will be spent on, but it will be something special, a reminder of the day itself and of you. And also, to Allison and the flower arrangers for the flowers in church and for the bouquet presented to my mother, in the glowing colours of autumn;

to my colleagues from St Catherine's College, Oxford, who braved rain, wind and storm to join us and help me to put the academic and ecclesiastical parts of my life back together;

and to those no longer with us, whose memories I cherish, fellow-pilgrims on the way who have reached its destination before us, for their living witness to the love of Christ.



A small selection of photographs taken by Laurence on the day.

REFORM MAGAZINE

Group Subscription

It is time to renew subscriptions to REFORM, which is published 10 times per year and the annual subscription for 2021-22 is £29.50. The December/January issue is combined, likewise July/August.

The group subscription is organised by Moira Watson, who receives the magazines and then delivers them to the group members.

If you would like to join the group, get in touch with Moira, either at the church or phone her on 873689 for more details.



Deadline

11th November 2021 is the deadline for the December Newsletter. Please send copy to: newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk Paper copy can be given to Bobbie Stormont.

Disclaimer

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



Thinking about Carols already?

Do you love to hear excited children's singing?

Christian Aid have asked if I can again bring a team of 6 people from Wheatley to steward at the Oxfordshire County Schools' Service concert in the Town Hall, November 30th - December 2nd. Covid restrictions permitting, of course.

This is always an uplifting three hours - giving out programmes, selling raffle tickets, taking an interval collection for Christian Aid, who this year are working to raise awareness of the Climate Emergency and those around the globe who are most affected.

Please contact me by email for more information, lizbarry26@gmail.com

Liz Barry



Help Needed

Some of our helpers for Lunch Club have moved on and so we are looking for new helpers for the third Tuesday of each month. We need someone to help with the preparation of food from 9.30am and someone to help with the washing up from 1.00pm.



We also need a helper to serve coffee after church on the second Sunday of the month.



If you would like any more information about what either of the roles entails or to volunteer, then please speak to Catherine Harding.

Catherine Harding

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CHURCH CONTACTS

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