

WHEATLEY URC NEWSLETTER



June 2022

Covering Thoughts

When we reach anniversaries or major milestones in life they cause us to reflect. In June this year we share two celebrations: one as a church community celebrating its existence after about 225 years, the other as a nation celebrating our Queen's Diamond Jubilee – 70 years on the throne.

Elizabeth had no choice but to accept her position as Queen when her father died prematurely, and whatever our views on monarchy we must agree that she has been dutiful in her role. Faithful to the promises she made and guided by her Christian faith she has been a stability through national and personal success and tragedy.

As a church, we are grateful for the ministers who have served us faithfully over the years, but at present we share the responsibility of leadership. The burden falls more heavily on some but all of us try in small ways to support the church community that means so much to us.

If we were to look to our Queen for advice we might quote her words:

I know of no single formula for success, but over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration, to work together.

It has perhaps always been the case that the waging of peace is the hardest form of leadership of all.

I am always encouraged by the experience of sharing with a community of such diverse gifts and different views and personalities, and how we manage, despite disagreements, to stay together. It is not always easy. Even the first disciples had their disagreements, and I feel that Jesus' words hit home to them as they do to us today:

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who abuse you.

Christine

Pastoral Letter

Dear friends,

As I write this I'm away in drizzly Staffordshire for the URC Ministers' Gathering. It has been a packed programme of speakers, workshops, Bible study and worship; and good to have the opportunity to meet colleagues from across the UK.

The theme, perhaps unsurprisingly, has been 'Jubilee.' It's been fascinating to delve into difficult and illuminating passages from the book of Leviticus about land, property, and slavery. Some texts are deeply problematic, and there's no getting around that. But there are some underlying messages of great value and wisdom: namely a reminder that land and people ultimately belong to no-one but God. Leviticus 25:23 reads, "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants."

It's a message that feels sharply relevant at this time when the URC and other organisations begin to grapple in earnest with the legacy of slavery... a conversation reignited by the murder of George Floyd, the Black Lives Matter movement, the toppling and removal of statues and the public debate around these issues. It's a message that speaks to the war in Ukraine, where Putin and his Russian forces attempt to seize land and redraw national borders at devastating humanitarian cost. It's a message that has something to say about our own government's inhumane policies towards refugees. It even has something to say about our broken and abusive relationship with the earth.

How would things be different if we understood our identity to be as tenants and aliens in the land we inhabit? If we understood that the land belongs not to us, but to God? If we expected, come the jubilee, to have to hand back our borrowed property and privilege, in a great release and reset moment where social justice is restored?

Our resident Biblical scholar here at the ministers' gathering, Meg Warner, describes jubilee as a "return to factory settings". Debts were wiped out, slaves and prisoners set free, land and property surrendered. It remains unknown to what extent, if at all, jubilee actually took place in the life of Israel. Time and again we humans fall short of living out God's radical dream for the earth. But in this year of Jubilees... when the country and queen celebrate her reign, and when the URC turns 50... it's worth reflecting on what a "return to factory settings" for our church would look like. How are we seeking to rebalance inequality? How

conscious are we of our privilege? What do we need to set down, release, let go of, give back? How are we living in distinctive ways, as the people of God?

Some food for thought, and prayer.

Peace and love,

Cara

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Prayers

Please remember in your prayers the members in Malcolm Benson's pastoral group: Colin Thompson & Herthe Thompson, Jeff Clarke, Cynthia Mancey, David Herring, Jill Cansell, Laurence & Peter Devlin, Ann & Norbert Gajda.

Also remember members of the Care for the World Team: Liz Barry, Ann Bettess, Rob Holdaway, Elaine Matejtschuk, Mike Matejtschuk Robert Harding.

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Dates for Your Diaries

Sunday 26th June Church Anniversary Lunch at Ann & Roger Bettess' home

Weekly

Monday 8:45 Mindfulness Sitting Group (contact Mark Williams 876288)

Thursday 8:45 Mindfulness Sitting Group (contact Mark Williams 876288)

Friday 10am Table Tennis (contact Val Farmer)

Monthly

Alternate Mondays (6th & 20th) Not So Young Club (contact Frances Simpson)

First Sunday Tea, 2.30 – 4pm (contact Ann Bettess 874353)

First Thursday Prayer and Reflection 10:00am followed by coffee (contact Liz Barry & Barbara Joiner)

Second Thursday Memory Cafe (contact Laurence Devlin)

Second Tuesday Lunch Club (contact Laurence Devlin)

Third Tuesday Lunch Club (contact Catherine Harding)



Sunday 26th June

Church Anniversary

10am service



followed by lunch

at the home of Ann & Roger Bettes

7 Anson Close Wheatley



Talk Your Walk

Pendle Hill – by Jim Watson



Pendle Hill is a prominent hill on the Lancs/Yorks border easily viewed from Burnley on one side and from Clitheroe on the other side. The photo shows the south side of Pendle Hill viewed from the top of Noggarth Hill. The south side has two footpaths and is the main route for climbing. The paths are easy to follow but quite steep in places. Pendle is 557 metres above sea level with a prominence of 396 metres. So it is quite a climb!

Until my mid-twenties I lived in Barrowford, a village some 3 miles from the south side of Pendle, with Noggarth Hill in between. The usual starting point to climb Pendle is the village of Barley at the foot of Pendle, but in the spring of 1962 I climbed Pendle 3 times in one week from my home which is about 3 miles from Barley. The reason for this was a training exercise in anticipation of attempting the '3 peaks' in Yorkshire – Ingleborough, Wharfedale and Pen-y-ghent. I needed the training because I had failed to complete the 3 peaks climb in 1960 and 1961!

There is a tradition of groups climbing the hill on Good Friday and this is quite popular if the weather is good. If my memory is correct I only took part on one occasion in 1954! The hill is also famous for its connection to the Lancashire Witches who lived in the villages around the hill – several books have been written about the witches.

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1st Thursday in the month

You are welcome to

Morning Coffee or Tea



Between 10.00am -12.00noon

bring a friend for

Fresh Coffee, Tea, Cakes, Biscuits & Chat

in

Wheatley URC Church Hall

Blended Service Rotas for June 2022

Dates	Worship Leader	Vestry	Welcomer Door/Steward	Reader	Prayers
5th	Rev Colin Thompson H.C	Moira Watson	Ann Gajda	Tom Goss	Liz Barry
12th	Richard Bainbridge	Malcolm Benson	Charles Bennett	Angela Holdaway	Ellen Webster
19th	Laurence Devllin	Elaine Matejtschuk	Ann Hardiman	Marian Mole	Christine Bainbridge
26th	Ray Stanyon Church Anniversary	Liz Barry	Ann Bettess	Moira Watson	Ann Hardiman

Common Lectionary Readings June 2022

Note: leaders may choose to use other readings

Date	June 5th	June 12th	June 19th	June 26th
First Reading	Acts 2: 1-21	Proverbs 1-4 & 22-31	Isaiah 65: 1-9	1Kings 19: 15-16 & 19-21
Psalm	Psalm 104: 24-34 & 35b	Psalm 8	Psalm 22: 19-28	Psalm 16
New Testament	Romans 8: 4-17	Romans 5:1-5	Galatians 3: 23-29	Galatians 5:1 & 13-25
Gospel	John 14: 8-17	John 16:12-15	Luke 8:26-39	Luke 9: 51-62

June 5th: At Pentecost we think of diversity and unity. Tomorrow, Ini Kopuria is remembered for his work with his own people in Melanesia where he was concerned and acted against racism [died in 1945].

June 12th: Though she worked in silent stone, Barbara Hepworth continually explored the power of music ... her chosen epitaph was *Cantate Domino*.

June 19th: Seeing the real person.....individuality, including eccentricity, ought to be an option for anyone.

June 26th: Although the Emperor Constantine became a Christian as a young man, he waited until he was near to death to be a baptized Christian. Do you know why this was?

Richard Bainbridge

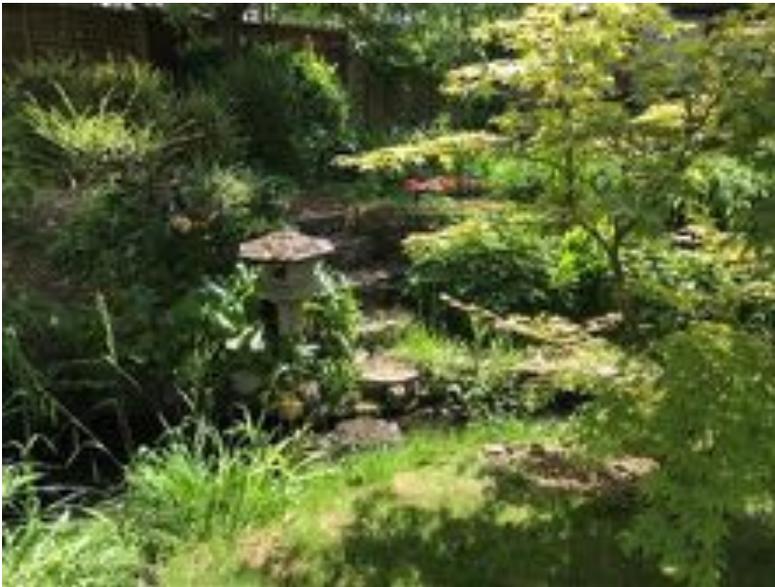
What Nourishes & Delights You?

My Garden - by Pat Simpson

There are many trees in my garden, and there is a squirrel which loves to run along the top of the fence every morning. I find little excavations in the grass where nuts have been buried by the squirrel, and he (or she) has come back to find the hazel nuts buried last year.

In the winter the hazel tree has catkins on it which are very pretty. The magnolia tree was pruned last year, and I am looking forward to seeing the beautiful waxy blossom which it produces in spring. Two beautiful Japanese Maples (Acer) grow beside the stream and the leaves are a lovely red colour. A very big dark red maple tree dominates one lawn.

There are two eating apple trees, Discovery, and I think a James Grieve and a Bramley cooking apple, all of which have lovely blossom early in Spring.



Unfortunately the very tasty Conference Pear tree got a disease called fire blight and it had to be destroyed, and the plum tree suffered from some problem which affected the fruit so that too had to go. I was sad.

There are four grassy areas. Some trees grow on the other side of the stream but at this moment I cannot name them. Several bamboo bushes grow against the fence.

As I write this, the snowdrops are plentiful in the garden and the daffodils will soon be blooming both in the back and front gardens, followed by 120 tulips planted two years ago. There are peonies in abundance and astilbe roses, and lots of other beautiful plants following each other as the time to bloom comes in season.

The man who was the first owner of the house when it was newly built, had a desire to copy the style of a Japanese garden, and there is a stream running through it. He drew up a plan on paper which is still in the house. He made a red hump backed type of bridge and a large building at the end of the garden to represent a Japanese Tea House. As that first owner was a Potter he used the Tea House as a pottery studio and made plaques to hang on the garden walls. The number of the house is on one plaque, and above the garage door is another plaque with what looks like his idea of what his garden looked like.



Over time the plants have changed or have been replaced. There are miniature replicas of Japanese Temples here and there and small standing stones at the corners of the paths. I believe a programme about gardens showed it on television after the layout was completed.

An urban fox wandered through looking for food and finding nothing, jumped over the wall into my neighbour's garden.

There are lots of little birds and doves have made a nest in the magnolia tree. A very large picture window allows me to sit looking out at nature's beauty as the seasons change.

It is good to enjoy living beside and being able to enjoy such a wonderful garden.

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Discernment Process for Choosing Elders 2022

As was the case in the earliest days of the church, we choose some of our number to work on our behalf, ensuring worship is held regularly and properly, providing pastoral care to members of the church meeting and friends of the church, and taking care of the resources of the church (money, building and so on). We call these people Elders and believe their role is sufficiently important in the life of the church, to hold them in that esteem recognised as 'ordination'. The process of discerning Elders is important, and the responsibility of the whole church expressed through the Church meeting, the fundamental body by which we in the URC govern ourselves. All members of the church are entitled to attend and vote at Church Meeting. This process is designed to encourage all of us to take part and focuses on discernment and a sense of call.

The whole Church community is challenged to consider whether they themselves, or another has the gifts, talents and skills to enable them to fulfil the role of Elder and everyone is encouraged and given time to take part in the discernment process. If anyone would like to discuss a nomination or find out more about what it means to be an elder, then please speak to an elder. A leaflet outlining the role and responsibilities to Wheatley URC is available and training is offered to those who are considering this call. We do not have a fixed number of active elders, but ideally for a church of this size we ought to have about 8 - 10 so we are seeking several new or returning elders. This is a great opportunity for us to refresh our eldership team as well as allow those who have worked so hard for our church for so many years to rest, refresh and reconnect.

We are seeking up to 3 or 4 additional elders this year. In this church, Elders are called to serve actively for up to three years, after which time, whilst they remain an elder, they retire from actively serving for at least a year, after which time they might be called to serve again. This year, Liz Barry is due to complete her current term in September: We are all extremely grateful for everything she has contributed during this time. Those continuing as elders are: for another year: **Elaine Matejtschuk**, and for another 2 years: **Ann Gajda, Robert Harding, Malcolm Benson, Moira Watson**. Additionally, the Church Secretary, **Phyllis Williams** and the Church Treasurer, **Chris Shelley** are serving elders.

The process we use has been updated in line with the URC procedure 'Safer Election of Elders'. The full policy document is available at: <https://wheatleyurc.org.uk/policy-documents/>.

In summary, the process is that during **June** the **congregation** consider prayerfully and **nominate** those whom they think God may be calling to the role of Elder for the next three years. The only criterion is that ***the person nominated must be a member of Wheatley URC and preferably have been a member for more than a year.***

Anyone who worships with us as well as church members is encouraged to suggest a church member either by completing a printed nomination slip (below) and dropping it in the box at Church or the Church postbox, by email to secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk or by telephone 01865 876288. The nomination does not need signatures but when nominating please speak to the nominee first and ask them to take time to reflect carefully before responding.

The deadline for nominations is **Sunday 26th June.**

Following this, Elders will arrange conversations with those nominated to ensure they understand the role and responsibilities and bring the names of those agreeable to the Church Meeting on **July 10th** so that we may all pray for guidance during the summer in discerning those who are being called at this time. In this way the whole church with God's help will share in the prayerful discernment of our Elders.

At the Annual Church Meeting on **25th September** church members will be invited to consider the names of those whose call to Eldership has been discerned, and, after an opportunity for prayerful reflection, to elect those discerned to be called at this time.

Phyllis Williams

Wheatley URC Elders Nomination 2022

I would like to nominate _____
to consider serving as an elder of Wheatley URC.
I have mentioned to them that I wish to put their name forward.

Please submit before Sunday 26th June to at the church or by emailing secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk or by phoning 01865 876288.

Across the Pond



We have just seen this image on a wall end in New York. In the spirit of Zimbabwe and our Care for the World it reads: "I am not interested in competing with anyone. I hope we make it." Her hand gesture is like a yoga mudra gesture, this one reflecting the unity of universal and individual consciousness, (i.e. our interdependence).

Rob and Angela Holdaway

Active Faith - by Philip Sudworth

Why search for God enthroned above,
'Mid distant stars where angels soar?
Why look for him in ancient times,
Or far off lands beyond our shore?
O Lord, who once was homeless child,
And man in pain on gallows tree,
May we see you in those who hurt,
The destitute, the refugee.

Why wait for God to intervene,
To right the wrong, to reign supreme,
With flaming sword or angel hosts,
At hour unknown, a distant dream?
O Lord, our time to act is now,
So grant us gifts that we can share;
By channelling love, may we in turn,
be your response to someone's prayer.

© Philip Sudworth 2008

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Deadline

Wednesday 15th June 2022 is the deadline for the July Newsletter. Please send copy to: newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk Paper copy can be given to Bobbie Stormont. If you type your contribution and send via email, please type it in Calibri font and size 11. Thank you.

Disclaimer

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

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Contribute to our Newsletter?

Talk Your Walk

Over the last year, several members of our community have shared a walk they have been on. These walks have been enormously varied and not always on two feet! All have been so interesting and enjoyable to read, capturing our imaginations. If you would like to share a walk or part of a walk you have been on, maybe you stopped to look at something that caught your attention on your walk, we would love to hear from you.

OR

What delights you? What nourishes you?

In our June edition Pat Simpson has shared her garden with us, a garden that brings her much delight and pleasure.

What delights you? What nourishes you? Do you feel inspired to write a short piece or even a few lines for our next newsletter?

All contributions to newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk



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CHURCH CONTACTS

Non-Stipendiary Minister: Revd. Cara Heafey
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Church website: www.wheatleyurc.org.uk