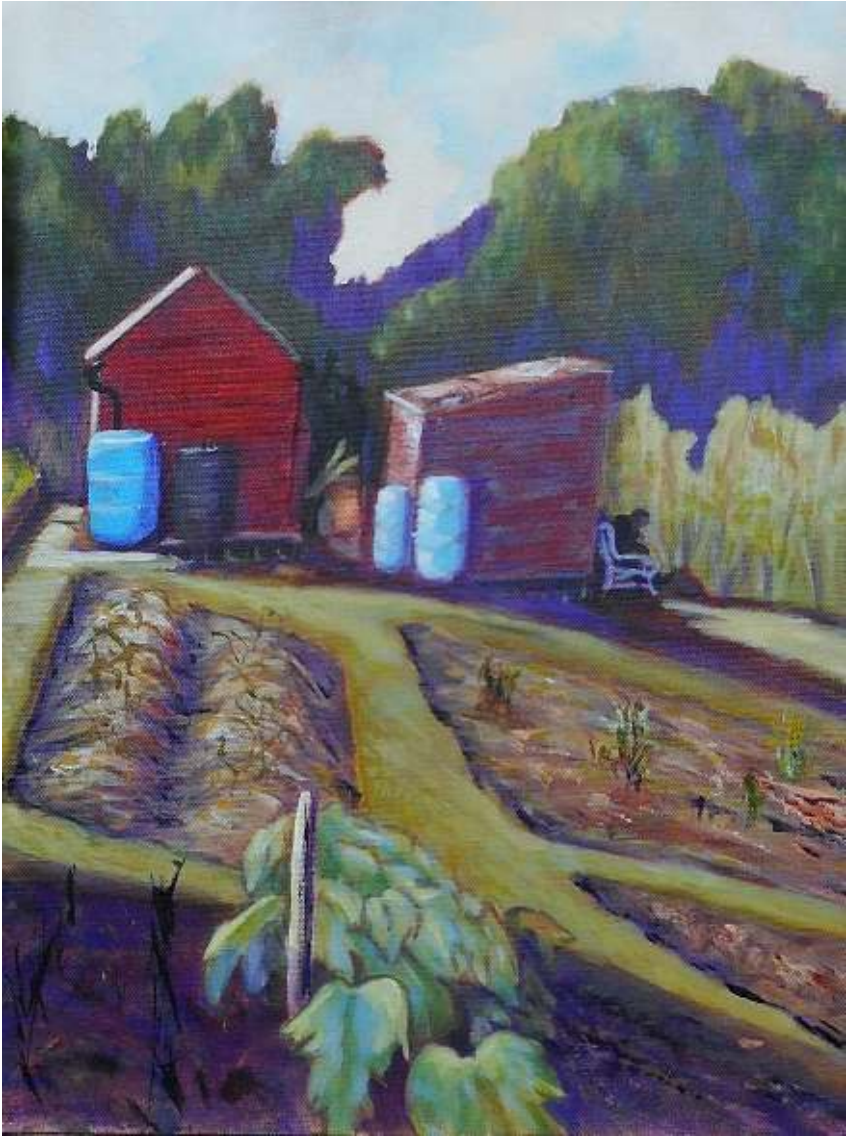


WHEATLEY URC NEWSLETTER



October 2022

Covering Thoughts

Over the past month I have rediscovered the Howe. Evening has been my time of visiting and I rarely find another soul there, so it is restful and solitary. Wanting to include a barn in one of my paintings I decided that a shed would do instead and having completed one picture I could not stop.

What do you do when stress and the problems of the world fill your mind? I find that I begin to long for an escape. The Howe is a place not restricted to labour it is also a place to escape and the shed could be seen as a sanctuary.

It seems such a selfish thing, to seek to escape the stress and responsibilities of life, but it is quite the opposite. An escape from a situation to a place of sanctuary from time to time is essential in order to be able to stay in that situation and to function better. In that quiet space it is easier to remember the things that are important and the people who are most dear. Rest and reflection enable a return with renewed energy and wisdom to live better.

There can be a danger in thinking that we will find happiness outside of us. Of course, there is happiness in beautiful surroundings and the company of friends, but true happiness arises from an inner attitude which can embrace even the hardships of life. This comes from the inner sanctuary of our being which needs tending from time to time or the constant clutter of living with its daily stresses hides it.

Most important is to recognize that wanting to escape is not simply for ourselves but also for others. If we only bring our distracted minds with their tension and clutter to others, we sell them short. The best gift to bring to another is the silence in us, a silence of acceptance and listening. So that we become a living place of refuge and sanctuary for them.

Christine



Pastoral Letter

It has been 50 years since the inauguration of the United Reformed Church on 5th October 1972.

For those of us old enough to remember it does not seem to have been so very long ago. But what is it like to look forward half a century? Where did we imagine we would be in 2022?

Turning this round: can you even imagine now what life will be like 50 years from now, in 2072? What will the village look like? Will Wheatley URC still exist? Will the URC as a whole exist? For some of us the answer will be “I will not be around to see it” but we can all wonder what the future will bring, if not for ourselves then for the young people around us.

Ellen and I have been putting some work into getting some order into our ‘Church Office’, gathering back church records which were taken out of the church before demolition of the old church office and vestry, refurbishment of the hall and construction of the Mulberry Room. This is work that should have been done soon after we took possession of the new Mulberry Room but, as we are all too well aware, other priorities arose in the form of a global pandemic!

In the course of archiving old records, we came across the minutes of the first church meeting of the new Wheatley United Reformed Church on 12th October 1972 and the first Elders meeting on 12th October as well as a constitution dated August 1974.

Six ‘objects’ are given in that constitution:

- 1. To extend and realise the Kingdom of God by every means possible in the Community.*
- 2. To promote New Testament principles of church fellowship and organisation in all the departments of the church's life.*
- 3. To educate children and young people in the meaning of discipleship in Christ, and the privileges of membership in his church.*
- 4. To offer a variety of social activities which will help the church and bring members and friends into the happier Christian fellowship.*

5. *To provide regular services of worship for the public, and ministration of the following special services; Churching (upon request), Infant dedication, baptism, membership admission, marriage, burial or cremation, ordination of elders.*
6. *To celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion at least once a month and at Christian festivals as announced. The invitation to the Lords table to be extended to all who love the Lord and wish to join in celebration.*

So how were they doing all this? Just a couple of items strike me when reading these documents:

The minutes of the first elders meeting records: “Mrs Davies’ absence was through no fault of her own and Mr Hickey records his apology to her and to the meeting for not fetching her.”

--- This makes me think of all those who regularly and occasionally help people to attend church, events or meetings through offering lifts and give thanks for them.

“Young Members. All three girls were taking a course of instruction now and showing a lot of enthusiasm and interest.” In a later meeting these girls are named and are offered associate membership while they continue their instruction.

--- This makes me think of our Youth and Families project and wonder if we should revisit the concept of associate membership.

And from the minutes of the first Church Meeting:

“The Rev Hubert Brazier had approached Rev Brock as to the possibility of holding an evening get together. It was agreed that a further date should be arranged as 20th October was not suitable. The suggestion was a 3 part programme. 1st Discussion probably Women Ministers. 2nd 45minutes of entertainments. 3rd A Discotech.”

--- This sounds a very ambitious programme – did it materialise? If so did they do all that in one evening?

More generally in all of these meetings and the constitution they were thinking about the new role of elders and how this differed from the previous role of deacons and how other church members could contribute to the smooth running of the church.

The concept of elders’ pastoral lists was introduced, and we have come to appreciate the unique contribution to church life that this system gives us.

So, all in all, not a lot different to us today.

And finally, the Church Secretary Mr Bruce Shepherd agreed to continue in office until the AGM in 1973, despite having considered resigning just a few months previously due to 'lack of support' in the work he had to do.

--- Was it then that the 'Jobs List' came about? Now almost everyone who is able to help in small and larger ways contributes to the running of this church. Some are named – but lots of people do small tasks quietly and without drawing attention to themselves. Thank you especially to those who see something needs to be done and do it.

Blessings on you.

Phyllis

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The background of the poster features a board game board with hexagonal tiles. Some tiles are green, some are brown, and some are blue. There are several circular tokens with numbers on them, such as 6, 10, 11, 6, 3, 4, and 2. The board is set against a blue background with a white floral pattern.

Wheatley URC Presents:

**Family Board Game Café
Monthly @ URC Hall
From Sunday 9th Oct
2:30pm - 5pm**

**Learn new games from experts
Bring your favourites,
find new ones**

**Free entry, refreshments available
for donation**

More info: kevin@kbetts.com

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International Bible Reading Association

The Bible reading notes called Fresh From The Word, which the IBRA publishes every year, bring you daily thoughts and meditations from theologians, scholars, creative writers, church leaders and activists from around the world. The cost for next year's notes has, of course, risen and will be £15 for the year but well worth the outlay as they bring new insights and experiences. Each week brings a new theme, each day a new approach.

If you would like to order a copy for 2023, please sign the list in the hall or let Ann Hardiman know.

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Prayers

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

Also remember members of the Worship Ministry Team; Laurence Devlin, Pauline Shelley, Colin Thompson, Allison Towner, Liz Barry and Robert Harding.

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CELEBRATION
Of
ONE WORLD

FRIDAY 21st OCTOBER, 5.30-7.30pm
at
WHEATLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Crown Square

SONGS MUSIC READINGS DANCE
Finger Buffet

Donations towards Falcon School,
Zimbabwe

contact
Liz Barry: tel 01865 872293

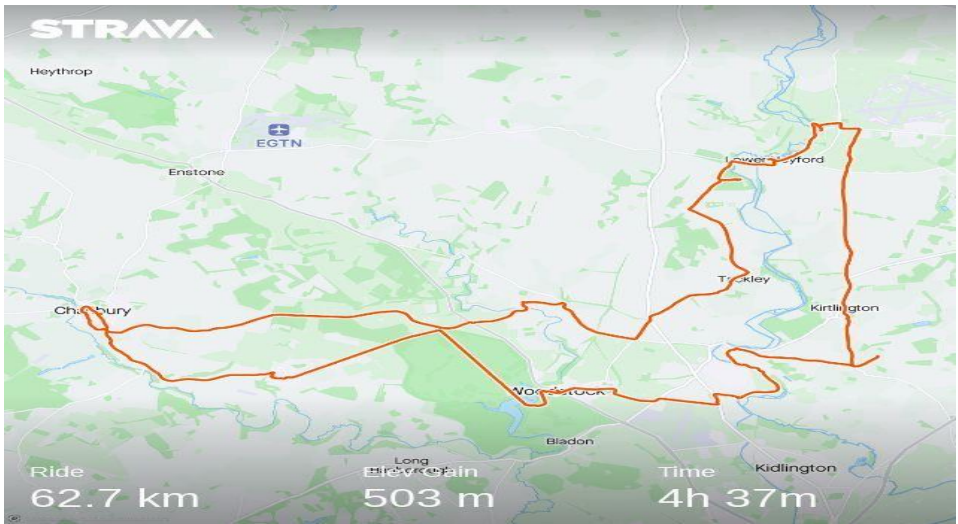
OXFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Ride & Stride Results 2022

Saturday September 10th turned out to be a good day for riding and striding, with virtually no rain and it not being too hot.

Wheatley URC did not manage to field a team of walkers this year, but **Jill and Gordon Ewbank** rode again on our behalf, covering about 40 miles and calling in at 20 churches in the North of the county, including Woodstock, Bletchingdon, Kirtlington, The Heyfords, Rousham, Tackley, Wootton and Charlbury. See them and their bikes outside Stonesfield Church and their route plan, in the photos below.





It is understood that they have raised **over £400** from their efforts, half of which should eventually find its way back to Wheatley URC's accounts for repair and maintenance purposes. They wish to thank all who helped in raising this fine total by sponsoring them.

We did, however, manage to field a good team of **WELCOMERS** and our grateful thanks go to those URC members (**Frances, Moira, Elaine & Mike, Wendy, Judith Ormston, Ann H, Sybil, Allison, Cynthia and Marian & Michael**) who each sat for an hour or more, to welcome riders and striders from other Oxfordshire churches. Sadly, only five Riders and Striders turned up this year at any of the Wheatley churches, indicating a poor overall turn out, possibly due to confusion as to whether the event was taking place or not, during the mourning period for our late Queen.

Tony Barry

Blended Service Rotas for October 2022

Dates	Worship Leaders	Readers	Intercessors	Vestry Elder	Welcomer/ Door Steward
2 nd	Mark Williams - Harvest Festival			Liz Barry	Elaine Matejtschuk/ Angela Holdaway
9 th	Richard Bainbridge	Tom Goss	Ann Bettess	Robert Harding	Moira Watson/ Tom Goss
16 th	Colin Thompson - HC	Phyllis Williams	Ann Hardiman	Ann Gajda	Liz Barry/ Bobbie Stormont
23 rd	Glynn Millington	Wendy Benson	Ellen Webster	Moira Watson	Malcolm Benson/ Peter Devlin
30 th	Pauline Main	Angela Holdaway	Christine Bainbridge	Elaine Matejtschuk	Robert Harding/ Rob Holdaway

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Deadline

12th October is the deadline for the November Newsletter. Please send copy to: newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk Paper copy can be given to Debi Kidd. If you type your contribution and send via email, please type it in Calibri font, 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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Common Lectionary Readings October 2022

Note: leaders may choose to use other readings

Date	2nd	9th	16th	23rd
First Reading	Habakkuk 1: 1-4 and 2: 1-4	2 Kings 5 : 1-3 and 7-15	Genesis 32: 22-31	Jeremiah 14: 7-10 and 19-22
Psalm	Psalm 37: 1-9	Psalm 111	Psalm 121	Psalm 84: 1-7
New Testament	2 Timothy 1: 1-14	2 Timothy 2: 8-15	2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4: 5	2 Timothy 4: 6-8 and 16-18
Gospel	Luke 17: 5-10	Luke 1: 11-19	Luke 18: 1-8	Luke 18: 9-14

Oct 2nd - Every painful event contains in itself a seed of growth and liberation (Anthony de Mello).

Oct 9th - Augustine in his Confessions understands memory as the place where we encounter ourselves.

Oct 16th - All this beauty that haunts us comes by revelation to those who are able to hear it (Richard Holloway).

Oct 23rd - The parable for today is one of misplaced confidence by some and absolute dependency by others.

Richard Bainbridge

Dates for Your Diaries

Weekly

Monday 8:45am	Mindfulness Sitting Group (contact Mark Williams Tel 876288)
Thursday 8:45am	Mindfulness Sitting Group (contact Mark Williams Tel 876288)
Friday 10am	Table Tennis (contact Val Farmer)

Monthly

Alternate Mondays (9 th & 23 rd May)	Not So Young Club (contact Frances Simpson)
First Thursday	Prayer and Reflection 10:00am followed by coffee (contact Liz Barry & Barbara Joiner)
Second Thursday	Memory Café (contact Laurence Devlin)
Second Tuesday	Lunch Club (contact Laurence Devlin)
Third Tuesday	Lunch Club (contact Catherine Harding)





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

CHURCH CONTACTS

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