

WHEATLEY URC NEWSLETTER



February 2023

Covering Thoughts

Recently a friend inspired me to paint the four elements – earth, air, fire, and water. Each seemed a rich focus for reflection so I thought that I could make them the subject of Covering Thoughts for the next months.

Water

If we allow water to be our teacher, we see an example of softness and strength. Always finding a way, it flows effortlessly over and around obstacles, smoothing roughness in its path. Yet in its quality of stillness, it shows transparency and reflectivity. This humble element is a source of all life.

Some of us may be familiar with Rilke's words about the river and it may be helpful to see them in the context of the whole poem.

All that has never been spoken

I believe in all that has never yet been spoken.

*I want to free what waits within me
so that what no one has dared to wish for
may for once spring clear
without my contriving.*

*If this is arrogant, God, forgive me,
but this is what I need to say.*

*May what I do flow from me like a river,
no forcing and no holding back,
the way it is with children.*

*Then in these swelling and ebbing currents,
these deepening tides moving out, returning,*

*I will sing you as no one ever has,
streaming through widening channels
into the open sea.*

Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)

Any suggestions of short poems or quotations for the other elements will be welcomed.

Christine

Pastoral Letter

Is it Fairtrade Fortnight again?

Even those of us with a long-time commitment to Fairtrade sometimes think, 'Well is it actually worth it?' Or will the amoral outcome of market forces inevitably determine everyone's level of material comfort and experience of the world of work?

It's 86 years since FD Roosevelt in his first inaugural address said:

'The joy and moral stimulation of work must no longer be forgotten in the mad chase for evanescent profits'

Jesus is never recorded as despising life's everyday comforts, and indeed when Luke records his hypocritical enemies claiming he was a bit of a party animal, part of Jesus' response is:

'When you give a dinner or a banquet, don't invite your friends and family and relatives and rich neighbours. If you do, they will invite you in return, and you will be paid back. When you give a feast, invite the poor, the paralyzed, the lame, and the blind. They cannot pay you back. But God will bless you and reward you when his people rise from death .

I wondered how far we are from meeting this spiritual goal. Compared to the vast majority of people living on the earth at the moment, our lives could be seen as very luxurious. Things we take for granted aren't actually necessities.

I am lucky that my mum was sound in memory to her final days, and I was able to record her memories on tape. As someone who assumed that from early in the last century everyone had access to electric lighting and radio, I was taken aback to learn that though born in 1926, she grew up with gaslights in the house and it wasn't until the oldest of her four siblings took leave from the regular army in India that he bought the family their first radio. I reached adulthood in a family with no car and no phone.

If we think we're badly treated a few figures from Fairtrade Foundation, looking at just one farmed commodity may open our eyes. The commodity market for coffee is inherently unstable, characterised by wide fluctuations in price, worsened by climate change and a complex supply chain as coffee passes through the hands of growers, traders, processors, exporters, roasters and retailers (I think

that's six stages). In the 1970s about 20% of the retail value of coffee sold in the shop went to the producer, almost always a small farmer. By 1994, just between 1-3 % of the price of a cup of coffee sold in a café in the USA and just 2-6% of the cost of a supermarket bag or jar here went to the producers.

Yet 80% of the coffee worldwide still comes from 25 million smallholders, with 125 million people (twice UK's population) altogether dependent on coffee growing for their livelihood, an average therefore of five workers per smallholding to fuel an industry which has an annual value of 102 billion, yes billion, dollars.

Meanwhile, of the companies who were pressing the government so urgently to re-open their locked-down coffee shops, against the advice of public health officials, Costa Coffee were able in 2021 to retain their average profit in the UK of over £1 billion pounds a year, while Starbucks worldwide made an annual 2021 profit during fullscale pandemic of 4.2 billion dollars

All is not lost. Kietra Kyosiimire of Uganda is a coffee grower and a qualified accountant. She faces climate change challenges but remains optimistic because the Fairtrade Premium on her coffee has produced local schools, as well as empowering women to work in higher management levels. Children who had no school at all within reachable distance in these very rural areas now benefit from a scholarship scheme where two young people from each co-operative are sent to university each year.

Green coffee (beans produced ready for exporting and roasting) fetches a higher and more stable price but is only an option for farmers who can form a co-operative such as those encouraged by the Fairtrade Foundation. Fairtrade coffee today must produce a minimum of \$1.40 per pound for the grower, 30 cents more if organic, plus the 20 cent Fairtrade premium, which must be used to improve conditions locally. 'Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.' James' Epistle chapter 5

Please, friends, be aware of the ethical element of being a consumer. It is worth it.

Mike Matejtschuk

'Turn back, o man' by Clifford Bax

Turn back, O man, forswear thy foolish ways.
Old now is earth, and none may count her days.
Yet thou, her child, whose head is crowned with flame,
Still wilt not hear thine inner God proclaim,
Turn back, O man, forswear thy foolish ways.

Earth might be fair, and all men glad and wise.
Age after age their tragic empires rise,
Built while they dream, and in that dreaming weep:
Would man but wake from out his haunted sleep,
Earth might be fair and all men glad and wise.

Earth shall be fair, and all her people one:
Nor till that hour shall God's whole will be done.
Now, even now, once more from earth to sky,
Peals forth in joy man's old undaunted cry—
Earth shall be fair, and all her folk be one!

Submitted by Mike Matejtschuk

~*~

Games Café - Continued

After setting up our Family Board Games Café for the first time in October we hosted three more delightful afternoons of games and other crafty activities in November, December and January.

Families with younger and older children as well as individual gamers have been coming in - some for the first time, others we already know from the previous times - so many in fact that we've even spilled out into the church on one occasion!

A brave group of players dared to enter and explore a dangerous cave swarming with goblins on their first Dungeons and Dragons campaign together while 3D-printed miniatures of their characters were being painted at the neighbouring table.

The Mulberry Room provided a space for the older kids to play their own games like trying to find out and vote the aliens off the spaceship that infiltrated the rest of the crew or carrying out epic rap battles against each other.

We're excited for the next time which will be February the 12th.

Elisa Pizzo



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# Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February, morning worship will be led by the Care for the World team.

Following the service, during coffee time, a Fairtrade stall will be running.

We will celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight with a shared lunch at approximately 12.30pm in the hall. Details will be posted on the noticeboard.

Please bring cash to spend.

Care for the World Team

~\*~

## Prayers

**Please remember in your prayers the members of Moira Watson's pastoral group;** Pat Howard, Bev Paton & Family, Jen Yeates, Jean Boxall, Pat Simpson, Ann & Roger Bettess and Siobhan Fraser & Alyn Shipton.

**Also remember members of the Pastoral Care Ministry Team;** Ann Bettess, Jean Boxall, Angela Holdaway, Barbara Joiner & Frances Simpson.

~\*~

# New Year Resolutions

Richard began his service on 8<sup>th</sup> January by reading the following which is taken from, "Nothing Too Religious" by Andrew Pratt and Marjorie Dobson.

## Greet each new day with hope

Greet each new day with hope.  
Live each new day with courage.  
Share each new day with others.  
End each new day with prayer.  
Sleep and peace will bless you.

Richard commented that it could be seen as a new year's resolution.

I am always keen to start the new year with some goals whether they be health, relationship or personal development related. I usually start the year by buying a new journal and writing my aims or goals inside the front cover.

When I look back over these journals, I do see themes – eat less and move more being two! I note with relief that I have managed to embed some into my daily life including – practise French every day, maintain regular and meaningful contact with siblings and close friends and enjoy walks in our lovely countryside (often with coffee en route).

According to time management firm FranklinCovey, one third of resolutions don't make it past the end of January. A lot of these resolutions fail because they're not the right resolution and it's usually wrong for one of three main reasons.

- It's a resolution created based on what someone else (or society) is telling you to change
- It's too vague
- You don't have a realistic plan for achieving your resolution.

I found, via the internet, that the five most common new year resolutions are.

- Exercise more
- Eat healthier
- Lose weight
- Save more money



- Spend more time with family and friends

All of which are vague and not inspiring.

However, I have also found some more unusual resolutions which may inspire you!

- Learn something you never learned as a child
- Try a new food/recipe each week
- Make the usual unusual ( do one small thing differently each week)
- Do something nice for others every day
- Read more books
- Commit to a healthier sleep routine
- Join a club
- Learn to love vegetables
- Become a plant owner
- Take the stairs
- Decorate with family history (in happy and long-lived cultures displaying items from their families' past helps them to honour and remember where they come from)
- Delegate more chores
- Give yourself a new look

All these and quite a few others, together with an explanation of each, can be found at [www.goodhousekeeping.com](http://www.goodhousekeeping.com) .

I've written down my aims for the year along with the prayer from Richard's service which I find very motivating.

A Happy New Year to you all.

Debi Kidd

# Coffee Break Lenten Word Search

C X H U L L A E O J Q D K P L H G F D C Z J T H  
P Q H Y N X Z W P D N W N R Y H H Q I F F U Z V  
Z X E K O O R I A A C B T A L J F O N U P I M Z  
U Z C D E S E R T J W J L Y K K Y K W N V H H K  
C U Q K C P D T Q L Q E Y A R N G Y G G U L E E  
R W K S X G A X G G M F Q D Z F F B R L F Q Q B  
O E W B M I W S L Z V E G G Y B F R P U O G U A  
S Q D T X C E A O A I O B E Q Q X Z L A L U Z L  
S T N R B W I C V I P A C T T R A H D X L F K I  
M U I J Z K U R E K R H B M J A Z A D A O D W M  
K U J N T P F I I D J H A G Y R D U P U W Q L J  
M J Y I S T H F H S S E A S O N X X M E B I X W  
L E Y X C V G I U R G V Q L E H L A S H E S E S  
E B V E X A E C T E S X P R E P A R E W X P Z H  
Y F M L R E M E M B E R Q H H O L K C Z N K D E  
D Q Y C D X U J G U M D W H C R U S U L N W Q D  
C T N X V I B E Z C T V M N Y N J Q M E V W F Q  
H S P D C I I J Z P Z H P N D D R E B N K X F Q  
T Z I B H I P S X R N J A W P Q O C L T F R K J  
E J K C J M V B I R G O C N S A Y E Y E H I I Y  
K X W C B T D F J E S U S F V N X R V K R B W D  
L B F L R E Y B N S B Y C T R F F V R Z G U B L  
U A O I V N N V I V R Q S F R K K W S L W E Y L  
A Y F M C G B U S A O M X T U R A V M E B B B Z

LOVE

SACRIFICE

REMEMBER

PREPARE

DESERT

FOLLOW

SEASON

LENT

JESUS

ASHES

CROSS

PRAY

~\*~

# New Year Walk - January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

A group of 19 URC members and Elaine Parsons from St Mary's set out from Crown Square at 10.00 am on the Bank Holiday Monday, following New Year's Day, to proceed up Mulberry Drive and along Beech Road to the narrow footpath at the beginning of Farm Close Road leading up to Kelham Hall Drive and thence to Ladder Hill, up as far as Windmill Lane.

Having turned into Windmill Lane we proceeded almost to the very end (well beyond The Windmill) where we found a gap in the hedge into an "abandoned" field, where dogwalkers have created a footpath to the lowest (and wettest!) corner of the field, to emerge onto the Littleworth Hill. We carefully walked to the nearby corner, opposite the former Wheatley URC Manse (thoughts of Tanya and Joel and family) and crossed over the road to gain access to The Littleworth Nature Reserve, a former railway cutting.

Some chose to walk in the sunlight of the open fields adjacent to the nature reserve, whilst the remainder of us continued into the reserve, mostly keeping to the higher, wooded and tree-rooted footpath (Pauline and Chris detouring on the lower, wetter path via the old tunnel entrance), proceeding to a small field gate at the top end of the reserve, where the group all came together again. At this point, three members headed back towards Littleworth and the rest of us re-joined the road at Gidley Way, shortly turning into Sandy Lane to proceed towards Shotover Country Park.

The track became increasingly muddy as we approached the reservoir at the top of Shotover Old Road, but we made it through without getting too bogged down! At this point we met two members of Wheatley Community Church (Karl and his daughter) commencing a dog walk. Here, the party split into two – some staying on Old Road back towards the village and the remainder taking the longer and slightly more scenic route down The Avenue towards Shotover House, passing, en-route, Wendy and Tony Wigley of St Mary's, being exercised by their new, tiny and most attractive Miniature Pinscher puppy, before we swung right past the Shotover Farm buildings, on into Westfield and back into the village.

On arrival at the newly re-instated Sun PH (unfortunately closed for the day) we met and chatted awhile with former Primary School Head, Clive Hallett, before we headed back into the village.

All in all, a very satisfactory and ecumenical morning's walking, with the bonus of some rare winter sunshine, completed within the two hours scheduled for arrival in good time for our deliciously varied shared lunch, in Laurence and Peter's comfortable and welcoming High Street home.

Total distances walked, for the two routes, probably between 4 and 5 miles, each, respectively.

Tony Barry



Walking through the nature reserve at Littleworth



Stopping for a polo break!



The Avenue on a beautiful January day



# Deadline

15<sup>th</sup> February is the deadline for the March Newsletter. Please send copy to: [newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk) Paper copy can be given to Debi Kidd. Please type all contributions 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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# Blended Service Rotas for February 2023

| <b>Dates</b> | <b>Worship Leaders</b>     | <b>Readers</b> | <b>intercessors</b> | <b>Vestry Elder</b> | <b>Welcomer/<br/>Door<br/>Steward</b> |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5th          | Colin Thompson – Communion | Rob Holdaway   | Malcolm Benson      | Malcolm Benson      | Elaine Matejtschuk/<br>Ann Hardiman   |
| 12th         | Richard Bainbridge         | Robert Harding | Barbara Joiner      | Ann Gajda           | Chris Shelley/<br>Pauline Shelley     |
| 19th         | Care for the World Team    | Ellen Webster  | Ann Bettess         | Charles Bennett     | Malcolm Benson/<br>Barbara Joiner     |
| 26th         | Mark Williams              |                |                     | Ellen Webster       | Robert Harding/<br>Allison Towner     |

~\*~

# Animals

I had never had any animals in my life until I went to Shetland in August 1939, to live with my Granny who was acting as a housekeeper to her brother who owned a croft there. Although he was my granduncle, we dropped the grand bit and always referred to him as uncle, as my mother did.

Uncle was keen on shooting and had a black Labrador dog to fetch the ducks which he shot. He did not want us to play with the dog, as it was a working dog, and it was kept in a kennel behind the house.

When the 'Home Guard' was formed, my uncle joined and handed over his two guns to the organisation to defend the country, should they be required.

My sister wanted to play with the dog, so Uncle got a small Shetland sheepdog for her, called Peerie (meaning small, in Shetland dialect), and Fell, the Labrador who was never allowed in the house, was kept in his kennel, unless Uncle wanted to take him out.

I was not particularly interested in the dog, and there were cats allowed to sit on the window ledge in the porch, that was as far as they were allowed to get into the house, never past the inner house door. I still have the idea that cats are outdoor animals. I do not dislike them, but I do feel that cats should not be in the house.

One day one of the cats named Buckie did get into the house and had kittens in my mother's best hat in the bottom of the wardrobe, the door of which must have been left open. My mother was not pleased, to say the least.

There were hens which I liked to feed with kibbled maize and oats, and sometimes Granny would boil up scraps and potato peelings (the smell was horrible) but the hens seemed to like it, and I liked gathering the eggs.

Uncle had a flock of sheep which had to be annually dipped in a big bath of yellow liquid, and that operation was fun to watch. It was lovely in spring to see the little lambs frolicking in the field, but one day when Uncle was out with Fell, the dog somehow got away from him, and arrived home with a live lamb, quite unharmed, in his mouth. There was trouble! Who owned the lamb? It was difficult, impossible in fact, to find out. I think the dog was following the training it had

been taught and as uncle did not shoot ducks anymore, the dog carried the lamb back home.

The lamb was given to me to look after, and I never saw Fell again. Uncle was angry with the dog and could not risk him doing that again, so Fell disappeared. I was told "Ask no questions and you will be told no lies", so I could only guess, and I did not like the feeling I had.

Two days later I went to the paddock where the lamb was kept, to feed it with a bottle of warm milk, and I was just walking towards it when a big black headed gull swooped down and picked it up in its beak. The lamb was too heavy for the bird, and dropped it, but it fell very heavily and did not survive. I was so sad and came to realise that life can be very cruel sometimes.

Mainly we ate what was produced on the land around us, but we had been getting milk from a neighbour, when one day my mother suggested to granny and uncle that if he bought a cow, she would learn to milk it. That was how Claribel the cow came to live in the Butterfield Paddock and we got milk and cream and butter from her. I still only eat porridge if I have thick cream to put on it. My uncle liked the buttermilk to drink, but I did not, neither did I like the homemade butter, so my sister and I were allowed to have the ration of butter for the family which was bought from the grocer's van which came down the drive once a week.

My uncle was friendly with a man who bred Shetland Ponies, and sometimes ponies were brought over on the boat from the North Isles of Unst or Yell. Uncle lived in Dunrossness which is in the south of the mainland (the name of the largest of the Shetland islands.)

One day when the boat arrived in Lerwick from Unst one of the ponies fell into the dock, and she had a newly born foal with her, so it followed its mother into the water. The mother was too heavy to be saved, but the foal was rescued, and my uncle bought it for us, she was about the size of an Irish wolfhound dog. We had to look after her very carefully until she grew big enough, and strong enough for us to be able to ride her. My father suggested we should name her Marcia, which was the beginning of my sister Marjorie's name, and the end of Patricia, my name. I don't think she ever got her proper name because my mother said the pony was a silly little sausage and the nickname 'polony' the pony ,stuck.



Polony used to nibble the buttons off our coats, so we had buttonless coats when we went to her paddock.

She grew and became strong enough for us to ride bareback and had a will of her own. She ran away when she got the opportunity but would not cross water, (the bad experience when young had lingered in her mind, obviously) so we always could find her within an area bounded by streams. Unfortunately, when we returned to Glasgow we had to leave her behind. A sad parting, and she was sold to the father of a little girl we knew, eventually the money helped to buy my first bicycle.

Pat Simpson

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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 (6 th & 20 th)	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)

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# Falcon School New Year!

We donated a further £890 to the Falcon School at the end of last year and, as planned, it has instantly been put to **essential use** as part of **the school's new year's improvement and programme**.

The first priority was to improve the original 'rough-cut' flooring in the toilets ('smoother for cleaning') and one of the classrooms ('level floor helps!')... so here are photos of: a teacher thanking Wheatley URC for all our help; the resurfaced toilet floors and the work team somehow resurfacing the classroom floor!.....





**To quote Wilbert:** ... '(the teacher in the video) is thanking The Wheatley United Reformed Church in particular. I liked that because **this is work that was solely and specifically done by you.** May the good Lord continue to bless you.

Please convey my thanks and that of the Falcon School to the entire members of Wheatley. **I pray and so know that God is going to bless you for that'.**

Says it all ... what a great feeling to continue helping like that ...thank you to everyone ..

**Care for the World Team**

~\*~

# More from the archive

## Congregational Church, Wheatley, Oxon.

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The Church and Congregation worshipping in this Village during the last fifty years have had their work greatly hindered through the want of suitable accommodation for their various Societies during the week. Hitherto their small Chapel has been the only building available for all purposes, and there have met their Sunday School, Young People's Guild, Boys' Brigade, and other Societies. Through the liberality of some of their members, however, who have subscribed for the purpose, premises adjoining the Chapel have been now purchased, and by a Deed of March 19, 1897, have been conveyed to the Trustees of the Chapel, and on the like Trusts. The ground which has been purchased being a corner site, is eminently suitable for the erection of a Chapel, and the congregation have decided to erect a new Chapel on the spot, and to convert the present building into a Schoolroom and offices, the cost of which it is estimated will be, inclusive of the site and legal expenses, £700.

Another equally pressing want has been a Manse for the Minister, for whom it is at times impossible to rent a suitable residence in the neighbourhood. The erection of a Manse is also among the objects the Congregation will make special efforts to accomplish, and will require an additional £500.

It is hoped to raise *speedily* the amount required for the new Chapel, so that it may be opened before the winter, free of debt.

It is the intention of the Church to hold a Bazaar or Sale of Work in the Autumn, in the hope of raising a portion of the sum needed for these purposes, and the signatories to this circular beg to ask your assistance in the work to which they have put their hands.

The hope is indulged that some friends may direct their gifts into this channel, in commemoration of the Sixtieth Year of the Reign of our Most Gracious Sovereign VICTORIA R. & I.

Contributions of money or goods for the Bazaar will be thankfully received by any of the undersigned—

Mrs. J. PLOMMER, Mrs. J. HARRIS, Miss PIKE, Mrs. W. HANCOCK,  
Mr. C. SHEPHERD, Mrs. W. PUTT, Wheatley; or Miss KINGERLEE, Bridge  
House, Osney, Oxford.

JOHN PLOMMER, *Minister.*  
JOSHUA HARRIS, *Treasurer.*  
W. ILIFFE PIKE, *Secretary.*

WHEATLEY, *May, 1897.*

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – ALL ARE WELCOME

**FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH, 2pm at Wheatley URC**



*“I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH”*

Our sisters in Taiwan are sending us blessings with the service they have prepared for World Day of Prayer 2023. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan and encourage one another in our faith just as the apostle Paul did in his letters.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries around the world. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

For further information see the WDP website: [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk).

Refreshments with a Taiwanese flavour will be served after the service.

*Artwork by Hui-Wen Hsaio*

The women in the painting are sitting by a stream, praying silently and looking into the dark. Despite the uncertainty of the path ahead, they know that the salvation of Christ has come.

Two endangered species are featured: the Mikado pheasant and the black-faced spoonbill, which are both of unique significance to the Taiwanese people.

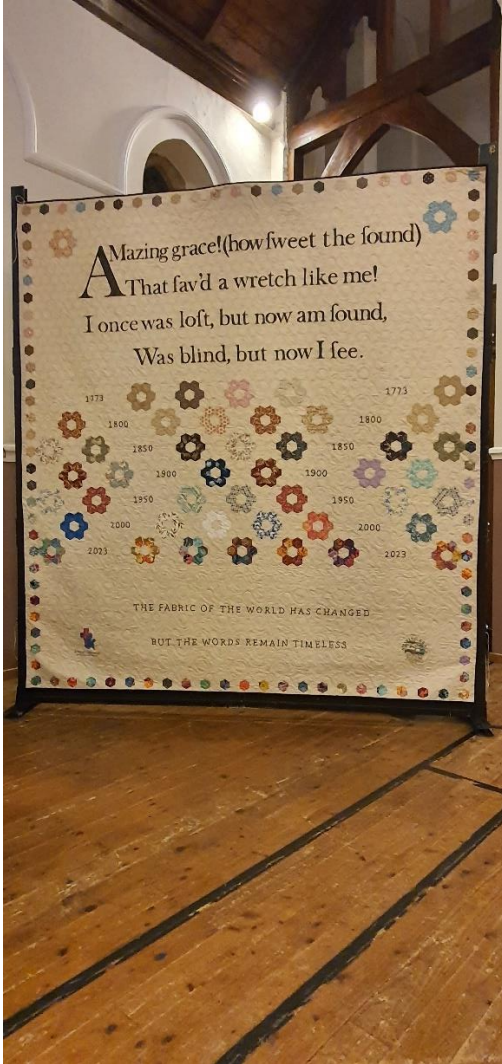
The green grass represents the Taiwanese as simple, confident, strong and under God's care. The Phalaenopsis (butterfly) orchids stand out against the dark background. They are the pride of Taiwan, which has a worldwide reputation as the "Kingdom of Orchids".



Ellen Webster



# Amazing Grace



The hymn 'Amazing Grace' which was written 250 years ago by John Newton, the minister in Olney, is being celebrated in the town in various ways. The minister of the United Reformed Church there, Reverend Derek Hopkins, is very much involved.

There is a tradition of quilt-making in the area, and Janette, his wife is very skilled in this art. Janette organised a group of volunteers to sew many patterns constructing a large quilt commemorating the 250th anniversary. People from all the churches in the area were involved in the design and contributed to the stitching (I did a little bit too!).

The quilt was completed just in time and is now on view in the Baptist Church in Olney, where it could be displayed more easily. I understand that it is shortly to go 'on tour' to various places so that it can be more widely enjoyed.

Allison Towner

# Common Lectionary Readings

## February 2023

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

| <b>Date</b>          | <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>12<sup>th</sup></b>      | <b>19<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>26<sup>th</sup></b>             |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>First Reading</b> | Isaiah 58:<br>1-9a     | Deuteronomy<br>30:<br>15-20 | Exodus 24:<br>12-18    | Genesis 2 :<br>15-17 and<br>3: 1-7 |
| <b>Psalm</b>         | Psalm 112:<br>1-9      | Psalm 119:<br>1-8           | Psalm 2                | Psalm 32                           |
| <b>New Testament</b> | Corinthians 2:<br>1-12 | 1 Corinthians<br>3: 1-9     | 2 Peter 1:<br>16-21    | Romans 5:<br>12-19                 |
| <b>Gospel</b>        | Matthew 5:<br>13-20    | Matthew 5:<br>21-37         | Matthew 7:<br>1-9      | Matthew 4:<br>1-11                 |

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> - Faith does not happen in a social vacuum. It is difficult to draw a line between the various situations in which we find ourselves.

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> - It is sometimes supposed that conduct is primary and worship tests it.... the truth is that worship is primary and conduct tests it'. [Michael Ramsey]

Feb 19<sup>th</sup> - There was a poster which said, 'I am afraid of the future'. Written underneath are the words 'Do not be afraid. I have been there before' [Jesus of Nazareth]:

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> - Disobedience, in the eyes of anyone who has read history, is man's original virtue. It is through disobedience that progress is made, through disobedience and through rebellion [Oscar Wilde]

Richard Bainbridge





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

**CHURCH CONTACTS**

*Non-Stipendiary Minister: Revd. Cara Heafey*  
*Email: [caraheafey@hotmail.com](mailto:caraheafey@hotmail.com)*

*Church Secretary: Phyllis Williams*  
*email: [secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wheatleyurc.org.uk)*

*Church website: [www.wheatleyurc.org.uk](http://www.wheatleyurc.org.uk)*