

# WHEATLEY URC NEWSLETTER



**June 2024**



# Covering Thoughts

*Walking in the fields in summer is to be surrounded by growth and promise of fruitfulness. The wheat and barley have sprouted and reach skyward, the wild seeds rejoice in their company, filling the gaps with colour and beauty. It is no wonder that Jesus illustrated his teaching using seeds and growth and over the years we may have become very familiar with their meaning. It was refreshing therefore to have this new interpretation to ponder from Steve Garnaas-Holmes.*

You are not just one seed.  
You don't have to go and die for Jesus.  
You are a whole bag of seeds.  
Strew yourself on the world.

With every act of kindness or generosity,  
every time you forgive,  
another seed slips through your fingers.  
Every time you care about someone,  
even a stranger, especially when it's risky,  
you scatter a handful of seeds.  
Let them go.  
Toss your love wildly into this world.

Scatter seeds in good soil and poor.  
Many will be eaten by birds  
or trampled under foot.  
But only the ones you throw away will grow.

You have a whole bag of love. Sow it all.

*The cover painting is called Holton Fields in summer.*

**Christine**

# Pastoral Letter

As I write this letter, I'm in the midst of preparations for our Pentecost Sunday worship, with the memories of our recent church away day at the Barns Centre in Thame fresh in my mind. Both of these have got me thinking about language and communication.

Someone at the away day asked the wonderful question, "our theology is broad, inclusive, open... but does the language of our liturgy reflect this?" Together we revisited our church's "mission statement", and some observed that some of the religious language within it may seem alien or "coded/secret" to those with little experience of church.

In May's Newsletter Jean and Debi raised awareness of accessibility for those living with hearing impairment. And Richard's pastoral letter spoke about a ministry to those "on the margins" and highlighted potential barriers to belonging.

I love that we are exploring and reflecting on these things together, always seeking to be a place of welcome, a place of safety, a place where all who wish to can participate fully, a place where questions and doubts are viewed as integral to a living, growing faith.

One of my favourite things about the story we remember and celebrate at Pentecost is the radical inclusion. The gift of the Holy Spirit is poured out lavishly and indiscriminately. Everyone is able to join in. They get to hear the Good News in language they understand and can relate to.

The way I see it, inclusive language isn't about policing our words for political correctness. It's about speaking honestly, from the heart, from our lived experience... valuing and listening to the insights of those on the margins, newcomers to our community and those with a different perspective from our own... and being playful and creative with language, allowing it to challenge our assumptions and stretch our imaginations.

Remembering, of course, there is more to our communication and worship than words! Silence, music, ritual, dance, visual arts, gesture, presence, hospitality, and love shown in practical ways are also powerful ways of communicating and connecting; with the divine, with one another, and with those seeking a place to belong.

Anyway, these are an assortment of my thoughts! Let's continue the conversation.

**Cara Heafey**

~\*~

## **Sunday Worship**

every week at 10am

You are warmly invited to join in person  
Crown Square, Wheatley

or online (Zoom – lines open 9:50am)

<https://tinyurl.com/SundayWorshipWheatleyURC>



**Everyone is welcome**

~\*~

## Getting Creative for Xtn Aid – 7 days, **so many ways**

What a creative community we have raising funds for Christian Aid week 12-18 May 2024. Amazing! At the time of going to press some challenges may yet to be completed so keep supporting everyone.



**BARBARA JOINER** baked 70 scones (plain, cheese & fruit), selling them for £1 each with jam and cream.

**WENDY BENSON** sang 70 songs at home.

**TONY BARRY** walked 10+ 7km walks making a total of 70k.

**FRANCES SIMPSON** played organ music for 70 minutes.

**TINA EVERETT** walked 70km in Yorkshire and elsewhere.



**ANN HARDIMAN** read 70 books – she did begin this challenge at Christmas time.

**GRAHAM BELL** cycled 70km.

**BRENDA BELL** planted 70 plants.

**CATHERINE HARDING** baked 70 peanut cookies.

**LIZ BARRY** walked 700 steps around Thame recreation field and knitted 7 squares in 7 days.



In next month's newsletter Tony and Liz will let us know how much everyone altogether raised for Christian Aid.

**Bobbie Stormont**

~\*~

# Common Lectionary Readings June 2024

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

Date	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>First Reading</b>	1 Samuel 3: 1-10	1 Samuel 8: 4-11 & 16-20	1 Samuel 15: 34 – 16 13	1 Samuel 17: 32-49	2 Samuel 1: 1 & 17-27
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 139; 1-6 & 13-18	Psalm 138	Psalm 20	Psalm 9: 9-20	Psalm 130
<b>New Test.</b>	2 Corinthians 4: 5-12	2 Corinthians 4: 13 5: 1	2 Corinthians 5: 6-12 & 14-17	2 Corinthians 6: 1-13	2 Corinthians 8: 7-15
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 2: 23 - 3: 6	Mark 3: 20-35	Mark 4: 26-34	Mark 4: 35-41	Mark 5: 21-43

June 2<sup>nd</sup> - The theme of feeding the hungry runs through the ministry of Jesus.

June 9<sup>th</sup> - In April 2023 there were 171 billionaires in the UK and 3 million food parcels distributed by The Trussell Trust between April 2022 and March 2023.

June 16<sup>th</sup> - The gospel invites us to slow down and to recognise that the important things in life take time.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> - We cannot abandon life because of its storms.

June 30<sup>th</sup> - Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone wrote W H Auden in his poem 'Funeral Blues'.

**Richard Bainbridge**

~\*~



# Dates for Your Diaries

## Weekly

Mon & Thurs 9.00am Mindfulness Sitting Group  
Mark Williams - [jmarkgwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:jmarkgwilliams@gmail.com)  
Friday 10am Table Tennis  
Val Farmer – [val\\_farmer40@hotmail.com](mailto:val_farmer40@hotmail.com)

## Monthly

Alternate Mondays (3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>) Not So Young Club  
Frances Simpson – [frances\\_simpson@icloud.com](mailto:frances_simpson@icloud.com)  
First Sunday Teas 2.30-4pm  
Ann Bettess – [annsgoog@gmail.com](mailto:annsgoog@gmail.com)  
First Thurs. 10am Prayers for the World  
Ann Hardiman – 01865 873485  
First Thurs. 10.30am Coffee Morning  
Barbara Joiner – [albarjoiner2@gmail.com](mailto:albarjoiner2@gmail.com)  
Third Thurs. 10.30am Coffee Morning  
Barbara Joiner – [albarjoiner2@gmail.com](mailto:albarjoiner2@gmail.com)  
Second Thursday 10am Memory Café  
Laurence Devlin – [laurencelalanne99@gmail.com](mailto:laurencelalanne99@gmail.com)  
Second Tuesday Picnic Club  
Val Farmer – [val\\_farmer40@hotmail.com](mailto:val_farmer40@hotmail.com)  
Third Tuesday Lunch Club  
Catherine Harding – [hardings64@btinternet.com](mailto:hardings64@btinternet.com)

## Attention all Teams

It is that time of year again when we need your Team's annual report for the AGM.

This year the AGM will take place on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> July.

The newsletter editor will need your reports by 14<sup>th</sup> June for them to be included in the July newsletter and so in time for the AGM.

Please send all reports to [newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk)

Many thanks!

# Blended Service Rotas for June 2024

Dates	Worship Leaders	Readers	Intercessors	Vestry Elder	Welcomer/ Door Steward
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Colin Thompson HC	Wendy Benson	Malcolm Benson	Malcolm Benson	Pauline Shelley/ Tom Goss
9 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Bainbridge	Alice Halliday	Christine Bainbridge	Bev Paton	Charles Bennett/ Bobbie Stormont
16 <sup>th</sup>	Laurence Devlin	Pauline Shelley	Barbara Joiner	Ellen Webster	Robert Harding/ Marian Mole
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mark Williams			Chris Shelley	Moira Watson/ Ann Bettess
30 <sup>th</sup>	Rebecca Dean Church Ann.	Catherine Harding	Liz Barry	Pauline Shelley	Malcolm Benson/ Barbara Joiner

Dates	Organist
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jeff Clarke
9 <sup>th</sup>	Frances Simpson
16 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Clarke
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Frances Simpson
30 <sup>th</sup>	Frances Simpson

~\*~

## Deadline

14<sup>th</sup> June is the deadline for the June 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.

~\*~

# Prayers

**Please remember in your prayers the members of Robert Harding's pastoral group:** Wendy Bailey, Charles & Sue Bennett, Ellen Webster, Angela & Rob Holdaway, Christine & Richard Bainbridge, Elaine & Mike Matejtschuk and Ann Hardiman.

**Also remember members of the Maintenance Ministry Team:** Tony Barry, Malcolm Benson, Tom Goss, Chris Shelley and Keith Kidd.

~\*~

## DIARY DATES



**KEEP THE DATES FREE**

**SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER – HARVEST FESTIVAL  
at SANDY LANE FARM with LUNCH**

**SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – Afternoon Tea in the Church  
Hall**

In celebration of several people's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthdays

~\*~

# Thanks

We'd like to express our deep gratitude to all for your warm love and support during our daughter Jen's illness and since the time of her death in March.

## Phyllis and Mark



This photo was taken when Jen was on holiday last year in her beloved van. Mark and Phyllis feel sure this is how she would like to be remembered.

\*\*\*

# A Weekend of Celebration

## June 29th-30th 2024

On Saturday 29th June there will be a service and reception at Mansfield College to celebrate the life of Rev Charles Brock who was minister at Wheatley URC for 35 years as well as chaplain and director of ordination training at Mansfield College. We will also remember his wife Carolyn who was a distinguished musician, choir mistress and organist at both Wheatley and Mansfield.

The service will be at 2.00pm followed by a reception and all are welcome.

Carolyn died in 2017. Charles subsequently remarried and his widow Mary Lincoln Brock and some of her family will be visiting.

On Sunday 30th we hold our anniversary service, and our worship leader will be Dr Rebecca Dean. Rebecca is New Testament lecturer at Ripon College Cuddesdon and is a member of the URC having been involved with children's ministry prior to taking up her present post. We look forward to welcoming her to Wheatley.

We will also be joined at the service by Mary and her family as well as Rev Tanya Rasmussen and her husband Joel.

After the service there will be the opportunity to chat over coffee and to stock up on Fair Trade goods before we depart for our food share lunch at the home and garden of Ann and Roger Bettess.

At some point we plan to present Mary with an album of photos and reminiscences of Charles time with us. It promises to be quite a weekend.

**Malcolm Benson**

# Falcon Junior School News

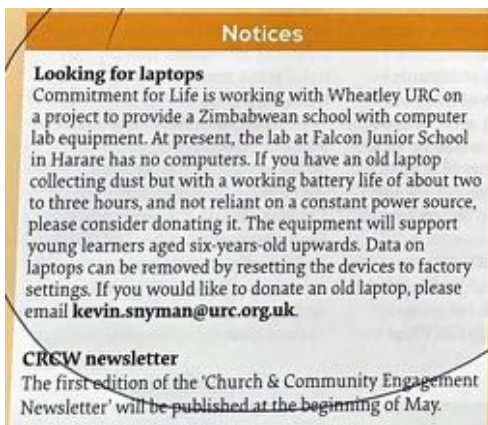


**Congratulations and thank you** for the support and precious time you have given towards reaching our mid-year target to help start-up the 'consumer lab' at the Falcon School.

Based on helpful guidance for Rev Wilbert Sayimani from fellow Zimbabwean Kevin Snyman of URC's Commitment For Life, **£3000 from the available £4000** (including our 2023 charitable giving allocation) **has been used to purchase eight quality laptops of varying capacity and specification.**

Wilbert has just paid a special visit to Wheatley to order these in our company, ready to be sent to URC HQ for the loading of additional software, prior to being taken out to the Falcon School on June 10th.

These will be **supplemented over time by lower specification 'used & cleaned' laptops for individual pupil experimentation** which have been requested by Kevin through the URC Reform magazine (also see below)...



**And ... Phyllis has 'cleaned' both of Bob Webster's personal laptop and iPad, which were kindly donated by Ellen ... what a great legacy from Bob for the Falcon pupils when they arrive at the school.**

We look forward to getting feedback on the initial usage of these start-up computers at the Falcon School as we move through to the end of this year.

**Your Care for the World Team**

~ ~ ~

# Listening at Wheatley Park School

Some of you may be aware that as part of our Youth and Family Project we have been running Parentalk at Wheatley Park School. This is a 6-week course involving videos and discussion time for parents of teenagers. The course has been put together by 'Care for The Family' which is a Christian organisation. Mark and Phyllis Williams have been the drivers to ensure this course continues to be offered at the school and this year Brenda Bell and Bev Paton headed up the team and 25 parents came along for 2 hours on a Tuesday evening each week to hear about relevant topics and discuss the challenges and joys of parenting. Wiebke Keisers, our Time for God volunteer, was also a key part of the team organising refreshments and supporting with tech! Kevin and I were some of the table leaders and as with other years it was a very well received course. Parents were encouraged to keep communication open with their young people and were able to share the difficulties of parenting in a social media age.

I do hope that we will be able to continue to offer this course at Wheatley Park as I know as a parent of teens you now rarely meet other parents and can feel isolated, especially when problems arise. This course helps to build connections between parents and young people as well as parents and other parents.

Following on from this link with Wheatley Park School Peter Devlin and I thought it would be good to hear a bit more from the school about what their needs are. We are aware that the school has a wide catchment area and a diverse range of young people with different needs. As a parent with children at Wheatley Park (currently doing their GCSEs) I know some of the challenges including budget constraints which are always challenges for staff. One example of this is that a lesson has had to be dropped from the timetable on a Friday afternoon as staff funding has been too tight.

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April Peter, Brenda, Bev and I met up with Louise Yendole and Sian who work in "Space 2 Be". This is a resource for young people who are struggling with lessons and may be there for a variety of reasons. Louise and Sian also work on the safeguarding team. We were very impressed by their enthusiasm and drive, and they told us about 2 projects very close to their hearts.



One is for young carers who help look after a family member and one is called the Paramount Project and is a support group for young people who have family members in prison. This project is the only one in the country and aims to help to remove stigma and build relationships. Louise and Sian told us about their vision for sessions involving art and craft to help the students express their feelings and showed us an amazing rainbow room with inspirational quotations and pictures that is used for one-to-one sessions with young people. The walls of Space 2 Be are decorated with art by the students and held important memories for them and Louise and Sian. When asked what the main issues are for young people, we heard that attendance at school, especially since the pandemic can be hard and some young people have difficulties with their mental health.

What we took away from our discussion was lots of food for thought for each of us and a better understanding of some of the school needs. We are wondering how we as the URC and local community can help our secondary school and further conversations are going to be had. In the meantime, we thought having heard about Space 2 Be that there are a few practical resources we might be able to help with initially.

### **Art Packs for the Paramount Project**

Louise would like to supply art resources to students attending this project for the summer holidays so that they can continue to do art at home. She has identified some specific items, and the packs would include an art folder, A3 sketchbook, pencils, colouring pencils, watercolour pencils and oil pastels. The cost for each set of resources is £20 per student and Louise would like to support 7 students with this.

If you would like to financially support an art set or contribute towards one please could you give any money to Peter, Brenda Bev or myself. I am very happy to answer any queries and my email is [lucyhbetts@btinternet.com](mailto:lucyhbetts@btinternet.com)



Overall we were very enthused by our visit to Wheatley Park School. We wanted to find out what the school's needs are and how the resources of the local businesses and community can be used to help the school meet those needs. It is a wonderful place with an outstanding campus site in Holton (as shown in these photos taken by my daughter Hannah.) The staff team are very committed and we felt very encouraged by what we heard. I believe that the local community are an untapped resource for the school and I hope we can have further opportunities to pray and listen about how to continue to strengthen our links and work to support our local school.

**Lucy Betts**

# Supershoes

As some of you may know, I have an unusual hobby: I paint shoes! In my spare time I volunteer for a small charity based in Milton Keynes called ‘Supershoes.’

Supershoes has a simple aim: to provide children and young people who are going through cancer treatment with a pair of shoes that have been hand-painted especially for them. I’m an artist for the charity, which means that now and then I receive in the post a blank pair of shoes and a brief that’s been written by the child and/or their parents.

The turnaround needs to be pretty fast, and I’m a slow worker. I might spend a whole day designing and painting just one side of one shoe. But I’m in my element, completely absorbed, really enjoying it. Carolyn keeps me supplied with cups of tea and I try not to accidentally dip my paintbrush in them.

A pair of painted shoes might sound a frivolous response to the seriousness of cancer. But I’m told they make a real difference for the children who receive them. Because they depict the things that matter to them... their favourite football team or picture book or Disney princess, their nickname, their pet guinea pig... the shoes remind the child and those around them of their identity beyond their disease and treatment. They encourage mobility, and socialising. Even though they’re feeling poorly, usually the child can’t wait to try their shoes on and walk and run in them and show them off.

To find out more about this great, quirky little charity, or to make a donation to support their work, please visit their website: [www.supershoes.org.uk](http://www.supershoes.org.uk)

## Cara Heafey



**Photographs by Carolyn Wheeler**



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

**CHURCH CONTACTS**

*Associate 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)*