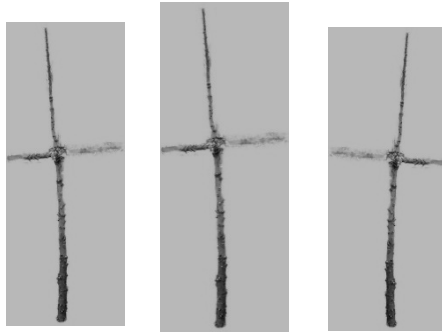


7Upton United Reformed Church

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God's Love is for All
Our Mission is to Show it,
Share it, Live it



March 2024

44 Heath Road, Upton By Chester, CH2 1HX
Telephone 01244 373854



Visit our Website at:
www.uptonurc.org.uk
Email:
info@uptonurc.org.uk

‘MURMURINGS’

We are now in the season of Lent. A time that reflects the forty days and nights that Jesus wandered in the wilderness, was tempted by Satan and spent time to focus on God in prayer.

Lent for us is a time for preparation, devotion, self-discipline, reflection and building our relationship with God; but, isn't that something we should be doing throughout our daily lives, not just during Lent.

By spending time in prayer, meditation, reading the scriptures, encouraging and sharing with others in fellowship, we can be the people of God.

So let us embrace Lent and prepare for the great celebration of Easter, the Resurrection of the Lord.



LENTEN POEM

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....
Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
For thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.

By Ann Weems

Family news/letters

Ruth Geddes who had regularly attended church for many years died in the Countess of Chester Hospital on Saturday 10th February.

Another piece of sad news is that of the death of David, the husband of Rev Ruth Simpson, also on Saturday 10th February. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her.

PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Let us pray and thank you for our pleasant and peaceful life in Upton whilst on other sides of the world such turmoil is occurring and death of innocent people is happening.

Please bless the people and give them the courage to take the obvious action and call for peace.

Dear Lord, please bless us all and help us all in our daily lives.

Amen

By Margaret Bartlett

Car Ferry Service

The following are confirmed users: Megan, Alwen, Gillian, Marion & Jean.

NOTE FOR ALL MEMBERS.

We are aware that the number of church members requiring a lift to church on Sunday mornings is steadily on the increase. Five members are currently using the Car Ferry. Should four or more request a lift on any Sunday then the duty driver has to make a total of two trips, both before and after the service, which results in a 30 to 40 minutes operation, occasionally resulting in a delayed start to the service.

Whilst two trips are not always the case - though it is likely to increase with time - we are asking for more support, particularly from people travelling to Church in their own transport. Please consider if you could help on a regular basis, giving someone a lift who lives near you or whose door you 'pass' en route.

Please get in touch if you can help with this very important mission.

Best wishes.

Deb & Phil

tel. 01244 383174

or email. philanddeb44@yahoo.co.uk

UPTON AMBLERS

Our February outing was led by Frank Mawdsley and David Savage and we were all extremely fortunate that we enjoyed the best weather of the whole week, being sunny and clear and feeling nearly springlike. We started out from the pub opposite Theatre Clwyd outside Mold and followed the lane up the hillside before turning onto the pretty path through Big Wood. Unfortunately, this was very wet in places and I had a gentle but very muddy fall here. We then turned through Ram Wood to arrive at Gwysaney Hall, a very impressive 17th century manor house where we were thrilled to see thousands of snowdrops carpeting the grounds, before returning down the valley to our starting point. This was a really beautiful walk with lovely views of the Welsh countryside, and we will remember it as the Snowdrop Walk.

Our March walk will be led by George and Jean Coward and will be a local Chester route of 4 miles.

Celia Jones

WD 40's

The ladies who meet on two Thursdays a month had a lovely start to the New Year. Betty Steepe treated nine of us to coffee at Okell's Garden Centre. We all enjoyed it very much.

Friendship Group

The Friendship group meets at 14.00 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the United Reformed Church on Heath Road in Upton by Chester.

We enjoy listening to talks and presentations from a variety of speakers, and we play quizzes and puzzles. Chatting over a cup of tea is always welcome at the end of our meetings, which provide friendship and fellowship for all.

Everyone is welcome, do come and join us.

March	5th	14.00	Poetry reading
	19th	14.00	Easter Worship Fergus O'Neill

Would you like to chat about coming to a Friendship Group meeting?

Sheila Dunbar can be contacted on: 01244 378528, or 07834 160789.

You can leave a message on either number and I will call you back. 😊

March Synod Meeting

Our March Synod Meeting is on Saturday 9th March at Trinity URC, Wigan from 10am to 4pm (latest).

The theme for this Synod is Eco, and we will be having various workshops such as community church gardens; how to start to live a 'greener' life personally and in your church; climate issues and how to influence local MPs.

Did you know that anyone can attend Synod meetings?

Only Synod Reps can vote but all are welcome to attend. It's an important way for all our churches to come together and share communications, good news, best practice and support and inspire each other.

Contact the Synod Office on if you'd like to register your attendance and further information about workshops will be available soon: Contact — URC Mersey (urcmerseysynod.org.uk)

Telephone: 0151 722 6590 or 07951067775
or synodoffice@urcmerseysynod.org.uk

This will be an in-person meeting only and so there will be no Zoom facility. Please bring your own lunch.

Copy date for the April newsletter is

17th March 2024

Contributions to Margaret Hainsworth, please

Churches Together in Upton

Coffee Morning and Hot Cross Buns

Thursday 28 March

10 - 12 noon

Sunday 31 March (Easter Sunday)

Upton URC

4.30 pm

The Life Of Jesus In Words And Music



Date For Your Diary

Wednesday 29 May

Coach Outing To

Liverpool Parish Church (Our Lady and St Nicholas)

Service

Then to The Museum Of Liverpool Life

Leaving at 10 am and home for 5 pm

Price of the ticket - £15



World Day of Prayer 2024

A service for everyone

“I beg you, bear with one another in love”

You are invited to join us for a service
at St Columba's Church
on Plas Newton Lane

on Friday 1st March at 10:30 am

followed by coffee and biscuits

Informed prayer, prayerful action

**24/7 ● 365 days a year ● prayer
movement ● Ecumenical International ●
women-led**

wwdp.org.uk

Christian Aid Lent Lunches 2024



See you at our Lent Lunch?

We welcome you to join us for a simple lunch of
soup, cheese and a little more ...

12 noon to 1.30 pm

Thurs 7th March: Hoole URC, Hoole Road

Mon 11th March: Wesley Methodist Church, St John St.

Mon 18th March: Wesley Methodist Church, St John St

Donations to Christian Aid

What we do

We work with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to. Every pound donated and every fundraising event held helps us to eradicate poverty.

WE ARE SURVIVORS

For all those born before 1940 we celebrate today because we are here. Consider the changes we have witnessed...

We were born before the TV age, before polio shots, frozen food, plastics, contact lenses, frisbees and the pill.

We were before refrigerators, dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams, ball-point pens and before men walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be?

In our time, closets were for clothes, not for 'coming out' of. Bunnies were small rabbits and dishes were for washing, not receiving programmes from outer space. Designer Jeans were scheming girls, and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along well with your cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent and cold turkey was what you ate on Boxing Day.

We were before househusbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers, and commuter marriages. Divorce was something that happened to film stars. We were before day-care centres, group therapy and nursing homes. We played with Dinky toys, wore liberty-bodices, and took a daily dose of cod liver oil and malt. We drank Ovaltine, ate porridge, and listened to Dick Barton, the Goon Show and Housewives Choice.

We never heard of Radio One, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors or yogurt. For us time-sharing meant togetherness, not Spanish holiday homes; a chip meant a piece of wood, hardware meant a shop you bought a hammer and nails, and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940 'Made in Japan' meant poor quality, and the Koreans and Taiwanese hadn't even started production. Pizzas, McDonalds, and Instant Coffee were unheard of.

We were born when everything in Woolworths cost one penny. For sixpence you could take a tram, go to the cinema, and buy an ice cream.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a lullaby and AIDS were for those with hearing difficulties.

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change; we made do with what we had, and we were the last generation to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

We typed letters with manual typewriters, did computations by hand and used carbon paper to make copies. We used telephones without buttons or dials, and Fax was something you looked up in an encyclopaedia. We did business with handshakes and trust, and somehow it all worked out.

Visit by Children from Acres Field



Easter Services

March 2024

24 th	Palm Sunday	10.30am	Upton URC
28 th	Maundy Thursday	7.00pm	Hoole URC
29 th	Good Friday	10.30am	Hoole Methodist
		10.30am	Vicars Cross URC
31 st	Easter Day	10.30am	Upton URC

URC VICARS CROSS

Saturday 23rd March

2pm till 4 pm

Bingo and Refreshments.

Come along for a chat and a fun filled afternoon.

Tickets £5.00

Contact: Sheila Mob. 07817252120

Church Diary March 2024

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Service/Meeting</u>
Fri	1	10.30 am	World Day of Prayer 2024 at St.Columba's
Sat	2	10.00 am	Church open for coffee
Sun	3	10.30 am 10.30 am	Upton URC Joint service at Hoole URC – Rev J Bradbury, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church
Mon	4	10.00 am	Men's Monday Meeting
Tues	5	2.00 pm	Friendship Group – Poetry Reading
Wed	6	9.45 am	Upton Amblers
Thurs	7	10.30 am 12 noon 1.00 pm 7.30 pm	Bible Study at Hoole URC Christian Aid Lunch – Hoole URC Food 'n' Fun Bible Study on Zoom
Fri	8		
Sat	9	10.00 am	Church open for coffee
Sun	10	10.30 am	Mr G Morris
Mon	11	10.00 am 12 noon	Men's Monday Meeting Christian Aid Lunch – Wesley Methodist, St.Johns St.
Tues	12	10.00 am	New Tuesday Group
Wed	13		

Thurs	14	10.00 am 10.00 am 10.30 am	Churches Together Coffee Morning WD40 – Coffee at the Golf Club Bible Study at Hoole URC
Fri	15		
Sat	16	10.00 am	Church open for coffee
Sun	17	10.30 am	Rev A.F.E.Wise
Mon	18	10.00 am 12 noon	Men's Monday Meeting Christian Aid Lunch – Wesley Methodist, St.Johns St.
Tues	19	2.00 pm	Friendship Group – Easter worship with Fergus O'Neil
Wed	20		
Thurs	21		
Fri	22		
Sat	23	10.00 am 2.00 pm	Church open for coffee Bingo at Vicars Cross URC
Sun	24	10.30 am	Mrs M Carter
Mon	25	10.00 am	Men's Monday Meeting
Tues	26	10.00 am	New Tuesday Group
Wed	27		
Thurs	28	10.00 am 7.00 pm	Churches Together Coffee Morning with Hot Cross Buns Hoole URC
Fri	29	10.30 am 10.30 am	Vicars Cross URC Hoole Methodist
Sat	30	10.00 am	Church open for coffee

Sun	31	10.30 am 4.30 pm	Rev Ron Reid Mrs M.Hainsworth – Joint CTU service at Upton URC
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Joint Services 2024

These are the joint services taking place for the remainder of 2024.

The dates in CAPITALS are the services that Upton URC are formally attending as agreed at the church AGM last July.

3 March – Hoole URC (led by Rev J Bradbury,
General Secretary of the United Reformed Church)

5 MAY – VICARS CROSS URC

2 June – Caldý Valley Church

7 July – Hoole URC

4 AUGUST – UPTON URC

1 SEPTEMBER – HAMILTON STREET METHODIST

8 October – Vicars Cross URC

3 NOVEMBER – CALDY VALLEY CHURCH

1 December – Hoole URC

There will be services at Upton URC on 3 March, 5 May, 1 September and 3 November

Extracts from “Unity through Prayer”

A Prayer Diary for the Churches in Upton

- 3 March Pray for the residents of Kingsway West,
Rutland Place and Kent Road.
For the Growth Groups, Bible Study Group
and Nurturing groups.
For a deepening of faith and awareness of
Christ in us all.
- 10 March Pray for the residents of Kelvin Grove,
Western Approach and Thirlmere Road.
For a greater compassion for those who
feel marginalised in our society.
For a deeper unity between the churches.
- 17 March Pray for the residents of Newton Park Road,
Kennedy Close and Sandon Road.
For Upton Village Surgery. For Doctors,
Nurses, Health Visitors in our community.
- 24 March Pray for the residents of Broadway West,
Totland Grove and Derwent Road.
For the Zoo and all who work there. For a
deeper awareness of our environment.
- 31 March Pray for the residents of Kingsway, Dickson’s
Drive and Brookfield Drive.
For Worship Groups and all who plan
services. For our worship that it is vibrant,
spiritual and prayerful.

Car Ferry

March 3	John Hainsworth
March 10	Keith Reading
March 17	Niall Ormerod
March 24	Phil Mason
March 31	John Hainsworth



April 7	Keith Reading
April 14	Niall Ormerod
April 21	John Hainsworth
April 28	Phil Mason

Flower Rota

March 3	Janet Cliff
March 10	Leslie Parry
March 17	Gillian Moore
March 24	Carole Mellor
March 31	EASTER – Flower Box



April 7	Susan and Keith Reading
April 14	Alwen Hall
April 21	Beryl Frost
April 28	Sheila Dunbar

Minister

**We are in a vacancy at the moment. Please contact
Church Secretary, Carole Mellor, for any enquiries**

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