

# Upton United Reformed Church

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



October 2025

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## **Ken Peters (1945-2025)**

A familiar face around our church will no longer be seen. Ken passed on to be with his Maker on 27<sup>th</sup> July, just a month after his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, taking his leave from Joan, Mark, Sue and Ian, Samantha and Nicola.

Ken was born in Shotton, Flintshire, to Bob and Lil Peters and initially lived in Buckley, before moving to Shotton. His early church life was at Buckley Tabernacle and then Rivertown Congregational (now URC) in Shotton. There he found two of the great loves of his life – Boys' Brigade (where he gained his Queens Badge and was drum major in the Band) and Joan whom he married in 1966 (when something else was happening in the world!). They moved to Chester in 1967 – two months before Mark was born. Sue completed the family in 1970.

Sue and Ian married in 1992. Apparently, the Father of the Bride's speech was one of the few times that Ken was lost for words! Granddaughters came along: Samantha in 1995 and Nicola in 1998.

Ken worked for Cheshire County Council in the Treasury Department right up to his retirement. A "side hustle" was rebuilding the fences at the Grand

National at Aintree: Cheshire County Council was a large sponsor of the event.

In January 2024, Ken was diagnosed with vascular dementia and those of us who knew and loved him were greatly saddened as we witnessed the decline in his capabilities. After a fall at home, Ken's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated in the Countess of Chester where on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July, Ken passed away peacefully.

Ken enjoyed plenty of fun times and holidays with his family. Even when suffering with dementia, he would remember the fun times with his granddaughters and celebrating their birthdays.

Apart from his family, the great love of Ken's life was BB and the Church. In 1970 he became a founder officer of 3rd Chester, along with Trevor and Hilary Salvage. In 1977 when Trevor stood down, Ken became Company Captain. In 1978 he persuaded Mark to try BB for 6 weeks. Mark was an officer/leader in 2018 when the Company closed, 40 years later! Sue also became an officer/leader in the Anchor Boys section.

Highlights for Ken included Displays and Camps, with many a story to be told, and especially the BB Centenary year in 1983. Events included a bonfire in the Zoo overflow car park; travelling to Preston

Railway Station to see the newly named train 'The Boys' Brigade'; watching members of the Company band play in the World's Biggest Band attempt; and the Royal Review in Edinburgh along with a group from the Battalion.

The centenary event Ken often mentioned was Brigade Council in Glasgow where BB started in 1883, with a display and a special service, both held in Ibrox Stadium. Ken would often mention these to the Boys when they thought BB was just our Company, telling them that the stadium was filled each time with Boys, officers and friends from around the world.

In 2018 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chester unfortunately closed down. Ken led a service celebrating the Company's history, which included old Boys and leaders recalling stories of the times in the Company.

Ken was proud that he and Joan were invited to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to represent BB in the North West.

Church was important to Ken. He was a member of Upton URC for nearly 50 years and an Elder for many years. He was very approachable, often being told by members what they thought of the church's direction. He was admired by other Elders for the knowledge he had gained over the years as an Elder.

Ken became a Local Church Leader, leading many services, not only in our church but also in Vicars Cross, Blacon and Chester Road, Whitby URCs. He looked forward to preaching in each church, knowing that he would receive a warm welcome. They appreciated his informal and sincere style of worship.

Ken led or helped to lead many Christian courses in the Church, often made available for the other Upton Churches to attend. Ken initially led the New Tuesday Group, but always insisted that at NTG everyone was equal and encouraged others to lead meetings.

Ken was in charge of the digital display from its introduction to the start of lockdown. He also initially taught the Elders how to use the Digital Hymnal to good effect.

Ken's life of service was long. He was loved and respected. He could be annoying, he was not perfect, but his sincerity was never in doubt. We shall miss him, our friend and colleague.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

## **Rev. Alan Wise – A personal tribute**

Alan was called to the pastorate of Parkgate and Neston in 1982. I didn't get to know him immediately. However, some time later he was appointed as District Secretary for the Cheshire District. As Church Secretary at Upton I needed on occasions to raise matters with the District Secretary. The Secretary who I had previously spoken to was very, very, thorough and raised all the objections and pitfalls that would lie ahead for Upton, usually concluding that District could not possibly support our request. So I prepared myself for what might be a difficult conversation with the new District Secretary. After introducing myself to Alan, the new District Secretary responded saying 'Now, how can I help you'. Wonderful words. I have remembered them ever since. This was how Alan lived his life and ministry.

After John Oldershaw moved to Seacombe URC we had quite a wait to appoint his successor. Alan had by then served nearly 7 years at Parkgate and Neston and the Moderator suggested that he should consider a move. The Synod policy for new ministers was to encourage them to move on after about 5 years, partly to allow them to make use of this experience and partly to enable more churches to have a share in ministry. By then Alan was approaching retirement age and agreed that he would move provided he

could work for an extra year or so beyond the 65 retirement age so as to allow him a worthwhile spell at a new church. This was agreed and Alan was called by us to minister at Upton. He and Margaret already had their own bungalow in Upton so there was no delay in moving.

Alan was keen to get started. He wanted to get to know the members and congregation and was a diligent pastoral visitor. Besides visiting our older members, he introduced the Friendship Group. He also enjoyed working with young people: My daughter Emma was determined to accompany me to the funeral as she had been in the FURY group during his time at Upton and she had been delighted that he took her wedding. Alan also took part in our link with the church in Potsdam, visiting Potsdam and back here introducing them, and us, to a walk in the Wirral.

At some point during his period as minister at Upton, he had been appointed as Convenor of the Cheshire District Pastoral Committee and when its Secretary retired Alan invited me to fill the post. Working together for several years gave me the opportunity to get to know Alan much better.

We had similar backgrounds. Before training for ministry at Mansfield College Oxford, Alan had held a senior engineering post at the Building Research Establishment whilst latterly I worked in research for

the Electricity industry. Alan had written the key reference book on drainage systems and he was delighted when an updated version was released recently. As a Senior Manager with unparalleled knowledge in his field he was accustomed, after listening to different views, to make the required decisions. On occasions he found that Church Meetings and other groups did not respond as he expected.

We shared an interest in walking and had often holidayed at the same places. He and Margaret had played Badminton at County level (above my level). Alan was a keen tennis player, and latterly took up water colour painting and bowls. He became a member at Hoole URC and continued most of his activities until the end, including leading worship at our local churches (at Upton last March) and fund raising for Christian Aid.

On behalf of myself, my family, and Upton URC –  
Thank you Alan.

Robin Hodgkins



## **Vacancy News**

**From:** Moderator

**Date:** 11 September 2025 at 08:54:16 BST

**Subject:** Chester North

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you that the Chester North Pastorate has been agreed by Moderators to go on the vacancy list at the end of September.

Thank you for all the hard work in pulling it together and I pray we will find a suitable candidate to lead the churches forward in the near future.

In Christ,

Revd Geoff Felton.

(Chester North comprises of Upton, Vicars Cross and Blacon United Reformed Churches)



## **UPTON AMBLERS**



Our September walk was a circuit of the village of Great Barrow. The weather forecast was grim and I was half expecting to have to cancel, but very fortunately we had only the odd brief drizzle of rain and otherwise cloud and sunshine so the views of the surrounding countryside were very clear.

14 Walkers plus our regular 2 dogs turned up, including 2 welcome visitors from Switzerland. We started out along the route of Watling Street, then emerged by the side of Barrow Mill, followed footpaths alongside the Barrowmore Estate, then by the side of the cricket ground and eventually returned to our starting point.

This was a route of just over 4 miles, with some stiles early on, but pleasant level paths for the rest of the way, and I think we all enjoyed ourselves. Many thanks to Christine Walsh for the lovely biscuits as a treat to us all on her birthday.

Our next walk will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October and will be led by Jean and George Coward.

Celia Jones



**Friday 10th October 2025**

**7.00 p.m. at St Columba's Hall  
Plas Newton Lane/Newhall Road**

**Teams of no more than eight  
Bring your own drinks and glasses  
Table nibbles provided  
Raffle**

**In support of the Hospice of the Good Shepherd**

**£3 per head at the door**

## CAFÉ JAM Session

Do you play an acoustic instrument? Would you like to join in with the Café Jam Band for a dedicated Worship Jamming Session?



It will be acoustic instruments only, as it would be too complicated to balance the sound if we had electric instruments. Singers also very welcome as usual.

The Café Jam Band will lead the worship, but singers/instrumentalists can all join in.

Music will be provided by email well before the event with YouTube links for you to listen to the songs. Different keys can be provided if you have a transposing instrument.

There won't be any practice time, and we won't be teaching you to play instruments.

When? Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025 6.30pm start (but please arrive around 6pm to set yourself up and have a drink). There will be a break around 7.10pm followed by another half an hour of worship.

Where? Caldý Valley Neighbourhood Church, Caldý Valley Rd, Great Boughton, Chester CH3 5PR

Please contact Rita on [rita.griffiths4@ntlworld.com](mailto:rita.griffiths4@ntlworld.com) or 07838103310 to book your place – this is essential, including which instrument you will be playing. Please bring your own music stand.

## **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, please do come and join us.

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. 😊

# **MERSEY SYNOD MEETING REMINDER: 11TH OCTOBER 2025**

St Stephen's URC Church, Wavertree, L15 6TB

Saturday 11th October 2025

10:00AM

Agenda item addition:

1350 to 1420– Revd Tim Meadows reflecting on his role as General Assembly Moderator with any questions welcome.

Margaret Hainsworth has now taken over the responsibility for the Flower Rota.

Many thanks to Debbie Ormerod who has done this job for many years.

Copy date for the November newsletter is  
12<sup>th</sup> October

Contributions to Margaret Hainsworth, please.

# **Christmas Coffee Morning**



**Saturday 29 November 2025**

**10.00 am – 12.00 noon**

**Stalls this year will include:**

Cakes/Home Produce

Tombola

Books and jigsaws

Raffle

Guide Dogs for the Blind

Children's Craft Activities

and

**FATHER CHRISTMAS**

We will be decorating the Sanctuary and church halls for the event. The decorations will remain in place over the Christmas period.

Please see Carole Mellor or Debbie Ormerod if you would be able to contribute by decorating a window in the Sanctuary.

# Church Diary

## October 2025

| <u>Day</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u>             | <u>Service/Meeting</u>                                                          |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed        | 1           | 9.45 am                 | Upton Amblers                                                                   |
| Thurs      | 2           | 10.00 am<br><br>1.00 pm | Thursday Ladies Group<br><i>Holiday Memoirs and Memorabilia</i><br>Food 'n' Fun |
| Fri        | 3           |                         |                                                                                 |
| Sat        | 4           | 10.00 am                | Bible study group                                                               |
| Sun        | 5           | 10.30 am                | Rev. Alan Wickens<br>with Communion                                             |
| Mon        | 6           | 10.30 am                | Monday Men's Meeting                                                            |
| Tues       | 7           | 10.00 am<br>2.00 pm     | New Tuesday Group<br>Friendship Group<br><i>Gentle Mobility - Sandra Clarke</i> |
| Wed        | 8           |                         |                                                                                 |
| Thurs      | 9           | 10.00 am                | Community Coffee Morning                                                        |
| Fri        | 10          | 7.00 pm                 | CTU Quiz night at St Columba's                                                  |
| Sat        | 11          | 10.00 am                | Bible study group                                                               |
| Sun        | 12          | 10.30 am                | Rev. S. Flynn                                                                   |
| Mon        | 13          | 10.30 am                | Monday Men's Meeting                                                            |



|       |    |                     |                                                                         |
|-------|----|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues  | 14 | 12.00 noon          | Friendship Group                                                        |
| Wed   | 15 |                     |                                                                         |
| Thurs | 16 | 10.00 am            | Thursday Ladies Group<br><i>Coffee at Weston Grove</i>                  |
| Fri   | 17 |                     |                                                                         |
| Sat   | 18 | 10.00 am            | Bible study group                                                       |
| Sun   | 19 | 10.30 am            | Ms. M.Robinson                                                          |
| Mon   | 20 | 10.30 am            | Monday Men's Meeting                                                    |
| Tues  | 21 | 10.00 am<br>12 Noon | New Tuesday Group<br>Friendship Group<br><i>Lunch at the Wheatsheaf</i> |
| Wed   | 22 |                     |                                                                         |
| Thurs | 23 | 10.00 am            | Community Coffee Morning<br><i>With Bring and Buy Stall</i>             |
| Fri   | 24 |                     |                                                                         |
| Sat   | 25 | 10.00 am            | Bible study group                                                       |
| Sun   | 26 | 10.30 am            | Leprosy Mission                                                         |
| Mon   | 27 | 10.30 am            | Monday Men's Meeting                                                    |
| Tues  | 28 |                     |                                                                         |
| Wed   | 29 |                     |                                                                         |
| Thurs | 30 |                     |                                                                         |

# **Extracts from “Unity through Prayer”**

## **A Prayer Diary for the Churches in Upton**

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 October  | <p>Pray for the residents of Garth Drive, Liverpool Road and Ennerdale.</p> <p>For the Church Hall Secretaries and Electoral Roll Secretary. for those who come to our church halls, that they will find fellowship.</p>                                        |
| 12 October | <p>Pray for the residents of Old Mill Court, Mill Lane, Mill Close and Deans Close.</p> <p>For all those involved with the upkeep of our church buildings and church grounds.</p>                                                                               |
| 19 October | <p>Pray for the residents of Marle Heyes, Upton Park and Delvine Drive.</p> <p>For the magazine committee, newsletter editors, distributors and those who run the bookstalls in our churches.</p> <p>For a deepening of our faith through the written word.</p> |
| 26 October | <p>Pray for the residents of Upton Drive, Pine Gardens and Bache Avenue.</p> <p>For the British Legion, Golf Club and Village Hall Committee, and all who use their facilities. For those who have served their country.</p>                                    |

## Car Ferry

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| October 5  | John Hainsworth |
| October 12 | Niall Ormerod   |
| October 19 | Keith Reading   |
| October 26 | Phil Mason      |



|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| November 2  | John Hainsworth |
| November 9  | Niall Ormerod   |
| November 16 | Keith Reading   |
| November 23 | Phil Mason      |
| November 30 | John Hainsworth |

## Flower Rota

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| October 5  | Janet Cliff    |
| October 12 | Beryl Frost    |
| October 19 | Wendy Lenihan  |
| October 26 | Brenda Bentley |



|             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| November 2  | Rhiannon Morgan          |
| November 9  | Flower Box – Remembrance |
| November 16 | Vivien Ellis             |
| November 23 | Iverson Family           |
| November 30 | Anne Sykes               |

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

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