



**CHURCH MAGAZINE**

**JUNE 2019**

## **PASTORAL LETTER**

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grace and peace be with you all.

On our honeymoon, Deborah and I visited St Petersburg in Russia. It is the most amazing place with 500 Palaces alone! I don't think I have ever seen such a magnificently grand city. Deborah, is a bit of a history buff was keen to visit the Winter Palace, as she had been captivated in her youth by the story of Anastasia. I had somewhat different plans! I had only recently discovered that Rembrandt's amazing painting 'The Return of the Prodigal Son' was on show in the Hermitage – housed inside the same Winter Palace. This parable is my very favourite passage of the bible, and I think I have learnt more about God through this little story than anything else. The picture of the compassionate father forgiving and welcoming back his wayward son is something I often need reminding of.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8. 1-2

I speak to many people in the course of a week, mostly Christians and faithful members of the Church. But as we talk together we often dwell on things in our past that we still cannot let go. Errors, mistakes and missed opportunities litter our lives, and so quickly come back to haunt us at inopportune moments. The knock on effect is that we tend to class ourselves as 'second class' Christians, and this has a detrimental impact on every part of our lives. If only we could really get to grips with God's full forgiveness! If only we could 'know' that there is no condemnation of us; that we have been set free from the law of sin and death; then our world would look very different. The God whose open arms are reaching out to

each one of us is something to celebrate. He accepts us just as we are!  
Praise God.

The Honeymoon is now over, but coming home to our Church family at Witham has been just as special. There are many beautiful places in this world, but there is no place like home!!!

Every blessing

Mark

Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for playing your part in our wedding on Easter Monday. We are so grateful to you for making our day so beautiful and joyous. As we walked in and saw the flowers, banners and smiling faces we were completely overwhelmed by your love towards us. The Church and Halls looked so beautiful; and it all came together to make such a memorable day.

So many of you were involved that we would struggle to thank everyone; but saying 'thank you' is so important that we are going to give it a try!

Thank you to Muriel, Bob, Jo, Audrey, Billy, Maureen and Rocio who spent so long planning and ensuring everything was covered; Gerry, the musicians and singers; Sylvia, Fliss and the florist team; all the young people who waited on tables; Sarah, Fenella, Wendy and others for the lovely cakes; the sandwich makers; David, Mary and the team of stewards; those who cleared up and washed up, moved tables and chairs around; Keith for transport; Julie for photography, and many more who played their parts behind the scenes. You know who you are! Thank you.

Deborah and I were also overcome by your generosity: with the sum collected we were able to send a cheque off for £1000 to the Sick Children's Trust. They have written to say that they will use the gift to refurbish a shower room that had been out of action for some time.

Deborah and I have been so greatly blessed by being part of such a loving and generous church community. We are so grateful! Thank you!!!

Every blessing

Mark and Deborah



There was a hold up while they looked  
for the pie.

### **Thank you - Gerry Moscrop**

Thank you to all those who prayed for me and sent get well messages when I was in hospital recently. The surgery went well and I am feeling on top form again, so I am very thankful to God.'

### **Thank you so much - Emmelia van der Walt**

Sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who played a part in the service on 5th May, during which I had the opportunity to re-affirm my faith before I was introduced as a member of the church. I simply felt love all round and Lorna's leadership made it an absolute memorable service for me. I praise God for His endless Grace and Mercy.

## **9th June: Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday**

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples – but He knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need His help.

And so they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

Every one should make time to look at this collage, made by one of our members, in Meeting Room 1. It is truly special.



## **The world needs more love - Julie Harris**

Hubby and I were at Gatwick airport waiting to fly out to Bulgaria for a lovely break from the hustle and bustle of the world, and some quality time together away from the everyday demands of life.

We had booked airport assistance, as hubby can't walk too far. We duly waited in the lounge set aside for those awaiting assistance with an assigned pager that beeps when you are ready to be assisted along to be next stage of your journey within the airport.

Our pager beeped and a very pleasant chap, maybe early 60s, came over and informed us that he would be looking after us. We got into the buggy and there was just the 3 of us and our luggage: I tend to be very chatty and was excited about our imminent flight.

We struck up a conversation with him and chatted amiably. He told us he was ex met police and had done a stint as a prison officer in a young offenders institute. He went in to tell us he had been slashed (his words) 7 times by some of the violent inmates. Aghast I said good grief, why would you keep going back and putting yourself in danger? He replied: "Why? because I managed to turn around one individual and that made it all worth while". We went on to chat about his forthcoming holiday with his wife to St. Lucia for their anniversary. Time then ran out, we had arrived at our gate and he helped us to alight, he wished us a happy holiday and we wished him a lovely time in St Lucia celebrating his anniversary with his wife.

We then parted, but he turned and called to us "the world needs more love". I was flabbergasted because that summed up exactly how I had been feeling during the weeks leading up to our holiday: it left me with food for thought.

I think God wants us to persevere, maybe with somebody angry, depressed, withdrawn, aloof, the lonely, the unreachable. I think God wants us to show persistence and deep love where we never give up trying to love those who think they are unloveable or unseen, unnoticed, uncared for. Even if there is no glimmer of getting through, we must always hold the candle of hope out to them and show them God's love is waiting for them when they are ready.



With the congregation depleted by the bug that was going around, it suddenly dawned on Roy that he wouldn't be able to get away with just miming to the hymns this week.

## **Door Stewards** **June**

2nd	Janet Upson	Judy Fishwick
9th	Derek Joyce	Carolyn Joyce
16th		
23rd	Karenza Wellings	Keith Mitchell
30th		

## Fathers' Day - Maureen Barry

As you will know Father's day will soon be upon us.

For many, it will mean nothing at all, as every father is not or was not kind and loving, or the kind of father that you could go to for love and support.

For others it may be a bittersweet day with just memories of the father who was adored but sadly, passed away. Sadness that they are no longer with us, but also taking time to reminisce on all the happy times we shared.

How fortunate we are though, that we have our Father in heaven to turn to and celebrate the day with. A Father who will never turn us away: Father who loves us so much that he died that we may be saved. The absolute joy of knowing our Father in heaven is breathtaking, to put it mildly.

What about those who don't know him, my heart goes out to them. We try so hard to show by example that Jesus is the way. That we know is not easy, but we know that we cannot keep our faith to ourselves.

It would be so good for more and more people to celebrate God, our father in heaven, on Father's day.

### **WURC Charity Adoptions from July 2019/2020**

The chosen charity for WURC fund raising for the first six months of this year is Headway Essex.

If there is a charity which you would like to be considered for either the period **July to December 2019** or from **January to the end of June 2020**, this can be for either a 6 month or 3 month period, and you are a church member and would feel able to co-ordinate fund raising events/activities please contact Bob Stibbards.



Saturday  
8th June

10:30am to 3:30pm

Town Park, Maldon Road, Witham

# COMMUNITY DAY

Fun for Everyone  
Free Entry to Park!

A variety of stalls from local groups and clubs

Display arena with singing, sports and dance

Inflatables and rides

Food and drink

and much more!

WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL 01376 502674

## **Door Stewards Rota - David And Mark Goodwin**

The rota for July to December 2019 is now being prepared by the Senior Stewards and volunteers of all ages are needed for this very important role in assisting the Duty Elders to greet people as they arrive for our Sunday morning service. Your duties will also include handing out the song books, bibles and service sheets, collecting them and any disused service sheets up after the service and taking one of the plates at the Offertory (only if you want to).

If enough volunteers come forward you will only have to undertake the role once in the period, although you are more than welcome to put your name down more than once. Please make yourself known to David or Mary Goodwin, who sit at the back of the Sanctuary, should you wish to volunteer. Alternatively you can add your name to the rota yourself.

Should you require any further information please speak to either David or Mary, or refer to the information sheet attached to their notice board at the back of the Sanctuary.

### ***Witham Carnival 13th July***

**The Carnival celebrates its 90th year.**

**With Churches Together in Witham we will be hosting carnival style games in our car park. This will be from about 10.00 am and finishing before the procession starts at around 1.30pm.**

**Do come along and if you are able to help with running the side shows please let the office or Bob Stibbards know.**

## **Church Weekend Away - 24th-26th May**

Over 70 of our church family came along to the Weekend Away at Belsey Bridge Conference Centre. The sessions were admirably led by Rev. Ken Thom and were extremely thought provoking and gave the opportunity to enjoy time with our church family.

We express our gratitude to the organising committee for bringing it all together in such a seamless way and the time spent to make it such a success and to those who helped over the weekend. All we had to do was turn up!



**One of our preachers!**



## Word Search - St Columba

This month the Church remembers the Irish monk who first brought Christianity to Britain in around 565. He was St Columba, and he left Ireland with 12 companions to settle on Iona, a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. For as well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts.

A prayer of St Columba runs: My dearest Lord, Be Thou a bright flame before me, Be Thou a guiding star above me, Be Thou a smooth path beneath me, Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me, Today and evermore.

Amen	Settle	Monastery	Skills	Converted
Church	Iona	Tall	Scholar	Dearest
Columba	Tiny	Striking	Poet	Bright
First	Island	Powerful	Ruler	Flame
Ireland	Mull	Impressive	Fearless	Guiding
Star				

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

## **Coming up at WURC**

### **New Series: -**

### **Psalms; praying through good times and bad**

#### *Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June*

10:30am God is good, Psalm 73

#### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June, Pentecost**

10:30am Pentecost service

### **New Series:**

### **Philippians; The Joy of knowing Christ Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

9:00am Messy Breakfast ~

10:30am The birth of a Church Acts 16: 11-40

#### *Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June*

10:30am To live is Christ, to die is gain Philippians: 115-26

#### *Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June*

10:30am Church unity Philippians: 2 1-18

#### *Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July*

10:30am To know Christ and his power Philippians: 3 1-11

#### *Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July*

10:30am Rejoice in the Lord always Philippians: 4 1-9

#### *Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July*

9:00am Messy Breakfast -

10:30am Being content in all things Philippians 4: 10-23

## Smile Lines

With school-days in mind...

A little girl after her geography exam: “Please God make Copenhagen the capital of Japan – at least for this month.”

\*\*

## Trouble

The minister’s son had just received a bad report from school. Seeking to distract his father, he asked: “Dad, what do you think is the trouble with me? Heredity, environment or just plain original sin?”

\*\*

## Cheers

The restaurant where I took my two sons for a meal was crowded with fans watching a sporting event on TV. The harried waitress took our order, but more than half an hour passed with no sign of her return. I was trying to keep my children from becoming restless when suddenly shouts of victory came from the bar. “Hey,” commented my 11-year-old, “it sounds as if someone just got his food.”

\*\*

## Crowd

The new minister, encouraged by the numbers in church for his first sermon, began: “I have never had the pleasure of preaching to such a dense crowd before

Minister	Revd	Mark Ambrose	07564 168342
Associate Minister and Kelvedon Pastoral	Revd	Lorna Bantock	571757
Children and Youth Pastor	Mrs	Viv Sollis	500958
Assistant Children and Youth Pastor	Ms	Tracey Eageling	500958
Admin Assistant to Rev Mark Ambrose	Mrs	Deborah Robinson	07564 168342 admin@withamurc.org.uk
Centre Managers	Mrs	Rocio MacDonald	500958
	Mrs	Ana Martin	500958
Pastoral Elders	Mrs	Gerry Moscrop	Part of Witham South
	Mrs	Rose Reader	Part of Witham South
	Mr	Keith Hemsley	Hatfield Peveral and Broomfield Hospital
	Mrs	Maureen Barry	North
	Mr	Doug Sandles	East & Wickham Bishops
	Mr	Billy Kennedy	West
Property	Mr	David Wellings	
Discipleship/Growth Mission/Outreach	Mr	Bob Stibbards	
Church Secretary	Mrs	Audrey Kennedy	500958
Church Treasurer	Mr	Ian Hardie	
Worship	Mr	Tunde Biyi	
Youth/Children	Mrs	Sarah Biyi	
Visionary	Mr	Keith Moscrop	
Meeting Point Pastoral Co-ordinator	Mrs	Eve Murfitt	
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator	Mrs	Rosemary Stinson	516602
Magazine Editors		Jo & Bob Stibbards	

## Diary Notes - June

Meeting Point	Monday to Saturday inclusive 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
Daytime Bible Study	Tuesdays 10.30 - 12.00
Tuesday Praise	Tuesdays 12.30 - 12.50
Small Talk	Wednesday morning 10.00 am - 11.30 am Afternoons 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm During term time
Ladies' Group	Thursday, 6th June 2.00 - 4.00 pm
Friday Lunch Club	Friday weekly from 11am - 2.30pm
Afternoon Tea	To be advised
Elder's Meeting	Tuesday, 11th June at 7.45 pm
Community Day in the Park	Saturday, 8th June from 10.00am

**If you feel that the magazine is getting smaller please do think about providing an article for future editions.**

## **SERVICES June 2019**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Services</b>
2nd	10.30 12.30 6.30	Family Worship and Communion Ignite Evening Service
9th	10.30 1.00 6.30	Family Worship Fellowship Lunch Evening Service
16th	9.00 10.30 12.30 6.30	Messy Breakfast Service Family Worship Ignite Evening Service
23rd	10.30 6.30	Family Worship Evening Service
30th	10.30 6.30	Family Worship Evening Worship

## **Tuesday Praise June**

4th     Richard Wearmouth  
 10th    Lorna Bantock  
 17th    Tim Diaper  
 24th    Christine Newmarch