

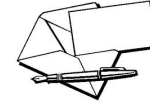


St. John's Methodist Church

Whitchurch

November 2021 Newsletter

Message from the Manse



November 2021

November already! My children are really excited about having a few fireworks and sparklers, although I don't think Woody has the same feelings! I have to say I only like the pretty ones with no loud bangs myself!

November is a month of remembering. On 11th November we give thanks and remember those who fought in combat and war both in the past and more recently. In the evening of the 14th November we will hold a special service of remembrance for our loved ones who have died in the last year or two; and on the 5th November we chant the rhyme –

Remember, remember the fifth of November,
Gunpowder treason and plot.
We see no reason
Why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!

Guy Fawkes, guy, t'was his intent
To blow up king and parliament.
Three score barrels were laid below
To prove old England's overthrow.

By god's mercy he was catch'd
With a darkened lantern and burning match.
So, holler boys, holler boys, Let the bells ring.
Holler boys, holler boys, God save the king.

And what shall we do with him?
Burn him!

I think it's really important to stop and remember. In remembering the past it reminds us of how and why we got to this point; it reminds us of the love and relationships that we have had; it reminds us of the opportunities we now have and the peaceful, free lives we can now live. But remembering can also be painful, as we reflect often on the emptiness and loss of a time of joy or being with a loved one who is no longer with us.

Throughout the Bible there are times when we are called to remember. In just a few short weeks we enter the season of advent – a time that continues a theme of remembering as we remember the journey of Mary and Joseph to the stable, and the birth of Jesus. It is however easy to forget. God longs to be in a relationship with us, but it is easy to forget everything that God has done for us in the past and the hope that he offers us for the future. Its sometimes too easy to get caught up in the materialistic panic and need for a perfect life, perfect home and perfect relationships that we forget to remember what really matters.

This November, try to take some time to remember; not only the Gun Powder Plot, those who have fought in wars and loved ones we have lost; but also remember the love that God has for you and the world in which we live.

Enjoy the fireworks!

With blessings,

Donna

Mission Update

11 people attended the 6th Mission Meeting on 29/9/21 and it was the first one led by Rev Donna.

If you would like to be involved in these or other Mission Activities please speak to Rev Donna, Pete, Mike, Helen or Briony

*In rough October
Earth must disrobe her;
Stars fall and shoot
In keen November;
And night is long
And cold is strong
In bleak December.*

Christina Rossetti (1830–94), English poet -*Sing-Song: A Nursery Rhyme Book*

STEWARD'S LETTER

I have to admit I do feel rather sombre when the long summer evenings stealthily ebb away, and you realize that those rather pleasant evenings pottering around after tea with the dog, doing the odd bit of weeding or tidying up, have suddenly gone without trace.



The house martins have done spectacularly well this year with us which is so good to know, but again when that constant early morning chattering in the eaves is no longer to be heard nothing can withhold that moment of sadness. But that's why we love the seasons as we do. So a few days ago one evening and for the first time in ages when I had a little time on my hands I decided to get the bread-making machine to work – there is nothing quite like the smell of freshly baked bread to lift the spirits...

Each time I make bread it reminds me of a dear old friend of St John's who sadly passed away in the summer of 2015. Many of you will remember Hans Nossky, who had a great sense of fun and took great delight in recounting tales of his rich and varied past.

He used to sit in the pew behind me many years ago when I first joined. I still chuckle when I think of the one occasion our then minister preached for the very first time. Immediately after the final benediction I received a smart jab in the ribs from Hans, who said in a very loud whisper 'so what did you make of him then, any good...?' Little did he realize that the minister's wife who was also there for the first time was sitting directly behind him, now wearing a huge smile as I issued my very carefully worded reply.

Hans was from Germany and spent the first part of his life there. Whilst still a young man and with many of his fellow countrymen he found himself defending enemy lines during the second world war, when he was eventually captured. During, and for several years after the war, at first unable to speak a word of English, he was made to work as a prisoner of war on a farm I think in Buckinghamshire.

However, on many occasions he told me how, in spite of what he represented, and in spite of the arduous circumstances he found himself in, he was treated so generously and fairly by the farmer whose control he was under. It was around this time he met his future wife and decided to settle in Britain permanently. This little story has stuck with me. It gives a snapshot of humanity at its best amidst a world of hate and destruction.

When Hans found he could no longer get to church I used to try and visit him fairly regularly not least because I missed his company so. But beyond that I felt a special connection with him for two reasons: I was brought up

in a close farming environment so could relate well to the stories he told when he was farming; secondly my own mother, also from Germany, came over just after the war - and sadly was on occasions met with veiled animosity due to her nationality.

Shortly after Hans's funeral I received a small gift of money from his family 'as a recognition of the kindness I had shown'. I had no idea what to do or why they had sent it. Eventually after a lot of thought I decided to buy something to remember him by, which turned out to be a bread-maker! So each time I make bread I think of my old friend.

Andrew Fawcett

This is one change you can make to your carbon foot print for free!



I spoke about the search engine, 'Ecosia' at the One World Week service. We have been using it for a few months now and found it to be as useful as Google. I thought some of you might be interested in a bit more detail about it.

As you know, search engines generate money from companies who put advertisements on the internet for us to see when we are searching. But Ecosia is different to most search engines, it is a not-for-profit business. It dedicates 100% of its profits to climate action with at least 80% financing tree planting projects.

When you search, you can see at the bottom of the screen, the number of trees being planted and it continually increases as people log on and search. Also Ecosia is powered by 200% renewable energy as its solar panels produce twice the amount of energy needed to power all searches — and it anonymizes your searches and doesn't create a profile of you. It is interested in trees, not our data!

I searched on the internet for instructions for how to change my search engine to Ecosia and found it very easy. It is also easy to change back, so why not give it a try!

Helen Trigg

PRAYER REQUESTS



Pray for those known to us who are ill, housebound, in care, lonely, bereaved or in any other kind of need.

St John's

Give thanks as we start to move back to something like a normal life, but pray that we will put into action what we have learned from lockdown and COVID19.

Our Town

Give thanks for the work of Churches Together in Whitchurch and pray for the joint work undertaken in our name.

Our nation

Pray for wisdom for our leaders as they make decisions on our behalf.

Give thanks for our NHS, care homes, our essential services and the dedicated staff serving in them against difficult odds.

Pray for all who grieve the loss of loved ones.

Give thanks for the wonderful examples of heroism, kindness and care we see all around us in what often seems a dark world.

Give thanks for everyone involved in the production and the issue of the COVID19 vaccine and pray that rich nations like ours will share the vaccine with poor nations.

Our world

Pray for the COP26 talks on climate change, and especially for those who will be responsible for persuading leaders of other nations to act as well as speak on environment issues.

Pray for understanding and compassion amongst world leaders and people of all nations on issues such as immigration, refugee status, political prisoners, racial inequality, unequal trade rules and other divisive issues.

Forgotten Poppy ♥

Here I stand in a field alone,
Can't believe how the time has flown,
My petals are leaving me one by one,
My head is bowing my days are gone,
I remember back to how life used to be,
People would stop to admire me,
But now I don't even get one single glance,
I would just like someone to give me a chance,
To prove to the world I'm not old and rotten,
I do not want to be the one who's forgotten,
As I sit and gaze at the clear blue sky,
I wish I was one of the birds that fly so high,
It gives me a warm glow inside,
But now with the Lord I must abide,
It is my time to say goodbye,
Finally, it is my time to die,
My gentle soul my body will release,
I shall fly to heaven,
Where I'll Rest In Peace.



Magz Hewson

(Aged 14 at the time of writing)

(Not so Youth) Group

This will start on Monday 1st November and run monthly from 1-4pm and will be called **M.O.R.E. on a Monday** where MORE stands for Meet Others Relax Exercise.

Praying with the whole of creation

I learnt to swim in a river teeming with small fish. The forest that I loved had giant trees with eagles, hornbills, orioles, colourful butterflies and insects with fascinating shapes. We ate upland rice that was black, pink, red or creamy white. Each variety smelt sweet and tasted deliciously different from the other. I would sing heartily – “the valleys stand so thick with corn...” My feelings were deep. I was very aware of my soul. God was everywhere!

Today, the river is dry. It is filled with junk and garbage. The giant trees have long been sold by a logging company to countries that do not cut down trees. There are no more eagles, nor hornbills that caw. Our variety of rice is decided by the International Research Rice Institute. How can I sing when the valleys are brown and the ears of corn have become like the fist of a child?

I feel an aching emptiness – a sense of loss. Will the deep feelings, a sense of connectedness to the earth ever return? Will learning again from indigenous old women be part of the answer and a sign of hope?

Jane Ella Montenegro - the Philippines

From Words for Today 1996 (IBRA)

(Submitted by Elizabeth Jennings)

Leaving a legacy to Christian Aid

Legacy giving is a way to show love and kindness for some of the world's poorest communities.

Beryl was a Christian Aid supporter whose compassion lives on in the lives of mums and children in Africa. Born in 1927, Beryl worked as a nurse and midwife for many years.

Later in life, Beryl was shown huge love and kindness by a nurse, who originally came from Africa. It meant so much to Beryl that she decided to do something wonderful, and remember Christian Aid in her Will.

Beryl's legacy gift is providing healthcare for those who need it most. Her gift is helping to build new health clinics and support nurses right now.

In November there will be leaflets on the table as you come into church, about how you could leave a legacy to Christian Aid.

Helen Trigg

SPICK & SPANNERS ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

4th Mike Nimmo, Vic Trigg & Dorothy F.

18th Sue & Ken Davies



Justice and Peace: Rise to the moment and Raise your Voice for Climate Justice!

Sat 6th November 10am-3pm The Bullring

Next week global leaders meet in Glasgow for the COP26 Climate talks. We have been praying for the last 12 months that these talks will lead to Action not just words. Action by Global Leaders that will safeguard the future of our planet for everyone, no matter where they live.

Churches Together in Whitchurch Christian Aid group, supported by other groups in the community, invite you to join us outside the Watergate Centre on Saturday 6th November between 10am and 3pm to make a paper boat and write on it your hopes and prayers for the outcome of these talks

Come and share the small steps you are taking and ask the leaders to act now to protect our planet for future generations.
For more information please speak to Briony or Helen

A Prayer from Christian Aid to make space to listen to the global community

Lord, open our hearts and minds as we pray.
Give us the wisdom to listen, and strength to act.
Today, we ask that COP26 will lead to a breakthrough for those facing the greatest impact from the climate crisis.
May the voices of the most vulnerable be heard and may they know a sense of hope that only you can bring.
We pray in a moment of stillness.
Quieten our hearts and minds, so that we can hear the calls of our global brothers and sisters.
Lift up their voices, so those in positions of power are moved into action by the power of their stories.
We pray together now, lifting up their voices with you.

Amen



Temperatures are rising



Water levels are rising

CO2 levels are rising



And so are our fears for the future of our planet



Join us in Whitchurch to
Raise your voice for Climate Justice

Saturday 6th November

Outside the Watergate Centre on the Bullring

10am – 3pm



Write down your hopes for the future

*Make a paper boat to join the fleet of others
and let your voice be heard.*



Time is running out



Christmas Tree Festival at St. John's.

We hope you will all be able to support us at our relaunch of our Christmas Tree Festival.



Programme of Events.

Monday	29th November	Delivery of Christmas Trees.
Tuesday	30th November	Setting up.
Wednesday	1st December	Tree decorating by sponsors.
Thursday	2nd December	Tree decorating by sponsors
Friday	3rd December	Decorating to be completed no later than Middy.

Festival will open at 12-30pm on 3rd. Opening Ceremony and switch on will be at 1-30pm.

Friday 3rd December at 7-30pm. We will have Carol singing amongst the Christmas Trees followed by tea and coffee.

Saturday December 4th open 10.30am to 5pm. Father Christmas and children's entertainer will pay a visit.

Sunday 5th December morning service at 10-30am. Church will be open from 1pm to 5pm.

Monday 6th open 10am onwards.

Times may change so please stay in contact with Maurice Latham on 01948 880218 or any other steward. We will need your help,

Maurice.

Remember

Sunday 14th November is **Remembrance Sunday**.

The morning service will begin slightly later at approximately 10.40am, to allow those attending the Cenotaph to arrive. We remember those who have died in conflicts, we will also remember Jesus' death on the cross, as we share Communion together in our pews.

The service at 6.30pm is our **Remembering Service**, when we remember those who have died, in particular during the last twelve months.

Services for November

7th	Raymond Griffiths
14th	Rev. Brian Acty (Remembrance)
21st	Eric Bediako
28th	Brian Faulkner (First Advent)



Sound System Operators for November

7 th	Andrew Fawcett
14 th	Mike Nimmo
21 st	Sarah Lunt
28 th	Norman Gollins



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING **– Wednesday 10th November 2021**

The next Church Council Meeting has been rescheduled to **Wednesday 10th November at 7pm** at the church. Items to be discussed include our response to the God in Love Unites Us Report. You are very welcome to attend as an observer but only Church Council Members will be able to vote on decisions that are required.

Stewards for November

7th Brian Faulkner.

14th Robert Hewson.

21st Maurice Latham.

28th Andrew Fawcett.

Psalm by a Filipino woman

O Creator God,
Bless this little piece of land.
Bless every molecule and particle of soil in it.
Bless the water spring nearby.
Bless every insect, worm and bird.
Bless every leaf and shrub and tree.
Bless our hands, our strengths, our skills.
Bless our caring together and our unity,
that we may bring back the waters to the river once again —
and redeem this little corner of forest life
as a lasting lesson for survival,
community and peace.

Amen

From Words for Today 1997 (IBRA)
(Submitted by Elizabeth Jennings)

Tea and Coffee Rota for November

7th Hazel & Mike Nimmo
14th Sheila Latham & Dot Charlesworth
21st Chris Crowther & Elaine Gollins



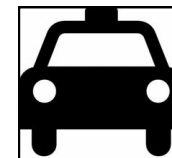
ADVENT

The first Sunday in **Advent** is Sunday 28th November, when our Preacher is Brian Faulkner. During Advent, we will be focusing on figures from a Knitted Nativity. More details will follow in Pew News nearer the time.

Taxi for November

The following drivers are available during November to transport you to the services. Please 'phone before 9:30am.

7th Pete
14th Hazel
21st Sheila
28th Brian



*So dull and dark are the November days,
The lazy mist high up the evening curled,
And now the morn quite hides in smokey haze:
The place we occupy seems all the world.*

"November" ~ John Clare (1793-1864), English Poet

Bumps Babies & Toddlers

BBT is now successfully up and running with up to 9 adults and 10 children attending each session and joining in with singing, craft and the story of The Snail and the Whale to link to the Blackberry Fair theme this year. It is led by Kathryn Davies, a lay worker from Broomhall and Sound, who is funded by the Circuit. A rota of 8 helpers are really enjoying it, too! Come and join us each Monday from 9.30 – 11.30 for a story, songs, prayers and craft as well as coffee & biscuits and free play. If you would like to help please speak to Briony.

The Traidcraft stall is back !



Traidcraft goods will be sold at coffee time on the first Sunday in each month beginning in December.

Mission through Music

The **Community Choir** is resuming rehearsals at St Johns on a trial basis. Other music groups and individuals have been invited to **practise at St Johns** during the week.

Options for a Christmas Concert and for the May Midday Concerts are being looked at.

Eco Church

Helen submitted the Eco Church form with help from others and reported that we have achieved Bronze in several areas but we need to focus on the outdoors. Lynn was keen to help with this and a group will form to look at wild flowers / no mow May / bird boxes and the use of space for outdoor prayers etc Brian will look into producing a banner suitable for eco services.

Dates for your Diary: November

Monday 1st: M.O.R.E games/meeting 1-4pm at St. John's

Saturday 6th: COP26 Demonstration 10am-3pm at the Bull Ring

Wednesday 10th: Church Council 7pm

Thursday 11th: Coffee Morning at Jones's Coffee house 10:30am

Sunday 14th: Remembrance Service **10:40am**
Remembering Service 6:30pm at St. John's

Saturday 20th: Christmas Fayre at the Civic Centre

*"November always seemed to me the Norway of
the year."*

Emily Dickinson (1830-86) Poet—largely unpublished until after
her death



December/January Newsletter

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for
the next Newsletter by 18th November.

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Christian Aid Christmas Cards

If you missed the Christian Aid coffee morning at Bargates, Christmas cards can be ordered from Judy Bellingham by emailing: fairtradewhitchurch@gmail.com

Alternatively, some Christmas cards will be on the Traidcraft stall in the market on Fridays.

Helen Trigg

"My intellectual capacity is insufficiently developed to comprehend with the veracity of your statement"

(Told to Maurice Latham by his next-door neighbour's father)

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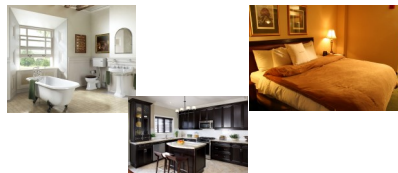
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