

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018



# Northgate News

edition no 482

**125 Years  
Warwick Methodist Church**



**Be Joyful, Be Prayerful, Be Thankful**

**Warwick Northgate Methodist Church  
Rev Barbara Greenwood**

**Telephone 01926 740846**

## COFFEE MORNINGS EVERY SATURDAY



**10:00 TILL 12 NOON - In the Church Hall**

Come along and take a break and enjoy fellowship  
with tea, coffee and hot chocolate - with biscuits!

**Don't forget - 1st Saturday Monthly!!**

**CAKE STALL**

**Make and bake - come and buy!**



## THE NEXT EDITION OF NORTHGATE NEWS WILL BE FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY 2019!!

In order to have the magazines ready, packed with events and news,  
the deadline date will be

**SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER**

Do contact Noelle

by email: [noelle\\_trevor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:noelle_trevor@hotmail.co.uk) or tel. 01789 841722.  
Or a written note (!)



**It is YOUR magazine—lets have YOUR news!!**

Printed by Warwick Print and Copy Ltd, Smith Street,  
Warwick. 01926 402300  
Email: [enquiries@warwickprintandcopyshop.com](mailto:enquiries@warwickprintandcopyshop.com)



## Warwick Northgate Methodist Church

# Space to Remember

Monday 8th October  
between 5pm - 7pm

A calm, welcoming place for people who have been bereaved, however recently or long ago. This may be something you would appreciate - or perhaps you have a neighbour or friend who would? Invite them along.

The church is set up with a few simple activities to help people remember their loved one and express their feelings. There are people around to listen if you would like to talk. There is gentle music, images and words of comfort and encouragement.

Refreshments will be available.

It is a drop-in event, come for as long or short a time as you wish.

### Supporting People in Bereavement

There is a new Bereavement Support Group organised through Transforming Communities, which will be meeting at the New Life Church on Friar Street starting on the first Monday in September.



The group is facilitated by trained volunteers, is free, and people can go for up to six sessions. For more information and to book a place, contact Stacey Bains on 07507 722537.

# Minister's Letter – from me to you



Friends,

Over the 30 days of September, I did the following: led nine Sunday services and one mid-week service; registered a wedding, conducted a funeral and performed a baptism; attended three coffee mornings and three community outreach events; led one school assembly, and three sessions of Ten<sup>2</sup>, spoke about my sabbatical at a mid-week fellowship group and acted as chaplain to a Safeguarding training session; did five pastoral visits/meetings, twelve business-oriented meetings and spent a day at the District Synod.

That's a total of forty-four events or activities away from the manse, lasting anything from half an hour to all day. The majority of those activities require preparation – reading, researching, thinking, praying, planning, and preparing resources. So, in between those outside activities, I was in my study preparing – and also following up on actions from the meetings, responding to emails and phone calls, tidying, sorting and filing away papers..... and, from time to time, spending a bit of time reflecting on what it is all for.

What's "The Point of Church?" That's the slightly provocative title of the third of the Ten<sup>2</sup> sessions, which a few of us met to talk about in the last week of September. We drew on various Bible passages, a World Council of Churches' report, CPD and our own experience. This extract from CPD about the nature of the Local Church is a good summary of my own view:

*"The Church exists to exercise the whole ministry of Christ. The Local Church, with its membership and larger church community, exercises this ministry where it is and shares in the wider ministry of the Church in the world. In this one ministry worship, fellowship, pastoral care, mission and service are essential elements. Administration and training enable their fulfilment."* (SO 600 (1))

We reflected in our conversation about how different the modern world is from the days of the first Christians. They met in the temple or in one another's homes – we meet mostly in a complex of buildings which we call "church" and "hall". They offer us the security of being able to meet when we want and the possibility of offering those premises to the wider community, either as a blessing or to bring in helpful income. But they also bring with them the cost and responsibility of upkeep, as well as the need to comply with Health and Safety, building regs, insurance standards and so on. Government legislation means we have obligations in respect of Safeguarding, data protection, food hygiene and probably many other things I've forgotten.

Within the overall calling of the Church, different individuals are called to different roles and responsibilities. As a presbyter, my calling is to a ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care. When leading worship, baptising and burying, doing a pastoral visit, or having conversations with people at coffee mornings or Bread Church, I am fulfilling my calling as a presbyter. When I'm attending endless meetings and wading through paper and form-filling – not so much. I would love to be able to reverse the ratio of pastoral and business-focussed meetings in my diary. I would love to spend more time listening to people who are hurting – I am good at that. I would love to spend more time one to one talking about the things of God. Admittedly September is a particularly busy month for meetings, but over the year as a whole, it often feels that there is too much organising and not enough doing.... or too much doing, and not enough being.

One thing we all have to face up to is that the number of ordained ministers available is reducing, while our congregations generally are shrinking and aging. Our Circuit is seeking to address this in various ways, including the appointment of qualified lay people to administrative, missional and pastoral roles, exploring how some of our smaller churches can work more closely together and looking at ways of developing lay ministry. In the short term, this will involve more work. In the longer term, we hope that it will result in the ability to put more of our energy into the Church's core purposes: worship, fellowship, pastoral care, mission and service. I believe there is an even bigger challenge though: - refocussing the church to better suit the society in which we live. I don't mean that we should give up Christian values and conform to those of wider society. Rather, I mean we need to recognise that the days of churchgoing as a normal activity and the church as the focus of people's social and family life are a thing of the past.

In the Methodist Church we have a membership model. To become a member, you have to publicly state your commitment to Christ, and accept obligations which include church attendance and responsible giving. People today are generally reluctant to become members of anything, and organisations from Scouting to Probus to the WI and political parties face the same issue. The days of 9-5 work five days a week and weekends free are gone – people work in different patterns, shopping and sport are available 24/7, and for younger people in particular, much of their social interaction happens online. In addition, the traditionally-structured service which we generally offer on a Sunday morning is foreign territory to many people today.

How do we respond? Holiday Club, Bread Church and Coffee Mornings are among the answers – different times, different styles, more accessible to people who aren't 'churchy'. We must not however forget that part of following Christ is to make him known to others... I wonder if there are ways we can do that better? Christian discipleship is a journey. It is always good to hear people talk of a simple trust that there is a God who loves us, but discipleship asks us to go deeper – in understanding and commitment. How do we help one another to do that?

I mentioned our membership model, and part of that is the requirement for each member to have a Pastoral Visitor responsible for the care. In Northgate we have operated a system for many years in which that care is extended to some non-members and is also linked to the distribution of Northgate News. This one-size-fits-all system is at odds with changes in wider society and is also becoming difficult to sustain as our Pastoral Visitors follow the age trend of the congregation at large. At our October Church Council meeting, we will be considering a proposal to restructure this system in a way which will allow pastoral visits to be focussed on those who most need and want them and increasing the use of phone calls as a way of keeping in touch. This will mean fewer visits for some, but potentially more for others. It also provides an opportunity to check with those who are not church members whether they are happy for us to continue to hold their contact details (required under data protection law) and how they want us to use them, and perhaps a prompt for those members who are fit and well and do not attend worship to think afresh about their involvement in the life of Northgate.

In due course, you will be receiving a letter asking you how you wish to receive Northgate News in future and how you want us to keep in touch with you more generally. There will also be the opportunity to offer to help, by remaining or becoming a Pastoral Visitor, becoming a Phone Friend, or helping to distribute Northgate News to those who are not able to pick it up from church.

One last thing..... from time to time one hears grumbles about the fact that the minister hasn't visited for ages, or that she didn't do something she had promised to do. I hope that the opening paragraph of this letter has given you some insight into why that might be.

Our Pastoral Visitors do a fantastic job, and under our constitution they are the main providers of routine pastoral care. I do try to visit members who are housebound or unwell, but it is simply not possible to get round everyone with any degree of regularity.

However – if you want to talk about matters of faith, or are in need of prayer, or want to share in communion, I will always make that a priority. Ring me up, or ask your pastoral visitor to contact me. I would love to talk about the things of God with you – ***that's what I'm here for.***

My calling is to minister Christ's compassion to those in need, and also to ensure that his claims are heard. What about you? What do you think is most important for the Church to be doing, and what is your part in that? Have you heard Christ's call to follow, and are you following? Or are you broken-hearted, in need of his love? Maybe both.

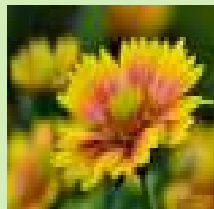
May you be blessed on your journey of faith,

Barbara

### **Don't go empty handed!**

Flower arrangements for sick and housebound friends are left on the windowsill in the foyer each Sunday.

Please feel free to take one to someone you know, who may be housebound, unwell, or just appreciative of your visit.



**No need to ask!**

### **Please pray for .....**

Our housebound friends,  
for those who are bereaved, for those in poor health,  
anticipating or recovering from surgery,  
sick, troubled in spirit,  
moving house  
and making life changing decisions.

Our thoughts and prayers go to them and their families -  
may they know Christ's peace and love in their lives.

**Amen**



On Sunday 30th September at our Sunday Service, we celebrated the Baptism of Olivia Sophie Rose. Olivia is the daughter of Rachel and Arron Rose, grandchild of Anne and Jack Oliver.

Our love and best wishes to Olivia as we welcome her to our Church family.

*Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.  
Mark 10 v16*

### **Birthday Congratulations!**



**To Win Smith,  
who will be 99 years young on October 23rd.**

**Happy Birthday, have a lovely day Win!**

### **Joyce Stone**

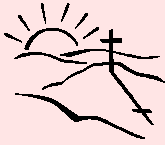
We are sad to report the death of Joyce Stone in Ross-on Wye, at the age of 83, on August 29<sup>th</sup>, after a long illness. Joyce was Doreen Bolitho's sister and lived in Warwick with her husband David and children Martin & Angie between 1976 and 1984.

Like Doreen, Joyce was musical and had a lovely clear and strong voice which transformed the soprano line of Northgate choir. Of a quiet unassuming nature, when asked she would always lift an anthem or a concert with a solo.

For one Christmas carol service some of us still remember her persuading, encouraging and coaching eight, probably reluctant, teenage 'Daughters of the Choir' to sing a gentle carol, unaccompanied throughout in four-part harmony. After many practices and butterflies, on the night they sang it perfectly and our church was transformed into a window on heaven.

Our thoughts and prayers are with David, Martin, Angie and their wider family.





## Into the Light House-group

The group meets for fellowship, bible study and discussion on the first and third Monday of each month, 7.45 for 8pm start.

**Do you want to come along? New members will always find a warm welcome; ask one of the stewards to introduce you to one of us for more information.**

Anne Oliver



## BREAD CHURCH



Changing the way you think about your daily bread.  
At Bread Church we include time for:

- ◇ All the elements of making bread
- ◇ Conversation and refreshments
- ◇ Shared reflection and prayers, and
- ◇ A simple meal together, prepared by volunteers and those who come to make bread.



**All are very welcome to join us, please do come—  
Why not bring a friend?**

Next Bread Church - Tuesdays 9th and 23rd October  
13th and 27th November

**ALL are invited. From 10:30am, followed by lunch at 12:15pm**



## **NORTHGATE FRIENDSHIP CLUB** **First Tuesday Monthly**

**From 1:30pm till 4.00pm - at Northgate**

An afternoon of Fellowship and Fun  
with a variety of activities, including table games  
and refreshments -  
**just drop in for tea & chat**

**Contact Denise 01926 496336**

## **COMMUNITY TUESDAYS**

### **ACTIVITIES FOR ALL**



**"LETS CREATE"**  
**3rd Tuesday each month - 2pm till 4pm**

**Come for a**  
knit and natter, Sew and natter, make a handmade greeting card  
or just for a cuppa and company

**Everyone Welcome**



For more details contact **Linda Mitchell**

## **EXTEND**

### **MOVEMENT TO MUSIC CLASSES FOR ALL**

**TUESDAYS, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> MONTHLY  
at 1.45pm**

**in the Community Centre  
Reduced class fee of £2**

**Exercise for older adults and people with disabilities**

**EXTEND** Classes will be led by **Susanne Soal**

Who will teach exercises that are great for you  
Looks to improve your mobility, strength,  
flexibility and endurance

Join in with as much or as little as you like  
Play good music to help enjoy the exercises  
Help you make friends and have fun

**The class will be for an hour with:**

A gentle warm - up  
A short low impact aerobic section  
Muscle & endurance exercise  
Flexible stretches

*For more details contact Susanne Soal or Trevor Blades*



## Have you got your sprouts on yet?

I've heard this pre-Christmas catch phrase attributed to the late Sir Terry Wogan but it's become common in our wider circle of family and friends, as we approach the end of October, as a reminder of our grandmothers' and their propensity to over-boil the seasonal greens. Often it gets a response like 'I don't want to think about Christmas I'm still enjoying the last of summer!'

But spare a thought for those who must think about Christmas early that others may have a good time come the season. As I write this in September, Barbara is packing Christmas shoe boxes in time for their long journey in a Samaritan's Purse truck. Barbara used to work in ladies fashion retail and often tells of the Brummie rep, annually breezing in on a hot June day shouting 'It's Christmas!' and depositing armfuls of samples for them to select and order their Christmas lines so that the factory could snap into action after the summer holiday and customers would not be disappointed.

Church choirs too must be well ahead of the season. At Northgate Brenda Armstrong is already introducing us to the music for our service of lessons and carols on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Immanuel's Ground West Gallery Quire have also been planning a Christmas programme. Most years there's a theme featuring music and stories local to the concert venue but there is a wealth of lovely joyful Christmas music originating in the West of England particularly Devon and Cornwall and of course lots of tales. This year's concert of carols and readings will be 'A West Country Christmas' at Northgate on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

So, if you haven't got your sprouts on yet don't worry but do avoid disappointment by booking these diary dates now.

So, to summarise!

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December, Northgate Church 4:30 p.m.**

'A West Country Christmas' A concert of carols and readings from the West of England by Immanuel's Ground West Gallery Quire. £8 - proceeds to Northgate Church & Hall refurbishment fund.

Tickets on sale in November. Volunteer door stewards and tea/coffee makers needed.

If you can help, please talk to Ian Meddoms.



### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Northgate Church 4:30 p.m.**

Service of Lessons and Carols with Northgate Church Choir.

*Ian Meddoms*



**And ANOTHER date for your diary!!**

**'CARDS AND CRAFTS'**

**Saturday October 27th**

**10:00 till 12 noon at the coffee morning**



**SHOP EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!!**



## **NORTHGATE GUILD 2018/19**

The new Guild Year starts on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 when the speaker will be our Guild President, the Rev Barbara Greenwood. She will be giving an illustrated talk on her recent pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela during her Sabbatical.

Guild meetings are held in the Church Hall/ Community Centre on the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month from October to April and start at 7.30pm. The Annual Subscription is £10 [for 13 meetings] or you can make a donation of £1 on each meeting you attend.

Printed copies of the 2018/19 programme will be available shortly. For any further information please contact the Guild Secretary, Richard Ratcliffe on 01926 491563 or any of the Committee members.

We look forward to welcoming **YOU** to the Guild – do bring a friend along as well as we have lined up a host of excellent speakers.

Richard Ratcliffe, Guild Secretary



## THE BUILDING OF THE BIG KNITTED CHRISTMAS TREE (BKCT) IN NOVEMBER

Help attach 3000 knitted squares to their branches!

Monday 19th November at 7pm  
Tuesday 20th November at 11am, Thursday 22nd November at 11am  
and Thursday 22nd November at 7pm at All Saints Church.

Come and see the BKCT frame start to go up on  
Friday 23rd November from 10.30am.

Come and celebrate. See the BKCT unveiled at

**COMMUNITY CAROLS**, 5pm on Saturday 1st December  
at All Saints Church with seasonal refreshments.

Come and celebrate **COMMUNKNITY**  
and what we've made together!



## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WARWICK - Prayer Breakfasts

Are open to all and take place on the first Saturday of  
each month for 30 minutes of reflection and prayer,  
followed by a simple breakfast.  
They are led and hosted by each church in turn  
making them different each month.

**All start at 7:30am**

Saturday 6th October at St Pauls  
Saturday 3rd November at Chase Meadow

**Everyone is warmly invited to join us.**

Traidcraft fair trade tea comes from carefully selected smallholder farmers in East Africa. This is very different to a lot of the tea that finds its way into teapots in the UK. A lot of tea is produced on large plantations and estates across India, East Africa, and Sri Lanka, and is picked by employed labourers who work long hours for notoriously low wages. In countries like Kenya and Sri Lanka, most of the tea is grown on smallholder farms, which are often less than half a football pitch in size. These smallholder farmers find it nearly impossible to compete with the large plantations, who always own and control the tea processing facilities which are essential in handling the perishable tea leaf, which has to be processed within 24 hours.

In return for their hand-picked, garden-grown tea, the smallholders receive low and unstable prices from either the large plantations, or the international broker companies. These growers earn a tiny fraction of the price their tea is sold for on the international market, and frequently end up trapped in a cycle of debt and dependence. By contrast, many of the smaller holders that we work with have farmer-owned factories, which means that they earn better returns for their work. In Malawi, whilst the farmers don't own their factory, there are other positives, including a good relationship with the private sector factory that processes their tea – and all Fairtrade benefits go to them.



In **Malawi**, we source our fair trade tea leaves and buds from the Sukambizi Association Trust, a Fairtrade certified group which has transformed the lives of thousands of local people through fair trade. Sukambizi unites over 6,000 farmers, split into community clubs of 20-40 members.

Sukambizi tea is harvested from slopes near Mount Mulanje, the highest peak in Malawi. Pictured here is Malita Makima, whose 3,000 tea plants grow on the lower slopes of the mountain, an hour's walk from her home in Kalozwa village. Malita sees herself as both a tea farmer and an entrepreneur. She trains local farmers in good agricultural practices, offering advice on planting, nurturing, and harvesting.

***Susan, your Fairtrader, has her Fair Trade stall the first weekend each month - come and browse a variety of fair trade products.***

## Reflection and Prayer Corner

In the "Star Trek" science fiction series, the Vulcan greeting is sometimes heard from Mr Spock or Ambassador Sarek: "Live long and prosper." They are words that can be found in the Old Testament of the Bible. There are other phrases from the Bible that people sometimes use in conversation, such as these:

**"Sour grapes"** - Ezekiel 18 v2

**"The writing's on the wall"** - Daniel 5 v25

**She is "the salt of the earth"** - Matthew 5 v13

**"To go the extra mile"** - Matthew 5 v41

**"Not letting his left hand know what his right hand is doing"** -

Matthew 6 v3

**"On the straight and narrow"** - Matthew 7v14

**"Fallen by the wayside"** - Matthew 13 v4

**"The blind leading the blind"** - Matthew 15 v14

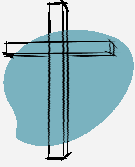
**"Good Samaritan"** - some-one who doesn't **"pass by on the other side"** -  
Luke 10 v31

**"Seeing is believing"** - **Doubting Thomas; I'll believe it when I see it.** John  
2 v25

**Let us pray:**

**Lord, inspire us  
In every moment before we speak,  
So that our words to others today  
May all be positive.  
Amen**





## Pray without Ceasing

There is a quiet corner by the 'Prayer Net', where there is a box for confidential requests for prayer.  
Or you can contact the prayer circle through Sheila 491516 or Norma 493630

## Mary Bailey

Mary, aged 90, sadly died on 24<sup>th</sup> August in Warwick Hospital with her family beside her.

Mary was born in London and, as a child, moved to Yorkshire and subsequently to Bath, where she lived for 40 years as part of the Norris family. She spent most of that period running a students' house for up to ten Bath University students, several of whom kept in touch and attended her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party last year.

On her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1987, she retired and moved to live in Snitterfield in her cottage next to Guy and Gay Norris and their three young children, the next generation of her family. She embraced with huge enthusiasm her role as an extra granny for Clare, Richard and Alexandra and quickly became an established member of the congregation of Snitterfield Methodist Church, joining the Wesley Singers and participating fully in Church and village life.

Mary was well known for her caring nature and love of children as well as her wonderful cooking and great sense of humour. After the closure of Snitterfield Methodist Church, she very much enjoyed the fellowship of the Northgate community.

Mary will be missed enormously by all her family and many friends.



## Want to know what items are needed?

Please see the notice on the notice-board which lists all that is urgently required by Foodbank.

Your generosity is much appreciated - thank you.  
For further details please see Christine Fell.



## AUTUMN (and Harvest) ANECDOTES

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

Everyone has these on their face?

Tulips.

What did the carrot say to the wheat?

Lettuce rest, I'm feeling beet.

The four seasons are salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

When's Honeydew? The Thyme's getting on.



### *And last but not least.....*



Botanists have developed a vegetable that eliminates the need to brush your teeth.

Bristle sprouts

*(the last one is for you Ian!!)*



### **Check out the website**

[www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk)

If you would like to receive the newsletter, weekly notices and latest news by email -

please contact Trevor Blades 01789 841722

[www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk)

**Twitter@WkMethodists**



## Forthcoming Sunday Services at Northgate

All services begin at **10:30am** unless otherwise stated



There is an activity table in the Church,  
and Junior Church for our young people.  
Lots to do to keep them busy!

October 7th      Rev David Greenwood      **HARVEST FESTIVAL**



October 14th      Mr Peter Ashton

October 21st      Rev John Harris      **COMMUNION**

October 28th      Mr Andrew Metcalf

November 4th      Mr David Shaw

November 11th      **at 10:00 am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**  
Service led by Rev Barbara Greenwood



November 18th      Rev Derick Chambers      **COMMUNION**

November 25th      Rev Barbara Greenwood      **CIVIC SERVICE**



*Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in the Hall  
after our Sunday Services*



*All are very welcome -  
please make yourself known to us*

