



Be Joyful, Be Prayerful,  
Be Thankful



# Northgate News

October / November 2019  
Edition 491



for all your  
News,

Events and Services

**Warwick Methodist Church**  
**Rev Barbara Greenwood**

**Telephone 01926 740846**

Don't forget to check out the website!!  
[www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk)

Or send us a tweet !!  
[Twitter@Wkmethodists](https://twitter.com/Wkmethodists)

Your word will not be shaken  
Your word will never fail me  
Like a fire in my bones  
Like a whisper to my soul  
Your word is revelation

(Your Word - Hillsong)

**Welcome to this issue of Northgate News  
For October AND November!**



Thank you to all who have sent in items for this edition of Northgate News, I have had the wonderful 'problem' of fitting it all in!!

Now, the next edition will be for Christmas and the New Year -  
(yes, I know, where has the year gone??!!)  
So, to make sure everyone has the newsletter in good time for all the Christmas services and events, please note that the **deadline date has been brought forward. See below.**

So keep the news coming! Now it's time to settle down and find out the news for the next few weeks.  
Kettle on.....??



**Please take note that the next edition of Northgate News  
will be for news and events at Christmas and New Year!!  
DECEMBER 2019 and JANUARY 2020**

**PLEASE NOTE the DEADLINE DATE  
for your news and events will be**

**FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER**

Contact Noelle:  
by email: [noelle\\_trevor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:noelle_trevor@hotmail.co.uk)  
or tel. 01789 841722.  
or a written note (!)  
Please keep your news and articles coming!





**COFFEE MORNINGS EVERY SATURDAY**  
10:00am 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 each month**  
**CAKE STALL**

**Make a cake and/or come and buy one if you can.**

*For any offers of help please contact Denise 01926 496336*



**Warwick District Foodbank**



Many thanks to everyone for all your donations at the  
Harvest Festival on Sunday 22nd September at  
Northgate.

All your donations were taken to the Foodbank warehouse after the  
service, helping to renew the stock of food urgently needed as by the end  
of the school holidays, supplies at Foodbank were running out.

**Please pray for the work of Foodbank as they continue  
to help those in urgent need.**



The foodbank is an outreach and relief project run by 15 of  
the Churches across Warwick, Kenilworth and Leamington.  
Our Church is an enthusiastic member of the group of 15  
churches

**Want to know what items are needed?**

**Please see the notice on the notice-board which lists all that is urgently  
required by Foodbank. Tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned potatoes  
especially needed.**

Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.  
For further details please see David Witham.

## Minister's Letter - from me to you



Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.' *Isaiah 30:21*

It is approaching thirty years since I recognised that the impulse I felt to talk to people about God might be a call to preach. At that time I was worshipping in an Anglican church, having come to faith while a student and been baptised in the independent evangelical church I had joined where I was at University. After a conversation with my vicar, I applied to become a Reader.

I was interviewed, accepted – and that was when things became complicated. One of the essential requirements was to be both baptised and confirmed. I had been baptised – and having shown my certificate to the vicar, there was no problem accepting that. But I had not been confirmed – and, given that my baptism had been a deliberate choice made soon after my decision to follow Christ, I did not see why I needed to be.

I agreed to go through the preparation and ceremony, but continued to wrestle with it internally, right up to the day of the confirmation itself. There were half a dozen teenagers, an elderly woman and me, then in my mid-twenties. Why did I have to go through this rite – someone laying their hands on my head and praying for the Holy Spirit to fill me, when I was already a spirit-filled bible-believing Christian?

The service was on a Thursday evening. That afternoon, after getting home from work early, I read the account of Jesus' baptism in Matthew chapter 3. Jesus approached John to be baptized, but John protested, saying that he, John, needs to be baptized by Jesus rather than the other way round. Jesus replied 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Those words opened up a new understanding for me about what my confirmation would mean.

John's baptism was for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus did not need to be baptized, because he had no sins – he did so as an act of identification with the people he had come to serve and to save. I did not need to be confirmed, either to own my faith for myself, or to receive the Holy Spirit, as both of those had already happened. But while outwardly I had been saying that my believer's baptism was equivalent to infant baptism followed by confirmation, in my heart I believed it to be better than. I felt that I was a cut above people who had faithfully attended church, worshipped and served God all their lives. But now I was going to be serving these people, and God needed to take me down a peg or two to prepare me to do so. It was vital that I stop thinking of myself, and my faith, as superior to theirs.

By the evening, I embraced my confirmation and the service was a joyful occasion. The bishop who led the service preached about a train journey he had recently made from London to Liverpool, likening it to the route that our faith sometimes takes. There is the straightforward way – leave London Euston at 13:07, arrive Liverpool Lime Street 15:19 with no changes. And then there's the way he experienced it: leave London Euston 20 minutes late, train breaks down outside Milton Keynes, wait for an hour, train resumes, engineering works near Crewe mean a rail replacement bus service, arrive Liverpool Lime Street 18:45, hot and disgruntled because there was no buffet car.

In faith, the straightforward way (in the Methodist tradition) is to be baptised as an infant, brought to church by your parents who attend themselves, go through Sunday School, be confirmed and received into membership in your teens, and persist with membership and regular attendance throughout your adult life, perhaps transferring to another Methodist church if you move around. But how many of us have actually followed that path? At one time it would have been more common than now, but it was never universal. And I venture to suggest that as a pattern of Christian discipleship, it is dying out.

The bishop's point was that, although his journey was long and circuitous, he did end up at his destination. And so it is with us. If we are seeking God – however hesitatingly, however imperfectly, with whatever misconceptions we may be carrying – we will surely arrive in the end. Because it is God who invites us, longs for us, and guides us in our journey towards him.

Where are you on your journey? There are so many permutations – people join and drop out, move churches, find the demands too much or the teaching incomprehensible. Some have an unquestioned faith which, when tested by adversity, is found to be hollow. Others are brought up short and decide that they have not really been a Christian until now, despite being in church all their lives. Some find church boring and unfulfilling, yet still yearn for that of God.

Surely the important thing is that God loves us and calls us to love one another. How and where do you find connection with Christ? What habits and places and people sustain you...? Or perhaps you are off in a siding somewhere, feeling disconnected while still going through the motions. Wherever you are on your journey, God will surely show you the next step, which may well be different from what you anticipated.

A moment's quietness, a few minutes' reflection, can be all you need to reconnect with the guiding voice, the sense of God's presence.

But there is nothing to fear, because God, who calls us and guides us, is love.

Every blessing,  
Barbara

**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**

*Please also pray for :-*

*Norma Richards - in hospital following a fall, fracturing her hip*

*Ron and Dorothy Brisby*

*Hazel Gibbs*

***Lord,  
We know that each of us will experience difficulties  
of various kinds  
at different times in our lives.  
We pray for courage at those times, but we also pray  
for courage and strength to join others  
and be of support, when they are in difficulty.***

**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



A very special Happy Birthday to Win Smith, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on October 23rd.

We send much love and congratulations Win on this special day!

See page 8 for a feature about Northgate's Centenarians!!!

### Time for a Smile

An elderly gentleman wasn't hearing well, so he went to an audiologist practice for a hearing check. They gave him a test and fitted him up with better hearing aids. They suggested he returned in a month to check that he was happy with them. He did so and he confirmed that his hearing had improved significantly. The audiologist said, "I would say your hearing is now almost perfect, so your family must be delighted."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to their conversations and I have changed my will three times!"



### 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!

### FLOWER ROTA

Can you help fill in the dates on the flower rota which is on the noticeboard? Each pedestal costs about £15.00 but smaller donations are welcome if you'd like to share with someone else

See Barbara Meddoms for more details.

---

## Northgate's Centenarians



This October is a very special month in the life of Northgate and particularly of one member of our congregation. You'd never think it by appearances, but Winifred Smith will celebrate her 100th birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup> October! We look forward to celebrating her faithful service to the community and church over many decades.

In her day, we covered the whole town, street by street, collecting each September for the National Children's Homes, now called Action for Children. Win always collected the left-hand side of Stratford Road while a colleague covered the other side. Win's husband was manager of Hiltons shoe shop, 15 Market Place, where Anderson the jeweller is now, and they lived in the flat over the shop. The next-door shop, on the corner opposite the museum, was then a gents' outfitters – recently taken by Hamlingtons, another jeweller – the flat above was also occupied.

Disguised by modern shop fronts these are very old buildings both of which have cupboards built into the brickwork of the party wall. Win recounts that, if the cupboard doors were open in both properties, you could hear next door's conversation quite clearly. This was discovered when singing carols at Christmas only to hear the neighbours joining in. Their friendship developed and it became a tradition to sing carols with the cupboards open every Christmas.

Paul Bolitho has looked at our membership roll which reveals two notable past Warwick, Methodist centenarians. Our first was coal merchant Samuel Hunt of new Street who died at the age of 100 in 1941 – does anyone remember his grandson Arthur?

Grace Thomas remembered that: "Samuel had a lovely white beard and to me he seemed like someone out of the Bible." Samuel had been received into membership by Thomas Collins at Kenilworth about 1859, and on moving to Warwick he was the superintendent of the Sunday school at Avon Street Methodist Church for 25 years. He worshipped at Market Street church before Northgate was built.

---

One of his earliest recollections as a boy was of meeting Jabez Bunting in his grandfather's house in Bedworth. Jabez was the most prominent Methodist after John Wesley's death and instrumental in shaping the conference at the head of the governing structure of Methodism. Grandfather Thomas before him was reputed as a young lad to have heard John Wesley preach at an open-air meeting at Bedworth.

Our second centenarian was Charles Baxter who celebrated his 100th birthday a few weeks before he blew out the candles on our own anniversary cake on May 25<sup>th</sup> 1993. Known to all Warwick folks as Charlie he became chief bass chorister in St Mark's Church, Leamington Spa, and was a special soloist at our own Renovation Service in 1949, later joining our choir. A printer by trade, he had come to Warwick after service in the First World War. He moved into one of the new houses in Newburgh Crescent where he was to live for over seventy years, coping on his own after his wife died in 1977 until moving finally to The Sycamores in Sydenham. He died in his 102nd year in January 1995.

We look forward to wishing Win continued good health, a lovely birthday and our congratulations when she qualifies for our list of illustrious Northgate Centenarians.

*Compiled from notes by  
Paul Bolitho  
and a conversation between Win and  
Barbara Meddoms.*





## **Harvest Festival Evensong**

Sunday 6th October 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

St James's Church, Walton D'Eivile, Nr. Wellesbourne,  
Warwickshire

(In the grounds of Walton Hall Hotel CV35 9HG)

Traditional Evensong as it might have been in the 18th century  
Singers and instruments of the Immanuel's Ground Quire  
will be in the west gallery

## **Sing Birmingham 2019!**

Saturday 2nd November 2019

In the beautiful, warm, historic Church of St Nicholas,  
Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8RU

A Day of west gallery music and carols for Instrumentalists and Singers  
using music from both local sources and also in the general west gallery  
repertoire.

10.00 a.m. to 4.30 pm. Doors open 9.30 a.m.

Cost £10 pp includes music booklet.

Application form available to download on the  
website

<http://immanuelsground.com>  
or from Ian Meddoms



## **Time for a Smile**

Bill loved the birds and every night he would go into his garden and hoot like an owl. He was tickled pink when on one evening an owl hooted back. This went on for some time and he was immensely proud of his ability to talk with his new feathered friend. His wife was so proud of his accomplishment that she told one of their neighbours that regularly her husband goes into the garden to communicate with an owl. “

That's really amazing” said the neighbour, “my husband does the same.”





Congratulations to Anne and Jack Oliver  
who celebrate their  
Ruby Wedding Anniversary on October 27th

With love and best wishes to you both!

## Community Tuesdays



**ALL CHANGE!!**

**NORTHGATE FRIENDSHIP CLUB AND LETS CREATE  
ARE JOINING TOGETHER!!**

**Meeting every first and third Tuesday**

**From 1:30pm till 3:30pm - at Northgate**

Enjoy an afternoon of Fellowship and Fun  
with a variety of activities

Including craft activities, table games,  
have you a talent or project to share?  
Or just come for tea and chat.

Refreshments provided

Everyone welcome,  
Contact Denise - 01926 496336



A very sincere thank you to Linda Mitchell who organised and started the "Lets Create" group.  
We are sorry you can no longer attend  
( due to family commitments) ,  
our best wishes and thanks  
go to you - please do keep in touch!!



## BREAD CHURCH

**Bread Church is every 2nd and 4th Tuesday.  
Dates for Bread Church this month :-**

Tuesdays 8th and 22nd October,  
and 12th and 26th November

**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 invited. From 10:30am, followed by lunch at  
12:00 noon.  
Why not bring a friend?**



**Following a meeting on Homelessness in Warwick .....**

**On Tuesday 8th October** we have invited Lianne Kirkman, Chief Executive Officer of Helping Hands Charity, to speak to us over lunch about their community work in Leamington and Warwick at the Gateway Café.

It would be great if you could join us for lunch at 11.45am -  
or earlier if you would like to make Bread.

**All are very welcome to join us, it will be great to see you.**





## 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



## NORTHGATE GUILD - GUILD NEWS!

**Guild re-starts on October 2nd, meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month, October to April, in the Church Hall/Community Centre, starting at 7:30pm,**

A seasons membership costs £10 for 13 meetings.

For those who attend occasionally, we ask for just a £1 donation for each meeting they attend. All are very welcome.

***Here is a taster of what is planned this autumn!!***

- Oct 2nd - Rev Barbara Greenwood - Devotional Evening
- Oct 16th - Richard Ratcliffe - My Primary School Years 1946-1952
- Nov 6th - Paul Bolitho - Son of the Manse
- Nov 20th - David Howe - "Could do Better"
- Dec 4th - Alan Armstrong - "Travelling for the Queen"
- Dec 18th - Carol Singing at Rohan Gardens at 2:30pm

See Richard Ratcliffe for further information, or if you would like a printed copy of the programme.

Richard Ratcliffe, Guild Secretary

**Bloodwise**

**BLOOD CANCER:  
DID YOU KNOW?**

*This is an edited version of the article that appeared in the Warwick Courier in September, which explains our family's commitment to Bloodwise.*

*I am Chairman of the local branch of Bloodwise, which raises money for research into treatments for blood cancers.*

Our younger daughter Sophie was 4 when she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in 1996, and endured treatment for 2 ½ years, including a bone marrow transplant in Birmingham Children's Hospital. Having a child with cancer is devastating, and we had wonderful support from our family and friends (including at Northgate) during that time. We also got involved with the Heart of England Branch of Leukaemia Research Fund, as Bloodwise was called at that time. Sadly Sophie's leukaemia could not be beaten, and she died at the end of 1998. Northgate friends who were around at that time will remember Sophie's determination to live life as normally as possible throughout her illness.

I remember one Nativity play with a rather sorry looking Mary, who was off to hospital before the day was out with a post chemo infection; and of course she insisted on attending the Christmas Fair the day before she died, although she wasn't up to presenting the bouquet to the mayor as planned!

When our charity started in 1960, fewer than one in every 10 children diagnosed with leukaemia lived for more than five years. Now, for children with the most common form – acute lymphoblastic leukaemia – nine in 10 survive. That's remarkable progress, and one that Bloodwise has made a very important contribution to. Many doctors and scientists have had their research funded by Bloodwise for most of their careers, and they always say that they feel part of the Bloodwise family, which is the UK's leading blood cancer research charity.

It's a testament to the success of our research that there is now as much focus on living with and beyond blood cancer, as there is on survival. However, there are 147 different blood cancers, many of them types of leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma, so there's a great deal of work to be done towards finding treatments and cures for each of these cancers.

Bloodwise is at the forefront of ground breaking research, and collaborates with scientists internationally to make sure that we aren't duplicating work that is being done elsewhere. Blood cancers are the 5<sup>th</sup> most common cancer in the UK, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest for numbers of deaths from cancer each year, so there is still much to be done.

My family and I have supported this wonderful charity for over 20 years now, and have helped to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds in that time. The Heart of England Branch is only small, we cover Warwick District and South Warwickshire, but we have committed supporters who help us to raise funds each year. In the last 12 months we have held a very successful Ball & Auction for 120 raising £3800; a concert with a male voice choir and school choir at Northgate Methodist Church; and a Race Night at Warwick Sports Club. We are very grateful to the venues who allow us to use their premises free of charge to maximise our profit for the charity. We also hold street collections in the four local towns, and store collections in Tesco each year. The money that is raised goes to fund vital research that will change the lives of blood cancer patients, and their families, as treatments evolve and survival rates improve.

Thank you to all our Northgate friends who have so generously supported our fundraising over the years.

### **Anne Oliver**



Sophie and her sister Rachel



Sophie



## The Cracked Pot



An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

'I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.'

The old woman smiled, 'Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?'

'That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day when we walk back, you water them.' For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table.

Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.'

Each of us have our own unique flaw. But it is the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.

You have just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.



**SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER 10:00am till 12 Noon**

In the Community Centre at Northgate



**A BRING AND BUY SALE**

All proceeds to "Homewood"  
The Methodist Care Home in Leamington

**Buy and sell and get a bargain!!!**

Further details from Denise or Sylvia Fair



**CHOIR**

After enjoying a long summer break we are now beginning rehearsals for new items to be sung at the Carol Service which is, of course, the highlight of our year.

The Carol service will be on Sunday, 15th December at 4pm.

Hopefully we can sing other items at special services before then depending on absences for various reasons.

I and Trevor Barr would be delighted to see new faces and hear new voices at any time - just come along and join us!

Brenda Armstrong



**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 5th October at St Michael's

Saturday 2nd November at St Mary Immaculate

**Anyone wishing to attend will find a warm welcome!**



## WARWICK METHODIST CHURCH

Invites you to



**PAUSE TO  
REMEMBER**

Monday 11th November - 10:00am till 12 noon

The Church will be open for quiet reflection



Light a candle,

Place a poppy on the poppy field



Refreshments available



Everyone Welcome



'Do you know of anyone who would like a Newsletter, who has not been in Church, or you have not seen for a while? Maybe just folks who may be interested in what we are up to, who we are?!!

Why not take one round? Or give them a call. When you pick up your newsletter don't be shy and take two!



### Church Council Reminder

The next Church Council meeting is on  
Monday 14th October 2019  
at 7.30pm in the Church.

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



Picture created for Harvest by Polly and Edwyn in Junior Church



For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God;  
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;  
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping  
Silent growth while we are sleeping  
Future needs in earths safe keeping,

Thanks be to God

