The Magazine

December 2019
January 2020

Wallasey Village Church

The United Reformed Church in Wallasey Village

Letter from Jeff

Put some skin into the game!

Sometimes, I get into conversations about the past, and people tell me what it was like moving from radio to TV; the thrill and excitement and anticipation. Many people relate memories of crowding round a tiny screen watching the coronation of our current Queen and just how amazing it was for the audio to become visual.

Throughout the Old Testament God spoke to his people through His Prophets, through scripture and through visions but something was about to change, and it did when 2,000 years ago "the Word became flesh," the Saviour took on skin, Jesus was born in Bethlehem and the audio became visual. We call this the 'Incarnation' which has its root in the Latin word *'carne' which translates as* "meat", and the majesty and the mystery of the incarnation is that the divine became physical; the eternal Word took on flesh and bone, God became Man and assumed the fullness of our humanity, for us and our salvation.

There's an expression, 'to put some skin into the game'. It means to have a personal investment in the pursuit of a goal or achievement and, to incur risk in order to achieve that goal. That's exactly what God did in his plan to save humanity form the effect of sin, He literally put 'skin in the game'. The incarnation means God is fully invested in and committed to us; God takes the risk! And this is the power of the Word made flesh. Our Creator was willing to do all that was needed to become our Redeemer.

God communicated His great love for us not with just words but the Word made flash, entering the fullness of our condition to welcome us back home.

When we celebrate Christmas we too conjure up those feelings of excitement and anticipation of the audio made visual. And it's why, regardless of our circumstances it can still be a Happy Christmas.

I pray for God's blessing to rest upon you and your families this Christmastime and in the year to come.

God bless.

Jeff

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you!

Between the Prenton & Wallasey Village churches we packed and sent over 120 boxes this year. Whilst this was slightly down on last year it was still a tremendous effort. We've had wonderful contributions of knitted hats, gloves, scarves bags, purses and puppets. The amount of hand knitted goods particularly demonstrate a long term commitment to this project … it's never too early to start preparing for next year's boxes of love so get those needles moving and pick up bargains as you see them in the shops*. (I'm happy to store items for shoeboxes if you don't have room for them!)*

2018 saw nearly 511,000 boxes sent from the UK and 10.6 million globally.

We were part of that and we made a difference.

Thank you and let's continue making a difference.

Heather

Praying for the Persecuted Church

https://www.opendoorsuk.org/

Christians in North Korea are considered enemies of the state, because they believe in a higher authority than the Kim family. The North Korea regime demand absolute loyalty and obedience, and the Kim family are worshipped like Gods. All homes and schools must have portraits of the Kim family. Christians must keep their faith and their Bible completely secret. Any Christians discovered in North Korea, will be sent to a labour camp, where they are worked like slaves, tortured and given very little food. Yet our brothers and sisters have decided that knowing Jesus is worth the risk they face.

Pray for Christians in North Korea

Lord Jesus, please protect those who follow you in North Korea, especially those who suffer in labour camps or prisons. Protect all the secret workers as they smuggle in vital supplies and support. We pray that you will open Kim Jong Un's heart to receive your Holy Spirit. Break the power of evil in this country so that Christians may be free to worship you openly.

Thank you Lord. Amen

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it."

1 Corinthians 12:26

Opendoors say "We dream of a world in which every Christian who is persecuted is remembered and supported by other Christians." But I say "Pray for a world in which no Christians are persecuted."

Christians in North Korea

Hannah and her family were arrested for leaving North Korea. When it was discovered that they were Christians, they were each put in solitary confinement.

She says, "prisoners in solitary confinement were badly beaten up. Nobody dared to resist because you'd only make the torture worse. But my husband was different. The more they tortured him, the harder he defended his faith. He yelled at them: "if believing in God is a sin, I'd rather die! Just kill me! It's my mission to live according to God's will!"

"Of course we prayed throughout our time in prison. One day, our entire family was called out of the prison cell. We were in front of the deputy of the prison, waiting to hear our verdict, and in our minds we all desperately prayed for a miracle. We didn't want to suffer and die in political prison camp. God answered our prayer. The deputy gave us special amnesty. When we walked out of the prison that night and were finally free and alone, we quietly sang a hymn"

Thanks to Hazel for supplying this story

This story leaves many question unanswered:
Why were they released?
Did they ever get to South Korea?
What are they doing now?

Mulled Wine, Mince Pies

&

Mingle at the Manse

Jeff & Heather invite you all to an evening of
Festive Fun, Food & Fellowship
(Oh, and some festive drink too!)

Please come and join us at the manse,
109 Shrewsbury Road, Claughton, CH43 8SS, on
Thursday 5th December, 2016 from 6.00pm

Everyone is welcome - including you!

FRiENDS OF WALLASEY

CAMPAIGN TO END LONELINESS

On Tuesday 15thOctober, We had our largest gathering yet. While numbers have been hovering around forty people, on this particular morning, we had sixty! New people are joining us every week, which is a great encouragement.

I asked one of the group how she was enjoying Tuesday morning, to which she replied If, for any reason, I am unable to come on a Tuesday, then I can go for a whole week without speaking to any-one. Please pray for all involved in leading and helping on a Tuesday morning so that something of the love, compassion and kindness of the Lord Jesus will be experienced by all who meet.

Ron Taylor

Thank you to Ron Taylor and to all those who help provide such a valuable service in the Village.

Thanks especially to Claire, who started this initiative and has been " leading light" and an inspiration.

Not available online

Lonsdale Trust

The aim of **The Lonsdale Trust** is to help people to live at home for as long as they and their family wish, and to prevent the need for permanent care. Clients attend Lonsdale as their club and this gives their families and friends a much needed break from their care duties. There is a daily fee for services, as they have fully trained staff. Clients pay 50% of the actual cost and the Trust pays the remainder. This makes the Lonsdale Trust the most affordable service in Wirral. The Lonsdale offers a free three hour assessment visit (includes lunch and other refreshments) with no obligation.

For further information please go on to the website www.thelonsdaletrustwallasey.co.uk - or telephone directly on 0151 630 2076 for enquiries or to arrange a visit.

I would recommend this excellent service, as many members of my respective churches, have over the years, benefitted greatly in the support, care and friendship they have received from Lonsdale.

Lorraine Aizlewood-Threlfall (Revd)

St. Andrew's United Church, New Brighton &
Seacombe URC

Sunday Services	January 2020	10.30 am
5th	Ron Taylor	
12th	Revd Jeff Hughes	
19th	Ray Craig	
26th	Revd Jeff Hughes	**Communion**

Prayers of Intercession	
5th	Edna
12th	Heather
19th	Walter
26th	John Laing

Duties			
Date	Duty Elder	Vision/Sound	Welcome/ Offering
5th	Hazel	Ann	Irene/Eileen
12th	Chris	Joyce	Ron & Mavis
19th	Ann	Hazel	Peter/John Laing
26th	Joyce	Joyce	Sue & Walter

December Dates for your diary

Mon 2nd	2:30pm	7 Dean Avenue, CH45 3HT	Advent Bible study
Thurs 5th	6:30pm		Mingle at the manse (see p6)
Sat 7th	8:00am	Thornton Hall	Men's Breakfast
8th Dec	10:00am	Church	Big Breakfast Church and Toy Service
Mon 9th	2:30pm	7 Dean Avenue, CH45 3HT	Advent Bible study (
Mon 16th	2:30pm	7 Dean Avenue, CH45 3HT	Advent Bible study

January Dates for your diary

18th—25th	Week of prayer for Christian Unity. See attached sheet

Scout Stamps

Stamps are 35p this year. Cards to be delivered the weekend 14th and 21st December . The Scouts and guides hope to raise at least £25 000. 75% -80% of the proceeds got to Scouts and Guides in Wirral. The rest of the money goes to other charities including Charles Thompson Mission, Hoylake Cottage, RNLI

Sunday Services December 2019 10.30 am

1st	Ron Taylor
8th	Big Breakfast Church and toy service—Revd Jeff Hughes
15th	Kevin Hogan
22nd	**3:30pm Candle-lit carols**
29th	Ron Taylor

Prayers of Intercession

1st	Irene
8th	Heather
15th	John Laing
22nd	Joyce
29th	Hazel

Duties

Date	Duty Elder	Vision/Sound	Welcome/Offering
1st	Hazel	Joyce	Jane/Alison
8th	Chris	Ann	John Steel/ Jean Copple
15th	Ann	Hazel	Eileen/ Sue
22nd	Hazel	Joyce	Jane/ Alison
29th	Joyce	Ann	Margaret Moore/ Jenny McGlashan

Coffee Rotas for December

Saturday		Sunday	
		1st	Jenny McGlashan Margaret Moore
7th	Irene Friar	8th	Jenny Hough Eileen Levell
14th	John Laing	15th	Jean Copple Joan Leighton
21nd	Heather Hughes	22nd	Carol Doran Sue Norris
28th	Gill Smart	29th	Edna Rowan Nina Parkinson

Duties

Date	readers	cash	flowers
1st	Joan Duffin/ Joyce	John Laing/ Jayne Raynor	Eileen Levell
8th	Hilary/Gron	John Laing/ John Steel	Pat Squires
15th	Jenny McGlashan/ Jenny Hough	John Laing Joan Duffin	Ella Tunnicliffe
22nd	Eileen /Walter	John Laing/Chris Doran	Margaret Moore
29th	Joan Duffin/ Irene	John Laing/ Jayne Raynor	Margaret Bigmore

Christmas
at Wallasey Village URC

Sunday 8th Dec 10:00am

Christmas Big Breakfast Church
&
Toy Service

Bring your gifts for the

Charles Thompson Mission

Monday 23th December 10:00am—11:30am

Christmas Songs with Signs

Sunday 22nd Dec 3:30pm

Candlelight Carols

Tuesday 24th 11:30pm

Christmas Eve

Late reflective service Led by Heather Hughes

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th Dec

Christmas service 10:30am

All age service led by Revd Jeff Hughes

Coffee Rotas for January

Saturday		Sunday	
4th	Irene Friar	5th	Jenny McGlashan Margaret Moore
11th	John Laing	12th	Jenny Hough Eileen Levell
18th	Heather Hughes	19th	Jean Copple Joan Leighton
25th	Gill Smart	26th	Carol Doran Sue Norris

Communion Elders

26th Jan	TBA

Duties

Date	readers	cash	flowers
5th	Chris/Carol	J Laing/Jayne	Joan Duffin
12th	Edna/Jenny McGlashan	J Laing/Eileen	Ella
19th	John Laing/ Hilary	J Laing/Joan Duffin	Joan Leighton
26th	David & Margaret Bigmore	J Laing/Chris	Barbara Vernon

Advance Notice **details to follow**

If you have any meetings planned for next month, please inform us by Sun 19th Jan so that they can be included in the next issue.

24th Feb 8th - March 2020	Fairtrade Fortnight
25th Feb	Shrove Tuesday
10th April	Good Friday
12th April	Easter Sunday

"The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity"

The readings and prayers for the 8 days, 18th- 25th January 2020, included in the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland resource entitled "Unusual Kindness" were prepared by Christians in Malta. Luke records the storm and shipwreck which landed St Paul, his companions and the ship's crew on the shore of Malta (Acts 27v13 - 28v10):

"Once safely ashore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness." (Acts 28v1,2a)

The Village Churches Together Committee hope that all members of our congregations will join in the daily readings and prayers on the separate sheet circulated with this Magazine as an act of unity in Wallasey Village.

We want to make sure that no one in our local community has to go hungry, but we need your help to make this happen. Your gift of financial support, time, business partnership and food can make a real difference.

Urgently needed items

- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Fish
- Pasta Sauce
- Sponge Puddings
- Long Grain Rice
- UHT Milk
- Custard
- Rice Pudding
- Tinned Fruit
- Coffee
- Squash
- Deodorant

We've got plenty of

- Beans
- Tea
- Carrier Bags

Donate

At the box in our church entrance or Tesco's (Bidston Moss or Heswall) or Sainsbury's (Upton).

Money is always welcomed. Please give any donations to Peter Evans.

Support Fairtrade

7 Fairtrade Switches to cut your plastic use

by
Claire Liboureau
See the full article at http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Media-Centre/Blog/2019/November/7-Fairtrade-Switches-to-cut-your-plastic-use

Take the standard supermarket product. We buy it, consume it, discard it. But we all know that a product's life is longer than that. Fairtrade works to shed light on what happens before you buy a product but what happens after you discard it matters too. Plastic is one of the most difficult materials to dispose of, and so if we don't use it in the first place then we don't have to get rid of it. Here are seven Fairtrade switches to make your purchase responsible from beginning to end.

1. Switch from Plastic wrappers

Chocolate and Love plastic-free wrappers tick all the boxes. The inner wrapper is made with wood pulp from responsibly managed forests and is fully compostable. The outer wrapper is designed in collaboration with one of the co-founders and a talented New York artist who hand-paints all the illustrations, which are then printed on FSC certified paper. ***Seed & Bean's*** 100% organic and delicious chocolate comes wrapped in fully compostable packaging.

2. Avoid Plastic Clothes

Synthetic fabrics are made from plastics. With every wash your clothes release micro-plastics, which end up in our oceans where they can be ingested by fish which can end up on our plates. Choosing Fairtrade cotton is choosing sustainable fashion. Sustainable for the workers, sustainable for the environment.

3. Zero Waste Beauty

Fairtrade, vegan, organic cosmetics in reusable glass jars and bottles. That easily scores them a 10/10! ***Fair Squared*** is part of the Zero Waste movement… will you join them?

4. Recyclable coffee packs

100 million. That's the number of non-recyclable coffee packs the UK goes through each year. ***Percol*** switched from plastic to home-compostable plant fibres and eucalyptus. Will you switch with them?
Find ***Percol*** coffee in local supermarkets

5. It's time for a sustainable cuppa

Tea bags or tea leaves? For 96% of us, it's tea bags. But did you know that what keeps the bag sealed is most often polypropylene. In other words, petro-based plastic makes up around 25% of your tea bag. ***Clipper*** are doing things differently they are 100%compostable.

6. Unpacked Shopping

Why limit yourself to a few plastic-free products when you can have a plastic-free shop? ***Waitrose & Partners,*** one of the largest Fairtrade retailers, trialled an unpacked model in Oxford and it was an overwhelming success! So much so, that this model will come to three more stores this autumn: Cheltenham, Abingdon & Wallingford. If you're lucky enough to be a local, gather your reusable jars and bags and support this fantastic initiative.

7. Fairtrade's totally fabulous bags

Choose from two fun designs printed on Fairtrade cotton tote bags. Get yours and help us make trade fair as you go plastic-free.

Rear Entrance From Church Car Park

To enlarge and improve the rear entrance to our Worship Area and Halls, building works lasting 10 weeks are planned to start on 6 January and end on 16 March 2020.

The contractor, Taylormade Construction (NW) Ltd, is planning to carry out the contract works without disrupting meetings taking place at the church.

The arrangements made with our contractor are similar to those made when the floor at the Organ end of our Worship Area was flattened in 2018. The access drive to the church garage and the crazy-paved area between it and the Church View rear fence will be reserved for contractors' parking. The Car Park between the garage drive and Farndon Road fences will remain available for parking by the users of our premises.

The Kitchen and Toilets will remain as existing but the current rear entrance doorway will be bricked up, using some of the bricks stored beside the Garage, and some service pipes will be altered in the Men's Toilet during the works.

No access will be permitted to the building site, comprising the Lounge, Corridors around it and behind the Organ loft, the Cellar and a designated area outside the Rear Entrance and Men's Toilet, without the contractor's consent whilst building works are proceeding on site. All visitors allowed on site must sign the contractor's visitors book.

Enquiries should be addressed to David Bigmore (tel: 0151-638 1900; email *bigmores@btinternet.com*

From the editors

Never, perhaps, since the war, will we have entered a new year with as much uncertainty as we have now. At least we may know before Christmas, what government and Prime Minister we will have, but parliament will not start until the new year. Before then, perhaps we will enjoy a Christmastide of doubt devoid, letting nothing dismay us, until the cold reality of 2nd January, when doubt and dismay will again be inflicted upon us—perhaps for most of 2020. over the Christmas tide, we will again rejoice in the arrival of the Child who brought hope to all on earth, listen to the old, old story, which never changes throughout the centuries, sing the carols, some old, some new, sung unaccompanied or with the assistance of a merry or thundering organ, meet old friends and loved ones. In spite of troubling thoughts, we hope you will enjoy the Christmas time and pray that God will bring us joy, health, love and peace next year.

All items for inclusion in the February *Magazine must be in the hands of the editors no later than* Sunday 19th January

Contributions should be emailed to JoyceHumphreys@virginmedia.com .

Handwritten (print) or typed contributions may be given to the editors or sent to:.

14 Prospect Vale, Wallasey CH45 6TQ

tel 0151 513 3678

Regular Activities

Activity:	Meets:	Notes	Where?	Contact
Fusion	Tuesday 7:00—9:00pm	Helpers at 6:30pm	Village rooms	Matt Bentley
Little Stars	Thursday 10.00-11.30		Large hall	Christine Johnson 07581071979
Indoor Bowls	Thursday 1.30 - 4.00	Oct – Mar	Large hall	John Steel 637 0674
Rainbows	Thursday 5.15 – 6.30	Term time	Large Hall	Maz Sprenger 0790 3380683
Brownies	Thursday 6.00 – 7.30	Term time	Small hall	Emily Antley
Guides	Thursday 7:30—8:30	Term time	Large Hall	Gill Smart 630 0504
Sunday Breakfast church	9:15am—10:00am			
Sunday Worship	10..30– 11.30			Please see centre pages for details

www.wallaseyvillage.urc.org.uk

email wallaseyvillageurc@gmail.com

Contact List

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Email JoyceHumphreys@virginmediacom			
Management Committee	Chris Doran		923 4298 07743161971
Lettings	Jean Copple		342 7247
Finance/Website	Ann Barr		638 9602
Church Cleaning	Karon Laing		638 7569
Heating	Peter Evans	7 days notice for changes please	638 2446
Flowers	Margaret Bigmore		638 1900
Pastoral visiting	Chris Doran		923 4298 07743161971
Prayer Co-ordinator	Hazel Welsh		07821171534
Children's work/ safeguarding	Joyce Humphreys		07590376633
Magazine/ Newssheet editors	Joyce & Gron Humphreys	14 Prospect Vale Wallasey, CH45 6TQ	513 3678 07484628534

This year, we raised £870 for “Children in Need” at Pudding and Pie night with entertainment from the Ukelele Band. Thank you to everyone.