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# *The Magazine*

June  
2020

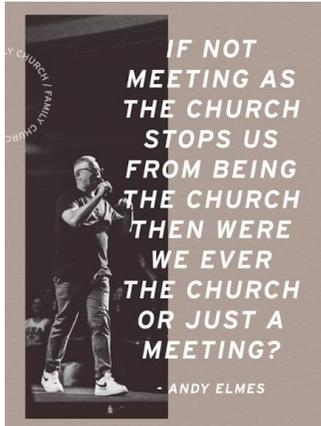
**Wallasey Village Church**

The United Reformed Church in Wallasey Village





## Letter from Jeff



### Being church is who we are not where we meet

I saw a video the other day, if you're on social media. It was of hundreds of chickens running down a road, veering left and right and crisscrossing the road. I don't know what a happy chicken looked like but these chickens looked happy. You could almost sense the excitement of these chickens revelling in their freedom. The caption read, 'When the government says everyone can go out now.'

I'm sure we're not going to be like that when our lockdown ends but I hope that we too can look forward to it with a degree of excitement (if not tinged with just a note of caution). Until then we must continue to support one another as best we can.

My daughter overheard her boys talking the other day. Reuben (3) was in his bedroom playing when Elijah (5) came in. 'Get out' said Reuben, 'I want some alone time.' 'I want some alone time too', said Elijah, 'maybe we can do it together.'

We're definitely in strange and uncertain times and, some are finding 'lockdown' a bit of a struggle. I know we are all looking to the day when we can get out again and just have the freedom to do what we used to, including going to 'church' and being in fellowship together. But, until that happens maybe we can try and do this 'lockdown' together.

Although we've been unable to meet together at church and unable to fellowship together there have



been some great examples of us living out what church is all about. People are calling one another to check how they are, others are shopping for those who can't get out or who are shielding, others are getting involved in the favourite hymns and online worship whilst others receive a copy of the Sunday services. This has enabled relationships to grow and those who were unable to get to church before lockdown are now sharing worship through social media or the printed copies of the service.

The URC has produced a document entitled 'Ready for the new normal' which the elders will be looking at over the next days with the hope of creating a plan for when our church buildings can open again. The earliest reopening date has been given by the government as the 4<sup>th</sup> July but even then we expect some restrictions to still be in force.

Until then let's continue to be alone together, and continue being church even when we can't get to church.

I still have copies of the John Lennox book, 'Where is God in a coronavirus world?' and the leaflet, 'Hope beyond coronavirus'. If you would like a copy of the book and extra copies of the leaflet please get in touch with me. They are free of charge. Also, can you let me have any prayer requests that we can share during our worship or if you would like some private prayer that too can be arranged.

During this strange and unprecedented time we need to remember that church is who we are and what we do not necessarily where we meet.

God bless.

*Jeff.*



## It's Been Great



It's been great but the time is now right for me to give up Guides and Brownies after 33 years.

I started in 1987 – a lifetime ago. Olwen Steele suggested that I might like to help at Brownies, as my daughters were part of her pack but, I didn't really fancy that, so, she suggested I contact Barbara Squires and perhaps help at Guides. The rest as they say is History.

My first night, the guides were getting ready for Valentine's Day, I helped a bit and Barb asked if I was coming back next week. I'd had a good time so returned the following week. This was in the days of not turning up before 7.30pm because Top

of the Pops didn't finish until 7.30. It took me 12 months to get my warrant and become an Assistant Leader and I didn't look back. Barb and I became a good team but I was always one of her guides!

In 1997 Barb decided I should do my camp licence. In those days we always went away for



a week at Whit half term, unfortunately Barb fell and broke her hip at the Easter and was also diagnosed with cancer but the camp carried on with Barb visiting on walking sticks. We decided that the following February half term that I should add my holiday licence and so we went to Lorne which is Northern Ireland's HQ in Belfast. Barbara struggled but insisted she came with us and we took a wheelchair and oxygen in case she needed it. Barb was always a good

cook and made bread and cakes with the girls and had a great time. She passed away at the end of August 1998 and I inherited a guide unit.

We all carried as best we could after Barbara left us and in 2000 we went to France with other guides from Wallasey as part of our Millenium celebrations. In 2001 I took our guides to the south of France on an adventure holiday and gained my International licence. We returned in 2010 as part of Guiding Centenary celebrations as I wanted them to canoe the Ardeche gorge and spend a night sleeping under the stars. Euro Disney on our way back was great fun and a perfect end to a perfect holiday.

From 2002 to 2008 I was District Commissioner for Harrison District, but I hated the admin part of it and the problem solving and couldn't wait to get back to normal guiding! In 2011 I became Camp Adviser for Wallasey division and in 2014 Camp Adviser for Wirral County both until 2017. In 2015 Emma left Brownies for Spain so I ended up getting involved as, Brownies grow up to be Guides !! –

*Continued on next page*



# Girlguiding UK

or that was my thinking. I first had help from Hayley and latterly Emily but Guides was my love not Brownies and felt I have struggled with them over the past 5 years, but I did give it my best shot.

Once all of this madness is over I will be joining Trefoil Guild (mainly for old guiders) and I have been assured that it is great fun. I will also become a District Guider so on hand for any advice etc. I will also stay as a treasurer within Scouting. I can now escape from Scout Post although I will still be selling stamps etc for Wallasey Guides.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me at Church past and present, your support has been very much appreciated. I will still be around doing Saturday coffee mornings etc once we are allowed to return to some sort of normality.

So, my grandchildren now think that I should take them camping so hopefully they won't have to wait too long, just hope the weather's good when we do eventually go.

Thanks again

*Gill*

*Thanks to you, Gill for this article and all you have done for the Guides and the Church over the years.*



## Thy Kingdom Come

As we look forward to church buildings opening again possibly on the 4<sup>th</sup> July we pray that God will go ahead of us and preparing a way and that he will be with us in our planning for the future of how church will be in the 'new normal'.

We have just celebrated Ascension and Pentecost and have been praying for people especially through 'Thy Kingdom Come' which ran between these two celebrations.

Now is be a good time to pray for our families and loved ones. I'm sure you've already been doing that during this crisis that they might keep safe and well, but we can also pray for them that they might have faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. More and more people are becoming aware of their own mortality and are asking big questions and seeking answers about God, life and death.

Below are some prayers from this year's 10 Days of 'Thy Kingdom Come', you might want to use as you pray for yourself and those you know and love.

### **Read John 3:16.**

**Pray:** Loving God, thank You that You gave Your Son Jesus for me, and for all people. Help me accept the love that You showed me in sending Your Son. I pray for my family and friends. Please open their hearts to Your love. And teach me to love more truly. **Amen**

### **Read 1 Corinthians 13.4-7**

**Pray:** Loving God, thank You for the way You love us. Please help me by the power of Your Holy Spirit to love as You love, so that my loved ones may come to know You.

**Amen**



## People News

### ***Thank you***

Thank you to everyone who has helped me at Church past and present, your support has been very much appreciated. I will still be around doing Saturday coffee mornings etc once we are allowed to return to some sort of normality.

So, my grandchildren now think that I should take them camping so hopefully they won't have to wait too long, just hope the weather's good when we do eventually go.

Thanks again

*Gill*

I would like to say a Big Thankyou to you all for the messages, cards, gifts, flowers. along with a lovely birthday cake that I received on my Birthday. Plus I saw my Daughter and youngest granddaughter for the first time in over 7 weeks. Even in the lockdown our GOD helped me have a wonderful 70th birthday. God Bless you all

Hazel

And thanks to you, Hazel, for remembering everyone's birthdays and celebrating them, including—in May— my own

Thank you Hazel



**Due to current restrictions, we are unable to meet for worship and our usual weekly activities. However, we have produced some online worship and a weekly 'Favourite Hymns' item as a way of keeping connected .**

**We do hope you can join in with us – The services are on the church website:**

**[www.wallaseyville.org.uk](http://www.wallaseyville.org.uk)**

**Fellowship and community are important to us and this is one way we can keep together even in isolation. Our prayer for you and those you love is that you keep safe and well and that God's blessing will rest upon you.**

**Jeff would like more hymns to be sent to him, each with a short reason why it is a favourite.**

### **Thank you**

Elders would like to acknowledge the huge amount of extra work that Jeff is undertaking to use the technology and bring us these services. We thank him on behalf of the church. The services are much appreciated by many people from our church and from others. They bring God's word to us at a time when it is very much needed.



## Mona Beatrice Thompson



Mona was born in Liverpool on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1926. During her infancy, her family moved to Wallasey where, after attending school up to the age of 14, she started work at a printer's in Brighton Street.

When she was 16, her exceptional skills in mental arithmetic led to her employment in the ticket office of Wallasey Bus Corporation. It was whilst working there that she met Ken.

Mona and Ken were married in our church by Revd Alec Meek in 1949. After Michael was born the family moved to Essex, where Ken was working, for 12 years during which time Babs & Val were born. Their youngest child, Andrew, was born after the family had moved back to Wallasey in 1963.

Mona's long life with Ken enabled her to share the celebrations of their Golden, Diamond and Platinum wedding anniversaries in Wallasey with family and friends, including many of our own congregation.

Mona enjoyed travelling which enabled her to keep in touch with family and friends across UK, and she enjoyed the considerable amount of time spent latterly with family in the Isle of Man.



She was a generous, hospitable, caring person who was always keeping an eye open for those in need. She enjoyed reading "Readers Digest" magazine and library books, especially biographies of people in the news.

She appreciated the beauty of the natural world, especially gardens and floral displays, and she often chose to wear colourful floral-patterned dresses during her earlier life. She also commented often on the dramatic skies and sunsets which gave her much joy.

Mona continued to worship regularly at our church when she and Ken were in Wallasey and latterly Greasby. Faith, family, friends and fellowship were top of Mona's agenda. We shall miss her presence among us. Rest In peace, Mona.

*David Bigmore*

*Please keep Ken and the family in your prayers*



**Advance Notice** details to follow

Church Online  
NOT CANCELED

Quiet Time With God  
NOT CANCELED

Praying For The Sick  
NOT CANCELED

Checking On A Friend  
NOT CANCELED

Helping Others  
NOT CANCELED

Being The Church  
NOW MORE THAN EVER



**“CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020”**  
during Lockdown



Despite our normal house-to-house collection being made illegal by government regulations this year and the consequent lack of envelopes and other advertising materials, the generosity of our Christian Aid supporters has produced a total collection at present of £1,043.10 plus Gift Aid on £630.

Christian Aid has advertised that donations from this year’s “Week” will go towards helping the world’s poorest communities deal with the coronavirus pandemic against which they have the least defences.

Thank God for prayers answered and our donors for their strong support again this year.

DGB



## Coronavirus Briefing 6 – 23rd April 2020

Dear All,

We trust you are all keeping safe and well. I know that many of us are having to self-isolate, and it can be difficult and frustrating. As the foodbank family is separated, we miss the friendships that have been developed over the years and - most importantly - working together to meet the needs of those within our community. We take inspiration from the words of the indomitable Captain Tom Moore: "Tomorrow will be a good day." Eventually, "normal" operations (whatever they will be) will be resumed, but in the meantime, Covid-19 has forced us to change the way we live, how we shop, and how we communicate with our friends and family. Wirral Foodbank is no different.

In our March briefing, we informed you that Wirral Foodbank and other third sector food providers were coordinating their efforts and centralising all bulk food collection and distribution operations at a new Emergency Food Hub, managed by Wirral Council. We are pleased to report that this went live on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Wirral Foodbank is still open for business, albeit in a different way. It is important to stress that we are continuing to support the most vulnerable in our society who,



still face issues of low income, benefit delays, debt, housing etc. Foodbank Plus is playing a key role in supporting individuals who need help and advice. Since 30<sup>th</sup> March, Wirral Foodbank has supported 1,153 people, via Wirral Emergency Food Hub.

Due to social distancing, it has been necessary to limit the number of volunteers at the Foodbank Office and Warehouse. Thank you to those of our staff and volunteers who are able to continue working: they are toiling tirelessly to ensure that food is available for the most vulnerable in our community. We have 45 of our volunteers, from the Warehouse and Distribution Centres, now volunteering at the Emergency Food Hub. This has been greatly appreciated by Wirral Council, who have commented on the professionalism of our staff and volunteers. It is at times like this that we recognise the extraordinary team of staff and volunteers we have, their commitment and dedication to the job and their overwhelming desire to help people. Many gave up their time on Good Friday and Easter Bank Holiday Monday to make sure that food parcels were packed and ready for delivery to the community – thank you to everyone.

The generosity and support from the people of Wirral has been amazing. We continue to receive food donations through our supermarket collection points. It is heartening to know that the people of Wirral are thinking of those in our community who are in need. During a recent collection

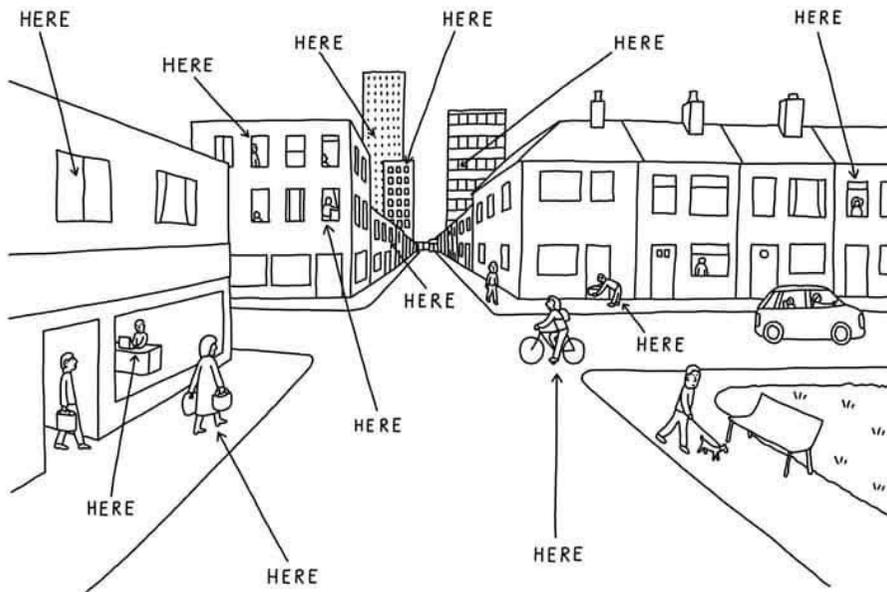


from a supermarket, members of the public gave food from their own shopping to our volunteers as they were leaving the store. In addition to food donations, we have been truly blessed by the generosity of individuals and businesses who have made financial donations, which will enable us to replenish our food stock as and when required. It is encouraging to know that the community is looking out for each other.

We will keep you updated on a monthly basis.

Revd. Colin Hart	Richard Roberts
Chair	General Manager
Wirral Foodbank	Wirral Foodbank

## WHERE THE CHURCH IS



Big or small, every gift you give helps transform lives.

The Foodbank is run by local people for local people – we rely on the community’s support to ensure we can continue to stop people going hungry. Can you invest in the future of our project and help us provide much-needed support to people in crisis in our community?

### Giving

Big or small, every gift you give helps transform lives. We couldn’t do what we do without your support. Please join us in building brighter futures, thank you!

### Donate by post:

Please send cheques made payable to:

Wirral Foodbank  
 Unit 14 Wirral Business Centre  
 Dock Road  
 Birkenhead  
 CH41 1JW

### Donating from Your bank Account

You can make a direct payment to our bank account:

Bank Sort Code: 40-10-22

Account Number: 52391236

### Debit and Credit Card giving

Contact our website at

<https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>



## Lockdown log

Hello everyone, long time, no see and it could be quite some time before we are back together in the way we used to be.

Many of you, like me, are shielding and have been since March and I'm sure you're getting a little frustrated at least on occasion.

For the most part I feel as though I'm coping reasonably well with the restrictions to my freedom, but I do have my moments when I find it all too much! A cuppa, a chat on the phone, a video call with my grandchildren or just a firm word with myself usually puts me back on an even keel.

My life is usually very diary driven, before the lockdown I was out 5 mornings each week, had other meetings afternoons and evenings and now I am not allowed to leave home. Everything has stopped although I have had an online synod meeting from 10am 'til 3pm, quite an experience!

I have filled my time in a variety of ways, tidying a very messy house, (ongoing); I've done a bit of decorating, (but I'm not the best with a paint brush); I've been gardening, repotting, weeding and deadheading mainly, (we do have a lot of garden this too is ongoing!) I've enjoyed sharing messages and phone calls with people to keep in touch and pass on news and encouragement.

On Wednesday mornings at 11am, I meet in thought with many of Prenton Coffee Morning people as we think of each other and remotely share a cuppa and



a biscuit. If you don't do this already please join in, we just take a break from whatever we're doing, have a drink and remember each other. Midweek, I help Jeff filming the favourite hymns video and then I share watching that with those who receive it.

Sharing worship online has been a new experience for me, I have been able to enjoy hearing different speakers and styles of worship. I can join in worship in our daughter's church, where our son-in-law is the pastor, at our niece's church in Caton, where her husband is the pastor and of course still share in fellowship with Prenton and Wallasey Village URCs.

There is a lot available online. We joined in a lot of teaching seminars at Spring Harvest and I love listening to music, particularly worship songs, they do uplift me.

As I am not able to shop haphazardly, as is my wont, I have to think a week ahead and write a list for Jenni to go and buy for us, no impulse buys! I've tried new recipes, taken time over preparing a meal rather than grabbing something quick for tea and I've even done some baking! (Not been great for the waistline though I'm afraid!)

I've learned to cut Jeff's hair, (with only one disaster so far) and I don't think it's too bad, considering!

Our dining room is full of things to go, to charity shops, back to the 'rightful owner', back to church and so on.

*Continued on next page*



## Lockdown log (continued)

This experience is new for most of us, but perhaps the loss of freedom gives us opportunity too. This loss of choice and freedom gives me a chance to stop and think: Some of our fellowship and society are housebound always. Some people live their lives in fear or captivity. Some people never have choice.

Sometimes I take everything God has given to me for granted, that needs to stop. I need to change.

As I carry on in these uncertain days, I am assured and know that God is constant and good and I need to learn what new things He wants to show me.

I'd love to hear how you are doing and what new things lockdown has taught you.

Much love, Heather x

*Thank you, Heather I am glad you are keeping well and you're making sure Jeff is keeping busy.*

*All items for inclusion in the July Magazine must be in the hands of the editors no later than Sunday 21st June*

*Contributions should be emailed to [JoyceHumphreys@virginmedia.com](mailto: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*



## From the editors

During the last month or so, we have been hearing about how to end lockdown and the risks of a second spike if we do it too early. What is too early? No-one knows. Will we be safe when lockdown ends? Not completely—the virus is here to stay. Our immunity will go up and up (the herd immunity) until we have a low chance of catching it and it will affect fewer and fewer people. But there will still be those who have not achieved immunity and catch it with fatal consequences. This could happen next year, but it is most likely to go on for years until it becomes like flu, most people get it, but very few people (relatively speaking) die from it. Some good has come from the virus, there are numerous volunteers helping the housebound, doing neighbours shopping, making masks and gowns. We hope this communal helpfulness carries on after the virus has attenuated. Let us be thankful for all volunteers and professional staff and people working normally, postmen, policemen, Gas and electricity workers, food store workers and many more who are working to keep normal life going. Thanks to Jeff for the work he does.



Remember, God is still with us, pray and remember, in your prayers, all those who are helping us, some putting their lives at risk in doing so. Also pray for those who have lost loved ones.



## Regular Activities

Activity:	Meets:	Notes	Where?	Contact
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
Sunday Breakfast church	9:15am— 10:00am			
Sunday Worship	10..30– 11.30			Please see centre pages for details

[www.wallaseyvillage.urc.org.uk](http://www.wallaseyvillage.urc.org.uk)

[email wallaseyvillageurc@gmail.com](mailto:wallaseyvillageurc@gmail.com)



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	<i>Email JoyceHumphreys@virginmedia.com</i>		
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Bookings	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/ Newsheet editors	Joyce & Gron Humphreys	14 Prospect Vale Wallasey, CH45 6TQ	513 3678 07484628534



## Donate Food to The Wirral Food Bank

The foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public – that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

Our shopping list shows the food items that we need right now.

### ***Urgently needed items:***

Tinned Meat

Tinned Vegetables

Tinned Fruit

Custard

Tinned Fish

### ***We've got plenty of:***

Beans

### ***If you are happy to drop off food donations, use our food collection point locations:***

Sainsbury's Upton

Tesco Extra, Bidston Moss

Asda Liscard

Most Co-op Stores

Wirral Libraries (check opening times).