

# *The Magazine*

June  
2021



## **Wallasey Village Church**

The United Reformed Church in Wallasey Village



## Letter from Jeff

### Let my people go!

In Exodus 8:1 God had a message to Pharaoh, 'Let my people go.' Why did God want his people to be free? 'So that they may worship me.'

Whilst I don't want to compare our predicament through this pandemic to the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt, I do want to acknowledge the restraints this pandemic has placed on the fellowship-life and worship-life of our church. But, the cry of 'Let my people go' has been sounded and, God willing, from the 21<sup>st</sup> June most of the restrictions placed on us by the pandemic will be lifted which means that we will be back in fellowship and worship together from the 27<sup>th</sup> June.

I thank God for the technology that has enabled us to continue worshipping together throughout this pandemic but my real desire is that is that we are able to worship together safely, as we once did, in person, in fellowship, and being able to sing together.

People have been busy already, getting things ready for this to happen, getting rid of mould, decorating, putting up signs and sanitisers, cleaning chairs and carpets, and giving the premises a good clean but there is still much to do and, if you're willing and able there are still jobs to do that you could sign-up for and there are rotas for readers and prayers that you could consider joining too.

*Cover picture*

*Wallasey Beach*

The Israelites, freed from slavery to worship God as they once did, found the horizon changed and, even



though they were doing the old familiar things, everything was somehow different. We must accept the same as some restrictions may remain, and some individuals might be apprehensive about doing things the way we did in the past. We need to respect that.

This Pandemic has enabled us to re-evaluate things we once took for granted and given us a fresh vision of the church as the 'Body of Christ' and a new appreciation of our worship and fellowship life together.

The Pentecost narrative in Acts chapter 2 tells us twice, that the believers were all together. First, in verse 1, they were together, shut away in fear and focussing on themselves. In verse 44 they were together, ready to burst out in the freedom of the Holy Spirit focussing on others and allowing their worship of God to permeate and direct every part of their lives for the good of others.

Let's allow the Holy Spirit to do the same; let's not be tempted to get back to normal for our own sake but to allow our renewed worship and fellowship life together be a vehicle for growing the church and for the sake of God's kingdom.

God bless.

*Jeff*





## ClaremountHUB.

Volunteering opportunities are available for anyone from Village Church, Wallasey at the Claremount Hub which include:

- 1) Till work on both days Thursday or Fridays (cash only and rota basis)
- 2) Thursday morning stock collection from Sandbrook, car full of food (rota basis) lifting required.
- 3) Thursday morning stock rotation of food ready for opening (rota basis)
- 4) A welcomer at the door on both days to give out shopping baskets and talk to the community who are queuing up.
- 5) Putting together Hamper Boxes for families
- 6) Dropping food hampers off to families/ Individuals

Does anyone have green fingers? We are going to build a couple of raised beds to grow vegetables and again to have this interaction with the community to reduce loneliness and to make new friends whilst caring for God's Creation.

Our opening hours are:

**Thursdays** collection between 10.30am and 11.30am

Stock rotation from 10.30am until delivery arrives

Hampers boxes 11am

Opening hours 3-5pm



If there is anyone whom you know who is struggling and needs that little bit of support then please let us know, this is open to all... Individuals, Elderly, Families, Asylum seekers/Refugees/ Workers who are furloughed or low income, we can also signpost for fuel support if needed.

If any of these roles are of interest to anyone then please could you ask to contact me on email/ phone or call into the HUB on opening hours.

Every Blessings,

**Fridays** 1pm - 3.30pm

We have a table outside in the carpark of free food donations from Tesco of bread/ pastries to give away to families who are collecting their children/ individuals/ walkers or visiting our HUB #freebiefriday

**Amanda Pauls**

Church and Community  
Development Lay Employee  
07592 491346





## Trussell Trust



### *State of Hunger*

Our latest report reveals the extreme poverty faced by people at food banks going into the pandemic, with just £248 a month on average to survive on after housing costs. That money needs to cover energy and water costs, council tax, food, and other essentials.

This new report is part of State of Hunger, the largest ever study into hunger and food bank use in the UK. Carried out by researchers at Heriot-Watt University, this research is helping us to understand the scale of hunger and destitution in the UK and learn how we can work together to build a hunger free future.

We know that extremely low income is a key factor driving people to food banks, and social security payments were a real issue. We need change now to make sure we can all afford the basics. With high rates of unemployment and redundancies, it's vital that the UK Government acts now to protect people from poverty. We need government at all levels to recognise that they have the power to deliver the changes we need to build a different future.

**This is unacceptable.**



“How can anyone in this country stay warm and dry and buy food on just £248 a month after rent? People struggling in extreme poverty are pushed to the doors of food banks because they don’t have enough money to survive. Hunger in the UK isn’t about food – it’s about people not being able to afford the basics.

“We know we can change this. We need to change the conversation around poverty and take action together. We need government at all levels to commit to ending the need for food banks once and for all and to develop a plan to do so. It’s time for government to make this a priority – to recognise that it must be an essential part of their levelling up agenda to work towards a hunger free future where we can all afford the basics.”

*Emma Revie,  
Chief Executive of the Trussell Trust*

### ***Make a donation***

Help us support food banks to provide practical support to people in crisis & campaign for a UK without the need for food banks.

I don’t know when the foodbank will be able to take food donations again, but cash may be donated online at

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



## **Sundays 6th, 13th & 20th June**

**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:**

**<https://wallaseyvilleurc.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.**

**For news of any future events, refer to the website above**





## Sunday 27th June

We will return to worshipping in church from 27th June and all Sundays thereafter, Covid rules permitting.

### **10:30am Sunday Worship**

with Revd Jeff Hughes

Duties

Duty Elder Joyce Humphreys

Sound/Vision Ann Barr / Joyce Humphreys

Welcome /Offering Jean Copple / John Steele

Reading Chris Doran

Prayer Walter Norris

Coffee / Tea Carol Doran / Sue Norris (if allowed)

Cash John Laing / Joan Duffin

Church will need to be sanitized after morning worship. Please contact Chris Doran if you can help.

### **4:00pm VCT Covenant Service**

Volunteers needed to steward and for refreshments if possible.

please contact Hazel Welsh 07821171534

Volunteers for the regular ongoing rotas are still needed also

please contact Hazel Welsh 07821171534



## Lockdown Log

### Editor's note

*As most of us are, I am glad that lockdown and restrictions may soon be over. On the other hand, I will miss Heather's lockdown logs.*

*Thank you, Heather, for these messages and I hope that after lockdown, you will still find plenty more to write about.*

I hope that this will be my last Lockdown Log, as the period of lockdown will come to an end this month. I don't know whether any of you have read it each month, I don't know whether you ever read the magazine and the messages and notices in there, but now, having committed to writing in it each month the last 13 months, I know that there is a lot of effort involved in trying to think of something new to say that may interest, inform, amuse or even inspire you. I will read the magazine with a different attitude from now on. Thank you to the regular contributors and editors.

As many of you know I have a health condition that means that I am very susceptible to picking up infections, but for more than months I have been well, with no infections, I can't remember when the last time was that I could say that. The reason for my good health has been lockdown, I stayed at home for the most part and been very careful about hand washing and mask wearing.

I am, also, as most of you will know a person who like to hug other people. I have missed hugging people, and the sense of love and belonging that can come with a hug. Despite my love of a hug, I as I look forward, I expect to be restricting my hugs to my mum, my children, and grandchildren for the most part. I know that many of you feel the same. Let's use our hugs when they are really needed and look after ourselves and each other, I don't want to go back into isolation again!



I long to be with you all again, please don't be offended when I don't greet you all with a hug, I want to protect you and hope that you will want to protect me and each other.

Much love and virtual hugs, *Heather*.

## Heather's Christian Aid Lighthouse Walk

We set off at 10am from Leasowe Lighthouse, a small but very select group! Ready for whatever the weather was going to do! We gathered a few on the way, some walked on the beach, some along the promenade, the rain kept us company. We had no complaints, we had good company and a great cause. We arrived at Perch Rock Lighthouse 4.7 miles along the shore, tide was on it's way in, so got as close as safely possible!

I would like to say a HUGE 'THANK YOU' to everyone who has supported **Christian Aid** by sponsoring me and donating through Just Giving. It would be great to thank each person personally but as some have given anonymously that is not possible. Raising over £1000 is far beyond what I had hoped for, this figure will increase with the addition of Gift Aid from some donations too! These gifts may be for us a gift of money, but for the recipients they are the gifts of life and hope. Thank you and God Bless you and your gifts,  
Heather x





## Christian Aid Week 2021

Christian Aid suggested several alternatives to the “house-to-house collection” to raise funds this year and prevent the spread of Coronavirus in local communities.

The United Reformed Church in Wallasey Village chose to try Christian Aid’s “delivery only collection” in our area. Volunteers agreed to deliver Christian Aid envelopes to as many dwellings as it could, inviting all, who wanted to support this Week’s fundraising, to deliver their donations to specified locations in our area.

We are most grateful to all those who volunteered to receive the donations through their letterboxes or the red buckets supplied by Christian Aid.

The totals received from the advertised collection points were as follows:

<b>The Post Office, Wallasey Village</b>	<b>£68.14</b>
<b>Wallasey Village United Reformed Church &amp; 2 Church View</b>	<b>£550.00</b>
<b>Greenleas Primary School</b>	<b>£101.62</b>
<b>74 Bayswater Road</b>	<b>£415.85</b>

and from other volunteer collectors were:

<b>Smugglers Way Estate</b>	<b>£69.50</b>
<b>Pine Tree Court</b>	<b><u>£29.78</u></b>

**TOTAL** (to which will be added the Gift Aid on £691.00) **£1,234.89**

*Thank you David.*

*There were also donations to Christian Aid made directly using the Website*

On behalf of Rose & Florence, living in Africa and featured on Christian Aid envelopes and in Christian Aid literature, the millions of others struggling with poverty on our planet, the Christian Aid organisation and our church – a huge THANK YOU VERY MUCH for all your donations to this year’s Christian Aid Week’s fundraising effort.

*DGB*



## People News

### ***Barbara Vernon***

Has been in hospital receiving treatment, but is now home again and is looking forward to seeing people again

### ***Jim Varty***

Is out of hospital and is at present in a nursing home. He is hoping to move to Ainsley House soon. Please do not send/deliver to his home address.

### ***Thank you***

Gron Humphreys wishes to thank you for your prayers during the time he was receiving treatment at Clatterbridge.

## The Meeting Place

We have just opened a Christian Outreach coffee shop in the heart of Birkenhead. The Meeting Place is a cosy comfortable retreat located above the Salvation Army shop at the bottom end of Oxton Road. We are open from Tuesday until Saturday 10-2pm offering coffees teas smoothies panini's baps and soup of the day. Home made cakes and brownies. With a children's corner and WiFi and Christian gifts, it is a great destination for a get together and just winding down. We look forward to giving you an unforgettable time.

15 Oxton Rd & 369 Borough rd, Birkenhead

New stock coming regularly Pop in say hello

Take out coffee available Free soup available till two. Prayer every day.



## Contact List

Minister	Revd Jeff Hughes	109 Shrewsbury Rd Claughton Birkenhead CH43 8SS	201 1883
<i>Email JeffrHughes@virginmedia.com</i>			
Secretary	Joyce Humphreys	14 Prospect Vale Wallasey CH45 6TQ	513 3678 07590376633
<i>Email JoyceHumphreys@virginmedia.com</i>			
Management Committee	Chris Doran		923 4298 07743161971
Bookings	Jean Copple		342 7247
Finance/Website	Ann Barr		638 9602
Church Cleaning	Karon Laing		638 7569
Heating	Walter Norris		639 2112
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/Newsletter editors	Joyce & Gron Humphreys	14 Prospect Vale Wallasey, CH45 6TQ	513 3678 07484628534



## From the editors

It's beginning to look as if we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Is the pandemic over, at least in this country? Unfortunately, in the rest of the world, it is far from over. We hear about the carnage in India., and we have little idea of what is going on in other parts of the world. We hear about India and Brazil, but the situation is dire in other countries too. For example only 0.9% of the Ukrainian population has been inoculated. Christian Aid raised a substantial amount of money this month. This money goes to those projects which help to alleviate poverty around the world. But Christian Aid is also raising money to fight the virus in various countries around the world. If you wish to contribute contact Christian Aid on



[www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal)

*All items for inclusion in the July Magazine must be in the hands of the editors no later than Sunday 20th June*

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

We would love to see you at our  
Zoom Safe Families evening-

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> of June



### Information

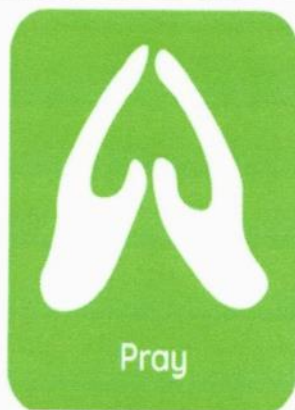
#### 7-8pm

Find out more about what has been happening with Safe Families in the North West and how you, your friends and your Church can partner with us to help families, who are facing life alone, to feel hopeful about the future.

### Praying for Safe Families

8.15-8.45pm

Join us in prayer. Thanking God for what he has done through amazing supporters and praying for the needs of families, volunteers and staff at this time.



YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO BOTH OR EITHER OF THESE EVENTS-Please join us by clicking on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86723796313?from=addon> or use the Meeting ID: 867 2379 6313. Call me (Lesley) on 07384897317 or email [lesleysmith@safefamilies.uk](mailto:lesleysmith@safefamilies.uk) if you would like more detail.