



***AN OPEN DOOR***  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**OF**  
**WEST DERBYSHIRE URC**  
**COLDWELL STREET, WIRKSWORTH**  
***October 2017***



Minister : Revd Camilla Veitch  
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Dear friends,

October is harvest time, and most churches have a special service of Harvest Thanksgiving – as we do on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of October. It is a time of counting our blessings and giving thanks to God, our provider, for the fruit of the earth and the many ways in which God provides for us.

It is easy to count your blessings in Wirksworth: the beautiful countryside, the lovely and friendly people, the relative safety of our community, the closeness between our churches, the rich cultural life.

But how do we best say ‘thank you’ to God for all that we have received?

In the Bible, the people of Israel were instructed to offer the first fruits of their harvest to God. This was a reminder to them of the land from which the fruit comes, and a reminder that the land was a gift from God.

However, it was not enough to bring their offerings and to say ‘thank you’. The next instruction from God was to celebrate and share their bounty with others, including “the aliens who reside among you”. (Deuteronomy 26:11). As God had blessed them, so they were to bless others.

A proper harvest thanksgiving cannot be just about making a list of the things that we are thankful for having in our lives, or thanking God that we are fortunate to live in a wonderful place like Wirksworth.

Saying thank you to God, begins by recognising that all that we have is a gift from God. It then moves on to asking ourselves how we can share what we have been given with others. As we remember God’s goodness to us, God bids us think about how we can show goodness to others.

So I invite you to ask yourself how can your life and your gifts be a blessing to others?

God bless,  
Camilla

### **Student placement**

I was pleased to be asked to have a student on placement with us here in Wirksworth.

Her name is Amanda Linney and she is in her third year of studying for non-stipendiary ministry in the URC at Northern College in Manchester (where I also trained!). Her placement will be for two years.

Amanda will be with us most Sundays, either taking part in leading worship or as a member of the congregation. She will not be expected to join in with everything we do as she has college work to do as well. We look forward to getting to know her and I know you will give her a warm welcome.

Camilla

## **NEWS OF THE CHURCH AND CHURCH FAMILY**

We were sorry to hear that Mair has had a tumble and broken her hip. Thankfully after an operation Mair is now improving. Also Barbara is in hospital. We send them both our very good wishes. Good wishes too to Sheila and Alf as they settle into their new home at Ashbourne.

### **Fund Raising**

We can now report that £2,272 was raised by the sponsored table tennis day which is to be shared between our church and Special Olympics City of Birmingham Sports Charity; also £1,200 was raised by preparing and selling meals in the Glenorchy Centre at the Art & Architecture weekend – thanks to all concerned.

### **Martin Luther, The Reformation and how Christian Life changed.**

We look forward to an afternoon of singing, listening and praying to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a key time in the life of the church, led by Revd Stephen Orchard, on Sunday 15th October at 4pm and will be followed by a shared tea.

### **Coffee Evening**

Carole and Roy invite you to share their American adventure when they will show slides to music in the Glenorchy Centre on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30pm. There will be a raffle and admission is £3. The money raised will be for church funds. All are welcome.

### **Annual Christmas Bazaar**

This will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November in the Memorial Hall. There will again be different stalls and refreshments. If you are able to help please contact Val Shore.

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WIRKSWORTH & DISTRICT**

There is a CTWD meeting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 in the Glenorchy Centre. As well as reviewing what has been happening, we shall also be planning what is to happen in the next six months. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Already arranged is a meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 also in the Glenorchy Centre on the subject of "Islam", when a Muslim speaker will help us to understand the faith at a time when we may well have questions.

Thanks to all who helped at the Holiday Club – the children enjoyed learning about Daniel.

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN DERBYSHIRE**

Come and be inspired by stories of mission from across the county as we hold another event in Matlock (at the Methodist/URC Church) on Saturday 7th October 2017 from 10am to 3pm (parking at County Hall). Bring your own packed lunch – drinks are provided.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

The **Book of Ruth** is one we should read at this time of year, because at its heart is a harvest. It's a short book, only 4 chapters, but the harvesting takes place in **chapter 2**.

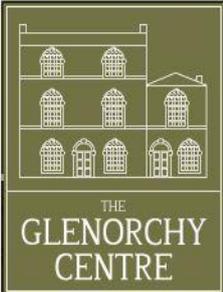
Verses 1 to 3 "Let me go to the fields" The book is about very human situations. Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, must eat so Ruth must work. Will she, a foreigner, be welcomed? Verses 4 to 7 "Who is that young woman?" Boaz notices Ruth and immediately he wants to find out more about her. Another human situation. Boaz is attracted to Ruth.

- Verses 8 to 12 "Why should you be so kind to a foreigner?" The answer? See above, but also Boaz knows about her kindness to Naomi. Kindness and courage is rewarded.

- Verses 13 to 16 "Come and have a piece of bread." Boaz is kind to Ruth. She gets preferential treatment. That's not fair but it is understandable and, again, very human.

- Verses 17 to 23 "May the Lord bless Boaz!" His kindness was rewarded. This a "happy ever after" story. They were married and their great-grandson was King David. Good news for Israel and, if this story is recalled, good news for the foreigner in our midst! Brian Heeley

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<p><b><u>Other Services / Events in Town</u></b> Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Sept at 3pm – Welcoming Service for Revd Kevin Price. Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10am–3pm - Churches Together in Derbyshire meeting at Matlock Methodist URC. Tues. 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. at 7.30pm Abdulla Muhammad at Glenorchy CTWD Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> at 11am - Communion Service at Waltham House Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> Oct – East Midlands Synod at Sherwood URC Tues. 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. at 7.30pm - Amnesty International Meeting at Waltham House. Tues. 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. at 8.30pm– "Be Still" gathering at Studio 1, Coach House Studios, Crown Yard, Market Place, Wirksworth. Thurs. 26<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm – Meal at Wellspring Church.</p>	

## SERVICES

1<sup>st</sup> Oct. at 10am Revd C Veitch (Harvest Thanksgiving and Communion Service)  
8<sup>th</sup> Oct. at 10am Revd S Orchard  
15<sup>th</sup> Oct. at 10am Revd C Veitch  
15<sup>th</sup> Oct. at 4pm The Reformation and how Christian Life Changed  
22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. at 10am Mr B Heeley  
29<sup>th</sup> Oct. at 10am Mr J Hinnells

Vestry Duty: Ian Wright      Porch Duty : Mike Weaver

*Sunday Explorers! Children are invited to 'explore' God's Word Together. Activities are held in the side room during the Sunday Morning Service.*

### Regular Events at West Derbyshire URC

Mon. 7 - 9pm – Table Tennis in the Glenorchy Centre.  
Tues. 9.30 - 10am – Morning Prayers at the URC.  
Fri. 9 – 11am - Toast and Tea at the URC.

### Other events at the URC

Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7.15pm – Church Meeting.  
Sun. 15<sup>th</sup> Oct at 4pm – The Reformation and how Christian Life changed – An afternoon event led by Stephen Orchard followed by a shared tea.  
Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. – Fellowship Meeting at the home of Jenny and David Taylor.

### Flowers in Church

1<sup>st</sup> Oct. Mrs A Revell  
8<sup>th</sup> Oct. Mrs A Clamp  
15<sup>th</sup> Oct. Mrs G Stone  
22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. Mrs V Shore  
29<sup>th</sup> Oct. Mrs R Martin

### Church cleaning week beginning

2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. Mrs V Shore  
9<sup>th</sup> Oct. Mrs M Butlin  
16<sup>th</sup> Oct. Mrs E Vallance/Mrs J Brown  
23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Mrs R Martin  
30<sup>th</sup> Oct. Volunteer Please

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