



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

***AN OPEN DOOR***  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**OF**  
**WEST DERBYSHIRE URC**  
**COLDWELL STREET, WIRKSWORTH**  
***February 2018***



Minister : Revd Camilla Veitch  
10 Woodlands, Wirksworth  
01629 826913

Dear friends,

Last Sunday, during our annual pulpit exchange in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, I preached at St Teresa's. As always, I received a warm welcome and it was good to be reminded that the church of God is bigger than just our own church.

The reading was from Mark's gospel about the calling of the first disciples by the lakeside. We heard how Peter and Andrew, James and John gave up their day job as fishermen to come with Jesus and 'fish for people' instead.

In my sermon I reflected on the fact that fishing isn't just about pulling in a great haul of fish. There are nets to be mended, boats to be looked after, fish to sell etc. Even if catching fish is the most exciting bit, it couldn't happen if you didn't do the other things as well!

It's the same in the church. We are also called to 'fish for people' – which I believe means to live and work so that God's kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven. I also believe this involves a lot of practical work! Much of what we do, in church and at home, isn't always exciting, it can often be very mundane. It can be putting your name on a rota, taking minutes, visiting someone sick, writing campaign letters, looking after children, going shopping, making cups of tea, arriving early at church to open up the doors, counting the collection.... The list could go on!

It's a great joy when we see signs of God's kingdom among us – when we see fear and despair give way for joy and freedom, we see sick people being made well, we see wars coming to an end, and we rejoice. But most of our time is spent mending the nets and preparing the boats rather than pulling in great hauls of fish.

This is true in every church, not just ours. And perhaps we can take some comfort in this! I think it's good to be reminded that even the routine tasks we do, which don't always seem exciting, are also part of discipleship. We might be tempted to think that when we don't see amazing things happen, it means we are doing something wrong. Not necessarily so – there is a time for mending nets and a time for seeing the rewards for doing so. At the same time, it is good to be reminded that none of the things we do are in themselves the goal. Unless it is God's kingdom that we seek, we are what St Paul describes as 'noisy gongs'. With the arrival of February we are a little way into a new year, which no doubt will be full of activities for us here at West Derbyshire URC. May God bless us in all the many ways in which we serve him, and may it be the desire to see God's kingdom come that is the driving force in all that we do.

*Camilla*

### **THE CHURCH AND CHURCH FAMILY**

A number of our friends have been poorly over the past month. Please pray for all who are ill, lonely and housebound and visit whenever possible.

### **Christingle Service – 7<sup>th</sup> January**

It was a little hard to find the energy to leave the warmth of my bed on the Sunday Morning of the Christingle service. The house was feeling strangely sparse without the Christmas tree and lights. As my family and I entered the Glenorchy Centre we settled into a corner, warm welcoming smiles greeting us. We somewhat sheepishly settled in to the service, carols led by Tom on the guitar started to defrost us a little. The Christingle service falls on Epiphany and a few of us shared in a joint reading of the wise men following the star from Matthew's gospel. Camilla led us into meditations and we shared reflections of

our favourite places as we re-connected with wondrous memories of nature or other joyful experiences.

Camilla's invitation to look a fresh at an orange, really smell and feel the textures of it began our exploration of the Christingle ritual. It symbolises the love of god in all its wholeness, depth and breadth. As we joined together, remembering and giving thanks for our world, we widened our compassionate awareness to include the planet and with others as we remembered others in need in our prayers. Finally we joined in full circle around the room. The reading had spoken of the Magi searching for the presence of Christ and honouring this gift to the world. As we rekindled each other's Christingle candles we experienced how the presence of Christ lights up the world around us and through us all.

*Tim Devine*

### **Folk Carol Service – 5<sup>th</sup> January**

On a dark wintery evening we gathered for what's now becoming our traditional Folk Carol Service. There were familiar words to unfamiliar tunes and some new words too that together made for an evening that brought new life to the Christmas season. Our regular team of singers and musicians were joined again by Martyn Offord and this time also by Tony Wells, all led by Camilla who had arranged the programme.

We learned that there was "A Wayne in the manger" and a new word "pelf", that usefully rhymes with "self". We also heard thought provoking words in songs and verse: "I'll carry the maker of the world in me", "I am warmth and I am light....I am Christmas. Let me in." There were many highlights, but for me it was "Hark the herald angels" transformed by a lovely new tune and Camilla and her chorus singing the "Boar's Head" carol. The evening was brought to a resounding finish as we all joined in "Sweet Bells" once again. Well done!

*Brian Heeley*

### **SUNDAY EXPLORERS**

The Youth Assembly of the URC met in Alrewas (Staffordshire) on the weekend 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> January and it was good that our Sunday Explorers were able to attend to share with other young people and explore what it means to be church together.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

The Churches Together Lent Study Group this year is based on the experiences of a man who loses his sight and must come to terms with living in darkness. **Read John chapter 9 verses 1 to 9.** There you can read about a man who has always lived in darkness, because he was born blind.

- Verses 1 to 3 “whose sin caused him to be born blind” When something goes wrong we are inclined to look for someone to blame even God. What do we make of what Jesus says about “God’s power”?
- Verses 4 & 5 “I am the light for the world” Can Jesus be “light” even for those who cannot see?
- Verses 6 & 7 “Go and wash your face” Sometimes even Jesus has to recommend practical steps to get results.
- Verses 8 & 9 “Is he the one?” Do we identify people by their disability? Notice he says “I am the man.”

*Brian Heeley*

**Our Fellowship Meeting** – will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm at the home of Sue and Paul Fay.

**Christian Aid Pancake Lunch** – will be held at Wellspring also on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> (Shrove Tuesday) at 12.30pm.

### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WIRKSWORTH AND DISTRICT**

#### **Lent Series 2018**

After losing his sight, John Hull knew that if he did not try to understand blindness it would destroy him. In 1983 he began keeping an audio diary: a unique testimony of loss, rebirth and renewal, excavating the interior world of blindness

To celebrate the season of Lent, Churches Together in Wirksworth and District present a screening of the film followed by a series of explorations of emerging themes through presentation, group discussion and reflection at The United Reformed Church, Coldwell St, Wirksworth DE4 4FB. 7.30pm – 9pm

Tuesday February 20th: film screening

Tuesday February 27th: Becoming Blind

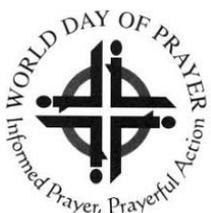
Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup>: Being Blind

Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup>: Light and Darkness

Tuesday March 20th: The Language of Sight

Then, in collaboration with Be Still, a chance to dwell on some of the themes in quiet contemplation on Tuesday March 27<sup>th</sup> 8.30pm – 9.30pm Studio 1, Coach House Studios, Crown Yard, Market Place, DE4 4ET.

### **Women’s World Day of Prayer**



This year the service will be held at St Mary’s Church on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2pm. The service has been prepared by the women of Suriname in South

America and is entitled "All God's Creation is Very Good!" (Genesis 1 1-31).

As we take part in this service we will be part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe – starting as the sunrises over Samoa, continuing as it makes its way around the earth, and ending some 36 hours later as the sun sets over American Samoa.

Here in the British Isles, some 6,000 services will be taking place.

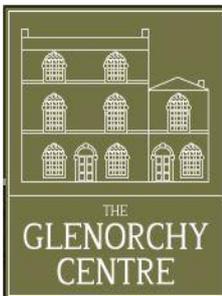
Everyone is welcome to the service.

### **Fairtrade Fortnight**



This year Fairtrade Fortnight (27<sup>th</sup> Feb – 12<sup>th</sup> March) is entitled "***Come on in***".

During this time please encourage friends, neighbours and colleagues to buy Fairtrade items, as this will make a difference to the lives of the people who grow the things we love. Fairtrade have changed the way trade works through better prices, decent working conditions and a fair deal for farmers and workers in developing countryside.



#### **AFFORDABLE SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION FOR UP TO 26 PEOPLE**

**Ideal for families or small groups.**

**Well equipped kitchen, dining area. Large Hall and  
4 bedrooms.**

**Email [secretary@glenorchycentre.org.uk](mailto:secretary@glenorchycentre.org.uk)**

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

**Coldwell Street, Wirksworth DE4 4FB Tel. 0162 824323**

#### **Looking ahead to March**

**Women's World Day of Prayer at 2pm at St Mary's Church.**

**Lent Reflections on Tuesday evenings at the URC.**

**Coffee Morning in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March – 10am to 12noon.**

**Church AGM at 7.15pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Good Friday Open Air Service to be led by the URC (30<sup>th</sup> March).**

#### **SERVICES**

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 10am            Revd Camilla Veitch (Holy Communion)**

**11<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 10.30am      Mrs Amanda Linney**

**18<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 10am         Revd Camilla Veitch**

**25<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 10am         Revd Peter Meek**

**Vestry Duty: Mr Roy Powlson    Porch Duty: Jenny/Brian Heeley**

***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. 9.30am – Morning Prayers**

**Fri. 9 – 11am - Toast and Tea at the URC.**

**Other Events at the URC**

**Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 7.15pm – Church Meeting.**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 7.30pm - Fellowship Meeting at Sue and Paul's home.**

**Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Feb and Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – Lent Meetings at the URC.**

**Tues. 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. at 7.30pm – CTWD Meeting in Glenorchy Centre.**

**Other Events**

**Thurs. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm – Cluster Meeting at St Andrews.**

**Tues. 13<sup>th</sup> Feb at 11am – Communion Service at Waltham House led by  
Revd Kevin Price.**

**Tues. 13<sup>th</sup> Feb at 12.30pm – Christian Aid Pancake Lunch at Wellspring.**

**Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.30pm – CTWD Meeting in Glenorchy Centre.**

**Tues. 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at 8.30pm - Be Still Gathering at Studio 1, Crown Yard, Market Place,  
Wirksworth.**

**Flowers in Church**

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mrs J Heeley**

**11<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mrs L Greatorex**

**18<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mrs C Powlson**

**25<sup>th</sup> Feb. In memory of  
Brenda and Alan Moore**

**Church cleaning week beginning**

**5<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mrs D Hodgkinson**

**12<sup>th</sup> Feb.**

**19<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mrs R Martin**

**26<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mrs C Powlson**