



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



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Hi friends,

Within the past two years I have been taking 'small steps' to become more environmentally friendly. Within the last few years I have begun to use an electric car like many others. This has been a challenge due to its shorter mileage than petrol or diesel cars, remembering to charge the car every time it's on my driveway, and (as many of my placement church know), the difficulty of the new technology can be somewhat

burdensome. During these struggles, I began to ask myself, why bother with an electric car?

That's why I began to research the benefits of electric cars.

Electric cars produce no direct emissions, and generally produce less pollutants than petrol and produce 58% less greenhouse gases than diesel cars. But why is this important to me as a Christian? Why should we all take steps to save the environment? Is it the local councils encouraging us to be green or the government making it financially better to use electric cars? Then when researching about the environment I stumbled across Ezekiel 34:18- "is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture?"

Here I found God showing me that I have fed on his good pastures my whole life. God has provided me my whole life with good food and water, a roof over my head and a loving family. I carried on reading what the Lord was trying to tell me. Ezekiel 34:18 also states "must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet?" God shows me how we've all begun to trample over the Earth, by expecting to travel place to place at our leisure and destroy the many things God has created, like the forests we cut down for our own use, not thinking about how we are 'trampling' over God's beautiful, glorious and perfect creation.

This is why, I encourage many of you to take, including myself, 'small steps' to reduce our impacts on God's creation and the world. Could we begin to walk more, recycle more and make more provisions for the environment? I think, these 'small steps' could make a difference.

Amanda Linney

THE CHURCH AND CHURCH FAMILY

We think of Charles, Maureen and their family on the loss of a dear sister June and pray they will be comforted in the knowledge that we remember them in our prayers.

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.

Congratulations to Florence and her friend who have raised £109 for the Ashbourne Animal Welfare Centre – well done.

Baptism of Ella Lemon

We are delighted that Ella is going to be baptised on Sunday 4th March in our church. The baptism will be by full immersion, and we are looking forward to this special

occasion. Please note that the communion service will now be on the following Sunday, the 11th March, which is Mothering Sunday. Following the baptism service on the 4th March there will be a 'bring and share' lunch in the Glenorchy Centre. We hope that as many people as possible are able to stay for this, please bring some food to share.

We welcome Tim into membership

The service on Sunday 4th February marked a special occasion for us all in that Tim Devine was received into membership of our Church. Tim and his family have been regular attenders for several years now and he has recently decided to seek membership. After the Sunday Explorers had left for their own meeting, Tim gave an interesting and heart-warming account of his journey in faith, from his introduction, as a child, to Catholicism, his attendance, in recent years, at a Baptist church in Bournemouth and his move to Wirksworth, three years ago and attendance at Wirksworth URC. He concluded by telling us of his appreciation of our own church ethos and his conviction that now was the right time for him to become a member of our church. After being received into membership by Camilla he was given the right hand of fellowship and a warm welcome by Ian on behalf of the church.

The theme for the service was based on the reading from Matthew's Gospel, which told the story of the Apostle Simon's mother-in-law who lay seriously ill with a fever and who was miraculously cured by Jesus. The reading tells how Jesus put out his hand and the fever left her. (The congregation had earlier been invited to explore the variety of functions that hands could perform.) Feeling an overwhelming sense of gratitude and in spite of only just having recovered from her serious illness, the woman immediately set about the tasks involved in entertaining her guests. For Camilla, this was the most remarkable part of the story. It had made a particular impact on her as she had only recently recovered from illness herself and was only too well aware of the amount of effort that would have been required!

At the end of the Communion service, which was conducted by both Amanda and Camilla, the Sunday Explorers distributed cards they had made themselves, inviting members of the congregation to either keep them or pass them on to someone who was in need of comfort. This provided a fitting conclusion to an uplifting service which was made doubly so by Tim's talk and him being received into membership.

Linda Orchard

Games Evening

A games evening for young people (aged 11-16 years) is planned for Sunday evening 11th March to be held in the Glenorchy Centre from 6-8pm. Skittles, Table Cricket, Boccia and Board Games will be played. For more information contact Mike Weaver on 07474 119374.

Coffee Morning

The Annual Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 17th March in the Memorial Hall. The Coffee Morning is one of our main fund raising events of the year and your support will be very much appreciated. Please invite your friends / neighbours to come along. We always look forward to the Coffee Morning.

AGM

Our AGM is on Monday, 19th March at 7.15pm – do please try and attend.

Maundy Thursday Service

At the URC there will be a Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm (this will be a quiet and reflective service to help us reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross) and during the service we will be invited to take communion.

Elections of Elders

The Elders now serving are Ian Wright, Brian Heeley, Roy Powlson and Mike Weaver. There is one vacancy on the eldership for which nominations will be sought for election at the AGM on 19th March. Nomination slips are available in the porch and you are being asked to think about who might feel called to serve the church in this way. You may wish to nominate someone, or you may feel called yourself. If you have any questions about what it means to serve as an Elder, Camilla will be very happy to talk with you. It is important that we have enough people on the Eldership, so please think and pray about this.

Church Website

From the feedback we are receiving it is good to know that our church website is being used and appreciated. The website is updated frequently with all the upcoming events being advertised – together with of course all the services and information about the URC. Our Synod Office recently prepared a lovely Lent Reflections Booklet which includes items submitted from our church and this too can be accessed through our website - www.westderbyshireurc.co.uk (The booklet can be accessed by looking into "Events" and then "Lent Groups".)

THE GLENORCHY CENTRE

There is one vacancy on the Management Committee and if anyone is interested please ask Maureen for a copy of the "remit" of a committee member. To be on the committee you have to be a member of the URC.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WIRKSWORTH AND DISTRICT

At the Churches Together meeting on 15th February the recent activities were reviewed and coming ones planned, except they were all “in hand”. That is because we have an enthusiastic and capable team who can be relied on to make sure things happen. And there is such a lot happening. By the time you read this the Lent Groups will have begun on Tuesday evenings. On 2nd March in St Mary’s at 2pm the service for the Women’s World Day of Prayer takes place. On Sunday 11th we are arranging a games evening for young people. In Holy Week we are responsible for arranging the Good Friday service and on the same day St Mary’s have a “Messy Good Friday” for children. All that week there are daily reflections on the cross at Wellspring from 12 to 2 and on Easter Sunday Morning there will be a sunrise service at the Star Disc. So many good things together! *BHeeley*

Fairtrade Fortnight



This year Fairtrade Fortnight is from 27th Feb – 12th March and you will see from the display in church that the week is entitled “*Come on in*” when, particularly during this time, you are asked to encourage friends, neighbours and colleagues to buy Fairtrade items. More than 5 million people – farmers, workers and their families – across 49 developing countries, benefit from the International Fairtrade system – it really does make a difference. We have been pleased to have a display in church during the period of the Fairtrade Fortnight.

BIBLE STUDY

During Lent we focus on Jesus’ ministry, from his baptism to his death and resurrection. The dramatic incident in the Jerusalem temple, when Jesus threw out the traders, happens after he has been welcomed into the city (Palm Sunday less than a week before Good Friday) in three of the Gospels, but at **John chapter 2, verses 13 to 22** we can read about it happening almost at the beginning.

- Verses 13 to 17 “He made a whip from cords” Jesus reacts angrily to the traders in the temple. What makes you angry and what action, if any, would you take?
- Verses 18 “What miracle...?” Jesus is challenged by the authorities. John reminds us that Jesus is in conflict with them from the beginning.
- Verses 19 to 21 “Tear down this temple....” Jesus wasn’t inviting them to demolish the temple, or suggesting he could rebuild it instantly. We are to look to His death and resurrection, not to a building, if we want to find our God.
- Verse 22 “his disciples....they believed” The disciples didn’t understand much of what Jesus said and did, but eventually they believed. Sometimes it’s like that for us too.

Brian Heeley

SERVICES

4th March at 10am Revd Camilla Veitch – Family Service
11th March at 10am Revd Camilla Veitch (Holy Communion)
18th March at 10am Mr Brian Heeley
25th March at 10am Mrs Amanda Linney (Palm Sunday)
Vestry Duty: Joyce Brown 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. 9.30am – Morning Prayers
Fri. 9 – 11am - Toast and Tea at the URC.

Other Events at the URC

Wed. 7th March at 9.30am – Glenorchy Management Cttee Mtg.
Sunday 11th March 6-8pm – Games Evening for Young People.
Saturday 17th March 10-12noon – Our Spring Coffee Morning.
Monday 19th March at 7.15pm – Church AGM.
Tues 6/13/20th March at 7.30pm – Lent Meetings at the URC.
29th March at 7pm – Maundy Thursday Service.

Other Events

Friday 2nd March at 2pm – WWDP at St Mary's Church.
Tuesday 13th March at 11am - Communion Service at Waltham Hse.
Saturday 17th March – Synod Meeting.
Tues. 27th March at 8.30pm - Be Still Gathering at Studio 1,
Crown Yard, Market Place, Wirksworth.
Good Friday Service in the Memorial Gardens
Good Friday Messy Church at St Mary's at 11am.

Flowers in Church

4th March Mrs R Martin
11th March Mrs J Taylor
18th March Mrs L Wood
25th March Mr I Wright

Church cleaning week beginning

5th March Mrs V Shore
12th March Mr Mike Weaver
19th March Mrs J Taylor
26th March Mrs M Butlin