



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



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**The Lord's My Shepherd (23rd Psalm)**

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; he leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill:  
For thou art with me, and thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished  
In presence of my foes;  
My head thou dost with oil anoint  
And my cup overflows

Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house for evermore  
My dwelling-place shall be.

“The Lord’s my Shepherd” comes from Psalm 23, often called the Shepherd Psalm – the most beloved of all the Psalms. People love it for good reason. It speaks of green pastures and still waters and the restored souls. But more than that, it speaks of an all-knowing, all-powerful shepherd who devotes full attention to our care and feeding. It assures us of God’s loving presence in our lives, both now and forevermore.

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

The funeral services for Mrs Gill Newbury and Mrs Elsie Morrison have taken place at the URC. We think of their families and friends and pray that they will be comforted in the knowledge that our thoughts and prayers are with them.

A number of our members have family or friends who have health problems and we remember them in our prayers. We think of Brian’s brother and Sue Fay who has had a nasty tumble in the garden. Please pray for all who are ill, lonely and housebound and visit whenever possible.

### **COMING EVENTS - Fellowship Meeting**

The April Fellowship Meeting was led by Amanda Linney which she based on Mission and Hospitality. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm at the home of Maureen and Charles Butlin. You are invited to come along. There is also a cluster meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Glenorchy Centre when the URC churches of Buxton, Tideswell, Chesterfield and Wirksworth meet together.

**Why is homelessness rising? – A presentation by Pam Orchard  
at West Derbyshire URC on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm**

Official figures show a rise in rough sleeping in the UK every year for the past 7 years. In fact across the UK, all types of homelessness is increasing including numbers of people in temporary accommodation such as B & Bs and hostels. Pam has worked in homelessness for 15 years and is the CEO at The Connection at St Martins in central London. She will outline what are the main causes of homelessness, different types of homelessness, why homelessness is rising and some of the responses required which would tackle the problem.

**Wirksworth Well Dressing Weekend**

The Wirksworth Well Dressing Weekend this year begins on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The opening service will take place at St Mary's at 10.45am after which there will be the procession around the town to bless the wells.

Our own church will be open from 10 to 2pm on the Saturday serving coffee/tea and scones. Do please come along. When our church is open at this time it provides an opportunity for people to share fellowship with us or come into church for a time of quiet reflection.

**Outing to Skipton**

Ian is arranging an outing to Skipton on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May leaving

At 9am and returning at 5pm.

The cost will be £14 per person.

Can you please let Ian know if you will be  
interested in going on the outing. Thank you. Tel. **0776 894 8506**

**Christian Aid Week**

This year's Christian Aid Week begins on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May with our ecumenical Christian Aid Service at Wellspring at 6pm. Christian Aid Week will provide an opportunity for the wider community in Wirksworth to contribute generously to the global work of Christian Aid in dealing with disasters and helping the poor in under-developed countries. If you are able to help with the distribution / collection of the gift envelopes please have a word with Tom Veitch.

**SERVICES AND EVENTS IN APRIL**

**Wirksworth Book Festival**

The URC joined in with the Wirksworth Book Weekend to celebrate the important part books play in our lives – whatever the subject. The Church was open to visitors on the Saturday and Sunday and all were invited to come in and enjoy the books and also the refreshments on offer. Many lovely cakes and biscuits were kindly donated and greatly enjoyed along with the tea and coffee. Many thanks to all involved and those who helped to greet the many visitors and made them feel welcome in our church.

*The real secret of happiness  
Is not what you give,  
Or what you receive,  
It is what you share.*

*Gill Brown*

### **Holy Week and Easter**

**On Maundy Thursday** the reflective communion service was led by Camilla and Amanda when there were prayers, readings and quiet hymns with guitar accompaniment from Tom. The readings from the Gospels told of the events leading up to Jesus' arrest on Good Friday. The table was laid for communion together and Camilla had set up lighted candles, one for each of the readings and a large candle in the centre. After each reading one of the candles was extinguished to represent the increasing darkness and despair that Jesus must have experienced. We sang our closing hymn When I Survey the Wondrous Cross but the last verse we said together. It was a beautiful comforting service.

This year the URC was responsible for leading the **Good Friday Service**. It began in the Market Place around the big cross before proceeding to the community area at St. Mary's Church.

### **Easter Sunrise Gathering**

Members from all Wirksworth Churches met outside Top Kens Shop, to make the climb up The Dale to the Star Disc, the venue for our service, where we could hear the sound of wild life welcoming the dawn. It is a wonderful vantage point with delightful views over Wirksworth and the glorious countryside beyond and its spiritually uplifting location transports one's thoughts to the first Easter Morning and Jesus' Resurrection. The united service led by Revd Jenny Few included hymns, prayers, poems and gospel readings. It was a lovely service which offered another opportunity for the Churches of Wirksworth to worship and share fellowship together.

**Our Easter Sunday Communion Service** was led by our Minister - such a special day in the Christian calendar. It was a joyful service during which we shared communion. The congregation was invited to decorate a plain cross with daffodils, to symbolise rebirth. At the close of the service the cross was placed outside the door of the church. We also shared Easter eggs, crisps and hot cross buns. Thanks to Camilla for a beautiful service.

### **Concert**

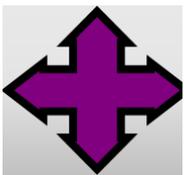
How lovely that the Wirksworth Music Centre came to the URC to perform their Spring Concert. It was a super evening with items on recorders, guitars and string instruments. There were duets and group items – all superbly performed. It was great to share in the “buzz of the excitement” of the young people at the end of a delightful concert. We look forward to their next concert.

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

**Edale 2018** - Bookings are open for the annual Churches Together residential weekend **22<sup>nd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> June** at the Peak Centre Edale, for children currently in school years 3-6. An exciting time away with friends and a full programme of activities. Fully-inclusive cost £80 per child (financial help available in confidence); own transport required to & from the centre. Further details and forms available from Camilla. It's first-come, first-served & places are limited, so don't miss out!

**Carsington Water "Songs of Praise"**. - This bi-ennial event is to take place on Sunday **June 17<sup>th</sup>** at 3pm at the amphitheatre of Carsington Water Visitor Centre. The theme will be "Songs of God's People".

### **CROSSWAYS SHOW**



Well done to Crossways for an enjoyable show entitled "Otherwise Engaged" which they performed on two evenings. There was a good attendance for both shows.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Ascension Day is the Thursday before Pentecost (Whit Sunday). It marks the end of the time when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and the beginning of the time when the Holy Spirit gives birth to the Church. It appears to mark the disappearance of Jesus as he leaves them looking up at the sky, but the disciples are about to discover that in their new role as apostles they are not alone.

Read **Acts chapter 1, verses 6 to 11**.

- Verses 6 & 7 "it is not for you to know". The disciples are beginning a new adventure, but they cannot see beyond their old way of thinking. Are we ready to change?
- Verse 8 "when the Holy Spirit comes". The next chapter in Acts tells of the dramatic way the Holy Spirit burst into the lives of the disciples. The Spirit can work in quieter ways too, encouraging us to be "witnesses" where we are.
- Verse 9 "he was taken up to heaven". Not easy for us, because we don't think of a "heaven" up there in the sky. Can we see it as a separation but not a disappearance?
- Verses 10 & 11 "this Jesus....will come back" For some the expectation is that this will be literally "in the same way" from the sky. Others may see the coming of the Holy Spirit as a "return". Often, we say, Jesus is still with us. Even when we struggle to understand or explain, we can still believe that Jesus has a vital role in our lives and in the all creation.

*If you have any news or items for the June newsletter please let Carole have them by Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May. roypowlson@aol.com*

## SERVICES

6<sup>th</sup> May at 10am Revd C Veitch – (Holy Communion)  
13<sup>th</sup> May at 10am Revd C Veitch  
13<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm Service for Christian Aid Week at Wellspring.  
20<sup>th</sup> May at 10am Mrs A Linney (Pentecost)  
27<sup>th</sup> May at 10am Mr S Worsley

Vestry Duty: Ian Wright    Porch Duty: Maureen/Charles Butlin

*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

Tues. 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm - Fellowship Meeting at the home of  
Maureen and Charles.  
Wed. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm – Cluster Meeting at Wirksworth.  
Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm – Talk on Homelessness by Pam Orchard.  
Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> May – 10am to 2pm. URC open for Coffee/Tea/Scones etc  
Wed. 30<sup>th</sup> May – Outing to Skipton.

### Other Events in Town.

8<sup>th</sup> May at 11am – Communion Service at Waltham House.  
13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May – Christian Aid Week  
Tues. 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 8.30pm - Be Still Gathering at Studio 1,  
Crown Yard, Market Place, Wirksworth.  
26/27/28<sup>th</sup> May – Well Dressing Weekend.  
Thurs. 31<sup>st</sup> 5-7pm - Easy Meal at Wellspring.

### Flowers in Church

6<sup>th</sup> May Mrs G Stone  
13<sup>th</sup> May Mrs E Vallance  
20<sup>th</sup> May Mrs A Radford  
27<sup>th</sup> May Mrs V Shore

### Church cleaning week beginning

7<sup>th</sup> May  
14<sup>th</sup> May Mrs T Lemon  
21<sup>st</sup> May Mrs A Radford  
28<sup>th</sup> May