

# Witney Congregational Church

## R CROSS A D S

*Witney Congregational Church is a crossroads where we:*

*meet God in worship*

*meet one another in friendship*

*meet our community and world with the love of Jesus*



# WHAT'S ON GUIDE

Witney Congregational Church offer a whole range of activities through which we seek to Worship, Work and Witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in this community today.

Further information can be obtained from the Church Administrator, Minister, Church Secretary or the leaders of the particular activities who are listed at the back of this magazine.

## WORSHIP

Daily Worship	9.30 am	Mon-Fri	Short time of Prayer and Reading
Saturday Praise	11.00 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month	
Sunday Services	10.30 am		
	6.00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month	

Communion is held twice during the month at the first Sunday evening and third Sunday morning services

## PRAYER

The Church is open each morning for Prayer

## STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday	12.15pm	Lite Bite piece of the Word (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month)
---------	---------	---

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.30 am	Crèche, Noah's Ark & The K.I.C.K. on Sundays
Monday	10.00 am	Noah's Ark – Infant Group for babies and pre-school children

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Tuesday	Monthly	Deacon's Meeting
	Bi-Monthly	Church Meeting
Thursday	10.00am	Thursday Coffee Morning
Saturday	10.30 am	Coffee Morning

## SUNDAY LINK

Weekly bulletin for all Christians providing stimulating thought along with news and notices concerning our Church

## WITNEY ECUMENICAL YOUTH TRUST (BASE 33)

4 Welch Way (Entrance – High Street) ☎ 01993 774402

## St ANDREW'S BOOKSHOP

☎ 01993 709429  
Opening Hours: Monday – Saturday 09.00 am – 5.00 pm

## CHURCH WEBSITE

For further information, please visit our website:

[www.witneycongregational.org.uk](http://www.witneycongregational.org.uk)



If you remember back in 2015 the number of editions of the magazine changed to reflect 5 issues over the year, and I am continuing the sequential production of the magazine, in that this is the 3-monthly summer edition covering June, July & August, which means that if you are on any of the Rotas you will need to make a note in your diary when you are on!!

As you read this the schools have just finished half-term which means that holiday time is nearly with us again, and, even though some cannot bear the heat, the increasing good weather has to be encouraging for most of us. Whatever your circumstances, hopefully it will be a chance for most people to take a break of some kind.

Turning now to those who have contributed to this edition; alongside the standard pages, Canon David Winter reflects on there is no place like home; Lesley Barter reflects on the recent Quiet Day; Pat Smith gives us an article on Leprosy Mission, and Kathy Shaw gives us an article on the church garden, to name but a few.

Many thanks for those who have contributed for this edition, but would encourage anyone to consider submitting article(s) for the next edition by either:  
E-mail:

terrypowlesland@uwclub.net

jacquipowlesland@uwclub.net

or, just plainly written on paper, which can be typed up.

The next 3-monthly Autumn edition, covering September, October & November, is due on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Your Editor

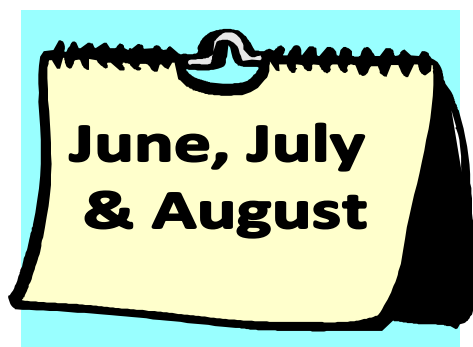


## Growing up

Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going.

## Contents

1. Editorial
2. Diary
6. Pastor's Paper
7. Prayer Letter No 180
9. Leprosy Mission & Church Garden
10. Waiting on God & Flight Path
11. There is no place like home
12. South Korea & Walls of Jericho



### Daily Prayer Time:

Mon-Fri 9.30 am

### Services

10.30 am weekly & 6.00pm on first Sunday of the month and will normally be led by Rev Dr Jason Boyd unless advised below

### June

3 <sup>rd</sup>		Thy Kingdom Come – Call to Prayer	
4 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
	pm	Evening Worship	Communion
11 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
18 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	Communion
25 <sup>th</sup>	am	Rev Elaine Kinchin	

### July

1 <sup>st</sup>		Saturday Praise	11.00am
2 <sup>nd</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
	pm	Evening Worship	Communion
9 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
16 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup>	am	Rev Judi Holloway	
30 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
		Madley Park Residential Home	3.00pm

### Aug

5 <sup>th</sup>		Saturday Praise	11.00am
6 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
	pm	Evening Worship	Communion
13 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	
20 <sup>th</sup>	am	Morning Worship	Communion
27 <sup>th</sup>	am	David Kinchin	

### Sept

2 <sup>nd</sup>		Creative Church	10.00am
3 <sup>rd</sup>	am	Café Church	
	pm	Evening Worship	Communion

The following events are given for your particular attention:

### June

6 <sup>th</sup>	Lite Bite piece of the Word	12.15pm
	Deacon's meeting	7.30pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Study – Teach us to pray	7.30pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Chain meeting	9.15am
15 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Study – Teach us to pray	7.30pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	Memories Day ( Tickets ONLY)	11.30am
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bible Study – Teach us to pray	7.30pm
24 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Aid Concert – Mikado	7.30pm
27 <sup>th</sup>	Base 33 Voice Box Concert	7.30pm
29 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Study – Teach us to pray	7.30pm

<b>July</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lite Bite piece of the Word	12.15pm
	Deacon's meeting	7.30pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Chain meeting	9.15am
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Church meeting	12.00pm
<b>Aug</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lite Bite piece of the Word	12.15pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Chain meeting	9.15am
<b>Sept</b>		
5 <sup>th</sup>	Lite Bite piece of the Word	12.15pm
	Deacon's meeting	7.30pm

## ROTAS

### WELCOMING TEAM

<b>June</b>	04	Beryl Cartwright & Nanna Blackman
	11	Lesley Barter & Jo Matthews
	18	Beryl Cartwright & Judi Holloway
	25	Susan Wass & Joan Currie
<b>July</b>	02	Susan Wass & Lesley Barter
	09	Viviane & Sonya Boyd
	16	Jo Matthews & Nanna Blackman
	23	Cecily Lau & Judi Holloway
	30	Cecily Lau & Joan Currie
<b>Aug</b>	06	Lesley Barter & Jo Matthews
	13	Judi Holloway & Lesley Barter
	20	Pip & Beryl Cartwright
	27	Susan Wass & Joan Currie
<b>Sept</b>	03	Viviane Boyd & Nanna Blackman



### COMMUNION

<b>June</b>	04 pm	Lesley Barter	
		Preparation	Lesley Barter
	18 am	Lesley Barter & Susan Wass	
		Cecily Lau & Norline Martin	
		Preparation	Lesley Barter
<b>July</b>	02 pm	Susan Wass	
		Preparation	Susan Wass
	16 am	Viviane Boyd & Judi Holloway	
		Cecily Lau & Susan Wass	
		Preparation	Viviane Boyd
<b>Aug</b>	06 pm	Lesley Barter	
		Preparation	Lesley Barter
	20 am	Susan Wass & Cecily Lau	
		Beryl Cartwright & Lesley Barter	
		Preparation	Susan Wass
<b>Sept</b>	03 pm	Beryl Cartwright	
		Preparation	Beryl Cartwright



## FLOWERS

<b>June</b>	04	Thy Kingdom Come
	11	Joan Currie
	18	Sonya Boyd
	25	Val Obriain
<b>July</b>	02	Rita Hayes
	09	Beryl Cartwright
	16	Jacqui Powlesland
	23	Judi Holloway
<b>Aug</b>	30	Joan Currie
	06	Sonja Boyd
	13	Val Obriain
	20	Rita Hayes
<b>Sept</b>	27	Beryl Cartwright
	03	Judi Holloway



## SUNDAY COFFEE

<b>June</b>	04	Sue Birdseye & Irene St Clair
	11	Susan Wass & Judith Bungey
	18	Viviane Boyd & Hilary Pratley
	25	Clare Woodward & Susan Wass
<b>July</b>	02	Sue Birdseye & Irene St Clair
	09	Susan Wass & Judith Bungey
	16	Viviane Boyd & Hilary Pratley
	23	Clare Woodward & Susan Wass
<b>Aug</b>	30	Sue Birdseye & Irene St Clair
	06	Susan Wass & Judith Bungey
	13	Viviane Boyd & Hilary Pratley
	20	Clare Woodward & Susan Wass
<b>Sept</b>	27	Sue Birdseye & Irene St Clair
	03	Café Church



## THURSDAY COFFEE

<b>June</b>	08	Beryl Cartwright
	15	Hilary Pratley
	22	Beryl Cartwright
	29	Beryl Cartwright
<b>July</b>	06	Hilary Pratley
	13	Beryl Cartwright
	20	Hilary Pratley
	27	Hilary Pratley
<b>Aug</b>	03	Beryl Cartwright
	10	Hilary Pratley
	17	Beryl Cartwright
	24	Hilary Pratley
<b>Sept</b>	31	Beryl Cartwright
	07	Hilary Pratley



We would be extremely grateful for other people to joint he Thursday Coffee Rota

Every effort has been made to meet individual circumstances. However, please change with someone else if the dates are not convenient for you



**June** 01 Marjorie Lee  
 07 Matthew Brusch  
 10 Finnguala Obriain  
 14 Norline Martin  
 19 Jonathan Brusch  
 23 Peter Gamston  
 June Woodley  
 25 Gerald Hayes  
 Juliane Schunselaar  
 26 Val Obriain  
 Viviane Boyd  
 28 Maureen Miles  
 30 Jacqui Powlesland



**Aug** 02 Janet Hayes  
 06 Declan Hathaway  
 13 Melissa Gudem

**July** 04 Wout Schunselaar  
 05 Bob Blackman  
 06 Tom Hopwood  
 09 Sarah Hopwood  
 14 Lyn Thomas  
 25 Harry Hathaway  
 26 Jennie Garrett  
 30 Irene St Clair  
 31 Jason Boyd

**Sept** 01 Theo Howells  
 Devon Squire  
 02 Claire Woodward

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Thomas Conroy (Grandson of John and Jennie Garrett) who was awarded the 'Isabel Spencer Bursary Award' for his attainment and performance in Music at Wood Green School. When Isabel Spencer( a former Deputy Head Teacher at Henry Box School) died, she left a very generous bequest to The Witney Education Foundation to give three awards each year for 'The Arts' to students from Wood Green School , Henry Box School and Witney College.

Thomas Conroy from Woodgreen (formerly Henry Box) received his for Music.

Louise Brookbanks from Henry Box (formerly Burford School) received hers for Drama

Elsa Searle-Vincent from Abingdon and Witney College received hers for Art and Photography

Good wishes to these three youngsters as they continue their studies in these fields at University and College. Their talents and hard work have given so much pleasure to many people and we thank God for them.

The following article has been submitted by June Woodley, and is entitled:

## In His Footsteps

When someone does a kindness  
 It always seems to me  
 That's the way God up in heaven  
 Would like us all to be  
 For when we bring some pleasure  
 To another human heart  
 We have followed in His footsteps  
 And we've had a little part  
 In serving Him who loves us  
 For I am sure it's true  
 That in serving those around us  
 We serve and please Him too

\*\*\*\*\*

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth - Isaac Newton



## PRAYER LETTER No 180

### Prayer - A Conversation with God

It has been good to be involved in the 'Global Prayer Initiative, Thy Kingdom Come' through public and private prayers. Our Church with The Churches Together in Witney have created Prayer Stations within our Sanctuary to be a focus for these 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. These Prayer Stations have stimulated and guided thoughts, ideas and ways of action through prayer. There have been opportunities for quiet reflection and visual promptings for our conversations with God. Do not forget that a conversation is a two way process, talking and listening! Sometimes we are too impatient to hear what God is trying to say to us.

Jesus taught His disciples the prayer we know as The Lord's Prayer which was written down in the first century B.C. and is still taught, learnt and remembered to this day throughout the world.

Many people throughout the centuries have written their prayers for others to use. I have selected two which have been taken from, 'Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Handbook'

**Prayer of St Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)**

*Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits you have given us and for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.*

*O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.*

**A Prayer of Eric Milne-White (1884-1963)**

*Look graciously upon us, O Holy Spirit, and give us, for our hallowing, thoughts that pass into prayer, prayers that pass into love, and love that passes into life with you forever.*

**A prayer from Sri Lanka taken from the Christian Aid book of 365 Daily Bible Readings**

***Even as the water falls on dry tea leaves and brings out their flavour,***

***So may your Spirit fall on us and renew us so that we may bring refreshment and joy to others.***

The acrostic **ACTS** may help in your pattern of prayer

- A Adoration and praise to God
- C Confession of sins, wrongdoing and forgiveness
- T Thanking God for all our Blessings
- S Supplication, praying for others, our community, country and world situations

The hymn we sang last Sunday morning 'What a friend we have in Jesus' reminds us continually that God cares for us in whatever situation we find ourselves. Can you make Jesus your 'faithful friend'? Do you take everything to God in prayer. Do you ask the Holy Spirit to help you in your daily life? The Holy Trinity is God Three in one, God, the Father, God, the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

May God Bless you in your journey of life,  
Beryl



## **What A Friend We Have In Jesus Hymn**

**What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!**

**What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer.**

**Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee;  
thou wilt find a solace there.**

Space to write your own thought(s):

The following article, extracted from the Leprosy Mission magazine, New Day, has been submitted by Pat Smith, and is entitled:

## **Leprosy Mission**

In response to the Leprosy Mission Lent Appeal, a Coffee Morning & Tea Afternoon were held on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Thanks to the generosity of church members, and other friends, I was pleased to send £370.00 towards the rebuilding of the outpatients department of Purulia Hospital, and the following has been extracted from the May edition of the New Day magazine:

Thanks to you, construction is set to begin on a brand new Outpatients' department for Purulia hospital in October. You responded with overwhelming kindness and generosity when we told you the department was no longer fit for purpose with up to 300 patients a day queuing in overcrowded conditions to see two doctors.

Because of the reputation of Purulia hospital and the fact that leprosy patients, usually the poorest of the poor, cannot afford to be treated elsewhere, patients travel for hundreds of miles to its Outpatients' department.

There is not enough room for sick and disabled people to rest and there are only two toilets. There is little privacy when being examined by a doctor.

But thanks to you, construction of a brand new department is scheduled for October in time for a grand opening in mid-2018! The new department will have a large waiting room, a canteen serving healthy food for patients and staff, six consultation rooms, two minor procedure rooms, a new pharmacy, a toilet block and two lab areas.

In addition, two doctors' houses on the hospital site have been refurbished to attract new doctors to Purulia.

Thank you so much for enabling hundreds of patients to be treated in comfort and with dignity each day!



At the Saturday Praise at the beginning of May, Kathy Shaw shared the following reflection with the people present. Kathy came across this during her Guiding days in Manchester some 30 years ago, written by the Family Circle, Shaftsbury & Gillingham Methodist Circuit. Afterwards Kathy was asked to share it with the congregation via the next edition of Crossroads so here it is.....

## **The Church Garden**

Like any garden the Church needs to be planted out with seed if it is to produce a harvest. The following suggestions can help us to make our Church what it ought to be:

First, plant five rows of 'Peas' –

- Presence
- Promptness
- Preparation
- Purity
- Perseverance

Next plant three rows of Squash –

- Squash Gossip
- Squash Criticism
- Squash Indifference

Then plant five rows of Lettuce –

- Let us be Faithful to duty
- Let us be Loyal and Unselfish
- Let us be True to our obligations
- Let us obey rules and regulations
- Let us Love one another

No garden is complete without Turnips –

- Turn up with a smile
- Turn up with ideas
- Turn up with the determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile

\*\*\*\*\*

The following article has been written & submitted by Lesley Barter, and is a reflection on the Quiet Day, and is entitled:

### **Waiting on God**

If the world today is characterised by anything, it is immediacy. When we look back to the measured rural lives of our ancestors, we envy them the time to read, to think, to dream. Yet we have become so conditioned to expect instant action and instant answers that we find it very difficult to return, even for a day, to that kind of environment.

This was the theme of our recent Quiet Day. We stopped the world for 6 hours and gave ourselves the opportunity to reflect – about our daily lives, our prayer life, our relationship with God and what we need to do about it.

The event came at a timely moment, in the same week as the tragic bombing in Manchester. Many of us have long wondered how it is that God can look on while such dreadful things happen and do nothing about it. We Christians would prefer a dramatic intervention in the war

against terror, an Old Testament wiping out of those bent on spreading their violence and hate among the innocent and defenceless. But this is not the Old Testament. We have to take responsibility for the state of the world today. God doesn't wield a remote control device over our lives and He won't push the pause button when He thinks we have gone too far. We have the controls, but we need to listen for His advice about which programme to follow.

We must indeed wait upon God to show us how to spread peace in our broken world. This doesn't mean doing nothing, but it does mean finding an alternative to meeting violence with violence. Light will always conquer darkness, love will always overcome hate, but we do need God to show us how.

*Almighty God. Like any father, you watch sadly as we rush headlong into reaction. Teach us to wait on You – for your advice and your guidance. We can't hear your voice if we don't give ourselves the space and the quietness to do so. Give us the humility to recognise that we need your help to find answers to the world's problems. Amen*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Flight path**

Windsor Castle, outside of London, is directly in the flight path of Heathrow International Airport. While a group of tourists was standing outside the castle admiring the elegant structure, a plane flew overhead at a relatively low altitude, making a tremendous noise. One irritated tourist demanded: "Why did they build the castle so close to the airport?"

The following article, written by Canon David Winter, considers the merits of getting away...

## **THE WAY I SEE IT:**

### **There's No Place Like Home**

July and August – the British holiday season really takes off. Literally, for those who are flying to warmer or more exotic climes. The full-colour ads still promise their annual delights, whether it's a cottage for four in Wales or a fancy hotel on the *Boulevard des Anglais* in Nice. Others of us will simply load the caravan, or pack the boot of the car, and set off for, well, 'somewhere else'. Holidays, which were originally holy days spent in church or at home, have become the great evacuation. "Going anywhere nice for your holidays?" asks my neighbour. My truthful answer would be "Yes, I'm staying here."

But that's more my age than a judgment on holidays. My mind can re-run so many, without any need of an album of old photos: the kids knee-deep in a rushing Welsh stream, or having pedalo races off a Spanish beach. A couple of cappuccinos in the piazza in Capri. The beauty and holiness of Assisi. And far back memories as a child myself, the boarding house, the beach, the sand in the sandwiches.

But still it's true. Every single time it was nice to see the key go in the lock and to know we were *home*.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following articles have been extracted from Parish Pump

### **How far do you live from where you were born?**

Where were you born, and how far away is it from where you now live? The

average distance seems to be up to about 100 miles. If that does not seem far, consider this: only 25 years ago most British people tended to live within five miles from where they had been born.

Recent research by the genealogical website Ancestry has found that exactly half of us still live in the place where we were born, and half of us move on. 70 per cent of people who move away from their birthplace are sure that they will not return, and just 14 per cent ever plan to go back.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **The vicar can help**

If you had a problem, would you go to your local vicar to discuss it, especially if you were not a church-goer? Popular television drama has recently offered some examples which might help. In 'Broadchurch', during a rape investigation in the village, the vicar had been a point of reference for the woman who was the victim's support. He was sensitive and wise.

Then there's the very handsome vicar in 'Grantchester' – no shortage of advice-seekers in his parish, I would imagine (though he does seem to be in need of some counsel himself).

But for me the best example was in the drama-doc about the sad woman who organised her own daughter's 'abduction', with the aim of replenishing her bank balance from the gifts of sympathetic neighbours. We saw a scene where her best friend, who was beginning to doubt the whole story, walked up the path to a church. Yes, she was going to ask the vicar for advice. In this case the vicar, a woman, was so good that I felt like cheering. She was honest, kind but clear about the moral implications – and her advice was taken.

In our modern society there are millions of people hiding behind their smart-phones, but sometimes desperately wanting to talk to an actual flesh and blood human being. I genuinely think that human contact is something churches can do better than anyone else - and not just the vicars!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **South Korean Church**

The Christians of South Korea have a lot to be proud of. Their strength and energy has been prodigious since the end of the Korean War in 1953. As the church grew in South Korea since then, so did the emphasis on mission work even overseas (where South Korean Christians are still working in about 170 countries).

In South Korea, from six million Christians in the country in 1970, or 18% of the population, the number grew to almost 16 million by 2010, or 33% of the population. That is an enormous rate of growth, averaging 2.6% per annum. Probably two-thirds of these are Evangelical.

But sadly, the South Korean church is now struggling a bit. On the whole, it is ageing. Now, although Christians are 30% of the population, the largest religious group, only 3% of those now in their 20s attend church.

Living under the shadow of North Korea and its unpredictable dictator, the South Korean church needs the encouragement of our prayers in this global area of insecurity.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Who tore down the walls of Jericho?!**

The new minister decided to visit the Sunday school in his new church, to see what the children were like. The teacher explained that that morning they were looking at the book of Joshua. 'That's wonderful,' said the new minister, 'let's see what you're learning. So tell me, who tore down the walls of Jericho?'

After a short silence, one small lad, Billy, shyly raised his hand. 'Please sir, it wasn't me.'

Taken aback, the minister said. 'That's silly, and you know it. Come on, now, who tore down the walls of Jericho?'

The teacher interrupted firmly: 'Vicar, Billy's basically a good boy. If he says he didn't do it, then I believe he didn't do it.'

Flustered, the minister went to the churchwarden and related the story to him. 'That child won't tell me who tore down the walls of Jericho!'

The church warden looked concerned. 'Oh dear. We've had some problems with Billy before. But a wall! Let me talk to him and see what we can do.'

Really bothered now by the lack of biblical knowledge in his new church, the new minister brought up the subject with his curate the next morning. 'I was shocked to learn that neither Billy, the teacher, nor the church warden can tell me who tore down the walls of Jericho!'

The curate, a peace-loving young woman, tried to calm the situation. 'Well, vicar, these things happen. I think we just take the money from the general fund and offer to pay for the walls, and leave it at that.'