



# *The Westgate Chronicle*

**The Magazine of Westgate New Church**  
**Issue 467: Pentecost 2017**

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*United Reformed/Methodist*  
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**The Church  
where you belong**

## Our Mission Statement

We at Westgate New Church are called by God to highlight  
Jesus Christ's love for the people of Peterborough.

We pass on this good news by worship, fellowship, mission,  
education, personal life and social service.

*In the midst of preparations for her sabbatical, Lesley found time to send us this. Meanwhile, we wish her a peaceful and profitable pilgrimage.*

### Effective Leadership

Once there was an ecumenical crusade that was being held in a large city. Every imaginable denomination was in attendance for this unprecedented event. One afternoon the gathering was in session when all of a sudden a secretary rushed in shouting, "The building's on fire! The building's on fire!" Confusion reigned as each church group came together and did what came natural:

The Methodists gathered in the corner to pray. The Baptists cried, "Where's the water?" The Quakers quietly praised God for the blessings that fire brings. The Lutherans posted a notice on the door declaring that the fire was evil. The Roman Catholics passed a plate to cover the damages. The Unitarians reasoned that the fire would burn itself out if just given the chance. The Congregationalists shouted, "Everyone for themselves." The Fundamentalists proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God."



The Episcopalians formed a procession and marched out. The Christian Scientists concluded that there was no real fire. The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson to appoint a committee to look into the matter and make a written report.

And the church secretary grabbed a fire extinguisher and put the fire out.

*Tom Lacey,  
Unleashing the Lord in Your Life*

I'm not sure if this characterises British denominations as well as it could but then it just might! (I got rid of 'Every man' and made changes accordingly.)

*Lesley*

More from Lesley on p21

# WHAT IS PENTECOST?

Pentecost (or Whit Sunday) happens on the Seventh Sunday after Easter each year. On that date Christians remember the occasion when, after Jesus had finished visiting his followers in an earthly form after his resurrection (his Ascension – see last month's Chronicle) something very special happened. A number of the followers were gathered together and had a dramatic visitation of the Holy Spirit. They described it as being like a rushing wind and tongues of fire and it transformed them. They found themselves able to do all sorts of things they had never expected to do and, crucially, able to tell all sorts of people about Jesus Christ. You can read the Bible story in Acts chapter 2, verses 1-13 and what happened immediately afterwards in the rest of the chapter.

Traditionally this has been regarded as the most important Christian Festival after Easter (Christmas comes third), but it is really important to realise that we need all three, together with Good Friday and all that we know of Jesus' life and ministry, if we want to understand what God did through Jesus.

It is also important that the Holy Spirit can work through any of us if we open ourselves up through prayer to receive this gift from God.



## Cover Picture

The picture I have used for the cover of this issue and to illustrate this article is a photograph I took of a stained glass window in the church at Loubressac in France, cut out and mounted on the red circle. I like it because it makes the link between the events of Good Friday and Easter and those of Pentecost.

Pentecost falls on June 4th this year.

*Editor*

*As well as our own Church services at 10.30 and 4.30 on that day there is also a Churches Together in Central Peterborough Celebration at All Saints Church at 6.00.*

## COMPUTER FUN



Why was the computer cold? A: It left it's Windows open! Q: Why was there a bug in the computer? A: Because it was looking for a byte to eat! Q: Why did the computer squeak? A: Because someone stepped on it's mouse! Q: What do you get when you cross a computer and a life guard? A: A screensaver! Q: Where do all the cool mice live? A: In their mouse pads! Q: What do you get when you cross a computer with an elephant? A: Lots of memory!



# STORIES WITHIN THE STORY: TRINITY

This month contains both Pentecost (or Whitsun) and Trinity Sunday. In previous years the “Stories” feature has concentrated on Pentecost and it is time Trinity had a look in. But that’s not easy – the concept of God as Trinity is hinted at but nowhere fully explained in the Bible. However, it is a concept that has shaped and continues to shape Christian lives and we really should tell its story. What follows is my personal story about God in Trinity – but perhaps yours may be similar.

Beauty, Love and Inspiration are the themes of this story.

Look at the world around you, light and colour, changing shapes and seasons, vibrant life and solid earth. Beauty: oh, yes, sometimes marred by cruelty or decay, but still beautiful like the Creator.

Escape when you can from the light pollution of our cities and look up into the depths of space. Realise how vast it is, how small you are. Learn of the past, the way life has formed, evolved and reformed, and realise how immense is the time-scale of God, and how wonderful the processes that have built this universe. Here is awe-inspiring Beauty, a mirror of the magnificence of the Creator.

Beauty is joined by Love. Look toward a hill outside Jerusalem two thousand years ago, where Jesus dies in agony, his arms stretched wide on the cross, seeming to embrace all humanity. Agony and death are the cloaks that hide Love,



Three intersecting half circles represent the three persons of the Trinity

but it is Love that shapes the contradiction of a God who dies a human death.

In Jesus’ life, though, Love is also everyday: it is the Lord healing physical ailments, mental diseases, and broken lives. It is Jesus feeding a very hungry crowd (on next to nothing), teaching people about God’s Way for their lives, safeguarding those tossed by a storm on the lake. It is Jesus calling God’s wandering human children into the fold of God’s love.

Beauty and Love are joined by Inspiration, as Jesus promises a “Holy Spirit” who will guide the people of God in their lives, in their knowledge of Beauty and Love, challenge them to meet need in their world, and remind them how to care, to be concerned, and to rejoice.

Inspiration is not new. She has been with us since poets and artists, practical people exploring new skills, philosophers and theologians first began their work, back in the mists of antiquity. She remains with all creative people today. She was there at the first day when order was



formed out of chaos, and was there throughout the history of faith, that "Word of God" that came to prophet and priest. She especially challenges God's people, nags us, inspires us and in adversity comforts us.

The story of Trinity is of the all-embracing Presence of God, Beauty, Love and Inspiration, together in one perfect divine harmony. Beauty leads us to awe and wonder, opening up our minds to Inspiration. Love asks our love in return and brings us to know the source of Inspiration for our lives, while Inspiration points to God as Love and God as Beauty.

The story of Trinity is about an ever-

present God, in our world and our lives, not only a remote heavenly being – Beauty, Love and Inspiration or, as we more often say, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, joined to illuminate our lives. God within, God around, God of past and future.

This story of Trinity has tried to avoid too many "in", churchy, words. Trinity God is God of all the human world, not only of our churches, and we must be prepared to speak of him/her in words everyone can understand. This account is also, of course, only the beginning of a story that takes a lifetime to hear.

*Ian*

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## WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT. . .

. . . that the coffee and hot cross buns available at Westgate New Church after the CTiCP Walk of Witness and Joint Service in Cathedral Square on Good Friday (see reports in the May issue) raised £105.00 for Toilet Twinning.



. . . that the Bluebell Tea at Westgate New Church on Wednesday April 26th raised £50 towards our chair fund. Members will remember that the plan is to re-cover the better ones of our current chairs and replace the rest with nice new ones for the comfort of ourselves and of the various groups who hire Lindisfarne.



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**STAMFORD METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS**

**An Evening with**

**John Archer**

**Magician Extraordinary**

7.30pm Saturday 17th June

Tickets £10 (£8 con)

from the church and from

Stamford Arts Centre (01780 763203)



All proceeds to

Nixon Memorial Hospital Sierra Leone,  
Stamford Carers Sitter Service  
and the Youth Outreach programme

# JAMES MONTGOMERY (1771–1854)



One of the popular hymns in our hymn book (Singing The Faith) can be found under 'The Revealed Christ: Epiphany, Presentation, Baptism'. It is hymn No 228 beginning:

'Hail to the Lord's Anointed  
Great David's greater Son!'

This hymn was written by a Scottish poet, James Montgomery, born in 1771 at Irvine, Scotland (a lovely part of Scotland where I recently visited during last year's golf open tournament at Royal Troon).

He was brought up as a Moravian as when he was a child he travelled to Northern Ireland with his parents and later was sent to a Moravian Seminary in Fulneck, Yorkshire. However in 1783 his parents died in the West Indies, while serving as missionaries.

He remained at Fulneck and received a good Christian education. He began writing poems at the age of ten. Although he was being groomed to be a priest, he somehow preferred to be a poet and

he did not take his studies seriously. This brought a sharp rebuke from the Brethren but he believed that he would serve Christ better as a poet than as a preacher. However the Brethren believed he was deviating from his missionary duties and decided to let him out into the community to have some business experience. He then got work as an assistant baker in Wakefield. He continued writing verses while working but as he was bored with his work he left his job and went to London, hoping to publish his poems. However his dreams were not fulfilled. In 1792 he had a career change and got a job in Sheffield as an assistant to one Mr Gales, auctioneer, bookseller and newspaper printer. Mr Gales left his post due to some political pressure and Montgomery took charge of the business and changed the paper's name from 'Sheffield Register' to 'Iris' and edited it for thirty one years. However he got himself into trouble; the government of the day deemed the editorial content of his newspaper was too liberal and he was arrested, tried and found guilty, and was given a fine of £20 and three months imprisonment in York castle.

He continued to write poems in prison and in 1797 his poems entitled 'Prison Amusements' were published.

Montgomery lived for many years in his newspaper offices in Sheffield, but later moved to a new and better place called 'The Mount' when he was achieving literary fame. Like his idol Cowper he never married. Later on in life at the age of 43 Montgomery went back to become a member of the Moravian church but had to worship with the Methodists as the Moravians had no church in Sheffield.

James Montgomery continued to write

hymns for the Christian church and in 1825 he published his 'Christian Psalmist' of 562 hymns, of which 103 are his own work. His hymns bear witness to the writer's maturity as a poet and Christian. Montgomery died in 1854 at the age of 82 amid universal recognition that his 'life

and his hymns had one music'.

*Manny*

Sources .1) Christian Hymn Writers – Elsie Houghton, 2) Wikipedia

*James Montgomery's Hymns in Singing the Faith can be found at 190, 228, 529 and 573.*



Last week Parliament was dissolved and all MPs who want to be re-elected are now candidates in the 2017 general election. As the news focuses on the UK election over the next several weeks, we mustn't forget that around the world millions of people are facing hunger, conflict and displacement. With famine and food crises in East Africa, conflicts in Syria and Yemen and over 65 million people around the world forced from their homes, it is essential we stand up for UK aid and support the world's poorest communities.

We welcome the recent re-commitment by the major parties to spend the UN target of 0.7% of national income on overseas development assistance and maintain our promise to the world's poorest people. Aid is often misrepresented, so this election season let's make some noise about just a few of the amazing things that UK has achieved last year. We've made a handy fact sheet "What did UK aid do last year"\* for

## NEWS ABOUT AID

you to download for discussions with candidates, friends and family about UK aid. Remember – UK aid works, and it matters.

Kind regards,

*Arthur Thomas*

*Parliamentary and Campaigns Officer*

\*Information from the factsheet:

In 2015-16 UK's Department for International Development results included:

- 13.3 million women, children and adolescent girls were reached with nutrition programmes
- 5.1 million people reached with humanitarian aid
- 11.3 million people given access to clean water or better sanitation
- 20 million children immunised saving 250,000 lives
- 3.1 million children enabled to gain a decent education
- 1 million women helped to use modern methods of family planning
- Women's rights put at the heart of all UK aid programmes



## STRAWBERRY TEA

**Wednesday 21st June**  
**Westgate New Church**  
**2-5 pm**  
**All Welcome**



# CIRCUIT MEETING: SPURGEONS IN PETERBOROUGH

At our recent Circuit Meeting, Helen Crofts spoke about the work of Spurgeons in Peterborough, and how they are linking up with churches to see how we might be able to work together to support parents with young children. Here is the information that has been circulated:

## **Spurgeons Together for Families in Peterborough**

Spurgeons children's charity is linking up with churches in the Peterborough area, to see how we might be able to work together locally to support parents with young children.

If you're interested and want to know more, we'd love to hear from you!

Ruth Filsak\*,

Together for Families worker

Office base: Honeyhill Children's Centre,  
150 Chadburn, Paston, PE3 7DH

Email: [rfilsak@spurgeons.org](mailto:rfilsak@spurgeons.org)

Mobile: 07976890093

Honeyhill Children's Centre: 01733 577611  
Normal working days: Tues — Thurs (8.30  
am ~ 4 pm)

Any email or voice messages will be followed up on Ruth's next working day.

**We work with all families** who have babies and children from 0-5, especially those who find life difficult because of:

- poverty and financial hardship
- mental or physical health issues
- language or cultural barriers
- single parent / young parent
- lack of confidence
- no or limited "family or friendship" networks of support
- geographical distance from services and lack of transport

## **What can we offer through Together for Families?**

- support for churches to help parents and children in their communities, including
- practical support to develop groups you're already running
- working with churches, volunteers and parents to help groups be safe and sustainable
- toys and resources, networking with others and workshops

## **We can offer help with activities**

which might be new or need an extra adult, e.g. singing, music, movement, cooking, themed play or story-time.

Start-up funding is available for new church based initiatives such as Toddler Groups, Messy Church and Who Let The Dads Out? where these will support vulnerable and isolated families in the community.

Sessions with a special focus such as 'Let's talk with your baby', 'Five to Thrive', cooking for the family, new mums or dads, Maths is fun (no, it really is!)

Information for parents and carers about other relevant services at Children's Centres, health clinics, schools or in the community.

## **Leaders and Volunteers need support**

- Supporting group leaders with session ideas, safeguarding procedures, risk assessments, good practice in early years and other statutory requirements (linking sessions to the Early Years Foundation Stage)
- Being a sounding board for new ideas or to work through issues and

challenges

- Free workshops for leaders and volunteers to develop and share their experience
- Helping to assess and signpost or refer children and families who might need extra support

### Where do we work?

North, east and south west Peterborough the catchment areas of Spurgeons Children's Centres, so that we can make the most of their resources, support and contacts with other services and organisations.

*We're talking to churches in Eye, Paston, Bretton and Orton Malborne at the moment but are open to any church in our catchment areas where there is a need and we can help to meet it. Please get in touch with Ruth to discuss further.*

### What else is involved?

We collect some basic information (e.g. numbers attending groups) and will ask for feedback, so that we know whether we're on the right lines and making a difference. We also aim to capture the learning and feedback along the way, using child/parent friendly, simple methods (scrap books, learning journals) which also help parents to see and understand the progress their child is making.



*More info at [www.spurgeons.org](http://www.spurgeons.org)*

*\* Ruth is a member at St. Andrew's URC*



## SCAMWATCH

Information on how to keep  
you and your property safe



**Tax Scam.** HMRC say you are strongly advised to look out for a new phishing scam. If you get an email with subject, "Your 2016 Tax Report", with attachment, do **not** open it. Please forward it to [phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk) and delete it.

### Can you hear me? . . . Just hang up!

If you get a call that begins like this, do **not** say 'yes'. It will be recorded and used by crooks, who may already have the rest of the information they need to get money out of your accounts. If you have made this mistake tell your bank and watch your accounts carefully.

**Remember, Police, banks and BT never contact you to ask for details such as PINs or passwords.** Fraudsters

claim to be from a bank, Police, software company, phone or utility company to trick you into giving them your details, then take your money. If you get such a call or message, check the phone number is genuine on a bill, statement or website. For most large banks you can use their telephone number checker. Be cautious of calls from BT. The latest scam claims there is problem with the phone bill and if it is not rectified the line will be disconnected. Check a website is secure before entering information (eg payment details): look for 'https' at the start of the address and a padlock or key next to the address bar. Always check your statements. Tell the bank straightaway if you notice anything unusual.

*Information from several members*



## Meeting on 18th March St. Columba's Church, Lincoln

Interestingly, our host Church is an LEP, rather like ourselves but also including Anglicans, as does Christchurch in Orton Goldhay.

Rev'd Kevin Watson, Moderator of URC General Assembly and Yorkshire Synod spoke about 'the Church is dying' being a self-fulfilling prophecy. Some actions he suggested were focussing on the positives, walking the way of life, downsizing, first seeking the Kingdom of God, praying until we know what God wants, relying on Jesus only, letting go and following him, working together and trusting other denominations. He also told a story about a church who planted a tree – life in the place of death, the cemetery. His repeated refrain was 'Come back to my Son'.

At lunchtime we were able to tell Kevin that we at Westgate New Church had just downsized – and Lesley remarked that he had pinched her best lines for her afternoon presentation! However, she did give her talk, telling Synod about all we had done and illustrating her talk with some of the pictures you have seen in the Chronicle. People seemed quite impressed with our achievement and Kevin Watson was showing a strong interest in paying us a visit.

Other highlights included two ministers from Botswana returning a visit, telling us



about celebrating 50 years of the United Congregational Church of South Africa, from whom they brought greetings. Faith in Christ, they said, is the glue that holds communities together. They suggested that two churches should learn from each other and pray for each other.

There was also a contribution from Dan Morrell, Youth Assembly Moderator, who said that the young people of today are worth hearing and are something to celebrate. We need to think about how they are made welcome. We should embrace new forms of worship because God calls us to, not just because the church is declining.

These are just a few notes on what, for me, were the highlights of the day. As you can imagine, much more was said and done.

Finally I must mention the quality of the worship at the beginning and end of the day. As always, it would have been worth going for that alone. *Linda*



## READ THE SIGNS



In a restaurant window just outside Brixham, Devon, UK: Don't stand there and be hungry, come in and get fed up.

In a pub in West Sussex: If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action.

## VISIT OF MODERATOR

On May 7th we were pleased to welcome Rev'd Peter Meek, moderator of the East Midlands Synod of the URC, to lead our morning worship.

At two points in the service we were asked to put forward ideas. Both 'What do you want to praise God for?' and 'When did you last have a conversation with someone very different from yourself?' brought out many responses from a number of people in the congregation.

Peter preached on 'God has no borders'. Here are a few of the points he made.

In this world of political leaders who do not tolerate difference, we are called to be salt and light.

Sri Lankans couldn't understand the Western hardness of heart – in relation to biscuits! Whereas they would pile the plate high, regardless of the number of people who were expected, Westerners only counted out a number of biscuits to match the anticipated attendance. Yet God is lavish, 'obscenely generous' and his creation is lavish and ridiculous. By contrast we in the west still behave as though we have war-time austerity.

Poverty is common as illustrated by Foodbank and the like. Poor people tend

to be more generous with their little than the rich are with their much.

God loves everyone and what Jesus says about this is already there in the Old Testament.

We are called to have no borders, not to expect people to be like us before they can join us, because God's love is liberal and has absolutely no boundaries. God wouldn't count the biscuits! God turns the world upside down and upsets the order of things.

Christians are often no different from others – yet we *can* be more generous, more like Jesus, welcoming people who are not like us and being ready to change.

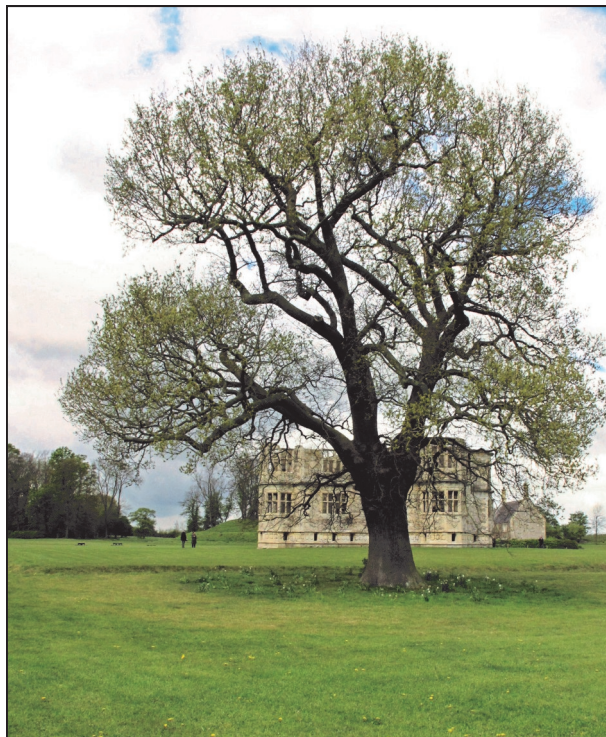
**Do we mirror  
the generosity  
of God as  
it is shown  
through Jesus  
Christ?**

We are very grateful to Peter for coming all the way from Derbyshire to both encourage and challenge us at WNC.

*Linda*



# ON OUR DOORSTEP — ALMOST



## It could be a parable

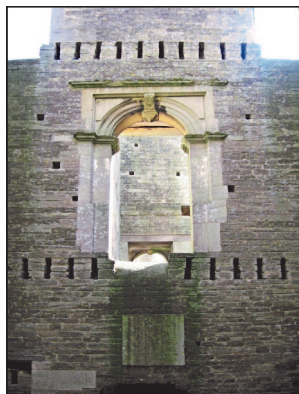
A certain rich man decided that his family's manor house was not grand enough and set about building a new one, much bigger and with lots of fancy touches. Sadly the man got into debt and his house was never finished.

Meanwhile, a tree that was planted nearby, left to its own devices, grew and flourished and became a quite magnificent specimen. Viewed from certain angles, it dwarfed the rich man's house in both size and splendour.

The man was Sir Thomas Tresham, his family house is Lyveden Old Build and the house he started is Lyveden New Bield. Sir Thomas was a Catholic and the law at that

time imposed heavy fines on him for this, which got him into debt. It was his son, Sir Francis, who was imprisoned for being involved in the Gunpowder Plot.

Lyveden is now a National Trust property and stands just off the Oundle to Brigstock Road. You can visit and explore the unfinished house and gardens, which include a vast orchard with many uncommon varieties. There is also a walk, the Lyveden Way, which takes you to Wadenhoe and back by a different route, with a branch off into Fermyn Woods towards the end, if you are not too tired. *Linda*





# WONDERS OF CREATION



Consider the humble dandelion, the flower and the clock. If we can only put behind us their nuisance value to gardeners and look at them for what they are, cannot we accept them for things of beauty? Do they not speak to us of the Creator?

While walking in Early May, I was struck by the beauty of many individual flowers, but also by the effect of many flowers of the same species forming a carpet of colour and by the wildlife the flowers attract. Here are a few of my photos.

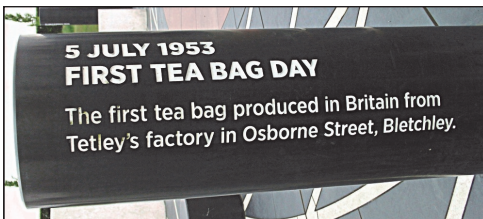


Top left: carpet of bluebells / Top right: carpet of wood anemones with bluebells behind / Bottom left: wild orchid / Bottom centre: peacock butterfly upside down on a bluebell / Bottom right: primroses.

What can you look at closely when you go out? *Linda*

# MAMA MIA TRIP TO MILTON KEYNES

On Thursday May 4th some 40 plus people set off from Peterborough for the short trip to Milton Keynes. The group was made up of members of the Anglia Co-op Retired Employees Association, Probus and the NHS Retirement Fellowship. It was an uneventful journey and we were dropped off very near to the theatre in plenty of time to get something to eat before the show at 2.30pm. June and I, after finishing our lunch, went for a walk to see what was around the area, which did not take long as it was a bit on the chilly side. We found a small park which consisted of some grass, seats and some 'memorial' uprights which had various special dates engraved on them. Perhaps the pictures will explain them better than I can.



We returned to the theatre and sat in the entrance for a while people watching and listening to a pianist on a grand piano. The theatre itself is much larger than we imagined it might be and the auditorium had four or five tiers of seats. We were on the lower tier, which we thought might cause a problem, but as the seats were level with the stage we were

able to see very well.

We are sure that you all know the story behind the play, but as a reminder it is based in the Greek islands where the daughter is to get married. Her mother is separated from her father, but she gets to know that her father could be one of three men and as she wants him there, she invites all three to the wedding, unbeknown to her mother. In the end she does not get married as she does not want all that goes with a wedding but her mother does get married to one of the three who in the end turned out to be the bride's father.

It was a very fast moving show with all the songs being belted out at full throttle. The energy put in reminded us of the latest show put on by PODS – 9-5.

The return trip was once again uneventful; we were dropped off at about 7.15pm and, after a short walk home, grabbed a quick bite for tea.

*Trevor and June*





## CTiCP AGM AND FORUM

The Churches Together AGM and Forum was held at the Friends Meeting House on Tuesday 25th April 2017.

After the re-election of the Churches Together Board, Deacon John Bedford (All Souls RC) was appointed as Chair for the coming year. The position of Vice-chair remains vacant, and it is hoped to appoint to this post at the next Forum meeting, in September. The annual financial report was approved, and the subscription for the coming year remains at £450 from each church.

In his Annual Report, the retiring chair, Reg Tomblin, highlighted the involvement of CTiCP during the year with many aspects of life within the city. A particular issue this year has been reception by the city of Syrian refugees. The first group has been housed by the City Council but much of their assimilation into schools, local communities has been done with the help of CTiCP. The next group, comprising three families, will arrive in the Summer, and CTiCP will be asking for donations of household items to support them.

Over the years the work done by CTiCP has expanded, but it has been noticeable that visible involvement of clergy has declined, and at the same time lay support has also failed to increase. It is however true that during the period that CTiCP has been in existence there has been an almost complete change of clergy within the churches, and that recently the clergy have been meeting together, providing an opportunity for deepening relationships between the churches. The Chair emphasised a need for more support from both the clergy and the laity.

In addition to routine business, the meeting heard reports about action on Rough Sleepers (including the Winter Night Shelter), Chaplaincy work, plans for Christmas Alive in 2017 and also a possible additional event at Easter 2018, and there was a report from Bernadetta Omondi of the Peterborough Group Community Forum. We hope to report further on these areas in subsequent editions of the Chronicle.

*Monica and Ian  
CTiCP Reps*

### TUESDAYS TILL TWO

Sadly, we didn't get the information in time to bring you details of the Tuesday concerts in May, but here are the ones for June.



**St. John's Church, 1pm**  
**6th June: Antonio Oyarzabal (Piano)**  
**"The Inner Child"**

**Schumann, Debussy and Ravel evoke the magic of childhood.**

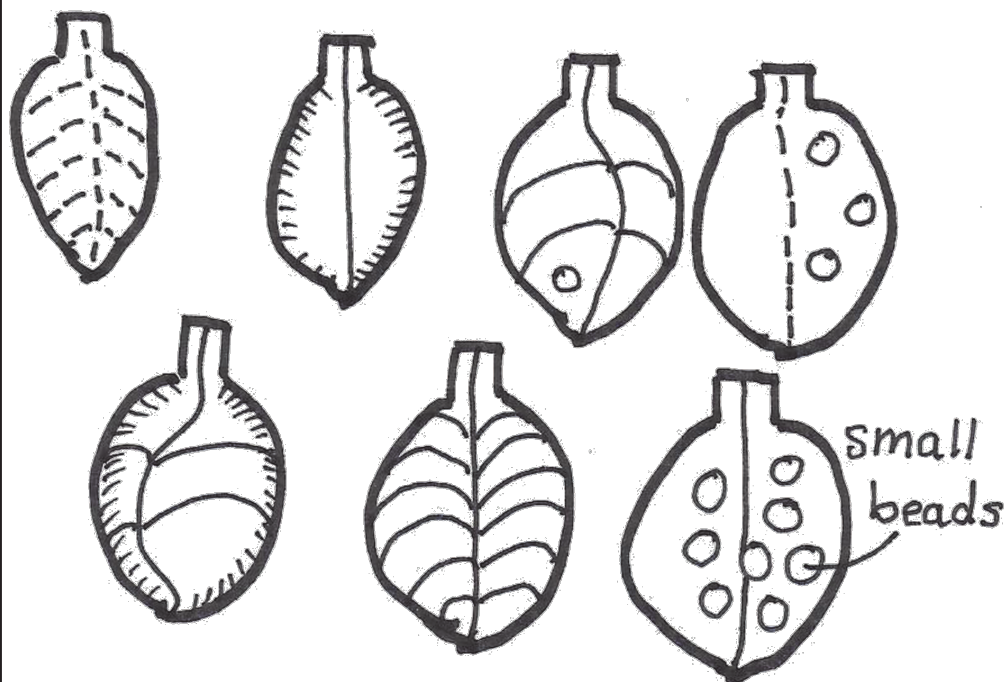
**13th June: David Lovell Brown (Organ)**  
**The rebuilt St. John's organ gets a workout**  
**with a programme of popular classics.**



# Inspirational Colouring/Sewing

Lesley and I invite you all to join us in a new venture. I have green felt, templates and thread. The idea is to sew a small leaf. See below for inspiration. You will think of your own way to embellish the felt. These will then be collected together and hung on a length of fabric matching the curtains in church. These little works of art will form part of prayers in our services. Lesley's long term goal is to create leaves for the different seasons. Add your own design and embellishments. There is not great skill needed, just a willing heart and some enthusiasm to join in the fun.

*Megan*



# NEWS FROM HOPE INTO ACTION

We're delighted to announce that last week we opened our 40th home (!!) (in Wolverhampton).

After moving someone in this week we (and partner churches) are now supporting 100 tenants every night! Our highest ever total.

Each home is in partnership with a church who commit to walk alongside the tenants as they journey through a new chapter in their lives.

- 40 homes! (14 for women).
- 100 tenants!
- 10 cities!
- 35 churches in partnership!
- Over 50 people who have invested!
- £8.5million (!) of wealth shared with the poor (via investing in homes for the homeless).

The vision, of people sharing their wealth with the poor and churches providing homes, welcome, friendship and love to those that need it most, is becoming a reality in more and more neighbourhoods.

So thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way – support, love, prayer, investment and money. We couldn't have done it without you. Each one of those 40 homes feels like a miracle with its own unique story bringing together investors, churches and people experiencing homelessness.

Sometimes listening to our tenants is one of the most healthy things we can do. Here is a comment from one of the 250 attendees at our recent conference: "The stand-out moment for me was the



*Enabling the church to house the vulnerable*

light bulb clarity of the statement by one of the tenants that churches need to show people (as Jesus did) that they are loved and precious now, in the midst of their mess, not wait until they have sorted it out to welcome and engage with them."

And from Jonathan Aitken, former Cabinet minister: "I was moved to the point of feeling quite emotional by the wonderful work that the charity does. Those testimonies and many conversations I had during the day all made me see your vision is doing a great Christian service and helping the lives of many vulnerable people. The model you are using is a brilliant conception. Please keep up the good work." Thanks Jonathan – we'll try.

So in this time after Easter, do continue to pray for new life for all those connected with Hope into Action.

We would also ask for prayer for our finances. We ended last financial year down at a time we need to increase our expenditure to cover recent and future expansion. Thanks once again for all the support.

Cheers

*Ed and everyone at Hope into Action*

## TRUMPED?

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm

beginning to believe it. ~ Quoted in 'Clarence Darrow for the Defence' by Irving Stone.

*Written long before Trump Elected!*

# LANGUAGE LEARNING DEBATE

Rather to my surprise, my article on Language Learning in the April issue brought two responses, but not from people who had learned English as a second language!

**From Ewan:** I fully agree with Linda's comments in the Chronicle (*April*) about children's ease of picking up a second or third language. Having had experience of friends of mixed marriages only speaking to the children in the language of the country of residence, we thought that this would be a disadvantage to them in later life. So when Yvonne, our daughter, was born we spoke to her in Spanish all the time. When she started to speak my mother couldn't understand her and complained that "she will never be able to speak English". At the age of two and a half she pleaded to go along with other children to a nursery school and when Carmen took her she explained to the teacher that although Yvonne didn't speak any English, she was sure that the child understood it as she laughed at children's TV programmes.

At the end of the first day the teacher said that Yvonne had not spoken at all, but understood everything when asked to tidy things up etc. The second day the teacher said "Mrs. Cappitt, you don't have a daughter, you have a parrot, Yvonne never stopped chattering all day". So she had automatically absorbed the language from TV, and from hearing us talk to my parents and other people etc.

However the one thing in which I take slight exception to Linda is about this possibly helping to learn a third language in the future. When Yvonne was learning French or German at school I asked whether she found it any easier having learned Spanish. She said "No" – I understood this; she had not learned the



language as I had, having to study sentence structure and the grammar while learning it – she had just absorbed it. When she did a Spanish oral test at school, she corrected the examiner when he failed to use the subjunctive correctly – she just knew instinctively the correct use.

Now Yvonne and her brother seem to have a compartmental block and will automatically talk to their mother and Spaniards in Spanish, but with all English people including each other and me etc. they will only use English.

We always recommend to any foreign neighbours and friends that they should keep talking to their children in their own language – it would be such a pity if their children missed out on the opportunity to absorb another language, and not be able to communicate with their extended family.

**My response to Ewan:** The idea that having two languages helps in learning more is not mine, but the consensus of academic research. Further, how was Yvonne to know how hard she would have found learning subsequent languages if she wasn't already bilingual? When an Italian teacher was supplied to a school with a few children of Italian descent, each of these children was allowed to take a friend to the lessons. The prize for the best progress in Italian went to – guess what – a bilingual child.

**From Lesley:** I enjoyed reading the article on language. It took me back to my time researching languages in Solomon Islands, which has 64 indigenous languages, uses Pijin, a creole, as the lingua franca and English as the official language.

The important difference between Canada and the Cameroon situation is the status of the languages being considered. Where two languages are of equal status the Canadian system works well. It is where there is a dominant language that problems arise. I'm not sure I'm remembering the term correctly but think it's called diglossia\*. This was the situation in Solomon Islands where all 'official' matters were dealt with in English but in some areas English is only spoken by about 10% of men and no women. There is a great deal of research in development education to support mother tongue education in early years. There is also the important consideration of maintaining minority languages, which are dying out, at least partially, as a result in

learning in 'colonial' languages.

\* **From the dictionary:** *a situation in which two languages (or two varieties of the same language) are used under different conditions within a community, often by the same speakers* – so you did remember correctly, Lesley!

**My further thoughts:** Many people have expressed in different ways the thought that "A different language is a different vision of life." (*Federico Fellini's version*) Many communities are now striving to retain or revive their ancient languages, which evolved to meet the needs of their particular communities, and are providing early education in those languages to a greater or lesser degree. You need look no further than Wales.

We are finding that some people in our congregation who we thought to be second language speakers have in fact always spoken English. **Will the real second language speakers please come forward. We could use your expertise.**

Linda



## FOODBANK UPDATE

### FoodBank Deliveries

Since our FoodBank opened, a volunteer has supervised deliveries from the Warehouse, with Manny, to unpack and store items for the FoodBank sessions on Saturdays. Now she is moving and we urgently need a volunteer to replace her.

The hours are 10:30-11:30-11:45 on Fridays on a 1:3 rota. If you can help, contact Ewan, Ian or Monica. Thank you.

### FoodBank Request

We have been notified by FoodBank that they are short of all items except baked beans and pasta. They need more donations, so please could you help as much as you can. Thank you.

### Items wanted:

are Milk (UHT or powdered), Sugar (500g), Fruit juice (long life), Soup, Pasta sauces, Sponge pudding (tinned), Tomatoes (tinned), Cereals, Rice pudding (tinned), Tea bags, Instant coffee, Instant mashed potatoes, Rice, Tinned meat/fish, Jam, Biscuits or snack bars.

When shopping, please remember that a number of our FoodBank clients do not have cooking facilities, so ready-to-eat items are especially useful. Toiletries are also much appreciated by some clients.

Many thanks for your help,

*The FoodBank Team*





# WESTGATE PUZZLE PAGES

## Puzzle 1: Romans 5 v 1-8

This passage is about Peace, Love and Joy. We have peace with God through Jesus Christ and God showed how much he loved us by sending Jesus to die for us, even though we were sinful. So, God not only told us what love is, he showed us. He loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us even though we did not deserve it.

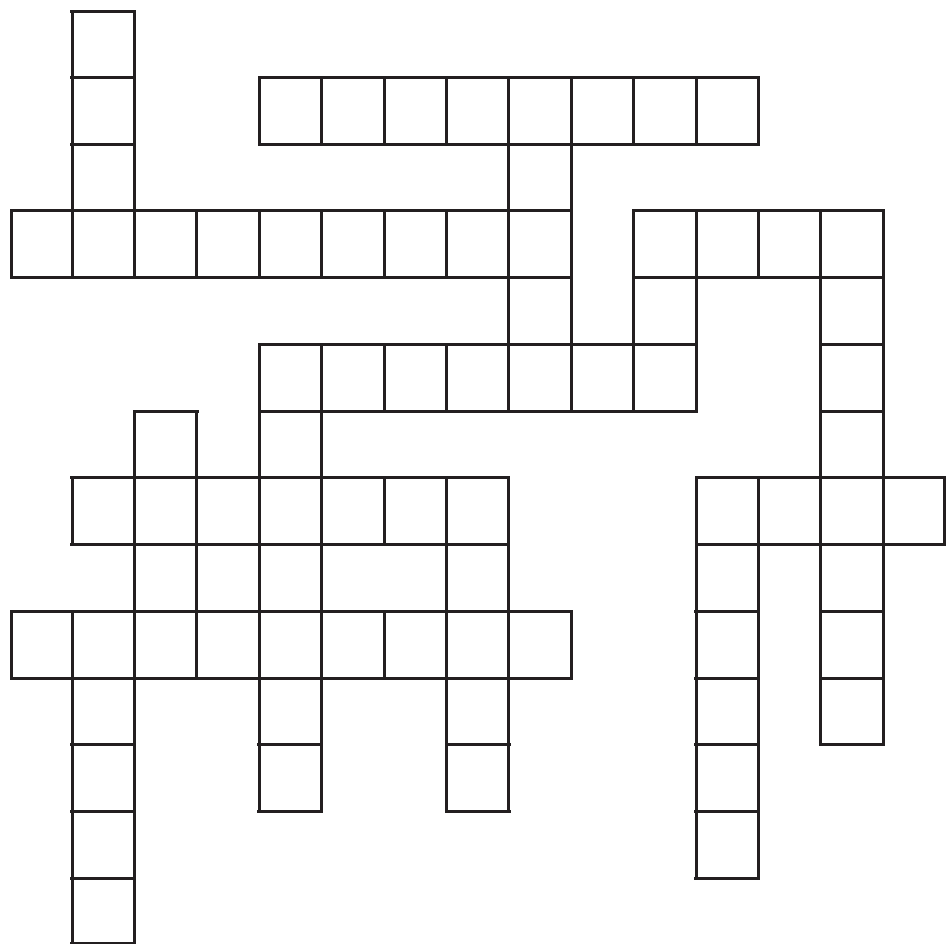
N N Y M K M L X G O D V S S L  
G P O W E R L E S S Q U E F X  
S J G U N G O D L Y O T X R V  
I U R D C H S T K E A Y F N T  
N O O H L F V U T R L P K E K  
N D C L R M R H T E N F M S P  
E H I O S S G S R S J H C G O  
R T L U D I N A K E I E Q J S  
S H O W R O R X N S V P D C S  
A D V F M V G O M L L D V H I  
R A E E V W Y B S P A I L R B  
K R D H X N M E E L K E D I L  
J E T Y A B A X H C W D D S Y  
X Q I U E N N G O O D Y K T G  
S C W H L L H W R O Z Q Q V Z

Find the underlined bold print words in the puzzle.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still **powerless**, **Christ** **died** for the **ungodly**. Very **rarely** will **anyone** die for a **righteous man**, though for a **good** man someone might **possibly** **dare** to die. But **God** **demonstrates** his own **love** for us in this: While we were **still sinners**, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8 (NIV)

**Puzzle 2:** Genesis 1 v 1-2, 4

The earth keeps on spinning around and around and it has ever since it was created. The very first words in the Bible tell us that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Then it goes on to tell the story of God's creation. As we look at all that God has created, let's remember, it is up to us to take care of it.



Place the underlined bold print words into the puzzle.

In the **beginning** when **God created** the **heavens** and the **earth**, the earth was a **formless** void and **darkness covered** the **face** of the **deep**, while a **wind** from God **swept** over the face of the **waters**. And God saw that the **light** was **good**; and God **separated** the light from the darkness.

Hint: To start, check the number of letters of each underlined word.

# WORLD MUSIC DAY – 21ST JUNE

World Music Day originated in France in 1982 to celebrate music in publicly accessible places, free of charge. It is now celebrated in over 120 countries and 700 cities.

As the saying goes, music lifts the spirit, stirs emotions, and in religious context, is prayer and praise in song. Music is used for therapy for people affected by injury, physical and mental illness, loss of loved one, etc. It helps with psychological, emotional, physical, communicative and social needs.

Singing praises to the Lord leaves us with a feel good factor and uplifted, but they can also touch you in a way that is personal to you as an individual. Sometimes songs feel as if they were written just for you, appropriate to your current situation. There are several references in the bible relating to music. Ephesians 5:19 – ‘speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit’. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.

Radio 4 had the Hot 8 Brass Band on from New Orleans; they were discussing both personal tragedy and Hurricane Katrina which hit their home town and how music helped to bring the town together. People from all walks of life were in evacuation shelters, people had lost family members and homes, but music helped bring the community closer.

Music is free, crosses all ages and races and is one of the best medicines I know. One of my all-time favourite songs is Three little birds – Bob Marley, ‘Don’t



worry about a thing’. Whatever type of day I am having this lifts my spirits and, yes, as the song says I know everything will be all right.

So on 21st June, if there is an event you can attend, enjoy; if not, whatever music you like, listen, sing, relax and above all enjoy.

## **World Blood Donor Day – 14th June**

If you are fit and able to give blood please do so. There may be a day when a loved one needs some. One pint, one hour of your time every few weeks, costs nothing but may help save a life.

## **Deaf Blind Awareness Week: 21st – 27th June**

The week is to raise public awareness about issues facing people who live with deaf blindness. There are approximately 250,000 in the UK affected by this disability of which 222,000 are over the age of 70. Further details on the Sense charity website.

On a lighter note:

## **Fudge Day – 16th June**

If you need an excuse to eat fudge this is it. Now will it be vanilla, rum, chocolate? There is even a recipe for carrot fudge: now that includes one of your five a day!

*Compiled by Brenda*



### 1st–10th June

Churches: St. Andrew's (URC),  
Whittlesey (URC and Methodist)  
Events: CTiCP Pentecost Celebration\*  
People: All newly elected MPs and  
those who will form a new  
government  
Organisations: Hope into Action\*,  
CTiCP\*  
Give thanks: For living in a country  
where we get to vote



### 11th–17th June

Churches: All Saints (CofE), Yarwell  
(CofE and Methodist)  
Events: Concert at Stamford Methodist  
and charities which will benefit\*  
People: All blood donors (esp 14th)  
Organisations: Our East Midlands URC  
Synod\* and Peterborough Methodist  
Circuit\*  
Give thanks: For wild flowers and the  
wild life they support\*



## JUNE PRAYER PROMPTS



### 18th–24th June

Churches: Peterborough Cathedral  
(CofE), Yaxley (Methodist)  
Events: Strawberry Tea (21st)\*  
People: Second Language Speakers in  
our congregation\* and in our city of  
Peterborough  
Organisations: Concern Worldwide\*,  
Peterborough FoodBank\*  
Give thanks: for the joys of Music (esp  
21st)\*

### 25th–30th June

Churches: Park Road (Baptist),  
Ailsworth (Methodist)  
Events: Crafty Capers\*  
People: Our minister on her walking  
pilgrimage\*; everyone who is both  
deaf and blind and the people who  
support them\*  
Organisations: Spurgeons\*  
Give thanks: for families, friends and  
good neighbours



The Churches mentioned are taken from the Methodist Circuit and from a list of Churches in CTiCP and other churches with whom we have a close association. The countries are from the Ecumenical Prayer Calendar.

\* Further information elsewhere in the magazine \*\* See Diary on next page

# J U N E

*Tuesdays, 10.30: Pause for Prayer in Walsingham*  
*First Tuesday in the month, 2.30: at Park Road Baptist Church:*  
*Tuesday Fellowship*  
*Wednesdays, 10.30: Circuit Intercessions Service in Lindisfarne*  
*Wednesdays, 1pm at the Cathedral: Wednesday at 1 (W@1)\**  
*Saturdays, 10.00-12.00: Morning coffee*  
*Saturdays, 12.30-2.30 : Foodbank open*

\* \* \*

# D I A R Y

Sat.	3	8:00	At St John's Church: CTiCP Prayer Breakfast
Sun.	4		<b>Pentecost</b>
		10:30	Morning worship, led by members of Church Council
		4:30	In Walsingham: Evening Communion Service and Café Worship, led by Revd. Dr. Langley Mackrell-Hay
		6.00	CTiCP Pentecost Celebration at All Saints
Wed.	7	1:00	W@1:*
Sun.	11	10:30	Morning worship, led by Ian Cornall
Tue.	13	2:00	In Walsingham: Crafty Capers
Wed.	14	1:00	W@1:*
Sat	17	7:30	At Stamford Methodist Church; an evening with John Archer - Christian magician and comedian
Sun.	18	10:30	Morning worship with Holy Communion Service, led by led by Revd. Doug Stevens
		6:30	At Southside: Testimony and Healing Service led by Revd. Dr. Langley Mackrell-Hay
Wed.	21	1:00	W@1:*
		2:00 - 5.00	Strawberry tea
Sun.	25	10:30	All Age Morning worship, led by Alan Thompson
Tue.	27	2:00	In Walsingham: Crafty Capers
Wed.	28	1:00	W@1:*
		7:30	At The Friends' Meeting House: Peterborough Theological Society; Speaker Rev'd Dr Marian Carter, formerly Senior Lecturer in Pastoral Theology, St. Mark and St. John's College, Plymouth A Time to Die – Theological Reflections on Death.
July	Sat	1	8:00 At St Mark's Church: CTiCP Prayer Breakfast
	Sun.	2	10:30 Morning worship, led by members of Church Council

\*We understand that this service is expected to restart in September.

## A GOOD DRINK?

The secret of enjoying a good wine:

1. Open the bottle and let it breathe
2. If it looks as if it isn't breathing, try a bit of mouth-to-mouth.

A couple in the street came across a



drunk stretched out. 'Look at that chap,' said the wife – he was my boyfriend years ago, and he took to drink when I left him.'

Responded the husband, 'I've never known anybody celebrate so much!'

*Found by Ewan*