

Central United Reformed Church Derby Magazine



October-
November
2022

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What next?

Ability to unite
Ambition
Friendliness
Example-setting
Self-belief
Truthfulness
Compassion
Tolerance
Encouragement
Understanding
Vision
Determination
Confidence
Energy
Reliability
Wisdom
Transparency
Calmness
Prayerfulness
Honesty
Listening/hearing
Humility
Flexibility
Foresight
Prayerfulness

Knowing what's important

Floral Tribute, a poem for the Queen by Simon Armitage

Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,
Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September mist.
I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,
Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.
A promise made and kept for life - that was your gift -
Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,
Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.
The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,
Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.

Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.
Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower
Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained
Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence
A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day
Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and
Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,
This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness
Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.

SIMON ARMITAGE
Poet laureate

God save the King!

My dear friends,

When we shared memories of the Coronation in our last Magazine there was, I think, a question in the back of our minds: 'how long will her reign last?' Well, sadly we now have the answer – an answer which raises other questions: what next? What now? How will King Charles' reign compare with that which we've known for the last seventy years?

The Queen has been a rock in the sometimes-stormy seas of our national life. In the pages of this magazine we have a reflection by Geoffrey on the 'greatness' or otherwise of our nation, and by contrast a challenge from Paul about living justly, and our own stance in a world of injustice.

How will King Charles lead us? We have no idea! But what qualities would we want or expect in him?

Only a few weeks ago our service focussed on the qualities of leadership, and some of our conclusions are pictured on page 18.

And do you know what? I think we want the King to have every one of these qualities, and more. Not much, eh! We can but hope and pray that – above all of these – he will continue in the faith so wonderfully demonstrated by his mother.

Whether we are staunchly royalist, or even have some reservations about the Monarchy, let us pray for him, that the Spirit may move him, and that his heavenly King may support him in the work he has inherited.

Jim Gould.

Diary

Sunday Worship

October 2:	Revd Jim Gould - Communion
9	Elders - Harvest
16	Mr Phil Royle
23	Mr Sam Goodman
30	Revd Philip Webb
November 6	Revd Jim Gould - Communion
13	Dr Rodger Charlton - Remembrance
20	Miss Nicola Webb
27	Revd Paul Whiting

Other Dates

Elders' Meetings: 13th October, 10th November

Church Meeting: 20th November

Monday Fellowship:

10th October: Bulb Planting

24th October: Tony's Amazing Quiz

14th November: Cathy's choice, (food ??)

28th November: Maureen's travels in the USA

The queen and me!

A reminiscence

When I spent a summer in the USA many years ago, someone asked me what I thought of the Queen. My reply was that she was the head of the family.

The only time I saw the Queen in the flesh was when we were staying with an uncle in Glasgow. My husband had gone to the Stationery Office in a quiet street off George Square in the city Centre. My daughters and I were waiting on the pavement outside when a police motorcycle outrider came by, followed by a black car with big windows - and there was the Queen, probably on the way to a nearby reception.

Maureen.

Justice: a challenge from Revd Paul

Dear Friends,

In Luke 12 we hear about family troubles. I don't believe this reading talks about families hating each other. The passage deals with a shift in allegiances. The followers of Jesus were required to put God and the mission first, at the cost of traditional values. In the Jewish culture of the time, that went against everything that was held dear: family was the most important; family dignity, family inheritance. Marriages were arranged. You didn't just take off and follow Jesus.

Every generation experiences these stresses (as Jesus called them). Most new denominations came about out of a desire to do justice and to show Jesus more distinctly to our world. It wasn't that they hated their families or former churches – they just had to free themselves from the influence and power. However, in the process we sometimes became victims of hatred.

Yet even with such powerful histories, we all too often lose our way and our reason for being. We become silent and stop acting for justice. When justice and righteousness cease, people stop seeing Jesus

There's a famous Holocaust poem by Martin Niemöller.

When the Nazis came for the Communists
I remained silent. I was not a communist.
When they locked up the social democrats
I remained silent. I was not a social democrat.
When they came for the trade unionists
I did not speak out. I was not a trade unionist.
When they came for the Jews
I remained silent. I wasn't a Jew.
When they came for me
There was no one left to speak out.

Niemöller lived until 1984, and many times was asked to do public readings of the poem. When he did so, he changed the words to speak to the particular era and issues of the day – the last line always remained unchanged.

Before we can speak out, we need to come to a place where the need of another is greater than my own. Justice isn't about getting what I need – that's called prayer – “anything you ask in my name I will give you.” Justice is being the answer to someone else's prayer.

That ability to speak out comes from a witness that God will provide my need. If I'm too attached to my needs then I will be silent.

That is the truth behind what Jesus was trying to convey in our gospel reading – if you are too attached to your needs, your family traditions and respectabilities, then you will be silent when you need to speak out.

You and I have to face this discussion every day. We see and hear the brokenness of our world, our country and our city. Yet how much can we speak out? What will it cost in terms of sacrifice?

I have always believed that the Holy Spirit comes as a result of prayer. So while we might be having tremendous

ideas about doing justice, we have to be equally committed to prayer – having conversations with God.

Am I saying you can't do justice without prayer? No: there are some great humanitarian actions taking place. But we are the Body of Christ, the image of Christ on earth. It's through prayer and justice in daily living that people once again see Jesus!

Revd Paul Whiting

Gift Day

Each year we invite the congregation to support the Church by donating to our Gift Day Appeal. If you can make a financial gift to the church, then this would be most welcome. All gifts from non-taxpayers and taxpayers alike are appreciated. There is no commitment other than the amount you choose to put in the envelope.

If you are a taxpayer and wish to maximise the benefits of your giving in the Gift Day Envelope, please put your name and postcode on it (or freewill offering number) and we will claim an extra 25p in the £1 from the Government. Please read the small print on the back of the yellow envelope before signing.

Any money, which is not given as a set payment, be it weekly offering, flowers or magazine can all be gift-aided if you are a taxpayer, at no extra cost to you.

We appreciate your kind generosity which enables the Church to keep going and helps with outreach and mission work.

Thank you.

Sam Goodman.

Crafty fingers

A new group has been born!! On the back of our vision day I decided to start a little group on the first Friday of the month of likeminded folk to get together and craft and chat.

I was pleased to see seven lovely people came along on our first one and we focused on some mindful colouring.

Our next meeting is on 7th October, when we are going to be decorating some glass tea light holders. If you think you would like to join us please just come along at 10:00-11:30. We ask for £1 to go towards materials .

If you want to know more, please contact me on 07701 057 003

Jill Barling

Church Open Day, 3rd September 2022

Finally, after 2 years of talking about it, we opened our doors to 'show off' our beautiful premises.

We used the whole church to display various artefacts and history boards compiled by our members.

Our tenants, Derby City Life Links, had representatives for people to engage with, and many of the other groups who use our building had a representative or two on all the floors. I was interested to hear that the U3A actually have fourteen groups!! 3fs were giving out leaflets, and it was good to see Brownie and Guide leaders.

Tuesday Tots had a cosy corner which was made use of!

A steady stream of folk passed through and of course the bacon butties proved to be a big hit as usual.

It was good to see representatives from the Cathedral and Derby City church to see what we were about.

Our refreshments raised £115 for Blood Bikes: a good start to our year's fundraising for them.

Just about every room was occupied by displays and representatives of the various users of the building. Here are a few sample pictures.

Thanks to Barrie May.



Many others would have liked to come but were unable for various reasons. In particular we received greetings from Revd Marcus Hargis, Stephen Salloway, St James' Securities, Revd Sue Powell, Revd Geoffrey Clark, Smith Cooper Accountants, Brian Long, David Greatorex, Trinity Baptist Church and Derby City Mission.

At 3.30 a short act of worship took place, led by Christine, Jim and Revd Jane Wade, our Deputy Moderator, who was suitably impressed and was to report back to Synod.

In all it was a good weekend!

Look forward to our next event!

Jill Barling.

“Community Hands”



During the day, each visitor was invited to sign a hand as a record of their visit. Jill then assembled their contributions on a backing board which will soon appear, framed, in the building, to commemorate the day.

We were delighted that five of the members of 3Fs: Sylvia, Carol, Sue M, Elaine, and Ann M agreed to take charge of the 3Fs stand on the Open Day. Here are some of their thoughts.

“There was a lovely atmosphere in the building and everyone was so friendly. There was real interest in the 3Fs.”

“It was a thoroughly enjoyable day despite the lower than hoped-for turn out. The photographic exhibition was a real eye opener. It was good to make contact with other groups who share the building, and new links have already been made. The service was very thoughtful.”

“It was a day to show the public and church members the many groups that meet, and enjoy the very welcoming atmosphere made possible by an army of volunteers. The various groups represented were very enthusiastic and all showed that people need not feel alone with a variety of activities to experience.

The day came to a close with a service of thanksgiving and dedication, giving thanks for the new church after the disappointment of having to move from a much-loved church nearby. Reverend Jim gave a positive look towards the future and the possibilities of becoming part of an even wider community.

A beautiful day supported by all the volunteers who provided endless cups of tea and coffee and of course the famous ‘bacon butties’.

It would be wrong to close this report without expressing thanks to all who planned the day, arranged artefacts, cooked Bacon Butties and attended the Service of Dedication. We were so pleased that the Deputy Moderator could join us and bring greetings from the Synod.

In Memoriam Joyce Allan:

1926-2022

Joyce was a member of Green Lane Presbyterian Church until the three churches, Green Lane, Normanton Road and Victoria Street amalgamated into Central United Reformed Church in October 1976



Joyce served as an Elder for many years. She was very forthright and positive at the meetings but contributed her skills and expertise willingly. She was a faithful Elder, visiting regularly and using the telephone to keep in touch. She did not like change but lived through the ups and downs of Central never doubting “all would be well”. “All churches have their problems”, she said “and we are not unique but must move on.” She helped others where she could and was always willing to listen to problems using her professional skills admirably.

She took on the role of District President with all that involved and attended many meetings all over the county.

For many years she hosted the church bible study and many different people attended that over the years, enjoying the challenges that were presented through the discussions.

Her faith was of the utmost importance to her and she valued the sacrament of Holy Communion.

She and Peter Allen attended silversmith classes at the College of art, under the tuition of Sidney Hall. He was commissioned to design the beautiful chalice that we

still use today. Joyce always held a proprietorial interest in it from that day.

When she could no longer attend church, she received communion regularly at home and it was especially fortunate that Jim and Christine were able to bring her communion at home with a special service written for her just before she went into hospital.

When COVID kept Joyce housebound she always maintained a lively interest in all we were doing. She received the services and every Sunday afternoon, Marie would faithfully give her a blow by blow account of the hymns, sermon and who had been present that morning.

At 84, Joyce became a founder member of the volunteer team of the 3fs, Fitness Fun and Fellowship and would come down to help with the lunch time meal for our members. She patiently supervised a special needs young man to set out the food and cakes and he obediently followed Joyce's instructions! She was great to have in the kitchen but woe betide you if you spoke to her, when she was sorting the sandwiches!!

Her great personal interest was the Delhi Brotherhood and with friends she made several trips to India. She held fund raising events, opened her garden, sold things, all to raise money to take with her and continued to support them up to her death. She encouraged the church to also add a large yearly donation to supplement her contribution.

Joyce had many visitors both from church and from her wide circle of friends and could often be found reading her crime books when one arrived. Always pleased to see anyone and often to quiz them on a crossword clue.

Comments from the congregation

“Formidable; a good, strong-willed woman, above all wise and very supportive in difficult situations.

She was generous and kind, fun to be with; a lady you wouldn't want to mess with: she saw things for what they were. She also had a mischief and irrepressible energy that made her enormous fun and great company; a lady of profound Christian depth and discernment, the sort who could be relied upon to be building the church and Christ's kingdom through all weathers, including these most recent times.

Joyce enriched both Green Lane Presbyterian and Central United Reformed church for well over 60 years and we shall miss her greatly.

Christine, on behalf of the Elders.

Outreach and Giving update

Blood Bikes: We were delighted that our refreshments, bacon butties and book stall held on the Open Day in September raised **£115.00** as our first collection for this year's charity, Blood Bikes.

The first POTS collection will be on Sunday 2nd October.

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Friday 30th September from 10:00 to 11:30am.

Our usual coffee morning-cakes, books, bric-a-brac, raffle and bacon butties will be on show.

Boxes at the back of church are still available for **Upbeat communities**.

Our **battery recycling box** is beginning to fill up. If you are passing church and want to hand yours in, there is usually someone there during the week.

At our Harvest service on 9th October, our gifts will be sent to the **Padley Centre** and finally....

Friday 25th November will be our next Bacon Buttie coffee morning in aid of **Blood Bikes**.

Worship and Outreach Group

Patriotism and Thankfulness – a think-piece.

It was Tony Blair, the Labour leader, who concluded his premiership with an audacious fib. His contention that Britain 'is the greatest nation on earth' was startling even by his own standards.

For us Britishers don't say things like that any more, not since we stopped ruling the world. This isn't false modesty but reluctant realism. A nation may be great in lots of ways, but as to our being the greatest nation in the world, it isn't so. Britain's not great any longer because America supposedly rules the waves. And, sooner or later, even America will be usurped. Already we are hearing reports counting down the years before China, or some other, overtakes Uncle Sam.

The urge to love one's country is, doubtless, instinctive. It's possible to be patriotic without being Jingoistic. As one writer put it, "What is patriotism but the love of the food one ate as a child?" The national idiosyncrasies that make our hearts swell these days can't exactly be symptoms of greatness. For myself, I like the 'lollipop ladies' who shepherd our children across the road, the friendly Pakistani who runs the local delicatessen, and cool rainy days. I like the multicultural amorphousness of our national identity. Unlike a previous prime minister (who shall be nameless), we're not a boastful nation; but that, at least, is something to be proud of.

And with it comes 'thankfulness', thankfulness for new experiences, delights and opportunities and not living our lives with resentment and bitterness. This thankfulness is the path to faith, for it implies that life is good. Anything can be an occasion for gratitude.

GK Chesterton, the 20th Century author, once put it in his somewhat rumbustious way:

“You can say grace before meals all right. But I say grace before the play and the opera,
And I say grace before the concert and the pantomime, And I say grace before I open a book,
And I say grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing,
and I say grace before I dip a pen in the ink.”

Like patriotism, this prayer is a simple ‘thank you’ for the gift of life and faith itself.

Keep joyful!

Geoffrey Dunstan

Synod Jubilee Day Saturday 10th September 2022

Cathy, Sam, Maureen and I attended the Synod Jubilee Day at the De Vere Conference Centre, Nottingham from 10 am - 4.30 pm.

It was a very well organised event, with a choice of eight different workshops, all very diverse. Over lunchtime there was a chance to catch up with friends old and new.

This was followed by a service led by our Moderator Revd Geoffrey Clarke and assisted by Revd Fiona Bennett, Moderator of General Assembly.

The day opened with a tribute by Geoffrey to our late Queen Elizabeth. It featured a variety of prayers, Jubilee cakes! and concluded with Communion.



We were able to see the completed URC East Midlands banner which included embroidery from many of our churches, ours (designed by Gill) included.

Altogether the setting by the lake and spacious communal areas made for a very relaxing and enjoyable day. Thanks to our driver who so admirably negotiated the route!!!

You are invited to

A Quiz ~~Night~~ Afternoon on behalf of Tear Fund

Where? Central URC at Stuart House

When? Saturday 19 November at 1:00 p.m.

What? A snack, a drink, a quiz and some fun!

Cost? £12:00 per table of up to 6 people

More information from Sam, email karlchensam@gmail.com
or telephone 01332 346627
or see our Facebook page a bit closer to the day.

Christine.

What makes a leader?

This was the question posed by our Elders when they led our August service. We were all challenged to suggest the qualities we expected a leader to possess, and were astonished by the variety of responses.

Here is a word-cloud which has been composed using some of those responses.



Everyone of us in that service has over the years demonstrated one or many of these qualities, and the challenge is for us all to make full use of these, in the service of Our Lord and those (not just in the Church but everywhere) we serve.

Jim

'Commitment' by Someone Else

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of one of our most valuable members, Someone Else. Someone's passing has created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work.

Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results "Someone Else can work with that group" it was said.

Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's lips: Someone Else! "Let Someone Else do it" was a common cry when something needed to be done.

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was very generous, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up any shortfall.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman; but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else.

Now Someone Else is gone! What will happen now? Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did now that Someone Else is not there to do it anymore.

Food for thought!

Stolen from Melbourne URC's Magazine.

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...or via “enquiries” on our website

A large print magazine is available on request.

Back Copies of the Magazine can be found on the website!

The December/January Magazine will be available in late November. Please send material (be creative!) to arrive no later than Sunday 13th November, to Christine Fielding care of the church, or by email to c.fielding@talktalk.net

... and contributions for the Weekly Notice Sheet should be sent to Jim Gould on jim@cathyjim.uk, or by phone on 07986 827594. Deadline Friday lunchtime, please!

Central United Reformed Church is the working name for Central, Derby, United Reformed Church Charity - Registration Number 1130551