

The Good News

Summer 2022



North West Northants Pastorate

A broader view, a little distance, a different perspective, the bigger picture; perhaps something from which we could all benefit from time to time.

After all, looked at from a greater height, even clouds seem to scrape the ground.

A couple of weeks ago, in this seventieth year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, I was stood at the summit of the Worcestershire Beacon, the highest point of the Malvern Hills. There, stands a monument, to celebrate the sixtieth year of the reign of Queen Victoria in 1897.

I looked east, on the horizon , you can quite

clearly see Arbury Hill; 49 miles distant. I looked west and, in the distance, you can quite clearly see the Brecon Beacons in Powys, in another country!

This is quite sobering when I consider that I can see Arbury Hill from my kitchen window in Northamptonshire.

From seventy years to sixty to the fiftieth Jubilee year of the United Reformed Church; time, distance, and all of us, connected and bound together, through the Holy Spirit, right now.



“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 NIV)

Inside this Summer Issue

The Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer?

North West Northants

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Deadline for contributions to next issue: 16th August 2022

Good News welcomes contributions from readers, though publication is not guaranteed.

Editorial

So what's this Holy Spirit all about?

Hello,

So, what was I doing at the top of the Malvern Hills I can hear you all ask...

How you look at the world and see your place in it, might depend on where you look from; how things are framed for you. Or indeed how you choose to frame things.

Over the last few weeks I have undertaken a number of journeys and visited some very inspiring places. Some I had been to before, and others not. I'm not sure what I expected to find, but I did find perhaps what I needed most; catharsis.

Recently a question was asked of me; "where did you find God this week?". An odd question perhaps, but a question asked, no doubt, with purpose.

Did God speak from the stories illustrated in the stained glass of Lichfield Cathedral, the monumental architecture of Worcester Cathedral, the beauty and history of Great Malvern Priory?

Or was Gods presence found in the awesome music and grandeur of Hereford or Gloucester Cathedrals?

A happy person might say Yes! Yes, God was there! A blessed person might think, I did find God there.

A simple person might say, I know God was there, because I took God with me.

It depends how you choose to see things, every 'cathedral' has its setting.

Sat by the river, in among the trees, take God with you wherever you go...

Andrew.



A Message for All

From Norman Chandler, Elder and Member at Long Buckby URC

Dear Friends,

We are heading into summer with longer days, flowers everywhere, new life growing in the fields and hopefully some sunshine as well.



Now is the time to celebrate and thank God for our existence in a peaceful country and whilst belt tightening is going on we can still celebrate having a fair standard of living compared to others.

We have formal celebrations nationally for the Queen's 70 years reign and we are also celebrating 50 years of the United Reformed Church existence.

As local Churches we do not seem to be deeply involved in the Platinum Jubilee with nothing on any of our web sites, but we do have things planned at some of our Churches for the 50 years of the URC.

We may not be very good at standing on street corners and shouting the word of God to passers by but we are good at socialising and making cakes and passing biscuits round the groups of people that we know.

A Message for All cont.

From Norman Chandler, Elder and Member at Long Buckby URC

Let us redouble our efforts in socialising with our communities and let them see our cheerful demeanours and celebrating our love of God.

For those who will criticise my suggestion of using sweet things, and maybe they could looking at my waist line, I would ask for tasty alternative suggestions for the next magazine.

There was a national competition for a Jubilee pudding, so I am launching a competition to find the best low calorie snack for the pastorate that can be easily made by members and served as we would use cake and biscuits in our socialising.

Recipes to the editor by the end of August, the winner or winners will have the recipe printed in the next magazine with full attribution.

We are encouraged by synod to make bunting for our 50th celebrations. Normally bunting is for the outside, in the street, perhaps we could all dress our Churches outside as well as inside? Food for thought? As you can tell I do like food.



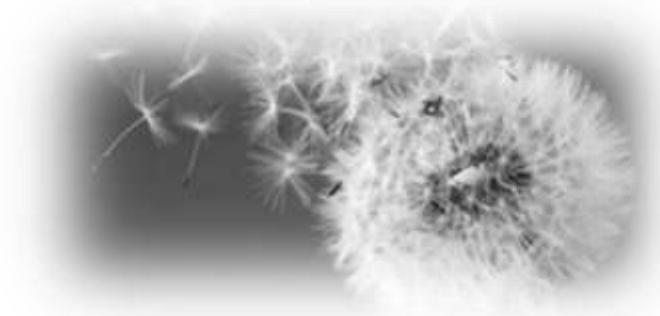
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A Message for All cont.

From Norman Chandler, Elder and Member at Long Buckby URC

This magazine is called "Good News" let us all spread the good news of the holy spirit of Pentecost to all our friends and neighbours by being joyful in our daily lives rejoicing in our blessings both physical and spiritual.

Norman.



"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3:8 NIV

On the front page of this magazine there is an illustration of some hills, they might be pretending to be the Malvern Hills. Those of you who have been to the Malvern Hills might know that they are not the Malvern Hills... For these hills are not hills at all, they are in fact mountains! But, where in England are they?

There is a secret mystery prize for the first person to tell the editor where they are.

The editor is so confident that nobody will guess, that he is considering eating the secret mystery prize! Om nom nom...

The Kindness of Strangers

Found in another URC News Letter; Shared by Peggy Bond:

When a Pet Dies

Our 14 year old dog Abbey died last month. The day after she passed away my 4 year old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognise her. I told her that I thought we could do so, and she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Thank you for letting me have her as my dog even though she got sick. I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.

Love Meredith.

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed to God/Heaven. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it in the letterbox at the post office. A few days later she asked if God had gotten the letter yet, I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed to Meredith in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies'. Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note.

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help and I recognised her right away. Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you to write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much.

By the way I am easy to find, I am wherever love is.

Love God.

Unattributed from Facebook

Long Buckby News

News from Peggy Bond

Hello from Long Buckby everyone!

Our Flower Rota:

June	5th	Sian Ellison
	12th	Alan Ketley
	19th	Wendy Baker
	26th	Mr & Mrs P. Colton
July	3rd	Mary Bignell
	10th	Lucy Faulkner
	17th	Long Buckby Garden Club
	24th	Diana Babb
	31st	Joint Service at Crick
Aug	7th	Lucy Faulkner
	14th	Myra Griffiths
	21st	Andrew Bodsworth
	28th	Lucy Faulkner



Birthday Wishes to:

June: Carol Bruce, Georgia Ball, Oliver Ball, Andrew Bosworth, Sue Cross, Alan Ketley, Julia Ball

July: Nicky Russ, Wendy Baker, Myra Griffiths, Jodie and Sean Russ

August: Sophie Ellison, Mary Bignell

The Hope Centre

Please remember the collection box for the Hope Centre in Northampton. Food, coffee, tea bags, cleaning materials and laundry detergents very welcome.

Coffee mornings

Charity Coffee Mornings will be held every first Saturday for the rest of the Year. See the Notice board and Long Buckby URC web site for further information.

Andrew Howes Invites You; Fun, Fish and Chips

Bigger, stronger, faster than before; with reinforcements this time!



Long Buckby URC

Fish and Chip Lunch and Beetle Drive

Saturday 10th September 2022: 12.00 – 14.00

£7.50 to include lunch and dessert

There will be a Raffle.

Please contact Andrew Howes to book your place

07814076027

01327705115

andrewhowes66@gmail.com

I remind you, some beetles do look like ants; like the 'Anthicidae' in fact, sometimes called 'flower beetles'.

No Beetles will be harmed during this event (although some fish might be)

Creaton News

News from Margaret Anderson

Hello from Creaton everyone!

Our Mission Statement:

Worship God joyfully
Offer Christ faithfully
Promote growth hopefully
Serve others lovingly.

Sad News

Sadly during the last few weeks we have lost two of our loyal members. Ann Townsend and Jean Thomas. We give thanks for their devoted service.

Services

We are starting to get used to things returning to normal and you are warmly welcome to join us for Sunday Worship. For more information, look at our website; search Creaton URC online (<http://www.creaton.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=319435>)

Pilots

Meets on Monday nights led by Marion Heard

Poppies Coffee Shop

Is open from 10.00am to 12 noon Wednesday and Friday.

Margaret.



Kilsby News

News from Val Janes

Hello from Kilsby everyone!

Our Mission statement:

The purpose of this church is to provide a warm welcoming place for all people, of any age, to worship and to learn about faith.

Sad News

Margaret Worster a member of our church for many years has passed and will be very missed by all of us.

Services are on Sunday mornings at 11am

You can find our list of Services and Preachers in the Preaching Diary.

Community cafe

Every Monday and Thursday at 9am until 12noon everyone is welcome.

Scrabble

Every Wednesday at 1pm everyone is welcome.

Sewing

Every other Friday at 2pm until 4pm everyone is welcome.

Val.



Image: Ian Rob / *Kilsby-Chapel Street* / CC BY-SA 2.0

Diary of Church Services June 2022 to August 2022

Date	Long Buckby All services at 11am unless otherwise stated	Creaton All services at 11am unless otherwise stated
05/06/22	Lucy Faulkner	Rev Geoff Townsend
12/06/22	Margaret Hooper	Jon Heard With Holy Communion
19/06/22	Rev. Geoff Clarke With Holy Communion	Rev Geoff Townsend
26/06/22	John Perkins	Rev Nigel Adkinson
03/07/22	Jon Heard	Rev Geoff Townsend With Holy Communion
10/07/22	Tom Baird	Jon Heard
17/07/22	Eric Nixon	Rev Geoff Townsend
24/07/22	Rev Liz Adams With Holy Communion	Wendy Pittman
31/07/22	Ian Mair Joint Pastorate at Crick	Ian Mair Joint Pastorate at Crick
07/08/22	Cecil Gill	Rev Geoff Townsend With Holy Communion
14/08/22	Ian Harrison	Nigel Adkinson
21/08/22	Rev Liz Adams With Holy Communion	Rev Geoff Townsend
28/08/22	Lucy Faulkner	T.B.A.

Diary of Church Services June 2022 to August 2022

Date	Crick All services at 11am unless otherwise stated	Kilsby All services at 11am unless otherwise stated
05/06/22	Trevor Boys	Wally Mullar
12/06/22	Rev. Geoff Townsend With Holy Communion	Dorn Margetts
19/06/22	Wally Mullar	Cecil Gill With Holy Communion
26/06/22	David and Pat Biddle	Clive Leakey
03/07/22	Wendy Pitman	Wally Mullar
10/07/22	Andrew Howes With Holy Communion	Trevor Boys
17/07/22	Ian Harrison	Cecil Gill
24/07/22	Dorn Margetts	Rev. Tim Huc With Holy Communion
31/07/22	Ian Mair Joint Pastorate at Crick	Ian Mair Joint Pastorate at Crick
07/08/22	Nancy Cervantes	Dorn Margetts
14/08/22	Rev. Geoff Townsend With Holy Communion	John Perkins
21/08/22	Ray Smith	Cecil Gill With Holy Communion
28/08/22	Bobbie Wakeleigh Jones	Keith Bishop

Crick News

News from Jenny Goodger

Hello from Crick everyone!

The purpose of this church is to provide a warm, welcoming place for people of all ages to worship God and to grow in faith.

Chapel Birthdays

Happy birthday wishes to Margaret Simms, Kathleen Green and Gwyneth Nisbet who have birthdays around this time.

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are now back as a regular feature on the first Saturday of the month, with numbers rising steadily as people become more confident about social events.

Talking of which, please come and join us for the best refreshments(!) at the **Crick Scarecrow weekend July 9/10th**.

We will be open on just the Saturday and look forward to your company.

The scarecrows are always worth a look, and there is usually a bus to take you round if walking is a problem.

It's a real pleasure to be able to hold weekly services once again.
'Normal' life is great!

We look forward to seeing you all at the joint service at Crick in July.

Jenny



Image: chris cox / Beacon and Crick village from Cracks Hill / CC BY-SA 2.0

Andrew Howes Invites You;

An evening of entertainment

Long Buckby United Reformed Church
Presents

**An Evening of Strawberries, Summer Punch,
and Song**

Featuring “3 In Accord”



**Tickets £8.00 (includes 1st glass of Summer Punch and
strawberries)**

Saturday 23 July 2022 at 7.00pm

**Tickets from Richard Bignell, 01327 844979 or pay on
the door**

**Long Buckby URC, Brington Road, Long Buckby
NN6 7RW**



The story behind the hymn

'It is Well With My Soul' — Contributed by Norman Chandler

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well
With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

I was asked to research "All is well with my soul" by a new member of our Church as it had a compelling story as well as being a great hymn to sing.

Not wishing to seem ignorant I agreed and soon found that it was not in Rejoice and Sing and as I did not remember the hymn myself had to dig a little deeper.

"It is well with my soul" is in fact the chorus (which is why we remember it) the hymn starts with "When peace like a river..." and can be found in later editions of Mission Praise number 1338.

Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-88) was a well to do lawyer practicing in Chicago USA with extensive property in the city and a family of five children, however he lost his four year old son to pneumonia 1871 and Chicago had a massive fire in the same year.

Being close friends of Dwight L Moody and Ira Sankey he planned to join them in their evangelistic missions to the UK and at the same time use the trip to recover from the family tragedy.

Work commitments prevented him from traveling on the SS Ville du Havre where he had booked passage so he sent his family ahead. Part way through the journey the Ville du Havre collided with the iron hulled Scottish ship the Loch Earn and sank within 12 minutes.

The story behind the hymn

'It is Well With My Soul' — Contributed by Norman Chandler

The four Spafford daughters were lost but Anna his wife was saved by a sailor in a rowing boat after clinging to floating debris. The sailor and Anna were picked up by a larger vessel and landed in Cardiff nine days later.

She sent a telegram to her husband saying "Saved alone, what shall I do?" Mr Spafford booked the first available passage and left Boston to join his grieving wife. When four days out the captain called Mr Spafford into his cabin and told him that he was over the spot where his children had died.

According to Bertha Spafford Vester, a daughter born after the tragedy, Spafford wrote "It is well with my soul" whilst on this journey.

The tune called Ville du Havre was written by Philip Bliss and the Hymn was first published in 1876.

The original version had six verses but only the first two are printed in Mission Praise.

This hymn was chosen for inclusion at the request of a member. If you would like to know about your favourite hymns origins please contact the editor.

On the theme of guessing (or knowing) where places are:
There is another secret mystery prize for guessing the location of the illustration on page 3, it is quite local to all of us.

Thinking About the Lectionary

The Seasons of a Church Year

Not everybody knows what Pentecost means, but then not everybody knows what jubilee means.

The word 'Pentecost' comes from the Greek word for fifty and is used in referring to 'fifty days after'. Pentecost or *Shavuot* as the Jews call it was originally a harvest festival (now more connected with the giving of Gods Law to Moses) and comes 50 days after Passover.

For Christians Pentecost come fifty days after Easter and celebrates the descent of the Holy Sprit on the Apostles; some might argue leading to a kind of harvest.

Like many festivals in the Christian year, some might suggest Pentecost therefore seems to overlay or follow a tradition of that which went before it..

Of course, everybody is clear about what Trinity means... (at this point the editor ducks under a table and beats a hasty retreat thinking a year is not enough!).



Ah yes, jubilee, well obviously, that simply means trumpet, and before you ask, there are whole books about the origin, use, traditions and connections of the phrase 'Whitsun', 'White Sunday'...

So much for the idea of a simple page of clear definitions...

Lectionary Readings

June 2022

Pentecost

June 5

Acts 2:1-21

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

Psalm 104:25-35

Trinity Sunday

June 12

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

Psalm 8

Proper 7

June 19

Isaiah 65:1-9

Psalm 22:19-28

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

Proper 8

June 26

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalm 16

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

Weaving Sacred and Secular June

2nd—5th Queens Platinum Jubilee

5th World Environment Day

8th World Oceans Day

19th Fathers Day

20th—26th Refugee Week

Lectionary Readings

July 2022

Proper 9

July 3

Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalms 66:1-8

Galatians 6:(1-6)7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Proper 10

July 10

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalms 25:1-9

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

Proper 11

July 17

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalms 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Proper 12

July 24

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalms 138

Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)

Luke 11:1-13

Proper 13

July 31

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalms 49:1-11

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

Weaving Sacred and Secular July

28th Commonwealth Games Begin

30th National Eisteddfod Begins—oh yes it does!

Lectionary Readings

August 2022

Proper 14

August 7

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm 33:12-22

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

Proper 15

August 14

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm 82

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

Proper 16

August 21

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

Proper 17

August 28

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Weaving Sacred and Secular August
6th—8th Edinburgh International Festival
28th—29th Notting Hill Carnival
29th—30th Lammas Fair, Ballycastle

A Late Night Reflection: And The Page Fell Open...

Coming Together, Drifting Apart and Moving On

Here I am again, late at night, I pick up the Charcoal Gospel booklet once more and start to look, the page falls open, I start to read; is this what became of Pentecost for us?

Meditation

We had good news,
but didn't know how to speak it.
We had received a blessing,
but weren't sure how to share it.
We knew resurrection and the power of God almighty,
but our fear and frailty locked us behind closed doors.
We needed help.
And help came;
refining like fire, enlivening like the wind.
Our frailty and fear – overcome.
Our silence – overcome.
Our divisive languages – overcome.
Our incomplete understanding – overcome.
Our forgotten lessons – overcome.
Our selfishness – overcome.
Our isolation – overcome.
Our pride – overcome.
Our prejudices – overcome.
Our arrogance – overcome.
As he promised.

(Meditation: from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorogood © Neil Thorogood/United Reformed Church 2016.)



Image: from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorogood © Neil Thorogood/United Reformed Church 2016.

In a Desert Far Away— I am reminded; Ozymandias

A whole poem and part of a Psalm

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert... Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:
And on the pedestal these words appear:
'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

By Percy Bysshe Shelley



...Why should I fear when evil days come,
when wicked deceivers surround me— those who trust in their
wealth and boast of their great riches? No one can redeem the
life of another or give to God a ransom for them— the ransom for
a life is costly, no payment is ever enough— so that they should
live on forever and not see decay. For all can see that the wise
die, that the foolish and the senseless also perish, leaving their
wealth to others. Their tombs will remain their houses forever,
their dwellings for endless generations, though they
had named lands after themselves. People, despite their wealth,
do not endure; they are like the beasts that perish...

Psalms 49:5 –12 (NIV)

Or as Shelly once succinctly put it; “Nothing wilts faster than
laurels that have been rested upon.”

Thanks, Afterthoughts and Connections

Wandering From Whence We Came, What Do We Leave Behind?

What do we leave behind? Trunkless legs of stone that stand in a desert? Our hopes and wishes? What will be remembered, all the places we ever went, all the people we ever met?

In a desert far away I am reminded...

Sometimes it's the written words and poems that we leave behind, should they become like the oasis in the desert, where once stood, under a tree, an unexpected table. Whereupon a feast of oysters and champagne lay, waiting for me...

As ever, many thanks to all Good News contributors; writers, sifters and wranglers of content, proof readers, printers and distributors; all those that collaborate across time and travels, in all sorts of ways to produce and deliver all of the wonderful resources into which we dip and find treasures to share.

Most of all, thank You, for reading this magazine, and don't forget the secret mystery prizes.

We like secret mystery prizes!



So, what, you may ask, is the connection between these hills, mountains, trees and rivers? The connection between these priories and cathedrals, the connection between these meditations, poems and psalms? The connections, the thing that holds it all together, ah yes the connections; well that is where I found God this week.