



*The Westgate
Chronicle*

The Magazine of Westgate New Church

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Our Mission Statement

We at Westgate 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.



During recent weeks the Lectionary has taken us very neatly through the Sermon on the Mount. The three chapters of teaching that come towards the beginning of Matthew's gospel account set out both his and Jesus' philosophy on life. Jesus is the fulfilment of the Old Testament. All that legal 'stuff' that shaped the lives of their ancestors was not set aside by Jesus but was developed through Jesus' teaching. Whilst the commandments or 613 demands of the Law made a framework for building a nation they were not equal to the task of building community. A well-ordered nation can function when its members don't kill or commit adultery but that simply isn't enough. Jesus wants his followers to love one another, to work hard at not getting angry with each other, and not casting lustful eyes over each other. The new spirit of the 'law' is based on seeing things from the point of view of others as well as from your own viewpoint.

We give you thanks most gracious God for our removal to our new home;
for heating programmed, shelving built, curtains purchased and hung
for continuing good relationships with hirers
for the fellowship of worship in a smaller space, close to our
neighbours
for all those who tirelessly work to put things in order.
Loving God make our conversation mirror our gratitude and bring us into ever
closer relationship with you and with each other.
Amen

A prayer bookmark to cut out and keep.

Anger breeds anger, lust undermines relationships and when we begin to look at things from the point of view of the other, we can recognise the harm our attitudes are causing. Our impatience for the world around us to improve can so easily be the last straw to someone who is struggling to give their best. If we are kind and considerate, if we look to the interests of others then we too will be much more contented. An earlier verse in the Sermon says, 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.' Our relationships with each other are strained by impatience. This is particularly evident at Westgate New Church as we settle into the new building. A merciful attitude might look rather different from our notions of responsibility and duty, more that of reconciliation and community building. What it looks like is not important. What we need to do is think before we complain to someone who has been giving every spare moment to the comfort of others, to your comfort, how what we say impacts on them. Most of us do not know who has been at Westgate

New Church at various and many times during each week. So unless you have been here or are going to be here to help, then let's hear less complaining and more thanks for the work that has been done and have some positive contributions to the settling in process.

At our recent Church Meeting Phil Dorner reminded us all that in 150 years in our old building we still had things with which we were not satisfied. We have been in our new space just over three months. It will take many more months before we are happy with everything. The things which are time limited must be dealt with first. If you have a particular issue, then bring it to the attention of Church Council members but please don't ruin their worship on Sunday by whingeing to them on Sunday morning. A thoughtful email or letter with your positive suggestions for dealing with the matter would be appreciated – especially if you put all your issues into one message.

Lesley



WHAT IS LENT?

Lent lasts for 40 days (but not counting the Sundays) leading up to Easter (this year April 16th). The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday (this year March 1st). The old custom of applying ashes to the foreheads of worshippers each Ash Wednesday as a sign of mourning and repentance is still observed in some churches.

Lent was in the past a time of fasting, which is why on Shrove Tuesday (when you got your sins forgiven before Lent) pancakes used up foods not allowed in Lent. We still enjoy the pancakes!

These days Christians often give up

something for Lent – chocolate is a very common one. Another approach is to do something positive on each day or week during Lent. This may be extra Bible Study, spending more time in prayer, or doing something to help others, maybe for neighbours or through a charity.

The readings in our services in Lent remember another forty days which Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry and also help us to prepare for the great celebration of Easter, the most important date in the Christian year – more about that next month.

How will you mark Lent this year?



STORIES WITHIN THE STORY: MR DIVES AND THE BEGGAR

Last year:

I'm Dives, and I'm the most important man around here. I have the biggest house, servants to look after my every need, a family to be proud of, a big estate and financial resources other people can only dream of. When I go out people bow to me: "Good day, Mr Dives, lovely to see you this fine morning. I expect you remember me, I'm. . ." Fools! What do I care who they are, or what the weather is doing? I'm Dives, and I don't need anything from anyone. I am well provided for' by my own efforts, mind you.

I haven't always been rich. As a child I played with the common people of the village, including a foolish boy called Lazarus, the same one who now hangs about outside my gate. He's a no-good layabout, he can't feed or clothe himself properly, has no family, nor, so far as I know, anywhere to live, not even a scruffy shack. And his sores, yuck! But he never had any ambition, and he never took any care of what little he had. He used to share his meagre earnings with anyone in need; he was a right soft touch.

Whereas I looked after what came to me, saved till I could spend money wisely, investing to make more. So now I'm rich, whereas Lazarus is destitute. He begs in the street, but I take no notice. He's reaped the fruits of his improvidence, whereas I just grow richer all the time – and keep it all for myself.

Earlier today:

I'm Dives; I'm dead and I'm in agony. I'm in a place of burning heat, without even anything to drink and no prospect of an end to the torture. The cruellest thing is that I can see other people, far off, in



a different situation. I can see the beggar Lazarus, who died just a few months before me; he is in Paradise, in a place of honour beside Abraham, the patriarch from whom we are all descended. He is very well looked after, and enjoying life – sorry, I mean enjoying death.

I demeaned myself to beg Abraham (to whom, somehow, I could speak even at that distance) to send Lazarus to give me just the tiniest sip of water, but the answer was, "No way, Mr Dives; it's impossible, can't be done; and even if it could. . . well, you've had your good times while alive, and you made sure no-one could share anything at all of what you were keeping for yourself. Now it's the turn of the poor, like my dear friend Lazarus, while you, well, you've got only what you deserve.

Later today:

I surprise myself; I've come up with a generous thought. I have five brothers, all just as greedy and self-seeking as I was while alive. They're all heading the same way; but what if they could be warned? Perhaps someone coming back from the dead with a message about what will be coming to them also, in time? Could Abraham send Lazarus to them?

I ask him, plead with him. But, no, he says, it wouldn't work. They've had plenty of warning – the prophets, even Moses – and wouldn't respond any better even if someone did come back from the dead.

I suppose he's right. . . but, I wonder, do you think my generous idea might buy me a few days off this eternal torment? I guess not.

I'm Dives, and I wish I could die, to escape this punishment, which, I do now realise, I totally deserve.

But then, I'm already dead, aren't I?

This is just one of Jesus' stories exploring social conditions in his day,

always told from the viewpoint of the individual. There are also the Great Dinner (Luke 14), the Prodigal Son's elder brother (Luke 15), the Widow and an Unjust Judge, and the Rich Ruler (both found in Luke 18).

The original of this story is in Luke ch 17 vs 11-19. Think about what Jesus says about amassing wealth at the expense of others, about ignoring those less fortunate, about self-gratification and how it shapes our character and our future. These are questions for the individual; in a democratic society they are also political questions.

Ian

BAKING FOR JESUS

Kairos Ministry to Prisons

Kairos is an international and UK ministry to prisoners, which is going to conduct a mission at MHP Stocken (about ten miles up the A1 North of Stamford) from 20th to 24th March. They have a mission team prepared for this mission but are asking for help from local churches to prepare "cookies" to be given to prisoners. This is an important part of the mission work – the cookies are free gifts for prisoners, utilised in establishing a relationship with the mission team.

At the church meeting on January 21st it was agreed that the church would participate by asking four members each to bake a batch of cookies, to be ready at church on Sunday March 12th. If you can help with this please speak to or contact Ian Cornall.

In order to meet the prison regulations, and to avoid any appearance of favouritism ("my cookie's bigger than yours") there are very specific instructions that have to be followed. I will let you have a recipe and other instructions if you are able to help with baking cookies.

Ian



LENT COURSE 2017

Lesley is offering a Lent Course again this year:

**Five Wednesday afternoon sessions beginning March 8th
2pm in Lindisfarne**

Please let Lesley know that you will be attending.



MARTIN RINKART (1586-1649)

One of the Top Hundred popular hymns published by Popular Hymns.com is *Now Thank We All Our God*, which is in our hymn book 'Singing The Faith' under Praise and Thanksgiving: Hymn No 81.

This was written by Martin Rinkart, a German pastor and poet, born in 1586, son of a cooper who lived in Eilenburg in Saxony. Though his parents were poor and could not pay for his further education, yet in 1601 he became a foundation scholar and chorister of St Thomas' School of Theology at his local university. After graduation he became the precentor and minister of the little church of Eisteben, the birthplace of Martin Luther, and was later appointed as the archdeacon of his native town of Eilenburg. Ironically he left his native town as a poor scholar but returned there as a respected minister of the gospel in 1618 when peace and prosperity ended with the start of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648).

Eilenburg was a walled city and many people fled into it for shelter. Rinkart stayed in the town for the entire period of the war encountering harsh conditions with the rest of the congregation. Things got even worse when plague broke out, the other two ministers in the town died and Rinkart took over their work as well as to his own. In all it is estimated that about eight thousand people died,



including his wife, but Rinkart stayed on during the plague. Eilenburg was besieged by the Austrians and the Swedes during the closing years of the war. On one occasion he served as intermediary to plead his impoverished city could not pay the hefty levies imposed by the Swedish commander. He asked his congregation to find refuge in God by praying and sang

a familiar hymn, 'In The Hour Of Our Utmost Need'. The Swedish commander was moved and reduced the levy.

Rinkart had little time for writing hymns, but whenever there was a break in the long war he inspired his flock with a song and fresh hope and trust in God. A year after the war ended in 1648 Rinkart died, his work well and faithfully done.

Rinkart's hymn 'Now Thank We All Our God' is sung all over the Christian world and is found in most English hymn books. It is believed he wrote it when the Thirty Years War was coming to an end.

We may ask with all the distresses of the war, the plague and famine, why there is no mention of it in the hymn, only thankfulness. Did he become insensitive to human needs and problems? Of course not! He simply believed God's providence is always good, no matter how much we are tempted to doubt it.

Manny

Sources: popularhymns.com, Christian Hymn Writers (Elsie Houghton), Wikipedia

Misuse!

Hymns and Bible readings, like anything else, can be misused. When I was at secondary school, the end of term final

assembly invariably included 'whatsoever things are of **good report**' (Philippians 4:8, KJV) and '**Now thank we all our God**'. OUCH!
Editor

PAST CASES REVIEW

**Please read carefully:
this is important.**

The URC, like other denominations, is holding a past cases review. They need to know if anyone has information about any inappropriate behaviour or abuse by anyone connected with the URC since its formation in 1972.

You should raise concerns formally by 31 March 2017. Experts will listen to all stories, take your concerns or complaints seriously, take appropriate action and arrange support for you.

You will be allocated a listener who, either by telephone, email dialogue, or face-to-face meeting, will give an account of the concern. At every step, you can decide whether to stop or continue the process. The URC, in turn, will keep you informed as to what is happening. If it

should become evident that the behaviour still continues, you will be passed to the people who deal with current cases. Recommendations will be made so as to improve good practice in the future.

- to register a complaint 020 7916 8682 or (www.urb.org.uk/past-case-review)
- Further resources and information online at www.urb.org.uk/past-case-review.

If you would like help or advice before contacting the URC, speak to Lesley (for anything which happened before she was our minister), Gwyneth (our Safeguarding Officer) or Gerry (her deputy). Contact details in the church directory or from the editor. Please remember that you should not discuss these matters with anyone else as this can make it difficult or even impossible to obtain a conviction, should that be necessary.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Latest Development: Fairtrade Gold

'In the life of an artisanal gold miner, every day is a lottery, but no one ever seems to win.'

Gold isn't a regular on our shopping list – it's not like tea or bananas! For many, it's a very special, once in a lifetime purchase.

Where the gold comes from is not something we think about very often, which is why the terrible reality of small-scale gold mining is not well-known. Up to sixteen million people work in small-scale gold mining worldwide, often due to poverty and a lack of alternative options. The dangers are endless and are

often unavoidable, from pit collapse and mercury poisoning to child labour and exploitation.

It doesn't matter whether or not you are planning to buy some gold – if we're going to change this brutal industry we just need your help to spread the word. Suggest to friends and family who might be considering a special purchase that they should choose Fairtrade gold instead. If Fairtrade Gold becomes the norm it could break the poverty cycle for millions of miners around the world.

Fairtrade Fortnight runs this year from 27th February to 12th March. See p11 for our own Fairtrade Fortnight event.



CHURCH TITHES 2017

Eagles Malawi:

**not saving lives at the point of death,
but enriching life and opportunity**

A self help project in partnership with Tear Fund, and the inspiration of Living Waters Church Malawi.

Landlocked Malawi is among the world's most densely populated, least developed countries. The economic performance has in the past been constrained by the inconsistent and unreliable performance of the economy, largely based on agriculture and with a chief export of tobacco. Poor health and education outlooks restrict the development of the country where about 80% of the population live in rural areas.

Eagles' vision is to see communities that struggle with poverty become self-reliant, prosperous and healthy; helping communities to access clean water and adapt to challenges brought by climate change to tackle food insecurity. They do this by mobilising local churches, helping them to work with their communities to identify local needs and find the best ways to meet them. This is particularly important in areas where drought and floods are a recurring threat. Eagles is helping people to find ways of mitigating the destructive effects of disasters.

Food security is a big issue across Malawi, so Eagles are working with local communities to come up with creative



ways to grow food; drought-resistant crops, small scale irrigation farming and other techniques are taught to help communities get enough to eat without relying on handouts.

With our support, Tearfund's partner, Eagles, can empower Malawians to lift themselves out of poverty. Families will be able to feed themselves, restore their dignity and start a healthier life for their future.

Doug S

With acknowledgements to the Tearfund website and the CIA statistics page.

Info at <http://www.eaglesmalawi.org/>

The Medaille Trust:

**a charity to support women, men
and children freed from trafficking.**

Their Vision: The Medaille Trust desires a world where the trafficking of human beings for sexual, economic and labour exploitation has been eradicated.

Their Mission: The Medaille Trust is a charity founded by Catholic Religious



A Light Shining in a Dark Place of Human Trafficking

Congregations to work for the eradication of human trafficking and to offer support to people who have been trafficked.

Believing in the intrinsic dignity and worth of every individual, they provide safe housing and all specialist services for rehabilitation and they raise awareness of these modern forms of slavery.

I first heard of them through a service arranged by CTICP and since then I have regularly received their magazine. I know that they receive support from churches of various other denominations and I will remember one magazine where one page had the Salvation Army logo emblazoned across the top.

By summer 2016 the trust had nine houses around the country with places for nine men, 45 women and eighteen family units. Two more are being planned, which will house another nine men and 24 women. They work with the Police, Border Force and other agencies to find people who have been rescued or have escaped from slavery situations. These people are then helped to recover physical, mental and emotional health and assisted to move on to study, employment or maybe even to return to their country of origin. Residents write of their gratitude and of feeling safe at last. A proportion become



Christians.

The Medaille Trust are advocates for the 'Three Ps' approach, committed to work in partnership with other agencies to support this practice wherever they can.

Pursue: Prosecution and disruption of individuals and groups responsible for human trafficking and modern slavery

Prevent: Prevent people from engaging in and being a victim of human trafficking and modern slavery

Protect: Strengthen safeguards against human trafficking and modern slavery by protecting vulnerable people from exploitation and increasing awareness of and resilience against this crime

The trust also has links with similar organisations in other countries.

Linda

More info at: www.medaille-trust.org.uk/

LATE, LATE PANCAKE DATE



An event for Fairtrade Fortnight

Westgate New Church

(in Lindisfarne – not the place, the room!)

Wednesday 1st March: 2-5pm



All Welcome:

Please invite your family, friends and neighbours.

Please come along yourself to help if you possibly can.

Proceeds to the Chair Fund



The
United
Reformed
Church

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

Lesley has drawn our attention to this URC

mission project. I will try to summarise the introductory material from the URC website:

Editor

<http://www.urb.org.uk/mission/commitment-for-life.html>

The URC celebrates 25 years of seeking justice in 2017. They would like our actions, prayers and gifts for people worldwide, particularly in four areas (Bangladesh; Central America [Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador]; Israel and occupied Palestinian territory; Zimbabwe). They work with Christian Aid and Global Justice Now.

Churches can be linked to one of the regions, appointing a link person. A special annual service is suggested, to learn more about the chosen area. There are various possible giving schemes, a number of worship and prayer resources and suggestions for campaigning actions.

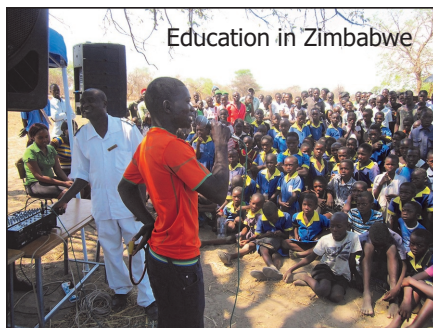
In Bangladesh there are difficulties arising from climate change and help is needed to cope with this. There is help for farmers, for women and for the most disadvantaged people to improve their quality of life.

Zimbabwe's problems are caused by political instability and the poverty arising from this, aggravated by drought and irregular rainfall. Help focuses on issues such as food security and nutrition, HIV, health and gender equality.

Continuing conflict between Israel and Palestine is causing increasing poverty, violence and despair. Help protects human rights, access to services and resources, and tries to build peace based on justice for all. Development and humanitarian relief reaches Palestinians and Israelis of any religion or none.

In central America the help reaches poor and marginalised families, especially women, young people and ethnic groups previously excluded from society. It assists small farmers to access markets, produce higher quality products and get a better price for them. It reaches communities particularly subject to problems like floods and landslides. It enables people to lobby governments so they take notice of the voices of the poor and marginalised.

Editor's comment: This seems to me like something Westgate New Church should seriously consider. We already have a connection with Zimbabwe through members of the congregation and our small Shona speaking worship group, which we could build on.



Education in Zimbabwe



CHRISTIAN AID APPEAL

Christian Aid have a 1.5 million shortfall in expected income and they are asking for donations now. You can donate on <http://www.christianaid.org.uk> or by ringing 0207 7523 2493. Please help if you can.

YIC Des

THE PRUDENT SCOTSMAN



A Scotsman with his shrewish and ever complaining wife went on holiday to Jerusalem. While going around the many sites the wife was taken ill and after many more moans that they should never have gone to that God-forsaken place, she passed away.

The Scotsman went to find an undertaker who offered him two alternatives. Embalm the wife and send her back to Scotland at a price of £5000, or bury her in Jerusalem for a price

of £150. After considering for a while the man decided that he would take her back to Scotland.

The undertaker said that he must have loved his wife very much if he, a Scotsman, was prepared to spend that much money on his wife's funeral. The man responded, reminding the undertaker that many years ago a man called Jesus had died in Jerusalem, and after three days he had come back to life again.

"I don't want to take that risk!" *Found by Ewan*

COTSWOLD RABBITS

The head of the Cotswold hedgehogs went to see the head of the local rabbits to ask for some help. "Hey rabbit. I wonder if you can help us," he said.

"I'll be glad to try, Spikey," said the rabbit.

"The thing is, like it is now, at night, we are loosing too many fellow hogs to those devilish machines with bright eyes that move like thunder along the smooth black walkways. . . I was wondering, your species seems to be very good at dodging them, you never seem to get squashed."

"Ahh," said Briar, "I will tell you how we do this, and come with me now and we will demonstrate the technique to your tribal members". Looking pleased, the hedgehog gathered his inner circle together and they walked the short distance with the rabbit to the A696 nearby.

"Now," said rabbit, "this is what you do. . . if you see those two bright eyes heading towards you as you are crossing the road, just make sure you sit down right between them – then you'll be fine."



Just to prove it the rabbit ran into the road in front of an approaching car, and to the shocked hedgehogs' delight emerged unscathed and rejoined the group.

Spikey was keen to demonstrate the new technique so as soon as the next pair of lights appeared he ran into the road and squatted down between them.

There was a nasty squelching sound and the hedgehogs turned to look at the rabbit. . . who said. . .

"Goodness, you don't see many Reliant Robins around these days do you?"

From the Taret News, Taret and Geystead Parish, Northumberland, with permission. Found by Phil

ROS IS 80



Ros Walker was 80 on January 20th and on Sunday 22nd she was presented with a lovely basket of flowers by her Pastoral Visitor, Des.

On that day Ros most generously brought us a cake she had baked to celebrate with the whole congregation. She and Des had a good laugh while cutting it.

According to Ros's

older sister, who came with her on 22nd, the family celebrations lasted several days.

Ros, we offer you our congratulations and prayers for many happy returns.

Photos by Gwyneth

OUR CHRISTMAS ANGEL

We have now obtained a picture of the angel who mysteriously appeared on the wall of Westgate New Church to greet worshippers on Christmas morning. It seems the angel and the bright 'glory all around' (see the communion table in the picture) was caused by God's glorious sunlight, which was very possibly reflected from cars parked outside. *Photo by Des*



THANK YOU, WESTGATE NEW CHURCH

We have received a card from Amazon Ward at the hospital thanking us for the toys we donated to give as presents to children in hospital at Christmas. The card reads: *To all at Westgate Church. Thank you so much for your kind donation to Amazon Children's Ward this Christmas. It is greatly appreciated. From all on Amazon.* Santa was caught on camera at the hospital. Our picture shows part of the photograph on the front of our card. We did not show the child he was with for safeguarding reasons.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



This year Churches Together in Central Peterborough celebrated WPCU from 22nd to 29th January, so that all the churches were able to take part in the Exchange of Pulpits. On the morning of 22nd, our service was led by Florence and Clive Morton from Park Road Baptist Church. Their theme was 'encouraging each other'. To begin with they gave encouragement to us in our new premises, then balanced this with a challenge to do more encouraging. Many of us found this very appropriate for Westgate New Church at this time, so soon after our move.



On the evening on the same Sunday the 'official' WPCU service, entitled 'Crossing Barriers', which was prepared for worldwide use by the churches in Germany and based around the reading from 2 Corinthians 5:14-20, was at Westgate New Church, where we were joined by members of the other churches in CTICP. This was led by our minister, Lesley, assisted by a number of press-ganged volunteers from several churches. Stones were used to erect a

barrier as we prayed to remove the causes of division between churches.

On Sunday 29th it was Lesley's turn to lead morning worship at Park Road
Pictures from top: Clive and Florence at Westgate New Church; the 'Crossing Barriers'



picture supplied with the WPCU service; Lesley leading the United Service.
Photos by Gwyneth and Linda.



At our last Circuit Meeting representatives from all our churches heard about the progress

that the Leadership Team has made in applying for grant funding towards the costs of further work in Welland. Our vision is to appoint a part-time pioneer team leader who will follow in Deacon John's footsteps, for a three-year period. They will be working with a small group of dedicated volunteers, and liaise with other church leaders to build a Christian community that is sustainable. Crucially, whilst we have a committed group of lay leaders, we need someone who can be available during the day. Although Welland is buzzing with life, it remains one of the poorest areas in the UK, and some within the community face profound challenges. We do not want to withdraw from this work.

This work will cost £18,000 per year. We are pleased to say that the District has offered us a grant of £7,000 per year for three years. We believe that through the rental of the Dogsthorpe Manse we could raise a further £6,000 per year. This leaves a shortfall, to be raised through fundraising or other grants, of £5,000 a year. The circuit will review our position in

WORK IN WELLAND

April, but in the meantime, rather than raising the circuit assessment or share, we are inviting donations towards this work. For example:

- A small group of six people, each offering £5 per month, would amount to £360 a year. If ten groups did this from across the circuit, that would amount to £3600 a year – over half the required amount.
- A larger group doing much the same, could yield perhaps double this.
- If five Churches made a one-off donation of £1000, we would clear the shortfall for one year.

These are just examples; some can give more, others less. You may not be able to offer a regular amount but may be able to offer a one-off donation. We will be holding a gift day on 31st of March. Anything above the estimated figure will be used to further the work in Welland.

If you are interested in offering towards this work, a donation form should be available via your church, or can be downloaded from the circuit website: www.peterboroughmethodistcircuit.org/ where you will see a scrolling message on the front page. We will be in contact in due course with further publicity, once we have fully investigated other means of giving.

*Rev'd Dr. Langley Mackrell-Hay,
Circuit Superintendent*

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate our Methodist superintendent minister, Langley, on finishing his studies and having achieved the marks to be awarded a doctorate, hence his designation above as 'Rev'd Dr.' This is something which has required a great deal of work and dedication and is a great achievement. Well done, Langley!



CWM 40TH ANNIVERSARY



As you all know, 2017 is our year of Feasts and Festivals. Did you realise that in addition to everything else, it is also the 40th anniversary of the Council for World Mission (CWM)?

In the 1960's and 70's the London Missionary Society and the English Presbyterian Board of Mission, were in the forefront of moves to create new structures of world mission fit for the modern world, based on equal partnership. In 1977 the old missionary societies associated with the URC died and the Council for World Mission was formed, amid great excitement. We were doing something new which would revolutionise relationships between churches worldwide. This approach has been copied by many other western missionary societies. So this year we will celebrate 40 years of CWM and being in mutual and equal partnership with its many member churches in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Pacific and the Caribbean.

There are now 32 member churches in 41 countries in CWM, working in partnership in mission, supporting reflection, research, discernment and

communication. CWM strategy is to:

- Equip young people for mission
- Build capabilities in member churches
- Develop missional congregations
- Share people in mission

Our own Synod link with the Botswana Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa is part of CWM and involves our young people. Our Synod focus on mission reflects CWM's theme of developing missional congregations. CWM is part of our life in the United Reformed Church. So let's celebrate!

There is background and worship material on the URC website under Feasts and Festivals /monthly resources/ March. Unfortunately it does not include the hymn Caryl Micklem wrote for the inauguration of CWM: "Thanks be to God, whose Church on earth has stood the tests of time and place", 582 in 'Rejoice and Sing', and I would urge you to include it. (Verse 4 is relevant today in ways we could not even imagine 40 years ago!) CWM itself has designated Sunday 16th July as CWM Sunday and will be producing worship and study material. It doesn't matter what date you choose, celebrate and pray for the Council for World Mission this year.

*Helen Lidgett, Synod Clerk
From Synod e-newsletter*

PAYING FOR YOUR CHRONICLE

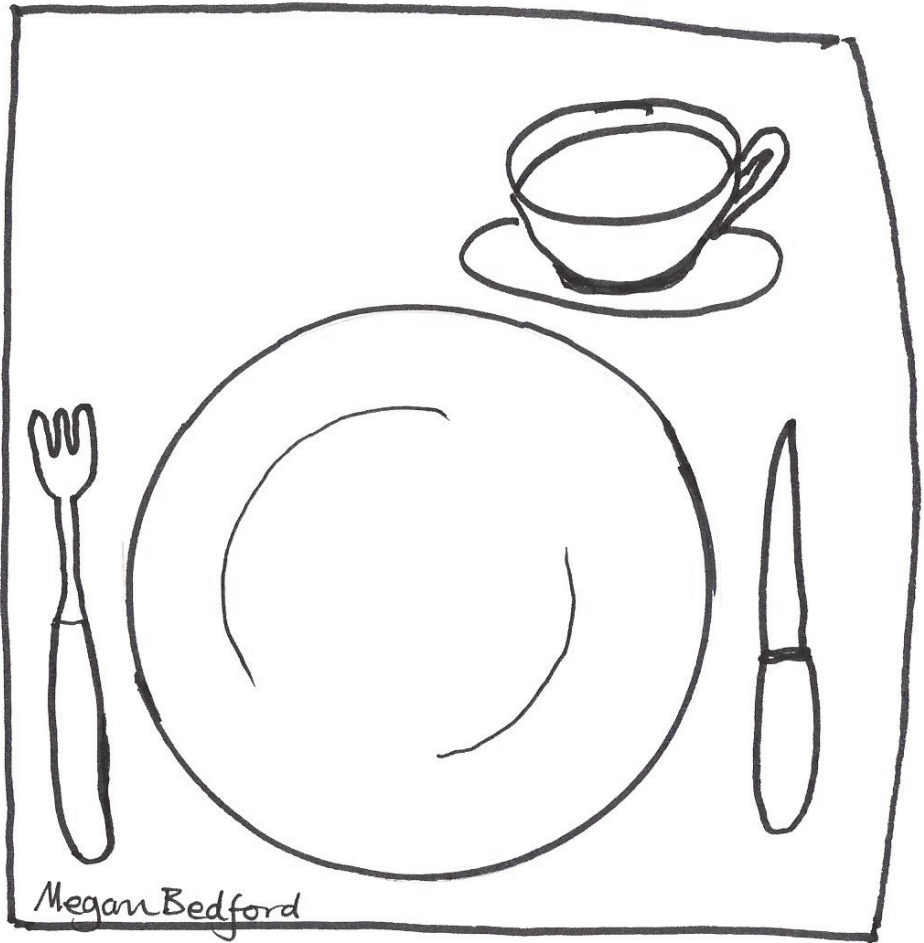
I have had a couple of queries recently about paying for your Westgate Chronicle. There is no cover charge, so that no-one goes without if they cannot afford it. Visitors and first timers get a copy free. Members and regular readers

are asked to make a donation if they can possibly afford it; the suggested donation is £1 per issue. If those who receive their Chronicle by post are able also to send the postage, that is much appreciated.

Editor



Inspirational Colouring



Look at your plate/bowl.

Take a moment to pray for God's world and all in need beyond your table. Try to pray for a situation or someone different each day.

Run your finger round the outside of your plate/bowl.

Pray for all children of God. Pray especially for those who have been pushed to the edges or excluded.

Look at your cup/mug.

Remember that Jesus said he is the Living Water that never runs dry. Drink from him and be refreshed.

Hold a piece of cutlery.

Thank Jesus that he invites all who follow him to get involved in his work restoring lives and communities.

Feel how strong and solid the table you are sitting at is.

Thank Jesus for the food you are about to eat, the people who grew it, prepared it and the home you have to eat it in.

Amen

CURRENT PROJECTS

Sponsor a chair



Some of the chairs we use for worship need re-covering and others need replacing. In addition, all need making so that they can be

attached to their neighbours, in order to comply with fire regulations. In addition, it is hoped that we can fit spacers so that the chairs are less tightly packed, giving everyone a little more room.

We are inviting members and friends

to sponsor a chair. It is anticipated that a new chair will cost about £75 and it will cost about £25 to refurbish one. Audrey will be delighted to receive contributions from you for this project.

New Logo and Strapline

It is thought that our current 'Walk with God at Westgate' has served us well, but has now outlived its usefulness.

If you have any opinions on this or ideas for a replacement, please pass them on to Lesley or Audrey, who will be pleased to hear from you.



END HUNGER

Everybody should have access to good food.

Nobody should have to go to bed hungry.

www.endhungeruk.org

#endhungeruk



Taking hunger as seriously as medals

“What do you think is more important? Putting on a good show for the world and winning lots of medals in the London 2012 Olympics or ending hunger and household food insecurity in the UK by 2020?”

Food justice expert Geoff Tansey says we need to persuade our Government to take ending hunger and household food insecurity as seriously as Olympic golds.

His blog explores one of the key themes in our recipe for achieving food security for all: the need for a coordinated Governmental strategy to tackle food insecurity and hunger, and a dedicated minister to mobilise action across government departments.

“Those affected need a co-ordinated approach to tackling hunger and household food insecurity across government. It requires a minister with sufficient clout to be able to bring together action by the many different government departments whose activities affect food and poverty.”

From an email sent by End Hunger

9 TO 5 – THE MUSICAL

21-25 March 2017

The Cresset

Peterborough Operatic and Dramatic Society

Pushed to boiling point, three female co-workers fantasize about getting even with their sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot boss, and then, quite by accident, they are presented with the opportunity to replace the boss and take control of the company that had always kept them down.

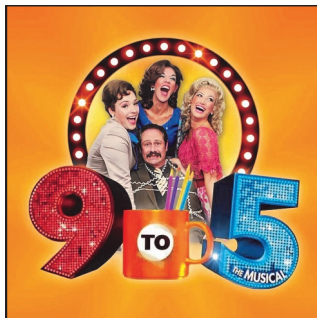
Following last year’s sell-out show “Hairspray” PODS is returning to the Cresset with this fun-packed musical comedy

about friendship, revenge and girl-power, based on the 1980 film which starred Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda and Dolly Parton.

Featuring original songs by Dolly Parton, in addition to her hit theme tune from the original film, the show premiered in Los Angeles in September 2008 and opened on Broadway in April 2009. It has received four Tony nominations and fifteen Drama Desk Award nominations.

The ticket prices start at £10 for the opening night, a discounted price of £12.50 is available for group bookings and the full price is £15.

Our own Doug Pattie will be taking part in this production.





USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Police General Enquiries: Dial 101 (24 hrs, 7 days a week, will identify where you are and connect you to local police for your area)

Police Emergency: Dial 999 (for when lives at risk/violence/serious injury/serious injury/a serious crime is happening/criminal is still at the scene or nearby)

Cambridgeshire Constabulary Twitter: @CambsCops

Police Crime Stoppers: 0800 555111 (pass on information anonymously; also on line – search *crime stoppers*)

Cambridgeshire Constabulary Ecops: www.ecops.org.uk (will send police information to you by email)

Immobilise: www.immobilise.com (police approved website and database which helps identify the owner of possessions which have been recovered. May also help to convict the offender)

Park Mark: www.parkmark.co.uk (Safer Parking Sign in police approved parking facilities designed and managed to minimise risk of car thieves operating)

Victim Support: 0845 4565995 or www.victimsupport.org.uk

Bobby Scheme: 01480 413311, 07866 602100 or www.thebobbyscheme.org (secures homes of victims aged 60 and over, domestic abuse victims and people who feel at risk who are aged 65 and over or disabled)

Preference Service: 08450 700707 (blocks calls from telesales people)

Silent Guard: 0870 4443969 (blocks calls from automated call centres – not in BT directory)

Billing Agencies: 0800 0282271 (stops calls)

Telemarketing Companies: 0800 028 2272 (stops calls)

Silent Callers: 0844 3722325 (stops calls)

Mobile Registration Number (IMEI No. – 15 digits): dial #06# (or look behind battery: you need your IMEI number if you want to unlock your device to use with other networks, or for some insurance policies, so make a record.)

Caravan Registration and Identification Scheme (CRis): 01722 411430 or www.cris.co.uk/registration/ (to register or check history)

Cut out and keep

The above was distributed by Chris Ellum when she did a talk at the Retirement Fellowship meeting in January on Personal Protection. She was originally in the police in London. It was passed on by Trevor and your editor has researched and added a few extra details.

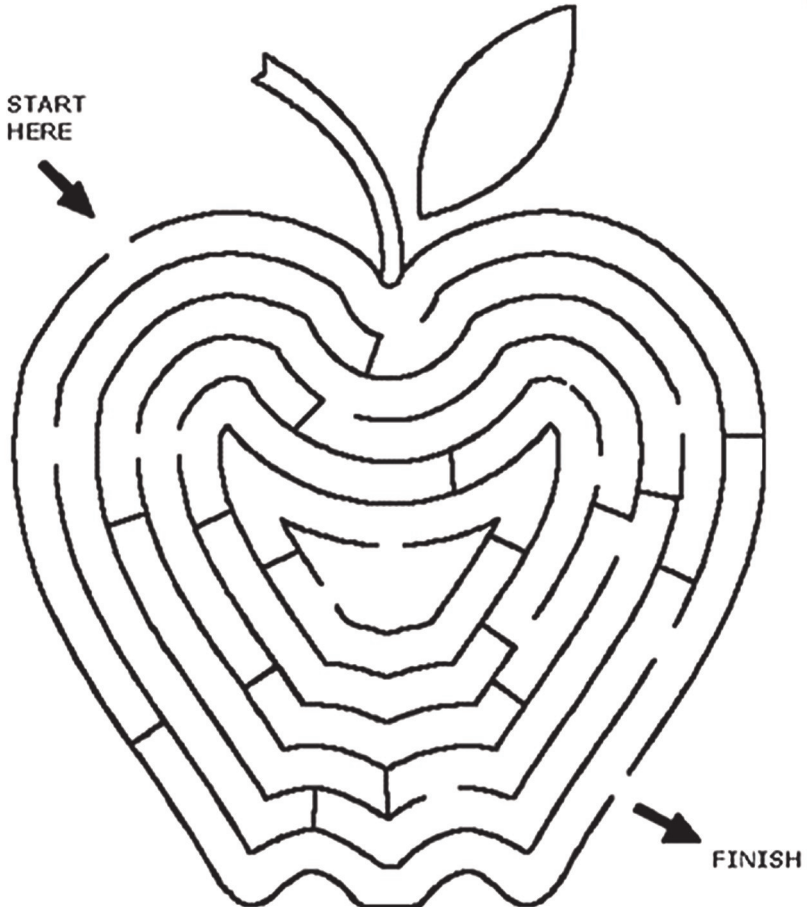
WESTGATE PUZZLE PAGES

The four Sundays in March are all in the season of Lent, when as a Church we prepare to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Puzzle 1: Genesis 2 v 15-17, 3 v 1-7

These readings from Genesis, about Satan's temptation of Adam and Eve to eat the apple, link to Satan's temptations of Jesus in the Wilderness. Unlike Jesus, Adam and Eve succumbed to the temptation and ate the apple, thinking they would become as wise as God. However, they paid a heavy price for defying God by eating the apple; they lost their place in that beautiful garden. This is one of Satan's very best tricks and he still uses it today. He will promise us great things if we will just do what he wants us to do, but the prize is never what he promised. In fact, it may just end up costing us our place in God's kingdom.

Can you find your way through the apple?



Puzzle 2: Romans 5 v 1-11

This reading, in the run up to Easter, reminds us how God not only told us what love is, he showed us. God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us even though we did not deserve it.

Find the underlined bold print words in the puzzle.

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

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)

KID'S VIEW ON MARRIAGE

How would the world be different if people did not get married?
There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?

Kelvin, age 8 (Found by Sue)



ST. JOSEPH'S DAY: 19TH MARCH

St Joseph's Day is a feast day which celebrates Joseph, husband of Mary and the earthly Father of Jesus. The day is celebrated by Christians every year on the 19th March; the date changes if it falls on a Sunday or during Holy Week. He is also celebrated on the 1st May as a worker and again in September in the Orthodox tradition during the Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

The day is celebrated worldwide and in some countries and regions it is a holiday. As it normally falls during Lent, traditionally a time of abstinence, food during the festivities is meat-free.

There are various ways in which people celebrate. Some lay altars with all types of food (fruit, cakes, bread, beans and wine) and candles; dishes are served containing breadcrumbs, which represent sawdust because of Joseph's skill as a carpenter. Others hold processions led by his statue, while some burn wood and logs on the day before. In the Philippines many families continue the tradition in which an older man, young lady and small boy, picked from people who are poverty-



stricken, sit around a table with the best silverware with their family and friends; they are lavished with several courses of food, and sometimes they are spoon fed to show respect. Italy have a special St Joseph's bread, Pane di San Giuseppe, made with egg, marked with a cross. It is a major celebration: some local bakeries in Peterborough will stock this bread.

St Joseph is known as the patron saint of travellers, unborn children, immigrants, house buying, workers, cabinet makers, the dying and fathers. In many countries Father's Day is also celebrated on this day, as he took on a child who wasn't his own. St Joseph is a saint for all.



International Day of the Forest: 21st March

This day raises awareness of all forests and trees and of their importance to all of us. They provide oxygen, store carbon, stabilise soil and give life to wild creatures. They provide materials for tools and shelter. A few years ago at Westgate a sermon was given about trees; even if you are at the bottom you can reach the top by going up a branch at a time – not the exact wording, but one of many sermons retained in Zlatska's and my memory, which gives us strength; we quote it to each other regularly. A tree

is a symbol of beauty, strength and protection. We are blessed with local woods; if your health allows go and enjoy.



National Pie Week: 6th - 12th March

I love pies and I convince myself that pastry is carbohydrate for energy as is the fat which also helps cell growth, so everything in moderation; if it has fruit or vegetables in I class this as one of my five a day☺. Pie-like dishes have been around since ancient Egyptian time. If you need an excuse to have your favourite sweet or savoury pie, then use this week. Enjoy!

Compiled by Brenda

1st–8th March

Churches: Whittlesey (Methodist and URC); Castle Street Wisbech (URC)

Events: Late, Late Pancake Date (1st)*; CTiCP Prayer Breakfast (4th)**; our evening services at the new time**; our Lent Course (from 8th)*

People: Everyone who lives with war or violence on a daily basis*

Organisations: Fairtrade*



9th–15th March

Churches: Yarwell (Methodist and CofE); St. John's (CofE)

Events: Baking for Kairos Ministry to Prisons*

People: Vice President of Methodist Conference visiting Peterborough**; all people persecuted for their beliefs

Organisations: Eagles Malawi and Medaille Trust, recipients of our tithe this year*; Crafty Capers*



MARCH PRAYER PROMPTS



16th–22nd March

Churches: Yaxley (Methodist); St. Andrew's (URC)

Events: Kairos Ministry to Prisons (20th–24th)*

People: Westgate members baking for Kairos*; all prisoners and everyone who works with them*

Organisations: Commitment for Life*; the Welland Estate Project*; End Hunger*



23rd–31st March

Churches: Alisworth (Methodist); All Saints (CofE)

Special Requests: Use prayer suggestions on pp18-19*; pray for a Christian response to problems of the Environment*

People: Our friends in other CTiCP churches*

Organisations: Christian Aid, struggling with financial problems*; Council for World Mission*

The Churches are from the Methodist Circuit and a list of Churches in CTiCP and other churches with whom we have a close association. The Ecumenical Prayer Calendar is now not available before we go to print, so sadly we cannot include the countries for prayer.

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

**M
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Tuesdays, 10.30: Pause for Prayer in Walsingham
First Tuesday of 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

* * *

Wed.	1	1:00	W@1*
		2:00 - 5:00	in Lindisfarne: The Late, Late Pancake Date (Fair Trade event)
Sat.	4	8:00	At All Souls: CTiCP Prayer Breakfast
Sun.	5	10:30	Morning worship, led by Mr David Baron
		4:30	In Walsingham: Evening Communion Service, led by Revd. Lesley Moseley
Wed.	8	1:00	W@1*
		2:00 - 3:30	in Lindisfarne: Lent course
Fri.	10		Rachel Lampard, Vice-President of Methodist Conference, visiting the circuit.
Sun.	12	10:30	Morning worship, led by led by Revd. Doug Stevens
Tue.	14	2.00	Crafty Capers, see p27
Sun.	19	10:30	Holy Communion Service, led by Revd. Lesley Moseley
		6:30	At Southside: Healing Service
Wed.	22	1:00	W@1*
		2:00 - 3:30	in Lindisfarne: Lent course
Sun.	26	10:30	Morning all age worship, led by led by Revd. Lesley Moseley
Tue.	28	2.00	Crafty Capers, see p 27
Wed.	29	1:00	W@1*
		2:00 - 3:30	in Lindisfarne: Lent course
		7:30	At the Friends Meeting House: Peterborough Theological Society. Speaker Revd. Professor Chris Rowland (Emeritus Dean Ireland's Professor of Exegesis of Holy Scripture, Oxford), How William Blake can help us read the Bible
April	Sat.	1	8:00 At Westgate New Church: CTiCP Prayer Breakfast
	Sun.	2	10:30 Morning worship, led by Mr Alan Newcombe
		4:30	In Walsingham: Evening Service, led by Revd. Lesley Moseley

* Details not available at time of going to press

EVENING SERVICES

From March 5th the Evening service on the first Sunday of the month will be at 4.30, for at least three months. On March 5th this will be a communion service with an opportunity to discuss what kind of service we would like in this slot. Please come along and put your point of view.