

CHANTRY NEWS



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

“St Columba Church, Chantry Road, Moseley”
Sunday Service: 10.00 a.m. (*unless otherwise stated*)

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August / September 2018

Dear Friends

Hopefully, this magazine will appear on August 5th — the day of our church meeting with Revd Graham Sweeney, our Area Minister. Hence, I cannot report on that!

I have been very heartened with responses from people about helping around the Church when they are able.

It is YOUR Ch-rch and all we need is the U (you) in it!

I will be completing my training in Lillington with the Revd James Church from September until May 2019. One of the two churches that James runs has been demolished and they are worshipping in their halls. The hope is that the new Church will be ready to move into at Christmas. This is a very exciting time for them and it will be

great for me to be a part of their new phase.

As you can see the magazine is quite small — please, please let us have some articles to put in it. We are grateful to Pete Gregory taking over the organisation of the rota for the middle pages.

Our thanks go to Edward Fellows for the great way in which he compiles the magazine. And to his wonderful assistant — Maureen.

Let us pray that this Church will continue and will grow in the community here in Moseley. May God be with us always but especially on August 5th at our meeting.

May God bless us all,



John (Jack) Forrest Kerr
July 31st 1920 – July 14th 2018

It is with sadness that I report the death of Jack Kerr on July 14th. Jack was a lovely man with the most beautiful singing voice. He and the late Jimmy May (who accompanied Jack on the piano) entertained us royally at many a Church Social.

There will be a tribute in the next magazine for Jack. His funeral will be held at St Columba URC on August 6th at 10.00 a.m. This will be followed with a short service at Robin Hood Crematorium.

Our sympathies go out to his children and their families.

STOP PRESS:

Guess who is coming to Town? Well it is too early for Santa, but I am soooooo excited.



It is Revd Leonora Jagessar!

Leonora is moving into the pastorate of Weoley Hill, Weoley Castle and Bournville.

The induction will take place on November 3rd — more details to follow.

Commissioning

Sunday July 8th was our visiting Sunday and Jean and I went to the service at Christ Church, Solihull (only a 10 minute walk from home). Unknown to us it was a special service conducted by Ann Tempest, the district lay preachers facilitator. The lay preacher being commissioned was Gordon Justham — Gordon has preached at St Columba on a number of Sundays this past 12 months and has always preached a thoughtful and enjoyable service. He is thoughtful and considerate in his message and pastoral support. We send Gordon our best wishes in his lay ministry and the challenges facing him in the future.

Alex and Jean

ABRSM

This is a portion of an email sent to Fiona. Our Centre has just completed 21 days of exams and a morning of theory. To think that our church is in some way helping the music and development of our country.

A huge thankyou from all of us in the office to you and your teams of stewards and invigilators for your help during the summer (B) exam session!

Together you facilitated a total number of 107,756 practical candidates...

- Wales — 4,405
- Scotland — 4,810
- England — 92,281
- Ireland — 6,260

St Columba had 570 candidates.

And 13,839 theory candidates!

- Wales — 766
- Scotland — 639
- England — 10,930
- Ireland — 1,504

St Columba had 110 candidates.

Across the UK and Ireland there were a total of 4,200 practical examining days which equates to about 1.5 million minutes of exam time!

You are all part of these huge figures and we couldn't do this without you.

We do, and are, making the most of our beautiful church and halls.

Ivor

Life on the farm

I wonder what else the weather is going to throw at us this year!

It was a long, cold, wet winter, with snow and the “Beast from the east” so livestock needed a lot of bedding and everyone wondered whether their silage would last out. We had just enough to get through and help a neighbour who had run out of feed for his sheep.

On April 18th David's diary reads “ Warm, sunny at last, first group of strong cattle let out”. At last we could roll the grassland to press down the stones and level it ready for mowing. We usually do that in March, that used to be my job when I could sing at the top of my voice knowing that no-one could hear me above the noise of the tractor.

We got in the silage very early June, thanks to Chris and his great contracting group of six men and their machines, good quality but poor quantity, we will have to limit the number of calves we buy in to rear for the next year.

Then it got hot! The field of barley across the river from the house seemed to have got going after the long winter, changed from green to silver then gold, then green again as weeds and the dormant seeds that hadn't sprouted before the winter grew and spoiled the sample. Because



this was the earliest crop in the neighbourhood, the rooks loved it and worked their way in from the edges. I kept two baking trays by the door, and went down to the river to bang them together and scare the crows; a great cloud would fly off and then trickle back after a while. It was harvested a week ago, quantity down on last year, and baled. The straw is very brittle.

There were times when some groups of cattle were so miserable in the heat that we had to get them into the buildings for a few hours in the middle of the day. The grassland dried up, the ground cracked and the fields became brown. Then the day of the Church picnic approached, we scrubbed the garden seats and put them in shady spots. The next day wonderful, helpful people arrived bearing delicious eats, and the heavens opened. I danced for joy.

We had a joyful time together, talking, eating, and celebrating.

Elisabeth

Saint Columba Rolling Duty List 2018

Date	Preacher	Elder	Steward	Reader	Tea and Coffee	Organist	Service
August 5th	Fiona Elvins	Ivor Elvins	Mabel Fray	Elisabeth Chapman	Elisabeth Chapman	Peter Howard	Church Meeting
August 12th	N O S E R V I C E						
August 19th	N O S E R V I C E						
August 26th	N O S E R V I C E						
September 2nd	Colin Hale	Elisabeth Chapman	Alex Mackie	Jean Mackie	Ros Tulloch	Peter Howard	
September 9th	N O S E R V I C E						
September 16th	Richard Gillett	Mary Martin	Jean Mackie	Peter Gregory	Mabel Fray	Peter Howard	
September 23rd	N O S E R V I C E						
September 30th	TBA	Peter Gregory	Mary Martin	Mary Martin	Elisabeth Chapman	Peter Howard	
October 7th	Fiona Elvins	Ivor Elvins	Peter Gregory	Elisabeth Chapman	Ros Tulloch	Peter Howard	Communion

Duty Rota: If you cannot manage your Sunday, please arrange a substitute from the above people. Please inform Elisabeth of any mutual exchanges that take place. Thank you.

Please Note: Articles for the October / November 2018 Chantry News by September 20th, please.

Bible Verses For 2018

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.

Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, but righteousness delivers from death.

But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

IN THE DAY WHEN I CRIED OUT, YOU ANSWERED ME, AND MADE ME BOLD WITH STRENGTH IN MY SOUL.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

BUT GO AND LEARN WHAT THIS MEANS: 'I DESIRE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE.' FOR I DID NOT COME TO CALL THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT SINNERS, TO REPENTANCE.

HE HAS SHOWN YOU, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU BUT TO DO JUSTLY, TO LOVE MERCY, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?

For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled

RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION, BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE.

Tribute to Archie MacDougall

April 5th 2018

We have heard some lovely tributes from Iain.

I was a very young child — note the emphasis on very young! — when Joan and Archie MacDougall turned up at Moseley Presbyterian Church — as it was called then. Archie had done as many of the migrating Scots did, my parents included — he had headed to the nearest Presbyterian Church. Iain was born in 1959 and around late 1959/early 1960 Iain was christened in this Church.

Church was very important to Archie and not too many years later he was asked to become an Elder here. In true Presbyterian fashion the church Secretary, Alex Malcolm and the Minister Revd Hugh Martin went around to his and Joan's house to have a word! Luckily for the Church Archie accepted and he went on to be the main keyholder and would let all the groups in and out!

He looked after the fabric of the place and this was at a time when we had no money — Archie and a Church member insulated the loft of the Manse in Anderton Park Road — a mighty big job.

I remember cleaning, then decorating and putting in new stainless-steel units into the church kitchen — we had more people working in that kitchen than I think

has ever been in there since!

Joan remembered a wine tasting social — one I missed — can't think why!

There was a Badminton Club here, but it was waning a bit, so Archie brought in new life — he had been West of Scotland Junior Champion. He also worked in Youth with the Council and the badminton club ran here every Wednesday for years. It still does but the clientele is not the same!

As I say, at that time the church had no money and was unable to provide a Christmas tree one year so Joan, as Brown Owl, stepped in and bought a beautiful tree — she still makes sure the Church is provided for at Christmas.

When I became a Brownie here a Mrs Collingwood was Brown Owl and she had two Tawny Owls. Another lady from the Church — Mrs Bruce-Smith and Joan. Joan eventually ran the Brownies for years and I became her Tawny Owl before moving on to become a leader elsewhere.

Poor Archie was surrounded in Brownie meetings, running folk around etc and became known as Mr Brown Owl! I always had my tea with Joan and Archie on a Friday on my way home from work and Archie would drop us both up to the Church hall in plenty of time for our Brownie

meeting. He even encouraged me to become licensed to take Brownies on pack Holiday. He was a good motivator.

After Archie's first stroke in 2000 he had to relinquish his job with the Fabric at the Church as it needed keys being dropped in, etc, so Stewart Leask took over. Archie began driving again a year later and continued to attend Church and Elders' meetings until it was not possible for him. He would still give advice and ask after everyone by name for a very long time.

If Joan asked him who I was when I went — his reply would be almost as if: Of course, I know that's Fiona — how can I forget her!!

Joan was his full-time carer and has been a wonderful loving and caring wife — and has done far more than many of us would be able to do for such a long time.

Archie was a special person and was totally fair in everything. A fine gentleman with a great sense of humour.

Our previous Minister has sent a message:

“We have good memories of Archie! He was always nice to our boys and he could be very direct and funny (in his Scottish way!) I remember

that he said to me that my sermons were good, but Michael's were much better!!! I laughed as I could but agree with him! I will not say “sorry” that he died because I know it was a blessing for him (and probably for Joan too who lovingly cared for him over such a long time). But Archie has been such a faithful member and elder at St Columba for so many years and I am sure that will be acknowledged at his funeral. Please pass on my sympathy to Joan and her family.”

Many people have said to me about the warm and caring person who gave a great welcome to visitors at home or at the church.

Today we see Archie on his final journey into God's loving and caring arms for a peaceful life in God's kingdom where there is no pain or sorrow or death.

There is no doubt that Archie will be sorely missed by many, Joan will miss her beloved husband, Iain will miss his Dad, Lucy, Ben and Cameron will miss their Grandfather. He will also be missed by all his loving family Campbell, Robin, Kenneth, Lesley and all Archie's extended family. His friends, neighbours and all who knew him in any way.

Our hearts go out to you all.

Amen

EM1 Summer School in Kent Sands, Cumbria

I have just completed another aspect of my training by attending Summer school for Trainee Ministers. Contrary to opinion it is not a “Jolly” holiday!

We had to take our spouses and/or families. Ivor’s response was “Who are you taking?” My reply was hilarious as I told him that I only had one spouse and that was him! “O NO” he said!!

Bless him he quite enjoyed himself and attended most of the discussions. We had a social Quiz evening one night and it was so funny. I was lucky to be in the team that won!

What do these mean — they are nursery rhymes:

SASOS
LBP
HDSOAW

Answers next time.

There was a lot of interaction between the students and their families — there were 3 students from Cambridge plus 2 spouses! And from Northern College one of the students had been on my assessment weekend with his husband. It was so lovely to catch up with people. Also, there was one student training for CRCW (Christian Related Community Worker). He is the son of the late Minister at Weoley Hill Church. What a small world!

It was a very blessed time.

Fiona

Country Peace

The rippling river runs between its ferny, mossy shores,
Where osiers drip their drooping fronds like gently trailing gauze.
A blossom tree spreads whiteness in a lacy, fretted shade,
The sunlight sparkles on the wakes the passing boats have made.

The arching azure blue of sky is flecked with fleecy white,
And smiles in bounteous benison at summer’s colours bright;
Away from all the hustle and the bustle and the strife,
There’s still a peace in Britain’s most uncluttered country life.

There still are quiet, rustic spots where one can find release —
Release from cares to bask within a healthy, God-given peace.

Margaret Comer



Think On These

A Few Sayings...

- A cold church is like cold butter. It never spreads very well.
- The church that does not evangelise will fossilise.
- Don’t walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don’t walk behind me, I may not lead. Walk beside me and be my friend. (*Albert Camus*)
- If you want to get to heaven, then you have to travel via King’s Cross.
- Everything in God’s store is on the bottom shelf... you have to get on your knees to get it. (*Robert Collier*)
- A small boy in Sunday School was asked what a lie was. He said, “A lie is an abomination in the eyes of God”. Then added, “And our very present help in times of trouble”.
- God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

Sunny Days

The garden looks a picture
Now that summer’s at its height,
With flowers red and yellow,
Cream and blue and pink and white.

And curtains of wisteria,
A most imposing sight.
And climbing passiflora
With its flowers of strange delight.

And clumps of dainty pansies
Painted purple, white and blue.
With hollyhocks and candytuft,
And sweet verbena, too.



And round the lawn, a hawthorn hedge,
To offer welcome shade,
Where I can sit and gaze upon
These wonders God has made.

Alice Drury

As this year we remember the end, one hundred years ago, of the First World War, this poem was written by a lady who lived for most of her life in the district of Highgate, Birmingham 12. Now deceased, her daughter has published several books of her poems, with 100% of the profits being donated to Kidney Research.

Glory Boys

Over the top they went
Those brave young lads
Never to see life again
Never to become Dads.

Mowed down like sheep they were
Mowed down in the name of war
We never felt what they felt
We never saw what they saw.

They wallowed in mud in the trenches
Waiting to hear the command
'Get 'em up boys, and over you go'
Over they went to fall dead on the ground.

But amid the sound of battle
Another sound came through
It was the sound of the skylark singing for them
It was as if the skylark knew.

What glory was this?
As to their death they plunged on
They gave their lives for their country
Those boys who died at the Somme.

Many years have past
We remember the lads
We remember the boys
That never became Dads.

