

Link

September 2023

The Magazine of the United Reformed Church
Stratford-upon-Avon



Worship, Witness and love for others through Jesus Christ

**The United Reformed Church
Rother Street
Stratford-upon-Avon**

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Thoughts for September

Deathly Silence

My thoughts this month were stimulated by an article I read in the latest copy of 'Reform' magazine. Kathryn Mannix, a doctor in Palliative Care, has written two books: the first entitled '*With the end in mind: Dying, Death and Wisdom in an age of denial*' and the second entitled '*Listen: How to find the words for tender conversations*'. She says that the second book grew out of



correspondence about the first book. This was correspondence from the general public, but also from doctors and nurses. A lot of people said, "You've convinced me that though this is daunting stuff, we need to talk about dying because we feel worse if haven't and we wish we had. But how do I have this conversation?" These **are** conversations that are daunting, but really important.

There are only two certain things in life. Firstly, we are all born and secondly, we all die. We regale people with stories about our birth and our childrens' coming into this world, but we are strangely reluctant to talk about death.

Why is death such a taboo subject?

The death of a loved one is a traumatic event. Quite naturally, we are upset, and we grieve – and that's fine, that's normal. We have lost an important person from our lives, someone we wish was still with us. I guess we don't want to talk about something that we know is going to upset us. Kathryn Mannix states that you find the right words if you listen. We are so busy thinking about the words that we want to say, that we are not available to listen. We need to **listen** to what people think about their death.

If you have made an application for a Lasting Power of Attorney with respect to health, then you will have had to have had conversations, with your appointed attorneys, about what you wish to happen to you if and when your health deteriorates. Linda and I have had conversations with our daughters about our wishes, should we, for instance, be placed on life-support machines.

Because of my professional career, I have had a number of conversations about death with a variety of people. One of the most common questions I have been asked is how does it happen? My own father, in his final illness, approached me when he was in hospital, with that very question. He said, "I'm not afraid of dying, Peter, but how will it happen?" Because of his illness, he was unable to swallow, and I said to him that he was at risk of aspirating food and liquid and that if that happened then he might develop pneumonia and that he would slip into a coma. Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened 24hrs later! There are basically two modes of death: either one has a sudden collapse and dies very quickly - suddenly the heart stops pumping. This happens with some heart attacks or a pulmonary embolus. Alternatively, the underlying illness means that you become comatose over a period of time and then die, as my father did. Obviously, there are variations to those two basic modes of death.

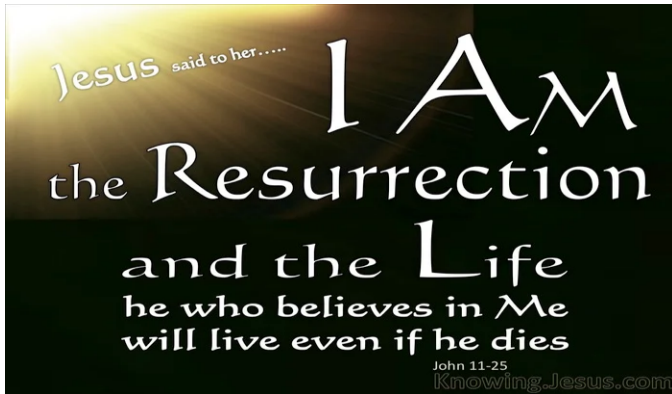
I have also been asked whether I would give someone an intentional overdose to end their life. I declined to do that. My view is that God gave us life and it's not up to me to decide when somebody should die: it's God's decision. I cannot decide if any remaining life is beneficial or not. I have said in cases when there was severe pain or distress that I would give sufficient sedatives to relieve the distress, and that that might shorten their life. I went into medicine to save life and treat people, not to kill them. Some of you will have differing views on the issue of euthanasia.

Have you had conversations about what you want to happen after you die? Here are a few issues that easily come to mind (in no particular order!):

- Do you have a will and does your family know where it is kept?
- Do you have views about the content of your funeral service? Who do you want to conduct it? What readings would you like? What hymns should be sung? If you don't care about those issues, that still needs to be discussed, so that your family doesn't anguish about what you *might* have wanted.
- What should happen to all that 'stuff' in the loft, after you die?!!
- Do you want to be buried or cremated?
- Do you want to leave a statement about your life and end care? and again where is that kept?

As Christians most of us are not frightened by death – we are usually more frightened about our mode of death. As Christians, we believe in a life after death that will be vastly more enjoyable than our life on earth. We cannot know exactly what happens after death – that is the eternal mystery. We believe that Christ was crucified for US and that we will share in that resurrection glory!

Please don't have nightmares about my thoughts for the month – concentrate on my last sentence!



Peter

(PS. There is a very interesting book on this subject by Wendy Mitchell, who is living with early onset dementia. She is very concerned to have her wishes known to her loved ones before “the fog”, as she calls it, finally descends, and she details her experiences of trying to sort out her care before she actually needs it. You will find it on the ‘borrowing’ shelf on top of the cupboards in church.)

Family News

Adrian was taken to Warwick Hospital on Sunday evening having collapsed and unable to walk. He is currently being treated for a urinary infection. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.

Linda is recovering well from her recent operation and is pretty well back to normal.

Diane has had a successful cataract operation and is now dealing with the application of the necessary drops.

Geoff and Margaret currently need our prayers. Geoff has been unwell for about a week after an infection. On top of this they learned that two of their very oldest friends died this week. One of them was at boarding school with Geoff.

Val, one of our regular attendees at our Friday Coffee Mornings, had a fall in town. She was looked after and got checked out following the accident and is now recovering at home. We wish her a full recovery.

Tom's granddaughter, Helena, was part of the successful crew in the Under 19 x 8

in the Rowing World Championships recently held in Paris. It was a very close and exciting finish and can be followed on YouTube.

Well done to Anne and Adrian's granddaughter, Megan, who has successfully gained a place at Birmingham University to study languages.

Congratulations to two couples who celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversaries on 5th October - Tom and Janette and Geoff and Margaret. Much love and happiness to them all for a lovely day.

Ileen Fisher

Mercy

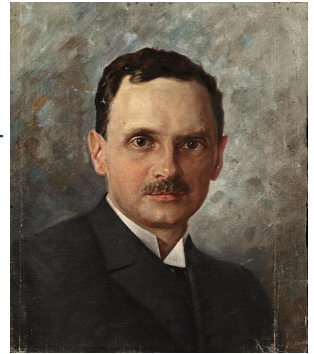
Katie recently told the reading group that this was her favourite poem. She wrote it down on the front page of her journal. She brought it with her when she first came from Hungary to England.

Mercy

*First you are crying
Next you are cursing
Then you are praying
In the end you are reaching your limit until your final gasp
You do try with your utmost will
And you bang your head until
It is bleeding on the stubborn wall of impossibility.
Then you pass out
And when you gain consciousness you will start all over again.
Even at last with silent stupor
You keep saying no more, no help
There is no escape from the prison of sin, illness, poverty and terrible everyday
greyness,

And then - without reason - the sky opens
Which wasn't opened by curses, but by prayers
Power, wellness, despair, remorse cried out in vain

The sky's opens by itself
And a tiny star is shining through the darkness towards you,*



Sandor Remenyik

*Coming, twinkling so close to you
You think it will fall into your palm.*

*Then the storm - by itself - ceases
And hope - by itself - revives
On your dream tree fresh fruits will grow by themselves
And of itself comes mercy.*

Poem by Sandor Remenyik

What goes around, comes around...

Like many 1940s babies, my wife and I would not exist, at least not in our current form, without World War 2. Her dramatic story is told in her first novel, "Where sky and sea and Lincolnshire meet" but as it doesn't involve the U.R.C. whereas mine does; this is my story.

A staunch Catholic from North Lancashire and a leading light in the Fellowship of Youth in a Bristol Presbyterian church were never going to cross paths. However, along came Hitler's Munich crisis and my 17 year old father volunteered. Mum was conscripted into the ATS 4 years later.

They met at Cirencester in a rehabilitation camp for prisoners of war. Dad had travelled to West Africa, India, and Burma, not to mention Easton in Gordano. Mum had operated searchlights but had now found her niche playing piano for a concert party.

The devout but disparate Christians were married in the vestry of a church in Lancaster as it was forbidden to marry before the altar. My father made a promise to bring his prospective children up as Catholics.

So they carried on worshipping separately. In 1972 my father became the first secretary of his U.R.C. church and served it loyally until his too early death. He arranged regional conferences and became known as a leader of Christian groups. Mum, still musical, became the organist for a Catholic Church. Fortunately, as the years progressed more ecumenical ideas flourished and towards the end of their lives they were jointly hosting ecumenical Christian groups which meant a lot to them.

Meanwhile my brother and I were suffering at the hands of the notorious "Christian Brothers". They ruled their school with terror and a leather strap about a foot long. I never could keep my mouth shut and was beaten a lot. Unsurprisingly,

most of my school contemporaries have never stepped foot in a church since, including my brother. Despite everything, I retained a belief in God and even. considerable affection for the Irish!

When Carole and I first became a couple, we worshipped alternatively at the U.R.C or the Catholic Church when with my parents thus giving them fair and equal treatment.

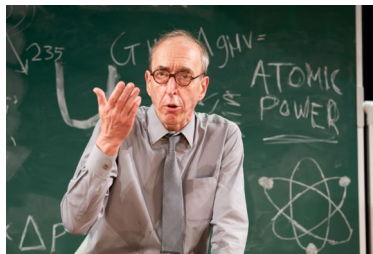
When we moved to Weston super Mare, inspired by a lovely lady who we had met in a pilates class, we tried her church. A happy decade as Baptists followed and although we were never fully immersed, we were active in many ways. When a grandson drew us back to Warwickshire we moved to the local Anglican Parish church, took on messy church and were as busy as we had been previously.

Sadly, a change of vicar led to disenchantment with the church and after a brief period of watching “Songs of Praise” and licking our wounds we decided to try again.

The deep love we shared for father and his church led us to try the U.R.C. and what should have started in Bristol a lifetime ago came to fruition in Stratford upon Avon. Thank you for making us so welcome.

David Sampson

What's on at the BearPit



The Mistake: 20th September at 7.30pm

One of the successes at last year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and following a sell-out run at London's trailblazing Arcola theatre, this urgent new play by Michael Mears explores the events surrounding the catastrophic 'mistake' that launched our nuclear age.

1942. On a squash court in Chicago a dazzling scientific experiment takes place,

which three years later will destroy a city and change the world – forever.

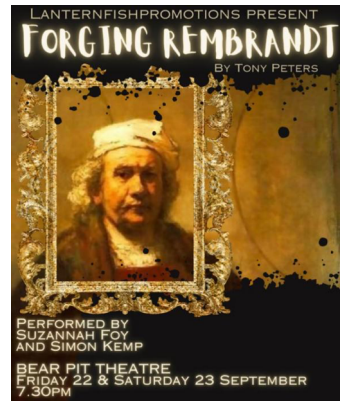
Two actors, one British, one Japanese, enact the compelling stories of a brilliant Hungarian scientist, a daring American pilot and a devoted Japanese daughter, in a fast-moving drama about the dangers that arise when humans dare to unlock the awesome power of nature.

Tickets: £15

Forging Rembrandt: 22th to 23rd September 2023 at 7.30pm

A Lanternfish Production By Tony Peters: The story of the world's greatest forger

In 1936 Dutch artist Han van Meegeren sets out to be revenged on the Expert who has rejected his work. He begins a series of brilliant fakes of old master paintings. The highly successful sales of these fakes, all vetted by the Expert, are interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War. During the invasion of Holland one picture, a fake Rembrandt, is acquired by Herman Goering. At the end of the war van Meegeren is charged with selling a work of national importance. Facing the death penalty for collaboration, he must forge another old master to prove his story. 'Forging Rembrandt' is the story of a man who must paint to save his life, and continues Lanternfish Production's run of stylish and visual productions. It is performed by Susannah Foy and Simon Kemp.

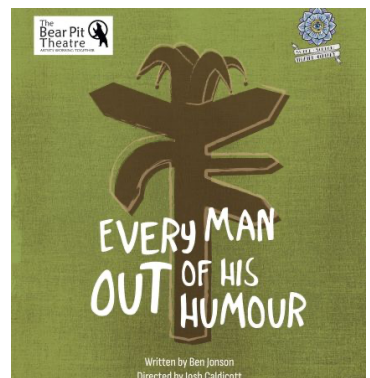


Tickets: £12

Everyman out of his humour: 27th - 30th September at 7.30pm. (Matinee at 2.30pm on the 30th September)

A Sweet Sorrow Theatre Company production.

Macilente is a grumpy, down-on-his-luck scholar, angry with a world where the most awful and corrupt people are able to succeed and flourish. He encounters a parade of these warped individuals; from a grain-hoarding farmer, a country lad trying to buy power and status, a law student more obsessed



with fashion than his studies, to a wife more in love with a vain stranger than her overly-doting husband, and a clown who simply talks far too much. They must navigate this farcical myriad of characters, and assist in each of their downfalls!

In its first professional production since the 1600s, Sweet Sorrow Theatre Company presents Every Man Out of his Humour, Ben Jonson's incredible farce of ridiculous, terrible people getting their comeuppances."

Tickets: £14 (£12 concessions)

Zero Store



At the July Eco-Chat we had a truly inspirational talk from Charlie Demetriou, who runs the Zero shop in Stratford - just at the end of Rother Street.

The event was, sadly, poorly attended, which was a real shame, as the presenter and her topic were an inspiration to all of us. We thought it was important to highlight some of the points that she raised.

Charlie has always been concerned about the effects of our lifestyles on Climate Change, but unlike many others, decided to do something about it. After many years, and after lots of research and effort, she decided to give up her teaching career to promote this different idea of 'shopping', in order to promote an alternative concept – that of 'sustainable consumerism'.

She presented us with many challenges to our usual ways of thinking:

- For example, did you realise that our emails use huge amounts of carbon? By deleting those we don't need (or want!) we can lower our carbon profile.
- Or, ethical banking – do you know which enterprises your bank/insurance company supports? Are they ethical? Do they support fossil fuel companies?

There are many ways we can be more environmentally active. For example:

- Batch cooking – freeze the excess.
- Use up the surplus – Google has many suggestions for using up leftovers.
- Pass it on – the Olio App has ways of sharing goods you no longer need.
- Rethink your shopping habits –
 - o are you using local sources?
 - o is your supplier ethically sourced?

o what is the packaging /what are the ingredients?

She talked about the **Pyramid of Sustainability** or **The Buyerarchy of needs**



Buying new is the last resort – we can make do with many things before we have to buy new stuff!! We start off by ensuring that we use up what we have already bought.

She also suggested we think about:

- milk in bottles from a local source.
- methods of food storage – e.g. food wraps instead of cling film
- solid bars for shampoo, conditioner etc
- toothpaste in a jar
- re-useable menstrual products
- re-useable nappies, wipes, cleaning products

The list goes on (and on and on!). All these present alternatives to single use plastic containers and single use packaging.

Zero have recently joined with a small independent bakery based in Kineton, where sourdough bread is baked, in house, using local products and local manpower – this has proved incredibly popular and illustrates the power of using local sources. (Only available on Saturday mornings – sells out really fast!!)

An additional point: many of Zero's products compare very favourably with 'supermarket prices': small shops are not necessarily more expensive.

Charlie stressed the community feel of the shop - they like to get to know customers by name. They will try to source items on request, and they try to ensure a full complement of items for sale. This, of course, depends on customers – they would dearly like more 'regulars' to patronise their shop to ensure their future viability.

We personally think we should embrace this initiative in the ongoing battle against

current consumer waste and the plastic pollution of our world!!

For a small shop, it has an amazing number of different products. A list of current products which are available can be found on the table at the back of Church - you can even get small 'trial' sizes before you buy. The shop is open from 10am till 4.30pm Tuesday to Saturday.

A couple of quotations from Charlie's presentation:

"I cannot do all the things the world needs, but the world needs all the things I can do."

"This isn't a shop – this is the future!"

Have a look at the website: www.zerostore.co.uk.

Also visit the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/zerostoreUK/>

Linda & Peter Horrocks

Animal Cartoons



Blister Pack Recycling

We have run into a problem with our blister pack recycling! We have been taking them to Superdrug in Leamington Spa, but they have placed a notice on their small

receptacle to the effect that they cannot accept large bags any longer. We noticed the same in Worcester this week. We contacted Superdrug Head Office only to be told that it is up to individual stores to decide how much they can take based on storage space. Terracycle, who run the scheme, say that it is just their job to accept whatever Superdrug collect. It might be possible to purchase a box from Terracycle but that costs £199!! At present, therefore we will have to stop the collection of blister packs at the back of church. If we manage to find another facility we will let you know. You can still recycle your own small quantities of blister packs - but you will have to go to Leamington, Worcester, Solihull or Banbury where they have pharmacies.

Linda & Peter

Thank You



Finance

The United Reformed Church
Church House, 86 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9RT

**To: All members and adherents of
United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships**

Dear Friends,

When will normal service be resumed?

As we are writing this letter and closing off the URC's accounts for 2022, the country is still torn with industrial disputes, mostly notably with Health Service workers, rail industry workers, teachers etc. etc. Whatever your view as to the wisdom or justice of such action, we suspect all of us are affected by the disruption to some degree.

In church life too, are we back to "normal life"? Some churches no doubt have returned to something like their pre-Covid level of activity and attendance numbers. Quite a few have recommenced their activity but find their numbers have reduced. Some churches have found re-opening too difficult and have decided to close.

Whatever the "new normal" was to be, we suggest its arrival has (like many trains) been disrupted, delayed, or cancelled all together.

The URC's finance officers had concerns that the late arrival of the return to normality would impact very significantly on the giving to the M&M Fund in 2022.

However, the churches responded magnificently and the giving to M&M was £600,000 ahead of budget. It was also only 2.5% down on 2021's result.

So thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all of those churches who met their commitment for 2022 in full, and thank to all those, who in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With normal service not yet resumed, 2023 is not going to be an easy year either. We now have the added disruption of high inflation, pushing up wages and overhead costs. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Hardie (Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

The Theos Report

The URC Church Life Review Group, which reported to General Assembly this summer, commissioned an independent report about the state of the United Reformed Church carried out by an independent organisation called Theos. We at Rother Street contributed to that report by filling in a questionnaire. The Christian blog site 'Word on the Streets' has published a summary of the report for all Christians to read. I felt it was a readable and digestible summary and so we are reproducing it in Link. It's quite long, so we will be publishing the first half this month and the second half next month. The boxes with quotes are reproduced from the original Theos report. They are comments from people who were interviewed - mainly Church Leaders.

All the documents which make up the Church Life Review Group work can be found on the URC national website:

<https://www.urc.org.uk/clrg>

As a result of the Church Life Review Group's work they have asked Assembly to approve

a number of task groups to report back to Assembly in the future:

- **Resource sharing across Synods**
- **How best to support lay work - asking how mission and ministry might be encouraged in the development of new URC communities of discipleship and worship**
- **The shape of church structures - reducing the number of committees down to a size proportionate to the current size of the URC**

Church at a crossroads: 6 lessons from the United Reformed Church

From a report by Theos.

The United Reformed Church (URC) approached Theos to conduct research into the life, identity, and flourishing of the URC. The key objective of the proposed research was to provide a snapshot of the URC today, exploring its identity rooted in practice, what flourishing looks like, what resources exist or need to be sought, and what barriers there are to flourishing in the future.

After a year of in-depth research, what lessons can be learned from the URC?

1. The church is not always about numbers

The 2021 census data on religion is sobering. The number of people ‘checking out’ from religion is on the rise.

This is a truth, but it is not the whole truth. Indeed, the picture of faith in the UK is more nuanced; the landscape more complex than polling numbers and headlines suggest. While the URC is undeniably experiencing decline and contributes to the sobering national statistics, the lived reality is that very frequently small congregations have a disproportionate impact within their local communities.

“ Our mission is to be out there, doing the work, and maintaining a place of welcome, friendship, love and support.

In towns, villages and cities across the three nations the URC exists within it is in partnership with many others at local level, meeting community needs and serving Christ, as it serves those beyond its walls. Our research found that for 71% of United Reformed churches, community service is their first priority – a concern that

**“ Wanting to
serve the
community is part of
the DNA of the URC.**

trumps even pastoral care of their own members. So, while the figures and headlines paint a picture of doom and decline, small, even struggling congregations continue to do what they do best: quietly love their neighbours in practical ways and nurture community.

This is not only true of the URC: Church Urban Fund data in 2017 showed that 93% of Church of

England churches at that time were involved in some way in the provision of food banks, and other more recent Theos reports have highlighted the impressive impact of local churches on social cohesion and practical care for the most vulnerable in their communities.

2. Historical theological commitments continue to affect modern church politics

The URC is the result of the merger of the Congregational Church in England and Wales with the Presbyterian Church in England in 1972, with later unions with the Churches of Christ and the Congregational Church of Scotland. The distinctive congregationalist and reformed theologies which underpin the uniting churches continue to influence it in important ways. For example, the congregational ethos can be seen in the way normally individual local members, rather than central leadership, make the decision to start or close a local congregation. Indeed, while the broader structures of the denomination are clearly indebtedness to the reformed tradition, the congregational spirit of equality and inclusive participation in decision-making pervades the denomination.

This highlights the fact that churches are not merely secular organisations, but are driven by their unique faith commitments in all that they do. It is perhaps more accurate to view the church's social witness as “social liturgy” than “social action”, reflecting its “deliberately God-focused” motivation in service to others.

More broadly, the popular image of Christianity in the UK draws on a highly idealised view of the traditional Anglican parish: a single priest of a single church, overseeing a clearly defined geographical area and directly accountable to a

**“ One of the
distinctive features
of the URC's
structure is its
“emphasis on
decisions made by
the whole body of
the church
membership”.**

hierarchical structure above it. But not all churches operate a parochial system, and the URC is just one example of the various ways different Christian communities organise themselves.

3. Disagreeing well is a strength

The URC at its core finds ways to live into significant diversity whilst remaining united. Its approach to same-sex marriage is an example of this. Whilst not without difficulty or frustration at times, people with different perspectives on issues of human sexuality live side by side as siblings. In a societal context where such issues are often framed as a 'culture war', the URC offers a profoundly counter-cultural reality in holding together difference. Concretely, the approach taken was to trust and allow local churches to make their own decision on same-sex marriage, rather than impose a church-wide position from the 'centre'.

Section two next month

Read the full report, [The United Reformed Church: A Paradoxical Church at a Crossroads.](#)

Poems in the Waiting Room

A few weeks ago when I visited Claire for some physio, I found leaflets in the waiting room called 'poems in the waiting room.'

One of them I recognised from my childhood - 'The Swing' by Robert Louis Stephenson.

My Dad made me a swing that was very high and sturdy and I remembered after learning this poem, shouting it out across the neighbouring gardens. I hope that I didn't disturb them too much!

The Swing

*How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do.*

*Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside.*

*Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!*

[Robert Louis Stephenson 1850-94]

Jill Fradley

Dog Agility

When we lived in France, our youngest daughter Rachel did agility with one of our dogs. For over 5 years we took her to training once then twice a week and as they improved the training became more serious. Most weekends saw us driving to somewhere in the county and even across France for a competition as they progressed through the levels and into regional and national competitions. The agility people we met whether fellow competitors, club members or spectators were all very welcoming and the dogs loved it.

Fast forward 15 years and having 2 young, active dogs we decided that we'd like to try agility ourselves with Fingal and Nyala – but just for fun. We had watched and cheered Rachel for years and so we must have absorbed something. How difficult could it be? We found a wonderful trainer in Droitwich and every Monday evening come rain or shine finds us at our class. We have started taking part in some competitions this year but are not aiming for national glory.



What is agility? You might have seen it at Crufts. It is a bit like a dog obstacle course. The judge sets a course of a combination of jumps, tunnels, weave poles, and other pieces of what's called contact equipment including a seesaw that the dogs need to run over but touch the different coloured zone on the way up and down (It might only be with the tip of their tail!). The jump heights are different depending on the size of dog, you are in categories depending on the experience of your dog and you have to do it against the clock. If you knock a jump down, miss a

jump, or don't do the weaves correctly or miss a contact on the big equipment then you get faults. If you do the course in the wrong order you are eliminated. It is so much harder than it looks!!



We get the chance to walk the course at the start of a round along with all the other competitors. You have about 10 minutes to remember it and work out how you are going to run your dog, which way to turn etc and how you think your dog will react. It is challenging to keep your dog's attention, control which way it goes, remember the course and try and put it all together so that you go fast enough to get a good time, but carefully enough so that the dog is controlled and goes where you want it to go without any faults. We've been in some competitions where there are only a dozen dogs in each class (grade and height) but others are so much bigger with over 100 dogs per class. It might be agility for the dogs, but it is both physical and mental agility for us too!

As the trainer says "The dogs don't make mistakes – it's always the handler!" but we love it and so do our dogs! Which is why we go back for more. Our main aim is to have fun....but a clear round is a wonderful achievement and the bacon butties are a great enticement too!

Kirsty Knott

Support

The trees stood, one, two, three, descending a steep bank. The top tree was the most exposed to the wind. I remember the day it fell. The tree beneath caught it, but the effort lifted its roots a little. The third tree steadied them both.

That was five years ago. They stood, intertwined, for a while, presumably putting down new roots, firming the bank and securing themselves. Today, I noticed there was blue sky between the three of them. All were standing independently.

Sometimes all we need is a friend to catch us when we fall and take the strain while we recover. Then we can grow towards the sun again.

Unused Stamps wanted

Unused stamps wanted to help support our Almshouses

Do you have any old unused definitive stamps in your purse, wallet, desk drawer or lurking with the Christmas cards? From 31 July 2023 they can no longer be used on letters but you could send them to Municipal Charities who could use them to support the running of their Almshouses in Stratford-upon-Avon.



William Clemmey the Chief Executive of Municipal Charities said:

"If every resident of Stratford-upon-Avon found just one unused first and second class stamp and sent them to us we could run our two smallest almshouses for a year. So do please have a search in your homes and post or drop in any unused stamps to Stamp Appeal, Municipal Charities, 6 Guild Cottages, Church Street Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HD. We and our residents will be very grateful for your support"

Contact:

William Clemmey can be contacted on 01789 293911

Insults from classier times

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play. Bring a friend if you have one."
(George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill)

His response:

"Cannot possibly attend first night: I will attend the second...if there is one."

"He has no enemies but is intensely disliked by his friends." (Oscar Wilde)

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." (Groucho Marx)

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork" (Mae West)

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." (Billy Wilder)

I'd rather see a sermon



*I would rather see a sermon than to hear one any day.
I would rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The best of all the preachers are the ones who live their creeds;
for to see good put to action, is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue, too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,
but I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do,
for I might misunderstand you, and the high advice you give,
but there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.
When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind:
when a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind.
And all travellers can witness, that the best of guides today
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way,
who stands with men of honour, learns to hold his honour dear,
for right living speaks a language which to everyone is clear.
Though an able speaker charms with his eloquence I say...
"I would rather see a sermon than to hear one any day."*

Adapted poem from 'Sermons We See' by Edgar A. Guest

We found this in the magazine (Trinity News) from Wimbledon URC, - which is incidentally where we were married!



STREET ARTS PROJECT

LIVE MUSIC

AT

STRATFORD

PLAYHOUSE



Stratford
Town Trust

creating a vibrant and
connected community

SAT 2ND SEPTEMBER

DOORS
OPEN
7.15pm

CONCERT
STARTS
8pm

STREET ARTS PROJECT PERFORM THEIR SONGS FROM THEIR LATEST SESSIONS

Supported by Street Arts musicians:

Wes Finch, Jack Blackman, Jono Wright, Katherine Abbott

Guest: Jen Waghorn

FREE ENTRY

**NEW ALBUM
ON SALE**



Sunday Services at 9.30am

3rd September	Holy Communion	Revd Colin Offor
17th September	Morning Service	Elders
1st October	Holy Communion	Peter Horrocks
	Harvest Festival	
15th October	Morning Service	Blair Kessler
29th October	Morning Service	Tom Meldrum

F&F Rota September

Please report any problems with the buildings in September to:

Rob Fradley 01789 269134 / 07765 412606

or

Asley Pettifer: 01789 293578

Flower Rota

3rd September	Barbara Lister
17th September	Sarah Salmon
1st October	Margaret Reynolds

Link

Because of the way our Sunday services are now structured, the editors have decided that the physical copies of Link magazine will be available on the 1st Sunday of each month rather than the last Sunday of the month. The electronic version may well be available before then. When there are 5 Sundays in the month the Link will be available on that 5th Sunday.

The September edition of Link will be published on the 1st October 2023.

The deadline for submission to the next edition is Monday 25th September 2023

Please send us your articles, pictures, humour etc.

Editors contact details:

Telephone: 01789 750971 Email: peterhorrocks@doctors.net.uk

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.



Place: United Reformed Church, Rother Street

Date: 29th September 2023

Time: 9.30am till 12 md

Headline Partners

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