

*Ansty Road*  
*United Reformed Church*

*Mothering*  
*Sunday*



**March 2020**

## **Church Services**

1 Mar	10.30am	Ms Kirsty Mabbott
8 Mar	10.30am	Rev Craig Muir – AGM & Communion
15 Mar	10.30am	Mrs Margaret Marshall
22 Mar	10.30am	Rev Craig Muir – Mothering Sunday
29 Mar	10.30am	Mr Tom Baird
5 April	10.30am	Ms Kirsty Mabbott
10 April	10.30am	Rev Craig Muir – Good Friday
12 April	8.00am	Rev Craig Muir – Easter Breakfast
12 April	10.30am	Rev Craig Muir – Easter Communion

## **Forthcoming Events**

Tues	3 Mar	Lent Gathering Potters Green URC at 2.30pm
4 <sup>th</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar		Stagecraft performs “Naughties at the 19 <sup>th</sup> Hole!” at Foleshill Road URC. For details ☎ 02476 683297
Fri	6 Mar	Praying with Zimbabwe service 2pm at Foleshill Road URC (part of World Day of Prayer 2020)
Sun	8 Mar	Church AGM & Meal following morning worship
Tues	10 Mar	Lent Gathering Potters Green URC at 2.30pm
Fri	13 Mar	Games Night at Ansty Road 7pm
Sat	14 Mar	WM Synod at Sutton Coldfield URC 10am
Tues	17 Mar	Lent Gathering Potters Green URC at 2.30pm
Tues	24 Mar	Lent Gathering Potters Green URC at 2.30pm
Thur	26 Mar	Bible Study at Ansty Road URC 7.30pm - Entitled “At Bethany with Jesus”
Sun	29 Mar	Start of British Summertime clocks forward an hour
Tues	31 Mar	Lent Gathering Potters Green URC at 2.30pm
Sat	4 Apr	Induction of Rev Brown at Holyhead Road URC 3pm as minister of the North Coventry Group
Mon	6 Apr	Elders Meeting 7.30pm at Church
Thur	9 Apr	Maundy Thursday 7pm at St Columba’s URC

## **Advance Notice**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May the “Machine Gun Preacher” comes to West Orchard URC at 7.30pm. Sam Childers story of drug dealer to supporting children in South Sudan has been made into a film. The church is planning to show the film a few times before Sam’s visit. Dates for the film show had not been finalised.

Paul B

## **Rev C Muir Pastoral Letter**

On Mothering Sunday it will also be our Wedding Anniversary. Another cheap year for me as it has become traditional that our children take us both out to celebrate having Chris as a Mum. I might chip in to mark 34 years of landing on my feet.

In other years our anniversary has clashed with church activities, and Chris has been treated to a Lenten soup & roll lunch, or a bring and share that she usually contributes to, and I have encouraged the notion that I begrudge spending money - because it creates an alternative to the pressure to mark every special occasion with lavish over-indulgence. It's not our way, but we do appreciate the ways we have been blessed by one another over the years, and will give thanks for our children and those around us who have maintained the prayerful promises that were made by us and for us on that day.

Mothering Sunday can be an occasion to remember the privilege of parenting. And as my own parents grow increasingly frail, there are shifts in our relationships and the bonds that bind us. At the same time I am so often conscious of how frail these bonds can be, of people whose experience of being children or parents is fraught with pain, loss, grief. I hear stories of abandonment, disappointment, exclusion and many will suffer Mothering Sunday through gritted teeth, unable to match society's expectations that all mothers (or children) are wonderful.

The gospel reading is an interesting one that day. (John 9:1-41) A blind man is brought before Jesus - is he blind because of his own sins or the sins of his parents? Jesus challenges the notion that this situation is the result of anyone's sin - rather it is an opportunity for God's work to be revealed (also troublesome!) and proceeds to heal him of his blindness. The result is a comic farce of parents not sure if they should accept or deny this son whose transformation could be embarrassing. Jesus is not embarrassed by transformation - he welcomes another new disciple bringing new light to the world.

be blessed Craig

## **Lent Gathering**

This will be led by Rev Paul Holmes at 2.30pm at Potters Green URC on the Tuesday in Lent and is based on Paul's Gooder's study "The Journey to the Empty Tomb"

## **Area Meeting at Foleshill Road 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020**

Around 30 people including the Moderator attended this gathering about Dementia. Mhari was to lead the meeting but due to a family reason was not able to attend. So the "Business" part of the meeting was led by the UR Hospital Chaplaincy and his wife Jill who works with the elderly. Before that Bill led worship and mentioned that delving back into his family history one of his ancestors was described as "insane" on the census. In those days it was a catchall for many mental illnesses. We were to hear that there is over 200 types of Dementia and it affects all ages.

Jill asked us all to draw a picture of a 2p coin and say the Lord's Prayer. Everyone was happy to say the prayer but some felt out of their comfort zone in drawing. This was to point out that those with Dementia feel ok with places, people and activities they remember but uncomfortable or even scared when they don't remember. This is because they are not a "thinking person but a feeling one" The object of today was to inform us how best to make those with Dementia feel more at ease especially in a church setting.

The therapy for this condition means that the person interacting with them needs to have empathy, be genuine and give them undivided attention otherwise they will pick up on this and it will cause them distress. The main outward effect of Dementia is memory loss. As we go through life we file away memories, when the bottom drawer becomes full so we start filling the next. The newest memories such as what you had for dinner are in the top drawer and are the ones that are the most difficult for Dementia patients to open. The key is for friends and family to know what drawer the person is able to access and do not try and ask about more recent events. Routine activities, deep rooted memories such as saying the Lord's Prayer and music of their era are often the topics. Traditional service rather than a more modern service with unfamiliar responses are likely to help. More often it is family members who suffer when a close relative fails to recognise them. Here it is best to focus on what they can do rather than what they cannot. It was also interesting to know that those with memory loss have blue pillows in hospital so the staff know how best to interact. The quote of the evening was "you do not have to suffer with Dementia but you do have to live with it"

Other speakers brought us up-to-date with Area News details of which will be elsewhere in the magazine

Paul B

## Church Meeting Report 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019

There were eighteen members present with three apologies. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted after changes. In the pastoral report, 5 members were noted as having health problems. It was also noted that the secretary has been awarded the BEM in the Queen's New Year's honours list.

**Building Report:** the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest tender had missed out some details and a request was to be made to correct this. A request to keep the access ramps quotes was made

The Dance School was to increase the hours on a Saturday and start a new group on Monday evenings.

**Worship:** members expressed their appreciation for the Christmas Carol Service and gave their thanks to those who arranged the refreshments. Lent meetings this year are being arranged under the heading "The Journey to the Empty Tomb". They will be held on Tuesdays during the month of March. Other Easter services are: Maundy Thursday, 7.00pm at St. Columba's; Good Friday, 10.30am at Ansty Road and Easter Sunday 8.00am (hopefully followed by breakfast) and 10.30am again at Ansty Rd.

**Ball Hill Project** It was indicated that the dialogue between the Synod and the 'café' had become complicated, Synod will underwrite the contract. Additional funding bids from various charities are being investigated. It is unlikely that the project will begin in March as first indicated. The Vicar at St. Michael's Church is willing to be involved. The second Film Club was held during the Christmas School Holidays. The next Film Club will be held during the Half-Term in the spring.

**Treasurer** reported a balance of £14,666 in the general fund of which £373 was from the Women's Own past meetings. £188 has been collected from the Quiz night, £116.50 from the Carol Service and £128 from the Christmas Day service all for the Church's nominated charities. £1,500 has been used from the Alice Westall Fund for CRCW expenses. The Church is now registered with the tax office as Ansty Road URC so Gift Aid can be reclaimed.

Nominations for new Elders are to be given to the secretary by March 1<sup>st</sup> to replace those standing down at the AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**A.O.B** a games' night is planned for March. The Synod Clerk and Treasurer are due to retire this year.

Church Secretary

## **Kirsty's Page**

March is the month when the clocks will move and we will officially enter the season of spring, hopefully we may begin to see this reflected in the world around us. We are entering a period of new beginnings, and hopefully that will also be the case for both churches and the church related community work ministry.

We have some activities at both churches and I would like to focus on advertising more widely so that those who have interest or need in the projects we offer can find out and access them, so I would like to ask you all to consider how you can be involved. It would be great if people could pray that the project flourishes, if you have a spare hour or more, there are always tasks that I appreciate help with. If you have knowledge, skills or expertise in a particular area it would be wonderful if you felt moved to offer help. If you have ideas on how we can improve what we are doing or move things on further, please come and share with me because I want every person in church to feel as much ownership in the community ministry as myself and in time I hope the communities we serve will also feel they have ownership and can tell us where new things need to be focused.

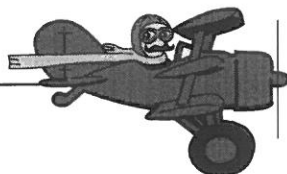
I have also been reminded that it is not quite a year since I arrived as your CRCW minister, and we have a long journey ahead, and balance is key to ensure we do not burn out or lose momentum, so let us pace ourselves, offer everything to God and be bringers of Good News, Hope, Joy, Love and Peace to our neighbours in the local area.

Blessings Kirsty <><

### **March Lectionary**

1 Mar	Matthew	4. 1-11
8 Mar	John	3. 1-17
15 Mar	John	4. 5-42
22 Mar	John	9. 1-42
29 Mar	John	11. 1-45
5 Apr	Matthew	1. 1-11

**AGM Reports pages 6-11**



## **Minister's AGM Report**

In 2019 we managed to achieve some of the things we set out to do, but others aims have been slower and will need to be pushed into 2020 or re-assessed. This time last year I had just returned from sabbatical - refreshed and full of energy. The year has been busy and used up much of that energy.

**Welcoming** - Coffee 'n Chat has continued to be a core activity for those who can attend. But we have not seen anyone new joining with us and have often been depleted by death and illness. It probably needs a refresh but like much else we await building redevelopment before we can look more closely at that.

It was good to be able to bring Roseanne into church membership, her presence amongst us has brought other new people as well, and it is good to be able to welcome them. We have seen other new faces in the congregation as well, but they are often just there for a week or two. It's difficult to gauge why that is.

**Praying** - Thursday prayers continue - often when two or three gather. We hold the church and community in prayer and believe it is important to do so. We would love to be joined by a few more. Thursday evening prayers has struggled and I'm sorry that I have been unable to support more. The Labyrinth continues to be available and we know that is used from time to time.

**Witnessing** - A year ago our CRCW profile has just gone live and in April we were joined by Kirsty as our Community Minister. It is great to be able to work with Kirsty and to see the passion Kirsty puts into the work. We have begun the first steps in establishing a base on Ball Hill and look forward to seeing how that can develop and Kirsty has made some first steps in establishing what can be done at Ansty Road. Again the delay in redeveloping the building makes that difficult, but to see our ideas begin to bear fruit has been wonderful.

**Discipling** - Thursday Bible Study has continued to struggle, often because other things get in the way and we have been unable to establish a good regular pattern. We will continue to work at it because every church needs a place where people focus on reading the bible - but I'm open to new ideas.

**Encouraging** - I find Ansty Road such an encouraging community and I hope others find the same. I'm aware that as I have focused on some family issues, you have given me space and



encouragement to do that even when it has taken time away from Coventry. Thank you for that support and encouragement.

**Celebrating** - I was so pleased that Roseanne was able to give her testimony when we brought her into church membership. It is so powerful to hear people tell their own story and I still want to encourage others to do so. 2019 has been a year of Wedding celebrations. Three equaled the number I have conducted at these churches' over the previous 10 years! First Georgia and Chris - where it was lovely to share that day with them. Then we were able to celebrate our first two Same-Sex Marriages, they were great occasions and garnered a bit of publicity and wider interest.

**This building as our home** - The process of putting out and receiving tenders for the building work has been slow and frustrating. I really hoped we would be in a position to start work by the beginning of 2020 but that is not the case. It also means that making plans in how we use the building can only be very tentative. Here's hoping 2020 brings this work to a conclusion.

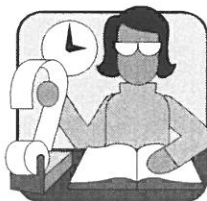
Looking at my Newsletter articles for the last year I have focused on environmental concerns, it is the threat of our age for future generations and as stewards of creation I make no apology for keeping that issue at the forefront of our thinking. And hope that in the future we can begin to look at being an Eco-church.

Elsewhere I have continued to convene **Coventry City of Sanctuary**, serve on the steering group for **Coventry Winter Night Shelter** and Co-chair **Chapel of Unity**. I am also a Trustee for **Peace House Education Trust** and this year agreed to chair the meetings. As Area Minister I sit on the **Synod's Ministry Development Committee** and work with all the churches of the Area supporting their mission.

2019 has certainly been interesting - lets see what 2020 can bring  
Craig

## **Treasurers AGM Report**

During the AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> March everyone will have time to see a copy of the audited financial statement prepared by our Treasurer before the meeting.





## **Church Secretary AGM Report**

Again the year has flown Bye! It hardly seems yesterday since I was writing last year's report! The Church has settled into the routine of bi-monthly Church meetings, though in mid-summer it was decided that they should be held on a Sunday after morning worship. The meetings on Monday Evenings during the summer had not proved very popular. Regular worship on Sunday Mornings has continued with visiting preachers filling in the Sundays when our Minister is at St. Columba's. We have celebrated all the major festivals in a very meaningful way and our work for our chosen charities continues to be well supported. Our quiz nights have raised money for the Church Funds. Prayers have been said every Thursday Morning with the Minister leading prayers on most of the first Thursdays each month. Coffee Morning also on a Thursday Morning continues to be a very sociable event.

Our two major projects are continuing – the adaptation of the Church Buildings and the Ball Hill Project. The former continues to be at the planning stage, though four or five tenders have now been received. These are waiting for approval.

Our C.R.C.W. has been appointed and is now in residence in a new manse in Hillfields. She has taken over organising the Ball Hill project and has already identified a possible shop front. She is currently negotiating a contract with assistance from the Synod. She has also initiated a film club for children. This is in the early stages at the moment.

The Church is now registered for 'Same-sex marriages', the only one in the area! During the year two such marriages have taken place – one between two ladies and one between two gentlemen. Both were very successful and supported by large congregations. All in all, the year has been a successful year for the Church.

Tony Pedley BEM

## **Church Garden AGM Report**

Due to the proposed development work no further changes were done to the garden other than its general upkeep. Thanks also go to Shirley for keeping the planter looking nice. The garden maintenance cost was £17.20 for mower fuel in 2018 and £11.01 in 2019. The church also paid to service the mower costing £108.17.

Paul B

## **CRCW Minister's AGM Report**

It has been nine months since I first met everyone at the last AGM. Since starting in post in April, lots of things have taken place. I have attended a variety of training courses and information sharing days and I have begun to build relationships here at the church.

I have had the pleasure of beginning to network with a variety of organisations around the city, including Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre, Carrag, Crassac, Coventry Haven, Coventry Comfort Carers, The Jesus Centre, Salvation Army, Crisis, Mind, Coventry & Warwickshire Primary Care Trust and Pride Coventry & the Coventry LGBT+ community and attending the Coventry Leaders lunch at the Welcome Centre run by Hope Coventry.

We have started running a Family Cinema Club during the school holidays and I am very grateful for the support and help I have to make these events happen. The dates for all of 2020 are set, and the publicity in physical and online form appears to be being received positively. I know that it will take time to grow, but for the families that have already come along, a wonderful afternoon was had. Other wonderful times over the last few months have been the games nights and quiz nights here at church organised by Chris & Sue, Isabel and her quiz masters, these have been wonderful, fun evenings where I have been able to socialise with folk and laugh.

I gain much from sharing coffee and prayers on a Thursday morning and have heard wonderful stories of people's lives which I will cherish. I have deliberately not moved forward with starting lots of things at the church as it seems more prudent to wait until the building project is complete so as to not create dislocation in activities while the work occurs. This does not mean that I haven't been considering things, my first priority has been to locate premises on Ball Hill for the shop front...this has occurred, but the legalistic processes around acquiring premises, is longer and more complicated than I had realised, but I have faith that everything will be sorted because the Synod solicitors will not guide incorrectly. The primary focus over the coming months will be the Ball Hill project and working on funding applications and business plans for it, along with some blue-sky visioning of how we can best utilise the space. I hope that once the shop front is established, we can also begin thinking about other work we are called to around the locality of the church building.

I have found joy in sharing worship with you and, in the New Year, I will be preaching here and at St Columba's once a month and, hopefully, enabling you to be encouraged week by week.

I have had a lot of involvement with the Council for World Mission this year, and also attended the CRCW ministers annual residential and began work on my Masters' dissertation. I will be attending the CRCW minister residential again next year and hopefully will submit my dissertation at the end of August. I hope that you are happy for me to continue my involvement with the Council for World Mission, especially as much of their work is about social justice and the gospel.

I have felt welcomed and cared for this last year and I hope that over the coming year, I can get to know you all even more and we can continue to work passionately with and for the marginalised in our city sharing God's love through our actions and hospitality.

Kirsty

### **Fundraising for Good Causes AGM Report**

The Carol service collection came to £116.50 (£82.21 2018) and was made up to £120 (£100 2018) from church funds and half donated to the Boot Fund and St Andrew's Home who were also the chosen charities in 2018. The Harvest gifts were again sent to the Food Bank.

Paul B

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Christian Aid Week – Donations	596.30	715.75
Christian Aid Week – Gift Aid	46.49	43.85
Christian Aid Christmas Appeal	128.00	81.00
Christian Aid Coffee Morning	85.00	90.00
	<hr/> 855.79	<hr/> 930.60
Coffee Mornings Collections – Cord	-	40.00
Christmas Carol Service – see above	120.00	100.00
Gift Day - Coventry City Mission	404.00	171.50
Mite Scheme collecting boxes	215.00	105.00
McMillan's Coffee Morning	151.61	184.40
	<hr/> 1,746.40	<hr/> 1,531.50

## Church Magazine AGM Report

The average circulation has remained around 60 with 46 paper copies and 15 electronic copies being sent out

Thanks to still being able to print the magazine at Cord and a couple of generous donations there is again a small surplus. I have kept a larger float as I needed to replenish paper stocks in January Finally thanks to everyone who supports the magazine especially my regular contributors.

Paul B

	2019	2018
Balance b/f	11.41	12.83
Magazine income	142.52	199.54
Magazine costs	(27.85)	(58.76)
Donations paid to Church	(96.01)	(142.20)
Balance c/f	<u>30.07</u>	<u>11.41</u>

### Be a Candle

I once wrote a story about a listener to Coventry's Talking Newspaper for the Visually Impaired who sadly died recently. She was Maureen Verney. Maureen was the first blind missionary who went to work in Kathmandu in a makeshift hospital which was a disused palace. Some of the patients had broken legs from falling down from trees. When the patients needed pulleys to lift their legs she had to improvise, using large cotton reels.



When I played the story to my Mum she asked me if Maureen would give a talk at Wyken URC Women's Own. She came along with her guide dog and both were very popular. Mum then asked me to ask her to give a sermon in church. This blind lady lined up some candles along the front of the lectern saying that we are all candles capable of shining a light into other people's darkness"

I have never forgotten her words and have tried to apply them to my voluntary work for the blind ever since.

Maureen herself was a candle and told me once that she was going to write to prisoners on death row in America. So be a candle, don't hide it under a bushel. Let our little light shine and light the darkness of others.

David Monks MBE,

## Thanks and Prayers

Thanks to everyone who provided flowers and many happy returns to everyone who is celebrating a birthday this month. To those who are "under the weather" we send our love, and prayers.

		<b>Collection &amp; Door Steward</b>	<b>Communion &amp; Prayers with speaker</b>	<b>Second Communion server</b>
1	Mar	Pat	Isabel	
8	Mar	Shirley	Nigel	Paul H
15	Mar	Paul H	Ray	
22	Mar	Janette	Tony	
29	Mar	Lily & Rosie	Pat	
5	Apr	Isabel	Paul H	

## Collections

3	November	93.00	1	December	122.30
10	November	171.50	8	December	129.25
17	November	222.00	15	December	232.00
24	November	151.35	22	December	179.50
			29	December	No service
	Monthly	375.00		Monthly	375.00
		<u>1,012.85</u>			<u>1,038.05</u>

## Regular Church & Organisation Events

Monday	6.00pm ~ 9.00pm	Abbey Dancing Class
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	10.00am ~ 12.00pm	Age UK
Tuesday	6.00pm ~ 7.30pm	Brownies
Wednesday	9.15am ~ 10.15am	Coventry Pilates
	7.00pm ~ 8.30pm	Guides
Thursday	9.00am ~ 11.00am	Weight Watchers
	10.00am ~ 11.30am	Coffee N'Chat & prayers
	6.30pm ~ 8.30pm	Weight Watchers
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	7.30pm ~ 8.30pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday	8.00am ~ 5.00pm	Abbey Dancing Class

All articles for the next magazine need to be sent to me no later than Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Paul Beauchamp

*Ansty Road United Reformed Church*  
*Church & Other Contacts*

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