

February / March 2019

CONTACT

The Magazine of
St. George's United Reformed Church
Newton Road, High Heaton,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7HP



A Pause for Thought

Even if it is not our favourite season, winter is nevertheless every bit as impressive as its three companions. It comes, as variable as ever, capricious and beyond our control, providing us with all the frustration and sometimes danger of snowbound traffic, icy roads and frozen pipes. It also provokes the exciting adrenalin rush of the ski slope, the peaceful hush of a white-blanketed morning landscape and the crisp air of a blue-skied afternoon turning gold.

Depending on predisposition, mood and duty, you choose which aspect of winter's wonderland you will respond to — and how. Of course, it doesn't always feel as if you are free to choose. When, in mid-journey, winter throws its worst at you, giving the impression of seriously malevolent intent directed personally at you, you might be forgiven for feeling there is precious little freedom and even less choice at that moment. But you do choose — whether to continue, take a break or abandon the journey altogether. You also begin to choose how to react to those adverse circumstances and to the people you meet in them. It might change your life as well as your schedule.

Remembering that winter is pregnant with the spring it's worth remembering as well that out of the worst of circumstances amazingly wonderful things may come and that our faith in that possibility might be necessary for their safe delivery. Albert Camus concluded that, "In the depth of winter I finally learned there was in me an invincible summer". That discovery is waiting for everybody.

If we find ourselves in 'the winter of our discontent' it is not the fault of winter — more likely our discontent. Someone suggested, "Winter is not a season; it's an occupation" aptly pointing out that our frosty reaction to life extends winter throughout the year. It is in the depth of winter we celebrate the coming of the Lord of light and life and warmth. Let His coming then melt our hearts and enlighten our lives.

Rev Neville Whitehead – Retired Methodist Minister.

"Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by this sun...." (Richard III)

Dates for Articles for the April/May "Contact"

If you have any articles for the next edition of Contact, please give or send them to Sandra Nossiter, Contact Editor, or Dorothy Barker, Church Secretary, by **Sunday 17th March.**

Please sign your articles.

Thank you!

RENEW THE VISION RESTORE THE MISSION

You may remember that some time ago Church Meeting mentioned holding a Vision Day for St George's. To follow this up, a weekend conference is being planned for February 2019. It would be great to get the whole church involved, so put the dates into your diaries!

WHEN ? 15th, 16th and 17th February. The weekend consists of two evening events and one late morning/lunch event.

WHAT ? An opportunity to worship, to learn, and grow together.

WHO ? We are delighted to welcome Brian Richardson on Friday and Saturday. Brian was a pastor and now works for Liberation Ministries. He is author of three published books, and is committed to church planting. We welcome David Falcus on Saturday night, author of *From Ghand to God*, and Senior Pastor of Ashington Family Church. The evenings will begin with worship, with great input from our speakers.

WHY ? To seek out God's will together for St George's.

We need to support this event as a church, so please make sure you can be there for part or all of the programme. These are exciting times and we must move together.

Further details will be announced in the church notices but the programme will include:-

Friday 7pm. Praise and Worship. Brian Richardson.

Saturday 10 am For leaders and those who will lead teams. Input and inspiration from Brian Richardson.

Saturday 7pm Praise and Worship Brian Richardson and Davey Falcus

Sunday 10 am Praise, Testimony and Confirmation.

Cheap cocoa is costing farmers dear

by Darío Soto-Abril, Global CEO, Fairtrade International

Shock, frustration and anger. Those were my feelings after seeing a Fairtrade study in Côte d'Ivoire showing that only 12% of cocoa households earn a living income.

Cocoa lovers around the world might be as shocked as I was to learn that the median income in Ivorian cocoa households is US\$ 2,600, when our estimates tell us a decent, living income should be US\$ 6,133 a year. I am frustrated, because this refers to Fairtrade-certified

farmers, who benefit from a minimum-price safety net and receive a premium for their crop. I am angry, because the situation for most cocoa farmers could even be more precarious.

Cocoa farmers earn 40% of a living income

World cocoa prices plunged by more than a third last year. The latest cocoa barometer report from a global group of NGOs points to a systemic failure in the global cocoa trade. Cocoa farmers bear all the risk from price volatility, putting an unbearable strain on their fragile incomes, while other actors in the cocoa chain adapt or even make windfall gains and consumers continue to enjoy their chocolate.

This is still happening despite considerable investment in the industry to build a sustainable cocoa sector. The focus has been on raising productivity and diversifying crops. Those are important ingredients in the income mix. The average cocoa farm in Côte d'Ivoire yields only half or less of what could be achieved with training and resources such as fertilizers, equipment and replanting. If farmers diversify into other crops, livestock or non-farm activities, they lower the risk of fluctuating world cocoa prices.

We must pay cocoa farmers more

Even tripling yields would not provide the average cocoa farmer with a living income. And diversification alone will not necessarily make farms more profitable. If we want farmers to earn a living income, we must also be willing to pay farmers more. There is no way round it.

Until recently, price was a taboo subject when talking about farmers' income. Now that conversation is opening up. Nearly 1,500 participants at this year's World Cocoa Conference, including NGOs, governments and industry players, issued a declaration calling for more decisive action to make living income a reality.

At Fairtrade, we are rolling out a new cocoa strategy to deliver living incomes through a holistic approach that includes productivity, cost efficiency, and higher sales on Fairtrade terms. We will go beyond revamping our minimum price and premium for cocoa. We are committed to pushing for a new sustainable pricing model based on a 'living income reference price'.

Shoppers need to be able to differentiate living income products from those that are not farmer-centric

Living income reference prices in cocoa will also give consumers an opportunity to connect with farmers and make the right choices, by allowing shoppers to differentiate between *living income* cocoa and other, less farmer-centred options.

We, the cocoa lovers of the world, can transform our shock, frustration and anger into action to ensure farmers get a living income.

From the Fairtrade blog, Oct 2018

Fairtrade Fortnight 2019

Each year for two weeks over February and March, Fairtrade puts a spotlight on trade through our Fairtrade Fortnight campaign. Together with the Fairtrade farmers and workers, and campaigners up and down the country, we highlight the difference fair trade can make to lives and communities.

Fairtrade Fortnight will return in 2019 from 25 February to 10 March. It's the most important time of the year for us all to celebrate Fairtrade achievements, whilst encouraging further commitments from the public, companies and governments to take action for fairer trade.

Fairtrade Fortnight will focus on cocoa. Farmers of this iconic Fairtrade product have seen prices crash to crisis levels in the last few years, particularly in West Africa where most cocoa is grown. The situation highlights in stark terms the scandal of unfair trade. We have a choice about whether we take a stand against this.

Many farmers – both men and women – are underpaid and exploited. That means they can't earn enough for the basics many of us take for granted, including food, education and housing, because they don't earn a living income.

It's even worse for the women who work in the fields and in the home. Despite the hard work they put in, they're often overlooked and under-represented, and usually see even less of the money for their crop. They deserve more.

So the voices and stories of women farmers will also be at the heart of Fairtrade Fortnight.

Crisis in cocoa

The recent drop in cocoa prices means it's more important than ever to remind people why choosing Fairtrade is so important, but also to be honest that certification alone can't fix the complex issues which leave smallholder farmers at the mercy of volatile international markets.

So whilst buying more Fairtrade chocolate is the essential first step, it's not enough. More needs to be done to tackle the grave injustice at the heart of this multi-billion pound industry. And it won't happen without the chocolate-consuming UK public demanding it.

The good news is there has never been more understanding of these issues, or consensus amongst governments and companies around the need to pay a living income.

Raising the bar: beyond the FAIRTRADE Mark

We know that buying more Fairtrade cocoa can catalyse transformative change for producer communities, but that we need to encourage others to do more to truly overcome the injustice at the heart of this much-loved product.

That's why in 2019 we'll also launch an ambitious new 3-year campaign that will encourage everyone in the cocoa sector – consumers, companies, governments and others – to play their part and make a living income a reality for cocoa farmers.

Bible a Month: Lebanon

“I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart” Psalm 40.8.

Lebanon is a country in the Middle East with a coastline on the Mediterranean Sea. Until the mid 70's, the country prospered, with Beirut the commercial capital of the Middle East. Friction between the previously dominant Christian community and Muslims, the influx of Palestinian refugees, and repeated Middle Eastern wars, have chronically de-stabilised the country and led to the growth of armed militias and intermittent civil war. Syrian forces have been present in parts of the country since 1976.

The country covers an area of 10,400 sq km, which is approx. 4% of the UK size. It has a population of 6.2 million, approx. 9% of the UK. The literacy rate- people who can read and write- is 93%. Languages include Arabic and Armenian.

The Bible Society team in Lebanon is doing incredible work under pressure. The conflict in the region has made the Christian population fearful, leading many to leave the country. Meanwhile, millions of refugees have moved in, having suffered persecution and trauma in their homelands.

Despite the many challenges, our staff in Lebanon have worked hard to bring hope to refugees in great emotional and physical need. Thanks to your gifts, our team has been able to provide Bibles and much needed resources as well as carry our crucial work such as trauma healing.

Additionally, regular visits to church congregations to serve and support them, has encouraged more and more Christians to stay in Lebanon and be witnesses in their communities. Praise God that in the midst of tragedy and difficulty our team is faithfully persevering in their mission to proclaim the life-transforming word of God.

Prayer pointers

- Thank God that addressing the gospel message to children through activities like the Bible Competition is equipping younger generations in Lebanon with the knowledge of God.
- Pray for Bible Society's team in Lebanon, who are serving the cause of peace in the Middle East by partnering with churches and equipping Christian leaders to witness to their communities.
- Ask God to heal the hearts of Christians who feel discouraged and burdened by the turmoil in the region.
- Pray that Bible Society staff in Lebanon feel strengthened and remain faithful to God in the midst of adversity.

St George's continues to donate £30 a month to the work of Bible a Month.

A Thorough Examination

Ash Wednesday this year is on 6th March: the first day of Lent. What does the season mean to you?

The older we get, the more it pays to keep a check on our health. That's not to say we should become morbid hypochondriacs; simply that we should keep an eye out for problems so that we can seek help to put them right before they take hold. If that is true medically speaking, it's true also when it comes to our spiritual health, for that can equally suffer as the years go by. Complacency, disillusionment or sheer weariness are all conditions that can steal upon us, sapping our faith of its natural vitality. Just as with our physical well-being, we need to be alert to the signs, regularly making time to examine ourselves.

Traditionally Lent is such a time, calling us to reflect on our discipleship and to ask ourselves if everything is as it should be. None of us is perfect, of course, and the last thing God wants is to encourage a spirit of negative self-criticism. Rather, He wants us to conduct an honest self-appraisal, and then to seek his gracious help in bringing inner healing and renewal. The cure does not lie in us, any more than self-help remedies are the answer to ever physical ailment. It lies in recognising something is wrong and seeking help from the one who alone is able to give us wholeness. If we are willing to admit our need, He will do the rest.

Ask yourself

When did you last reflect on the state of your discipleship? Have you been burying your head in the sand, aware that not all is well but reluctant to face it? Have you forgotten God's promise of forgiveness and renewal?

Pray:

Almighty and all-seeing God, we thank you for this season of Lent: a time to reflect upon our own discipleship, to consider our calling, to examine ourselves and assess the health of our faith. Help us to be honest with this: to see ourselves as we really are, with all our weaknesses, ugliness and sinfulness. Help us to face the things we usually prefer to push aside, the unpleasant truths we sweep under the carpet, pretending they are not there.

We come to you, acknowledging our faults, recognising our weaknesses and receiving your forgiveness, which alone can make us whole, through the grace of Christ.

Lord Jesus Christ, touch our lives with your healing forgiveness, and put new hearts and a right spirit within us, so that we may truly love you and faithfully serve you, to the glory of your name. Amen

From Daily Prayer by Nick Fawcett

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit in me.

Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit in me.

Wash me, cleanse me, purify me,

Make my heart as white as snow.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit in me.

CMP 108. David Fellingham/Ronald Fudge

Northern Synod Prayers

We are asked to pray for the following people and places within our synod.

February

- 3rd Christ Church LEP (Methodist/URC), North Broomhill: Rev'd Linda Coulthard (Methodist)
Synod Mission Enabler, Rev'd Jane Rowell
- 10th Trinity LEP (Methodist/URC), Ashington: St Andrew's & St Mark's LEP (Methodist/URC), Newbiggin-by-the-Sea: Rev;'d Marie Attwood (Methodist)
- 17th Racial Justice Sunday
Spring Synod retreat at Ampleforth Abbey (19-21 Feb)
Waddington Street URC, Durham: St Andrew's Dawson Street, Crook LEP (Methodist/URC): Rev'd Ray Anglesea: Rev'd Christopher Humble (Methodist).
- 24th PCM (Presbyterian Church of Mozambique), the four Presbyterian Societies: Men's, Women's: Youth and Activists Group (young marrieds) and for our own fund raising for PCM.
Fair Trade Fortnight: (25 February- 10 March)
The Anglican Bishop of Newcastle Diocese, Rt Rev'd Christine Hardman.
Women's World Day of Prayer (1 March) . Theme- "Come, everything is ready"

March

- 3rd Church Action of Poverty Sunday
Trinity LEP(Methodist/URC), Bedlington: Elsdon Avenue LEP (Methodist/URC), Seaton Delaval: Blyth URC.
- 10th Synod meeting at Kingston Park (16th March)
Our synod Moderator, Rev'd Dave Herbert: Synod Clerk, Mrs Melanie Campbell: Synod Treasurer, Rev'd Dr Tony Haws.
- 17th St Cuthbert's Centre, Holy Island: Rev'd Rachel Poolman (Warden)
- 24th St Andrew's URC, Blackhill: Bethel URC, Chester-le-Street: Christ Church URC, Stanley.
- 31st Mothering Sunday.
PCM, its congregations in and around the capital Maputo
Chair of the Darlington Methodist District, Rev'd Richard Andrew.

April

- 7th St George's URC, High Heaton: St Cuthbert's LEP (Methodist/URC), Heaton: Rev'd Dr Grant Wilson.
- 14th St Mark's URC, Amble: Rev'd Alison Mills.

WORLD SSUBI SEEDS (SEEDS OF HOPE) MISSION 2019

This year in summer, marks the 4th Mission trip to Uganda for Holiday Bible Club. Thank you all for your support and prayer. Thanks to the Church who releasing your Minister Revd. Dr. Grant to go for missions to Uganda. Thanks to his family and Grant's willingness and sacrifice to go.

Would you prayerfully consider joining the team for missions?

Missions could change ones life, as for me since I started going among other things I have:

1) Grown closer to God

Having seen how poor some kids can be and yet always smiling and grateful to God, this challenges my faith and helps me grow closer to God.

Whenever I go I see this as an opportunity for me to spend some time with the poor but rich at heart.

Jesus brought Hope to the hopeless, when I go I see the hope of Jesus revealed in the kids we minister to.

Going to missions could bring one closer to God and change your life. You will see the world differently.

2) Changed my Perspective.

All I can say is God used this experience to make me become more aware of myself and to reveal who I am to me! The People, struggles, obstacles, and difficulties I encountered changed me for the better. I began to get over my fears and stop overcomplicating simple matters. I trust God for everything.

Time has come for mission 2019 please keep on praying.

Beth Solomon.

The Angel

There's a geet big rusty angel,
On a hill in Gateshead toon,
It stands there deeing nothin,
Just blotting oot the moon.

There are some who think it's beautiful,
And some who disagree,
But the pigeons and the seagulls,
Knaa exactly what ti dee.

Noo angels are God's messengers,
Aa've aalways understood,
They sit on clouds and play their harps,
And tell us ti' be good.

They say heaven's full of angels,
Superia to man,
But if this what they look like,
Aa divvn't want ta gan.

A poem written by local man John Telfer

Points to Ponder

- Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. *Leo Buscaglia*
- Life is so much simpler when you stop explaining yourself to people and just do what works for you.
- Very little is needed to make a happy life; it is all within yourself in your way of thinking.
- Just because we're in a stressful situation doesn't mean that we have to get stressed out. You may be in the storm. The key is, don't let the storm get in you. *Simple Reminders.com*
- A good laugh, and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything. *Irish Proverb*
- May there be within this day quiet moments, when I can rest in your presence, sit for a while at your feet, be still, and simply listen. *John Birch*
- Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times, you grow. Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement. Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character. Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons. *Troy Amdahl, Simple Reminders.com*
- Live your life with purpose. Focus on your blessings, not your misfortunes. Focus on your strengths, not your weaknesses. Be yourself and don't wait for the approval of others. But most importantly, have a positive and humble mindset no matter what situation you are in. Count your blessings, not your problems, and you will realise how beautiful your life truly is. *Simple reminders.com*
- For Jesus there are no countries to be conquered. No ideologies to be imposed, no people to be dominated. There are only children, women and men to be loved. *Henri Nouwen*.
- I'd rather attend church with messed up people seeking after God than religious people who think they're his enforcers.
- When someone is going through a rough time, just sit with them. No preaching. No advice. Just be there. *Clergy Coaching Network*.

The above quotes are all freely available on the Internet.

SIX LITTLE STORIES

Well worth the 30 seconds to read

{1}

Once, all villagers decided to pray for rain.
On the day of prayer, all the people gathered,
but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That's FAITH .

{2}

When you throw babies in the air,
they laugh because they know you will catch them.

That's TRUST.

{3}

Every night we go to bed
without any assurance of being alive the next morning,
but still, we set the alarms to wake up.

That's HOPE.

{4}

We plan big things for tomorrow
in spite of zero knowledge of the future.

That's CONFIDENCE.

{5}

We see the world suffering,
but still, we get married and have children

That's LOVE.

{6}

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence
'I am not 80 years old;
I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.'

That's ATTITUDE.

Have a happy day and live your life like the six stories.
When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation.

**"GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE JEWELS OF LIFE...
DIFFICULT TO FIND AND IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE!"**

Smile!

- I asked the boss today, “Where do you want this big roll of bubble wrap?” “Just pop it in the store room” he said. Took me nearly aal day, man !!!
- I have a racing snail. I took its shell off to make it go faster, but to tell you the truth, it looks more sluggish.....
- Human cannonball required for circus. Must be willing to travel!
- Apparently after Brexit we won’t be able to buy Venetian blinds, so it’ll be curtains for us.
- What did Blackbeard say on his 80th birthday? Aye, matey.
- If anyone has left £3000 rolled up and secured in elastic bands on the metro going to the coast, please get in touch ASAP. I have your elastic bands.
- To the person who stole my anti-depressants, I hope you are happy now.....
- I was offered a job in an Ice Cream factory, but I had to turn it down. I don’t like working on Sundaes.
- My mate took Ryanair to court over his luggage gannin missing. Looks like he’s lost his case.
- If my local campanologist has died, is he a dead ringer?
- I’ve just noticed they’ve opened a new library in town. They kept that one quiet.

With thanks to LIVERNEWS, the Liver Patient Support Newsletter.

THANK YOU

Thank you once again for all your Christmas cake orders. This year I have been able to make a donation of £150 to church funds. Thank you for your continued support.

Audrey Matfin

THANK YOU

Dear Friends, I would like to thank you for all the cards, flowers, telephone calls and visits following my recent surgery. Thank you also for the warm welcome I received on my return to church. It’s good to be back!

Audrey Matfin

Did you know????

- **Stewardesses** is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.
- The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is **uncopyrightable**.
- If you mouth the word **colourful** to someone, it looks like you are saying I love you.
- Just **1000** words make up ninety per cent of all writing.
- No word in the English language rhymes with **orange, silver, or month**.
- **Dreamt** is the only English word that ends with the letters **mt** .
- **Queue** is the only word in the English language to be pronounced the same way even if the last four letters re removed.
- **Almost** is the longest word in the English language with all the letters in alphabetical order.
- The syllable **-ough** can be pronounced nine different ways- as seen in the following sentence:

A rough, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman emerged from a slough to walk through the streets of Scarborough, coughing and hiccoughing.
- The sentence **He believed Caesar could see people seizing the seas** contains seven different spellings of the “ee” sound.

What is a prayer?

Prayer doesn't only happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God.

Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer.

When you hug a friend; that's a prayer.

When you cook to nourish family and friends, that's a prayer.

When we send off those we care for and say, “drive safely” or “be safe”, that's a prayer.

When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy, you are praying .

When you forgive someone by your heart, that is prayer.

Prayer is a vibration.... A feeling.... A thought.

Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships.

Prayer is an expression of your silent being.

Because God cares for us, **we will care for each other.**

Because we are part of God's creation, **we will care for the earth.**

Because we are loved by God, **we will share God's love with everyone.**

This is the day that God has made; **we will rejoice and enjoy it.**

Today we will share with God **everything that is important to us.**

Go in peace and be kind. **Today we will help those around us.**

Go in the name of God. **God who loves us forever.**

URC LECTIONARY READINGS 2019

YEAR C	
03-Feb-19	Jeremiah 1 vs 4-10, Psalm 71 vs 1-6, 1Corinthians 13 vs 1-13, Luke 4 vs 21-30
10-Feb-19	Isaiah 6 vs 1-8, (9-13), Psalm 138, 1Corinthians 15 vs 1-11, Luke 5 vs 1-11
17-Feb-19	Jeremiah 17 vs 5-10, Psalm 1, 1Corinthians 15 vs 12-20 and Luke 6 vs 17-26
24-Feb-19	Genesis 45 s 3-11, 15, Psalm 37 vs 1-11, 39-40, 1Corinthians 15 vs 35-38, 42-50, Luke 6 vs 27-38
03-Mar-19	Exodus 34 vs 29-35, Psalm 99, 2Corinthians 3 v 12 - ch 4 vs 2, Luke 9 vs 28-36, (37-43)
06-Mar-19	Joel 2 vs 1-2, 12-17 (or Isaiah 58 vs 1-12), Psalm 51 vs 1-17, 2 Corinthians 5 vs 20b - ch 6 vs 10, Matthew 6 vs 1-6, 16-21
10-Mar-19	Deuteronomy 26 vs 1-11, Psalm 91 vs 1-2, 9-16, Romans 10 vs 8b-13, Luke 4 vs 1-13
17-Mar-19	Genesis 15 vs 1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3 vs 17 - ch 4 vs 1, Luke 13 vs 31-35
24-Mar-19	Isaiah 55 vs 1-9, Psalm 63 vs 1-8, 1 Corinthians 10 vs 1-13, Luke 13 vs 1-9
31-Mar-19	Joshua 5 vs 9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5 vs 16-21, Luke 15 vs 1-3, 11b-32
07-Apr-19	Isaiah 43 vs 16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3 vs 4b-14, St. John 12 vs 1-8

Coffee Rota for Sundays

	Set up	Serve
February		
3 rd	Clare	Youth church, Sandra & Clare
10 th	Kim & Meetra	Carole & Ivy
17 th	Tony & Babs	Tony & Babs
24 th	Solomon & Youth church	Solomon & Youth church
March		
3 rd	Ann & Renee	Ann & Renee
10 th	Clare	Carole, Sandra & Clare
17 th	Tony & Babs	Tony & Babs
24 th	Solomon & Youth church	Solomon & Youth church
31 st	Ann & Renee	Ann & Renee
April		
7 th	Kim & Meetra	Youth church

M Dodgson

The Women's World Day of Prayer 2019. 1st March 2019

The **Women's World day of Prayer** is a global ecumenical movement of Christian women. They come together on the first Friday in March to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. **The World day of Prayer** brings together women of various races, cultures and churches in fellowship and understanding.

Services will be taking place all over the world, and in our country. Heaton Churches Together will organise a service in our area – details to be announced later. We shall be part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe- starting as the sun rises over Samoa, continuing as it makes its way round the earth, and ending some 36 hours later as the sun sets over American Samoa. The service is written this year by the women of Slovenia. Slovenia is a Central European country with 2 million inhabitants. It is bordered by Austria, Croatia, Hungary, and Italy. The capital, Ljubljana, has approx. 280,000 people. By 1st March the service will have been translated into over 60 languages and 1000 dialects and will be celebrated in 170 countries and islands. In the British Isles, some 6,000 services will be taking place.

In **South Africa** the first World Day of Prayer service was held in March 1930 in the Sea Point Congregational Church. In 1946 a **National Committee** for Southern Africa was established. Members of this Committee are nominated by a variety of church leadership.

About our Logo

The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.



Are you part of this wave of prayer which sweeps the country every year, from north to south and from east to west ?

Hire of Halls. Rooms and Church

Our premises are available for letting as follows:-

Regular Hires - based on a maximum of a 3 hour session

Large Hall:	£45
Minor Hall:	£30
Meeting Room:	£15
Church:	£45

One-off Hires - based on a maximum of a 3 hour session

Large Hall:	£60
Minor Hall:	£40
Meeting Room:	£20
Church:	£80

If you want to book any of the above, or require further information please telephone Mr Harry Fawcitt, telephone number 2403129.

Diary

February

- 3rd 10.30 am Altogether worship. To include Holy Communion.
- 10th 10.00 am Praise worship led by Harry Fawcitt
11.00 am Traditional worship led by Mrs Margaret Storey, Methodist Local Preacher.
- 15th 7.00 pm RENEW THE VISION. Praise and Worship. (Brian Richardson)
- 16th 10.00 am RENEW THE VISION. Input and Inspiration (Brian Richardson)
- 16th 7.00 pm RENEW THE VISION. Praise and Worship (Davey Falcus)
- 17th 10.00 am RENEW THE VISION. Testimony.
10.30 am RENEW THE VISION. Praise and Worship (the minister).
11.00 am Traditional worship led by the minister.
- 24th 10.00 am Praise worship led by Angela Mackenzie, Sandra & Norman Nossiter.
11.00 am Traditional worship led by Rev'd Barry Hutchinson, retired URC minister.

March

- 1st Women's World Day of Prayer (venue to be announced)
- 3rd 10.00 am Praise worship led by the minister.
11.00 am Traditional worship led by the minister, to include Holy Communion.
- 5th Shrove Tuesday
- 6th Ash Wednesday
- 10th 10 and 11 am Worship led by Rev'd John Paul, retired URC minister.
- 17th 10 am Praise worship led by the minister
11 am Traditional worship led by the minister
LAST DAY FOR ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL/MAY "CONTACT."
- 21st 7.00 pm Development Elders meet.
- 24th 10.00 am Praise worship led by Solomon.
11.00 am Traditional worship led by Mrs Hannah Middleton, URC Accredited Lay Preacher.
- 31st (Mothering Sunday)
10.00 am Praise worship led by Judith Das.
11.00 am Traditional worship led by Mr Ken McKenzie, Methodist Circuit Steward.

April

- 7th 10.00 am Worship led by the minister, to include Holy Communion.
11.00 am Worship led by the minister.
- 11th **7.00 pm CHURCH MEETING**
- 14th 10.00 am Praise worship led by John Smee & Jim Grieve
11.00 am Traditional worship led by Rev'd Ruth Crofton, retired URC minister.

Rotas February 2019					
	3rd	10th	17th	24th	
Duty Elder	Mr Hall	Mrs Hall	Mrs Nossiter	Mr Solomon	
Door Stewards	Mr & Mrs Renton	Mrs Das & Mrs Cadwallader	Mrs Matfin & Mr Armstrong	Mr & Mrs Hall	
Communion Stewards	Mrs Das & Mrs Croft				
Flower Arrangers	Mrs Wilkes	Mrs Hutton	Mrs Barker	Mrs Renton	
Flower Donations	<i>No donor</i>	<i>No donor</i>	<i>No donor</i>	<i>No donor</i>	
Flower Delivery	Mrs Fawcitt	Mrs Willford	Mr Nossiter	Miss Foster	
Offering Count	Mrs Matfin	Mr & Mrs Nossiter	Mr & Mrs Fawcitt	Mr & Mrs Renton	
Screens Set up	Mrs Dixon	Miss Hall	Mr Renton	Mr Renton	
Screens operate	Mrs Dixon	Miss Hall	Mr Fawcitt	Mr Renton	
Rotas March 2019					
	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Duty Elder	Miss Coates	Mrs Croft	Mrs Dixon	Miss Foster	Mrs Barker
Door Stewards	Miss Foster	Mr & Mrs Fawcitt	Mr & Mrs Cowey	Miss Coates & Miss Clough	Youth Church
Communion Stewards	Miss Hall & Mrs Nossiter				
Flower Arrangers	Mrs Nossiter	Mrs Wilkes	Mrs Hutton	Mrs Barker	Mrs Renton
Flower Donations	<i>No donor</i>	<i>No donor</i>	Mrs Croft	<i>No donor</i>	<i>No donor</i>
Flower Delivery	Miss Coates	Miss Ward	Mrs Barker	Mrs Dixon	Mrs Croft
Offering Count	Mr & Mrs Cowey	Mrs Matfin	Mr & Mrs Nossiter	Mr & Mrs Fawcitt	Mr & Mrs Renton
Screens Set up	Mr Barclay	Mr Barclay	Miss Hall	Mrs Dixon	Mr Barclay
Screens operate	Mr Armstrong	Mr Barclay	Miss Hall	Mrs Dixon	Mr Fawcitt