

“By The Way...”



The United Reformed
Churches of
Radcliffe, Stand & Farnworth

NOVEMBER 2018



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*Deadline date for the
December / January Issue
Sunday 18 November*

Please give any items for the next publication to Elaine Robinson
The communications team will then decide whether the items will
go online, in print or on the notice board.

Read 'By The Way...' on line:

<http://radcliffeurc.org.uk>

Nigel's Letter

Time like an ever rolling stream.....

Time rolling on, streams marking and carving out new paths. This enables us to reflect well I think on how our lives evolve. The ever rolling stream, carves out new routes, takes new directions, and joins rivers that make their way to the sea. The water can run deep reflecting our out of depth moments; where the current of the water spirals downwards and we struggle against it, caught off guard, taken unawares and we have to re-focus our lives and accept change. Then there is the shallower water where we might feel less anchored, more uncertain, wondering how the path of our lives is taking shape. Then we can find the still waters, the stream having meandered from its main path, where we can rest, relax and feel the foundation of our lives firm and secure. We can step out of the "mainstream" and find joy in the restful, calm water.

When we look back we can reflect on the journey of the world as a rolling stream, the major events that have shaped our history as human beings, as countries, societies and communities.

We think at this time of the year of Remembrance Sunday the way wars throughout history have scarred humanity and pained the God we love and worship.

Against the shadow of war in different parts of the world we will gather again to remember and seek healing and peace for our brothers and sisters still enduring death and hardship. We feel their pain and cry with despair at their situation; as does God whose love holds a depth we cannot fathom. In God's love is our hope.

God loves us unconditionally and the light of that love pierces the darkness of this world and our lives too. God gives us the gift of his

love. If we accept it, lives are transformed. So as we enter this time of remembrance, may we follow the stream signposted "God's Love."

The light shines in the darkness. May that light lead us through the rolling streams of our lives; share our "out of depth" and uncertain moments as well as the times when we feel secure and on firm foundations. May the light of Christ be the love that holds us now and always.

In Christ

Nigel



Advent Dates

The dates for this year's ADVENT GROUP at Stand URC are 22 & 29 November and 6 & 13 December at 10.30am – 11.30am including light refreshments.

The group theme is called "**God's Advent People**" **Contemplating God in a busy life** – *Meet Alec, Lynn and Steve living real and hectic lives in the pre-Christmas season. We may want to offer them advice as we hear their stories, we may, however, simply observe them and contemplate what they teach us about the Advent God.*

It may help to have the reading material beforehand so if you think you might like to attend please see Nigel or Janice for more information.



Diary Dates for November

- 6 Chapelfield School at Stand URC Theme: Remembrance.
- 10 Service at Stand URC at 4:00pm to commemorate the ending of the First World War. This will be followed by Poetry, Community Songs and a Trench Supper.
- 14 Ladies Friendship Club at Radcliffe URC 2pm.
Speaker: Rev. Claire Nicholls.
- 15 Chapelfield Community Lunch at Stand URC 12:30pm.
- 22 Christmas Fair prep work 9:30am.
22 Advent Group Stand URC 10:30-11:30am incl light refreshment.
- 23 Farnworth URC Coffee Moring – 10:00am.
23 Setting up stalls for Christmas Fair 12 noon.
- 24 Radcliffe URC Christmas Fair 10:00am-1:00pm.
24 Songs from Musicals. (The Greatest Show)
Radcliffe URC 7:30pm.
- 28 Ladies Friendship Club at Radcliffe URC 2pm.
Speaker: Lynne Vernon – DNA.
- 29 Advent Group Stand URC 10:30-11:30am incl light refreshments.



Rotary Shoeboxes

A Big Thank you to all three churches

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the shoebox appeal this year. We have received enough items to date to fill the fifty shoe boxes we asked for.

If you have any further items to pass on we will be pleased to receive them and hold on to these for next year, We are having a break on further collecting until the early part of 2019.



Coffee, Cake & Raffle at the Manse

This will take place on Saturday 1 December 10:00am-12:00 noon. Donations to meet the cost of sending the Rotary Shoe Boxes. Each box costs £2 to send!



Radcliffe URC

I would like to thank everyone for their support and good wishes before and after having my hip operation.

Thank you also for the lovely cards and presents I received celebrating my 70th Birthday.

Janet Cowpe.

I would like to say thank you to the church for allowing me the use of the church hall to hold a lunch for the Transplant Unit. We raised £855. Many thanks – Jess Williams.

Farnworth URC

Diary Dates:

Sunday 2 December Church Meeting & AGM.

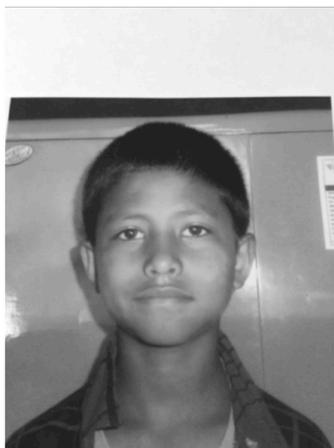
Friday 14 December Coffee Morning 10:00am.

Stand URC

Commemoration of ending of WW1 Event.

There is a Service at Stand URC on Saturday 10 November at 4:00pm to commemorate the ending of the First World War. This will be followed by Poetry, Community Songs and a Trench Supper.

SIMAN KHADKA is the new boy that Stand URC sponsors from Nepal. He lives at the Hetauda Children's Home as a boarder and attends the local Solidarity Academy School where Siman's sister goes to.
Doreen Richards.



Holiday At Home

China

The Holiday at Home team are visiting CHINA on SATURDAY 12 JANUARY 10:30am-3:00pm at RADCLIFFE URC. We hope you can join us for friendship, fun, Chinese traditions and delicious food. Designed for over 50's but all welcome. Donation on the day to cover cost of food etc....



Radcliffe, Stand & Farnworth Church Weekend 2019

This will take place at the THORNLEIGH CHRISTIAN HOTEL Grange over Sands on the weekend of 5-7 July 2019.

The cost of the weekend is £145.

This includes full board from Friday tea to Sunday Lunch.

Please put your name on the list if you wish to attend or see your church secretary.

There is a savings club for the weekend, any payments should be given to Vera or your church secretary. If you would like to attend but have difficulty in paying the cost, please speak (in confidence) to Nigel.

CHRISTMAS FAIR RADCLIFFE URC

Saturday 24 November 10:00am -1:00pm

Christmas Fair 2018

This year's Fair takes place on Saturday 24th November from 10.00am until 1pm. Musical entertainment will be provided by Radcliffe Training Band between 10am and 11am. Please encourage friends and family to come along and join us. As we aim to further our Community Project please make every effort to invite members of the Radcliffe Community to come along.

Setting up for the Fair

We intend to do a limited amount of preparation work on **Thursday morning 22nd November** at 9.30am. This really is about moving the pieces of 'furniture' that we use for some of the stalls into the Church or Hall such as the bookcases and racking. We would therefore ask that anyone, and especially the men, who are available to come and assist. It should not take all morning. On **Friday 23rd November from 12 noon** we will be setting up the stalls, covering them and setting out the goods that have been donated and where appropriate pricing things. We ask that stallholders and anyone else who is available comes along to assist. If any of the menfolk are available from 12 to move and set up tables that would be appreciated.

Catering for the Band Supporters

Last year it was a bit congested with friends of the Band mulling around while they waited for the Fair to open and the Band to play. This year we are planning to be more organised and open the Café early for drinks for those who bring the band members. However, the stalls will not be open for business until 10am.

Ordering Hot Meals

In previous years there were issues with those on stalls trying to order their hot meals on the morning of the Fair. This year we will try something different. You will be able to order and pay for your hot meal ahead of the day of the Fair. More details of this will be provided in the Notices a couple of weeks before the Fair.

Stalls and Helpers

This is a list of all the stalls we are planning to have. Donations for all the stalls would be most welcome. Please give these either to those on the various stalls or to a member of the committee. If you need someone to collect your donation please speak with Anne.

Raffle	Jean Helliwell + Tony Leach
Home Baking	Dorothy Taylor + Joyce Ridley
Bottles	Susan Taylor + Janice Cockcroft
Preserves	Renata Cappelli & Susan Garlic
Books	Susan Whewell
Tombola	Margaret Chadwick & Joanne
Christmas Hamper	Vera Stubbs + June Butt
Name the Dogs	Jean Holbrook + Florence Kitchen
Toiletries	Mavis Lomas
Grab a Bag	Susan Dixon
Christmas and Crafts	Margaret Holcroft + Janet Cowpe
Soft Toys	Mary English
Mug Shots	Liz Adkinson
Drop in the Bucket	Abi
Pick a Lolly & Photographs	Bet Murray
Door	Margaret Fleming
Café	Alison Close and Jennifer Fitton & Team
Café Money Takers	Pam Dunlop + Joan Crump

Prayers for Autumn

God of Autumn

God of autumn

Help us to be more like nature,
Accepting the changing seasons
Like the changing of the trees,
Not a dying as life sometimes feels.



But a stripping bare in preparation for inner growth
Knowing that to shed the outer layers
Will reveal the strength that is hidden underneath
God of autumn, it is hard to let things go,
the shields, the camouflage, the flimsy covers

We cannot hide from you;
You are our strength,
You see our inner beauty,
You see beyond the human dressings
And wish to clothe us in your love
God of autumn help us to be more like nature, accepting the changing seasons.
Not because they are out of our control,
But because they are in your hands.

Prayer by Katrina Crosby (Acorns & Archangels - Wild Goose Publications)

Letting Go

The birch leaves are falling Lord,
Yellow diamonds on the green grass, released in the autumn wind,
But I Lord, I still clutch tight the leaves of my old life, useless, withered and dry. Teach me to let go of the old –
Old hurts and animosities, old troubles and grief,
Teach me to release them into the wind of your Spirit
To be whisked away, that like the tree, I may rest a while,
At peace within, then grow again in the spring.

Prayer by Annie Heppenstall (Acorns & Archangels - Wild Goose Publications)

November Services

DATE	RADCLIFFE URC 11:00am	STAND URC 9:30am	FARNWORTH URC 10:45am
November 4	Sue Metcalfe Communion		Mr Mark Bates
November 10	Rev N Adkinson Remembrance/Trench Night Poppy in Windows Stand URC at 4 pm		
November 11	Rev N Adkinson Joint Remembrance Service At 10.00am at Radcliffe		TBA
November 18	Barry Bradshaw		Mrs Dyls Tomkins
November 25	Rev N Adkinson Church Meeting at 12.30pm		Mr Jeff Bonner
December 2	Giles Robinson		Rev N Adkinson

Until further notice, Stand URC & Radcliffe URC will have Joint Services at 11:00am at Radcliffe URC unless otherwise stated.

Also '**Thursdays at Stand URC**'

An informal time of biblical reflection and prayer
10.30am for half an hour followed by light refreshments

A REMEMBRANCE DAY STORY

He was very old now, but could still hold himself stiffly at attention before the monument. His war, the one to end all wars, now just a fading part of history. Very few could remember, first-hand, the savageness of the ordeal that had sent millions of young men to their deaths. Cannon fodder, they'd called them, sent before the guns to be mown down -- blown apart by chunks of metal which had decimated their frail bodies. The cream of a generation; almost wiped out. He was haunted by the faces of the boys he'd had to order into battle, the ones who'd never come back. Yet one nameless ghost was able to bring a measure of comfort to his tormented mind. At the sound of the gun signalling the eleventh hour he was mentally transported back to the fields of Flanders.

The battle had raged for over two hours, with neither side gaining any advantage. Wave after wave of soldiers had been dispatched from the muddy trenches and sent over the top. So many had died already that day that he decided he could not afford to lose any more men before reinforcements arrived. Perhaps they'd give the remnants a few more days of life. There came a slight lull in the battle due to the sheer exhaustion of the men on both sides.

During this interval, a young soldier came up to him requesting that he be allowed to go over the top. He looked at the boy who couldn't have been more than nineteen. Was this extreme bravery in the face of the enemy or was the soldier so scared he just needed to get it over with?

"Why would you want to throw your life away soldier? It's almost certain death to go out there."

"My best friend went out over an hour ago, captain, and he hasn't come back. I know my friend must be hurt and calling for me. I must go to him, sir, I must." There were tears in the boy's eyes. It was as if this were the most important thing in the world to him."

"Soldier, I'm sorry, but your friend is probably dead. What purpose would it serve to let you sacrifice your life too?"

"At least I'd know I'd tried, sir, he'd do the same thing in my shoes. I know he would."

He was about to order the boy back to the ranks, but the impact of his words softened his heart. He remembered the awful pain he'd felt himself when his brother had died. He'd never had the chance to say goodbye.

"All right soldier, you can go." Despite the horror all around them, he saw a radiant smile on the boy's face, as if a great weight had been lifted from his shoulders.

"God bless you, sir," said the soldier.

It was a long time before the guns fell silent for the last time and each side was allowed to gather their dead and wounded. The captain remembered the young soldier. He looked through the many piles of bodies. Young men. So many as to give an unreal quality to the scene before him.

When he came to the makeshift hospital, he looked carefully through the casualties. He soon found himself before the prone body of the soldier, alive, but severely wounded. He knelt down beside the young man and gently laid a hand on his shoulder.

"I'm so sorry, son. I knew I was wrong to let you go."

"Oh no, sir. I'm glad you did and I'm glad you're here now so I can thank you. You see sir, I found my friend. He was badly wounded, but I was able to comfort him at the end. As I held him dying in my arms, he looked me in the eyes and said: "I knew you'd come."

The young soldier faded between consciousness and oblivion for some time before he finally slipped away. The captain stayed by his side until the end, tears streaming quietly down his cheeks. Only in war could the happy endings be so terribly sad.

As the bugle sounded "Taps", the old captain envisioned once again the young soldier's face.

Looking up, he could almost hear the stone monument calling out to him:

"I knew you'd come."



OCTOBER 2018 SYNOD

The meeting took place at Media City UK Church. Oasis Academy.

The Moderator gave us a little nudge by reminding us that we are participating in a great adventure, He reflected on a reading from Genesis, Abram starting out in a new direction.

Then the business part of the meeting.

The Area pastoral committees' reports and the reports from the various Synod Committees are included in the Book of Reports.

Sedburgh Congregational/United Reformed Church has joined with the Methodists.

Christ Church Morecambe has closed.

Macedonia/Failsworth Congregational/United Reformed Church will continue has a Synod Mission Project.

Urswick URC has closed.

Section "O"

Mersey, North Western, Yorkshire, Northern and Scotland to consider how they share personnel and work as a team across the synods.

Synod Manse scheme

The Synod Trust Management Committee has commenced work to assess the viability of the Synod Manse scheme in line with the Resolutions passed at the Synod meeting in March 2018 and to progress with a valuation of all manses held by local churches.

Finance

The draft budget for 2019 to 2021 was accepted. Targets for M&M To be calculated as the target for the previous year adjusted by a percentage change in membership numbers plus 3%.

Students in Training

8 at Northern College and 1 at Westminster College.

Safeguarding

Introduced by Julie Rafferty Synod Safeguarding Officer.

Annual returns to be sent out next month.

Safer recruitment

The Synod Safeguarding Advisor is going to assist churches through training and visits to ensure the correct process is put in place.

Training

Basic awareness and intermediate training programmes have now been developed.

All training dates and locations will be on the website and circulated through the Synod newsletter.

There was an extra item before closing Worship.

Rev John Piper shared a little of the Moderators journey in the Synod. He thanked Andrew for his Ministry and offered our warm wishes and blessings as he and Ruth continue their Ministry in Southern Synod.

The Moderator offered his thanks and reflected on his journey within the Synod.

Reflecting on a reading from Acts, He often asks the question:-

Why did Paul go to Troas on the coast instead of Turkey or the Province of Asia, Paul followed the vision God had given him and travelled on to Macedonia where he preached the Gospel

The meeting closed with a short Act of Worship.

We are on our adventure not easy but encouraging, challenging and exciting, an opportunity to listen for God's Plan for our Church Fellowship as we take the next steps of our Faith Journey continuing to focus on the Community Project.

“Listening Ear” Community Café

Launch at Radcliffe URC – mid January 2019

“Who is our Neighbour?”

Much of our community work research has led to us focusing on the issues of loneliness and social isolation. New groups using the church will include “pop up” clinics for Health and Wellbeing, Pain Management Groups run by the NHS, a weekly Tea Dance, and a group for mothers with young babies, offering support and exercise. All these groups fall within Bury Council’s programme of Integrated Wellness, where a range of services are offered to meet varying needs

To complement this work we are launching a weekly café with a difference. We will be offering a “Listening Ear” providing a warm welcome, but more importantly to dedicate time and space for people, if they want it, to feel listened to, cared for and valued. We will also be offering home cooked healthy food.

Our lives are busy but we hope to provide some space and time for you to relax and find that “listening ear” if you want it.

You can join us to make fresh bread from 9.30am that will be served at lunch time.

Our Vision is:

- To be open every Tuesday between 9.30am and 3.30pm.
- To provide a space where people feel welcome, heard and valued.
- To offer Tea, Coffee, Toast and Toasted Teacakes from 9.30am – 12noon.

- To offer lunches with fresh soup, homemade bread, baked potatoes and fillings from 12noon – 2.00pm.
- To offer tea, cake and scones from 2.00 – 3.30pm.

Looking Forward

The start of this new venture is based on our work and planning with Caroline Platt. Caroline has done much work behind the scenes liaising with and following up groups who have responded to Bury Council’s Integrated Wellness agenda.

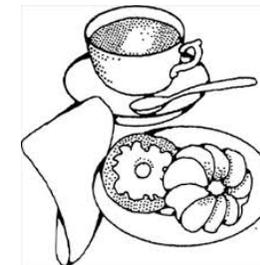
We need your help:

Please tell you family and friends about this.

Please think about using this facility.

Please think about being a “listener” and to undertake our Easy Listening Course.

We need VOLUNTEERS for all areas of café life, bread making, cooking, table setting, food serving and dishwashing. Please see Nigel or come along to the Soup and Bread Group on Tuesdays from 9.30am.



“EASY LISTENING COURSE” Radcliffe URC 6th, 13th, 27th November and 4th December 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Led by trained counsellor Carole Martin. If you are interested in attending please see Nigel or email Carole directly at carolemartin19@gmail.com