

Salisbury Park United Reformed Church

Newsletter

August and September 2017



In memory of Mary Jarvis



Salisbury Park United Reformed Church

Percy Road, Wrexham. LL13 7EA

Morning worship every Sunday at 10.45am

Minister Rev Brian Mathews

16 Milebarn Road, Wrexham. LL13 9LX

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Serving Elders

Mrs Michelle Berry – 01978 361320

Mrs Shirley Devaney – 01978 366262

Mrs Judith Dolben – 01978 363955

Mr John Houghton – 01978 750778

Mrs Barbara Jones – 01978 755548

Mrs Yvonne Owen – 01978 513421

Mr Mark Rodgers – 01978 290687

A warm welcome to everyone

A word from our minister



Dear everyone,

Charlie Gard is the baby with infantile onset encephalomyopathy mitochondrial DNA depletion syndrome (MDDS) and whose parents have waged a long battle to have him treated in the USA and as I write this have just conceded that he will be allowed to die peacefully in a Children's Hospice. It has been a heart breaking case with the legal argument going to the highest courts in this land and to the European Court. It has affected peoples' emotions and has tested the highest legal minds in the Supreme Court and Appeal Court. As it has unravelled we probably all felt in our hearts that he should be given every chance for survival but also realised that there was a legal process to be decided on by the appropriate people.

We can argue that it is our country at its best where the life of one very sick child can be the subject of such a lengthy legal process and I would be brave enough to argue that this is due to our Christian heritage and the sanctity of life.

Yet, it is the same country where 80 or so people die in a terrible inferno despite many appeals that the block was unsafe. It is the same world where many children will die in the third world as I type this letter and as you read the newsletter, due to malnutrition and hunger. If only each one them had the same opportunity as Charlie and could go to a High Court to demand food.

Where is the Gospel in all this? We are called to love and to take God's love out into the world and the Gospel message is that everyone is important to God however insignificant they may appear to be in the eyes of the world. Jesus tells us that it is not those who call Him, 'Lord, Lord' who know the Kingdom of Heaven but those who feed and clothe even the littlest.

The Good News of Jesus is desperately needed in the world with the hope that every child is seen to be as important as Charlie Gard has been the last few months.

Every blessing,

Brian.

Sunday Morning Worship

August 6th 2017

Leading Worship – Rev Chris Howard

Duty Elder – Mrs Barbara Jones

Morning Tea – Mrs Yvonne Owen

Flowers – Mrs Barbara Jones

Door Steward – Mrs Thelma Jones

OT Reading – Genesis 32. 22-21 **Yvonne Owen**

NT Reading – Matthew 14.13-21 **Gordon Burgess**

Epistle – Romans 9.1-5

Psalm - Psalm 145.8-9,14-21

August 13th 2017

Leading Worship – Rev Brian Matthews, (Communion)

Duty Elder – Mrs Barbara Jones

Morning Tea – Barbara and Sheila

Flowers – Mrs Carole Blackwell

Door Steward – Mrs Thelma Jones

OT Reading – 1 Kings 19.9-18 **Michelle Berry**

NT Reading – Matthew 14.22-33 **Christine Anderson**

Epistle – Romans 10.5-15

Psalm - Psalm 85.8-13



August 20th 2017

Leading Worship – Mr Paul Wynne

Duty Elder – Mrs Barbara Jones

Morning Tea – Christine and Michelle

Flowers – Mrs Pat Taylor

Door Steward – Mrs Thelma Jones

OT Reading – Isaiah 56.1,6-8 **Paul Fewings**

NT Reading – Matt 15,21-28 **Barbara Jones**

Epistle – Romans 11.1-2a,29-32

Psalm - Psalm 67

August 27th 2017

Leading Worship – Mrs Barbara Jones

Duty Elder – Mrs Barbara Jones

Morning Tea – Glenys and Merfyn

Flowers – Mrs Doreen Pryce Jones

Door Steward – Mrs Thelma Jones

OT Reading – Isaiah 51.1-6 **Glenys Jones**

NT Reading – Matthew 16.13-20 **Merfyn Jones**

Epistle – Romans 12.1-8

Psalm - Psalm 138



September 3rd 2017

Leading Worship – Rev Chris Howard

Duty Elder – Mrs Judith Dolben

Morning Tea – Gordon Burgess

Flowers – Mrs Michelle Berry

Door Steward – Mr Merfyn Jones

OT Reading – Jeremiah 15.15-21 **Sharon Langford**

NT Reading – Matthew 16.21-28 **Carole Blackwell**

Epistle – Romans 12.9-21

Psalm - Psalm 26.1-8

September 10th 2017

Leading Worship – Rev Brian Matthews, (Communion)

Duty Elder – Mrs Judith Dolben

Morning Tea – Mark and Collette

Flowers – Mrs Barbara Jones

Door Steward – Mr Merfyn Jones

OT Reading – Ezekiel 33.7-11 **Corby Winter**

NT Reading – Matthew 18.15-20 **Mark Rodgers**

Epistle – Romans 13.8-14

Psalm - Psalm 119.33-40



September 17th 2017

Leading Worship – Mrs Carole Blackwell

Duty Elder – Mrs Judith Dolben

Morning Tea – Shirley and Thelma

Flowers – Mrs Helen Simon

Door Steward – Mr Merfyn Jones

OT Reading – Genesis 50.15-21 **Judith Dolben**

NT Reading – Matthew 18.21-35 **Shirley Devaney**

Epistle – Romans 14.1-12

Psalm - Psalm 103.(1-7),8-13

September 24th 2017

Leading Worship – Rev Brian Matthews,

Duty Elder – Mrs Judith Dolben

Morning Tea – Sharon and Terry

Flowers – Miss Lillian Owens

Door Steward – Mr Merfyn Jones

OT Reading – Jonah 3.10–4.11 **Lydia Rodgers**

NT Reading – Matthew 20.1-16 **Hannah Rodgers**

Epistle – Philippians 1.21-30

Psalm - Psalm 145.1-8

Announcements

Church News

It was lovely to hear the news that Yvonne's daughter Laura and her husband Craig have had a baby boy. Congratulations and we hope they are all doing well.

We forgot to include in the last newsletter the news of another birth to Jac and Sophie, a little girl called Phoebe Melanie. It was lovely to see them all in church recently.

We also remember those members of our church who due to illness or mobility difficulties are not able to join us every week or on a Sunday morning. We particularly remember Mrs Olwen Husbands and Mr Les Neary.

It was with sadness when we heard the news that Mrs Mary Jarvis had passed away. Mrs Jarvis was a long-standing member of the church and will be fondly missed due to her kindness and of course her lovely baking and cakes. Our thoughts are with Barbara, Trefor, Dawn and the rest of the family at this time.

If anyone has any news about members of the congregation or friends of the church or knows someone who is unwell and would welcome a visit. Then please can you tell Shirley Devaney as Church Secretary, so she can ensure Brian our Minister and others know if required.

Keeping Safe

If anyone is visiting the church on their own, then please can they ensure that they lock the door once they have entered the church. This will ensure they are safe whilst they are on the premises. It is also handy if people have a mobile phone which can be used in the case of an emergency.


Michelle

Talking of mobile phones...

I now have, very reluctantly, a mobile phone and the number is 07871 044364. After a little tuition from Adam, I am just about able to text. How about that! Peter would be proud of me.

Shirley.

Announcements



We are pleased to welcome Vicky and her daughter Megan to the church, it has been lovely to have you with us, these last couple of weeks. It is also lovely to see Michelle and Catherine who are now regular faces in the congregation. A big welcome all of you.

Congratulations to our Minister, Rev Brian Matthews who has been elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Wales and will serve for one year from July 2018 to July 2019. Well done Brian, and we pray this will be a successful post for you

Need your garden clearing? Fancy some landscaping, but don't know where to start? Perhaps you need a small wall built. For all manner of building and gardening services ask for John Houghton Jnr. 01978 750778

Advanced notice!

There will be NO Craft Club in August! All will resume in September from Eleven O' Clock in the morning, lunch included. Please bring your craft of your choice. **September 14th**.

The next coffee morning will be on Saturday **5th August** from 10.30am. All welcome.

We will also be having a coffee morning on Saturday **2nd September** at the same time. Come along and join us.

Clear your diaries of all commitments for the **29th September** as this is the date of our annual Harvest Supper. Enjoy a beautiful meal with friends at the church from 7pm. Donations to our nominated charity. Invite a friend!

I Dreamed A Dream.....

Many years ago while living in Kent with my family, my father was given the starter set of a model railway, track, wagons, and an o-6-o Southern Region engine in double O gauge. He created a layout which lived under the stairs in our house and was set up regularly after Sunday School and lunch on Sundays, when my sister and I had done the washing up chores..... To start with it was just a circle, known in model railway terms as a 'tail-chaser' with one small branch siding. As Christmases passed more items were added to the layout, bridges, houses, a station platform, little figures and Matchbox vehicles. As any enthusiast will know well, it is always best to share the interest with other like minded persons and so we learned of the Erith Model Railway Society and dad and I became members, attending regularly on Wednesdays at 7.00pm. The clubroom was in a basement adorned with railway memorabilia, especially signs advising persons not to cross the track and various other place names. We went on club outings, the four of us, two looking at the stations and locomotives for ideas for the layout while my sister read her comics and mum sat busy - knitting - the Bluebell Railway was an early preservation line and steam engines were used. So this interest continued and still does, I remember so many friends of long ago -operating points and signals, debating the merits of preferred gauges and all the details of enthusiasts... so it will not surprise readers to learn how often I visit York with its National Railway Museum or Llangollen when engines are in steam, just to stand and watch and listen and remember.....

I always watch a certain murder mystery film set on a train, the evocative smells and sounds of whistle and engine shunting along the track, while that monochrome film with the parting couple will cause my eyes to water too...

Thus it was that earlier this year we holidayed in America and Alaska, the highlight of which was to journey on the Rocky Mountaineer railroad, a dream realised.

We were to board the train in Jasper, a sleepy little place with no reason for its existence but as a railway stop. (Named for Jasper Hawes who is believed to have established a supply depot for the fur trade in the early 1800s and revitalised in 1911 by the arrival of the Grand Trunk Railway) The day before that journey we walked the twenty minute route from the hotel to town centre and heard the characteristic whistle that heralds the arrival of the train pulling a variety of wagons. I had counted over 160 wagons before I saw the end of it, speculating on just how many might make up the load... On deciding to return to the hotel and hearing the whistle, David pulled out his watch to time the length of time the train took to pass us, it being easier than counting wagons..... we walked and walked alongside the track and at the end of a timed ten minutes we reached our hotel but the line of wagons were still passing us... I'm not sure I'd believe anyone with such a story, but it really happened!!

Early next morning (7.00am), suitcases loaded on the coach we set off on the ten minute ride to board the Rocky Mountaineer. But first we had to offload luggage with its appropriate labels to the lorries that would take it to Kamloops by road and it would be at our overnight stop accommodation. Only then did we realise the exemplary organisation that manages 600 passengers and sixteen coaches and sundry lorries all to be in the right order to board the carriages. In less than ten minutes all travellers were aboard in the allocated seats.....we were in Goldleaf Coach J 05 and smartly dressed crew greeted and welcomed us on board. Blue and Gold are the train livery and every window gleams so you know there will be a great view from inside. Excitement escalates as checks are made and hand luggage stowed under the seats and the slow, gentle almost imperceptible movement of sixteen carriages and two engines moving out of Jasper station and crew bystanders waving furiously, some walking alongside calling to those on the train until the platform ends. Streets wound away from the train and houses became fewer and fewer - lost among trees and finally there was only the countryside I had so longed to view.... ahead I could see the other four coaches and the engines while behind, like Little Bo Peeps' sheep, another eleven carriages. There was no corridor available for travellers so we were in our own little

self contained world. Every passenger was absorbed in noticing the terrain, pointing out features as we passed. Names of places passed are incredibly descriptive, Moose Lake , Pyramid Falls, Blue River, Little Hells Gate and Clearwater tell their own story while the Train Crash Site reminded us of the dangers faced by these early railway pioneers and their many labourers. In 1914 damage at Hells Gate caused by blasting away rock to secure a passage meant the loss of the spawning salmon, from three million to less than half that number in 1921. Ecology research ensured the construction of a 'salmon ladder' so that by 1945 a gentler route slowed the river and allowed spawning salmon to journey upstream, so that by 2010 records suggest 34 million salmon returned to their spawning grounds...

Statistically Rocky Mountaineer operates 58 pieces of rail equipment, nine locomotives, 28 passenger coaches and 21 power and supply cars. The 16 Goldleaf carriages (each 22metres long) resemble a double decker bus, the upper deck is made of shatterproof glass so that you can see for miles while the lower deck is the restaurant car for "Silver Service" meals, pristine white linen table cloths and napkins, heavy cutlery and polished glass; menu choices made dining a real delight... other friends travelled on Silverleaf carriages but were full of praise for their stewards and service.

Our Stewards, one male and three female, took turns in describing the area we passed through, stories of history, legends and landmarks. We were reminded to look for various wildlife and on spotting some creature to shout out "Beasts on the right!" or whatever it was....we saw ospreys and eagles, cattle of differing sorts, all manner of animals but often we had passed them and only a glimpse managed...keeping a camera at the ready was difficult and I resolved to watch and remember rather than try and photograph.

"Hot towels!" was called and this we learned heralded food about to be served. Divided in two sections, half descended to eat while the remainder were served snacks and drinks, so much that if not careful you had little room for the meal, but memory reminds me that it was delicious, spoilt for choice, piping hot as it was cooked by the chefs on our carriage, white or red wine generous measures too. Ascending the stairs - more scenery to view and more accounts by the crew, unfailingly courteous and knowledgeable the journey was a joy. Other carriages were a single deck and sadly I don't think so comfortable or with such superb views as we had, we stretched our legs as we wanted, chatting to other friends from our party, a most amiable way to travel as the terrain changed and eventually we reached Kamloops at 7.00pm....So, time to leave the train, board a coach for yet another hotel and sleep before the early start of breakfast on the train the next day, our turn to be in the first half for meals. But first another room to explore and a trip to reception to request fresh milk for tea, powder in a sachet does not make acceptable tea....

Blery eyed, next morning we joined yet another coach to transport us to our seats on coach J05 where breakfast awaited... I chose 'Sunrise Skillet' a dish of smoked salmon on spinach leaves with tomatoes and a baked egg in its centre.... delicious with fresh orange juice and replenished pots of tea, toast and marmalade. Hence we were able to really appreciate the next stage of our journey through Black Canyon Tunnel, Murray Creek, Jaws of Death Gorge, Hells Gate and Hells Gate Tunnel. Osprey Nest is so named as those birds nest high up on telegraph poles, returning year upon year and making the nests ever larger. The telegraph system is no longer in operation but the birds are left to continue using the structures and hence we had a real

'birds eye view' of many of them and also of bald eagles.

At Cisco Crossing our train slowed and it became evident there was a problem.... engineers from the front carriages stared at the J06 carriage behind us, scratched their heads, spoke into mobile phones and pondered matters for some time, awaiting instructions , it seemed. We were quite comfortable, we had had a delicious lunch and drinks flowed and photos were taken, I had paid for my chosen Rocky Mountaineer souvenir bag, all was right with our world but not it seemed with the train.....Eventually after much consultation we learned that J06 was to be taken out of service and left at a siding for repair/attention and its passengers disgorged onto other carriages to

continue the journey. Thus informed we moved on through Jackass Mountain and along the Fraser River, named after the surveyor who led the expedition searching for a navigable route. Simon Fraser wrote in 1805 "I have been a long time among the Rocky Mountains but I have never seen anything to equal this country for I cannot find words to describe our situation at times. we have had to pass where no human should venture"... Incredible scenery seen from the comfort of our carriage yet it reminded us of brave First Nation people who had guided Simon Fraser all those years before...

Now we were long past the time when we should have been safely in our hotel in Vancouver but our map showed a great distance to cover as we were some five hours late and our planned evening meal, chosen two days earlier, was clearly not going to be eaten at that venue. However the Rocky Mountaineer chefs used their resourcefulness to create a delicious Thai Chicken Curry and Rice, served at our seats followed by a Pecan nut cookie and another choice of beverage. Gradually darkness began to prevent our sighting more landmarks quite so clearly and the empty spectacular vistas changed to little groups of dwellings, highways and car headlights glimpsed afar off.

I had noted in our earlier stopping places many residents who appeared to have oriental facial characteristics but our crew supplied the answer. The entrepreneur Andrew Onderdonk who commenced the Canadian Pacific rail-work in 1880 estimated that he needed 10,000 men to complete the task. British Columbia had a very small population at the time so to meet his demands he imported Chinese workers from California. These individuals understood English having worked on the Union Pacific Railway construction in the United States. Additional workers were brought from Canton where they had been employed as tea carriers and were capable of carrying extremely heavy loads. They worked for a dollar a day, an enormous amount as wages in China were 7c a day. Their dream was to return home rich men but unfortunately many died from hard labour, scurvy and smallpox or the careless handling of explosives. The Chinese numbered between 10,000 and 15,000 during this period, many remained in British Columbia after the railways completion and formed the beginning of the province's important Chinese community.

Now at almost 22.00pm we were approaching industrialised areas, more roads and headlights, buildings abutting each other, fewer tree-lined areas, our train travelled more slowly and we began to realise our journey was almost ended... we skirted station platforms and eventually halted at the Vancouver Rocky Mountaineer station area. There coaches awaited us, lined up and showing the codes we recognised. Crew staff waved to greet us, shining torches like sparklers. Yes, we were five/six hours after our intended arrival but what an experience it had been... nothing can quite compare to the vast open plains, the mountain passes, torrential waterfalls, precipitous gorges we had observed. As I replay the scenes in my mind I can't quite believe I was there, to have journeyed in the footsteps (in luxurious comfort!) of those First Nations people and their descendants, a dream realised and remembered.

Vancouver lay before us and a cruise to Alaska, what new sights awaited us, I wondered?

Judith Dolben

Cracking read Judith. Does Colin Tudor know of your love for Trains? Glad you had such a nice time.

A special message of thanks

On behalf of Derek , Eileen ,Trevor ,Dawn and myself, thank you to all who have sent cards, donations and messages to us . Especial thanks to Brian, Carol and Shirley. It IS a comfort reading what people have written. We know she was a loving mum and nanna but to know that she was thought of fondly by so many people is wonderful.

Mum always said that God had been good to her in so many ways. From lowly beginnings on Madeira Hill, attending “HIGH” school (on the top of the hill!), in service at 14, war work with a fiancé in Ceylon and Burma then marriage. If money had been available I think she would have been a university candidate as she was always teaching herself something new, dressmaking, singing , learning how to play ever more intricate keyboards, with no formal tuition, just books. Mum only ever wanted to do things for others and it pleased her so much that she could bake , sew and make jam. Speaking in public was a nono or anything making her the centre of attention, although once she reached 90 she was proud of getting there-and rightly so. We will all miss her, I still look for her at my side in church, and constantly think “I must tell mum” .But I can and do still tell her things as I know everyone who has lost a loved one does.

Sorting through mums things is very hard and I have come across several verses that she kept. This is one of them. I don't know where it came from but it meant a lot to mum as she had 2 copies of it.

Barbara

A special message of thanks

Tomorrow Never Comes

If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you fall asleep,
I would tuck you in more tightly and pray the Lord your soul to keep.

If I knew it would be the last time that I see you walk out the door,
I would give you a hug and kiss and call you back for one more.

If I knew it would be the last time I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,

I would videotape each action and word, so I could play them back day after day.

If I knew it would be the last time, I would spare an extra minute or two to stop

And say "I love you" instead of assuming that you would know I do.

If I knew it would be the last time, I would be there to share your day,

Well I'm sure you'll have so many more, so I can let just this one slip away.

For surely there's always tomorrow to make up for an oversight,
And we always get a second chance to make everything right.

There will always be another day to say "I love you", and certainly there's

Another chance to say our "Anything I can do's"?

But just in case I might be wrong, and today is all I've got,

I'd like to say how much I love you and hope we never forget,
Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, young or old alike,

And today may be the last chance you get to hold your loved one tight.

So if you're waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today?

For if tomorrow never comes, you'll surely regret the day that you

Didn't take that extra time for a smile, a hug, or a kiss, and you

Were too busy to grant someone, what, what turned out to be their one last wish.

So hold your loved one close today, whisper in their ear,

Tell them how much you love them and that you'll always hold them dear.

Take time to say "I'm sorry", "please forgive me", "thankyou" or "it's ok",

And if tomorrow never comes, you'll have no regrets about today.

Poetry Corner

New Beginnings

Many chapters in our lives
Bring changes very new
These are the new beginnings
Which come to me and you

Our births are new beginnings
As we start life, here on earth
A life in which we live and grow
A chance to show our worth

Beginning school and making friends
And learning each new day
Discovering facts about our world
In a simple childlike way

Growing up and working hard
Deciding what to do
To be successful in our aims
As we journey this life through

New beginnings – moving house
Maybe getting wed
Meeting folk who need our help
Trusting where we're led

Life is one big challenge
Each stage maps out the way
To how we deal with everything
That faces us each day

God has many new beginnings
That he's planned for you and me
Let us take on board His challenge
That the best is yet to be

Carole Blackwell

JOB VACANCY FOR

SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN WORKER



SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN
WORKER PROJECT

*Representing all the churches in all the Schools
in Oswestry and Ellesmere district*

in association with



Scripture Union

- Do you relate well to young people?
 - Can you hold their attention in small and large groups?
 - Do you have a passion for sharing the good news of Jesus with them?
 - Can you lead them to Christ?
 - Would you love to use your skills to help the most vulnerable?
- Have you got plenty of initiative, drive and energy?
 - Are you good at organising your own time?
 - Can you earn the respect of head teachers and church leaders?
 - Would you like to work in the beautiful North Shropshire/Wales border area?

Then...we'd like you to apply to join our established and developing Schools Worker ministry.

You would work in local secondary schools, their feeder primaries and the supporting churches.

2 year initial contract (full time - 37.5hrs per week)
Salary from £18.5k depending on qualifications and experience
The Trustees will also consider applicants on a part time basis.

Application pack from:

Mrs. J. Bevington (Secretary)

Tel: 07716293726

Email: oscwp@outlook.com

Closing date for completed applications – Sunday 10th September 2017 (12 noon).

Interviews to be held in September

Website: www.scwp.org.uk

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