



The
United
Reformed
Church

The *COURIER*

April. May 2019



*United Reformed Church
New Road, Brentwood*

BRENTWOOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
New Road, Brentwood, CM14 4GD

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A Joint Pastorate with Ingatestone And Billericay
United Reformed Churches

www.brentwood-urc.org.uk

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CHURCH SECRETARY	Jenny Mayo	☎
TREASURER	Mr Kees Maxey	☎
COVENANTS	Mrs Sally Bealey	☎
ORGANISTS	Mr Tony Cheer	☎
SERVING ELDERS	Mr Ian Davidson Mr Kees Maxey Ms Rosalie Brentnall	☎ ☎ ☎
HALL STEWARD	Gabrielle Crowther	All bookings: www.brentwood-urc.org.uk

Dear Friends,

The journey of Lent is leading us to the point where Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).



It is sometimes easy to assume that such suffering wouldn't have been too much trouble for Jesus because he is the Son of God, and because we already know the victorious story of his resurrection. Once we take a careful look at the story of the passion of Jesus, however, we can understand how serious it was. In that sense, I feel the same as the disciple Peter who said “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you” (Matthew 16:22). I also feel I would say to Jesus, “You should be gentle to the Pharisees and Sadducees, and get on with them” “You should not go up to Jerusalem,” “You should plea to Pilate that you have no fault.”

Although Jesus knew that it would be dangerous and would lead to his death, he chose to place his steps there on the road to Jerusalem. The crowd, who once shouted, “Hosanna!” with a great expectation, now turned up to say very cynically, “Crucify him!” Eventually, every single step of Jesus towards the cross was taken when there was no one beside him. He was alone; there was no one, but God.

If we take the sufferings of Jesus as a fully human being seriously, a man who would sense the same fear, pain,

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and agony as us, then we can appreciate that there must have been something going on in Jesus' mind as well.

In my reflection of this, Psalm 40:4 struck my heart – “Blessed is that [one] who makes the Lord his trust.” ‘Trusting in God’ is indeed a blessing.

We can hear another cry from Psalm 22:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer and by night, but find no rest” (vv.1-2).

Such a cry out of agony suddenly turns into ‘praise’ to the glory of God.

“I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;

stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For he did not despise or abhor

the affliction of the afflicted;

he did not hide his face from me,

but heard when I cried to him” (22-24).

What I see from this poem is the psalmist wrestling with himself in order to trust in God. This trust, then seems to generate power and energy to strengthen the legs to stand

firm, to open the eyes to see the glory of God beyond the situation, and to open the mouth to praise God.

Lent is a time for us to reflect on 'suffering', but in our society, we have already seen and heard of a number of people's sufferings, and many of us suffer for different reasons. Why don't we rather wrestle with ourselves to trust in God and deal with the suffering that we have faced. When we put our trust in God, we may find joy in the midst of suffering, peace in agony, stillness in fear, and praise in darkness.

With a childlike hope, we can wait for the Lord, just as "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers."

Barnabas Shin

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

There seems to be relatively little to report in the way of news in this issue of The Courier. In fact, most members seem to be in reasonably good health. Sadly, Clive and Carolyn R. are both still suffering from their ongoing health problems and their worries have been exacerbated by anxieties over family health problems.

Sheila and Kees had family members in various numbers to help celebrate Sheila's birthday in the middle of March and it seems a good idea to warn the congregation that the Pastoral Care Group team is not asking members for their birthday dates to be nosy but because Barnabas would like us to compile a record of all the Church birthdays.

We must record the death of Jim Stratford who was a long

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standing member of the church and did sterling work as part of the Tuesday Work Group. Funeral details will be made available for everyone who wishes to go.

I met with the Brownie leader recently and the pack is thriving and has a long waiting list. We also have some visitors from Nigeria and we hope that they feel welcome in our church.

We wish you all a very Happy Birthday!

Rosalie Brentnall

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

UNLOCK SPONSORED WALK - 27th April

This year the annual UNLOCK walk, the 36th, will be following a route round the Merton, Morden and Wimbledon areas of London. This remarkable event is a unique way of seeing London and engaging with some of its churches. It regularly attracts over 700 walkers and people come back year after year - last year £25,500 was raised. UNLOCK is a charity established to equip Christians in inner city and outer housing estates to be more effective as they share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their own areas.

Peter and myself walk with friends every year and always enjoy visiting the various and very different churches on the route as well as talking with other walkers - helping each other to find a hidden path (or sometimes a bus stop!). So far, our group has managed to complete the whole 8 mile walk every year without resorting to public transport and hope that church members will continue to

support us with their usual generous sponsorship. We have to get our map stamped at every church we visit to confirm we have actually been there and there is a quiz to do as we go along as well. If you feel energetic enough to join us and want to find out more, do let me know.

JIM MITCHELL

We were all sad to hear the news that Jim Mitchell had died at the end of last year so soon after he and Ruth had settled into their home in Romford that they had spent so many years lovingly renovating. Ruth has sent a card to the church thanking us all for the love and support she received after his death and during his last illness. It is still on the noticeboard to read and very appropriately has a dog on the front. Ruth's own two dogs have been a great comfort to her, as animals often are during times of sadness and loss. We have heard she has now become a member of Western Road United Reformed Church in Romford and hope she will find a supportive and loving church community there. Sheila and Kees Maxey were able to attend Jim's funeral and have written about this elsewhere.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

Another regular annual event that follows our Good Friday service which we share with our friends from Brentwood Methodist Church. It always ends with the walkers coming to our church for refreshments and often reunions with old friends. We have lost a couple of our regular helpers this year and need as many of you as possible to help out with the serving of tea, coffee etc., clearing up afterwards and (most important!) the regular replenishment of the biscuit dishes. Please let me know if you are available - even for a short time.

FURTHER AHEAD

We are constantly receiving notices from other churches and organisations to advertise their own events that we might be interested in. Do keep an eye on our noticeboard for these and our own additional notices between editions of the Courier.

Jenny Mayo

Treasurer’s Report for January and February 2018



The collection for the past two months (January and February) is given below. The average per week both for the whole of the year so far and for the whole of the previous year (2018) for comparison. In addition, a number of members

given regular Standing Order donations. A further 25% is also claimed from the Revenue on top of the money given below and from the Standing Orders. If you are interested in giving through Standing Orders, please feel free to contact me.

	TOTAL	Loose	Envelopes
Per week Jan-Feb	1,498.86	284.86	1,214.00
Total 2019 so far	1,498.86	284.86	1,214.00
Per week so far	214.12	40.69	173.43
per week 2018	204.53	36.41	168.12

Kees Maxey

First thoughts about
‘walking the Way’ with the help of Holy Habits.



Follow Jesus

As a church we have supported our new minister, Barnabas, in using the URC resource called Holy Habits as a springboard for his ministry among us. The key text for Holy Habits is Acts 2: 42-47 which describes the common life of the first Christians. One aspect of that common life – ‘they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts’ - set me thinking about how often, in our church community, we share refreshments together on a regular basis: after church, at the Monday Guild, at Knitters, the Tuesday work group with Tony after his organ practice, at Bible Study and recently, after Sacred Space, we often go across the road to Costas. I have probably forgotten some other occasions.

I look forward to where Barnabas and Holy Habits will lead us.

Sheila Maxey

To our friends in Brentwood URC

Our journey to Chippenham started last April 2018 and meant months of clearing out Bill’s office. He had collected paperwork over 37 years. Some weekends in the beginning we had 16 bags of recycling and this continued until July. Next, with the help of daughter Jillian and Gary was the packing, which took several weeks until finally we moved in early October.

Jillian and Gary moved us into the Premier Inn for a week while they unpacked everything. All we had to do was move in with everything in place, so by the end of October we already felt at home. Bill, whose memory is not quite

so good, already has early stages of Parkinson's, but the positive side is he's doing so much more. We are so lucky to be living in a retirement village which has its own gym, swimming pool and indoor bowling green, indoor putting green, indoor chess, table tennis and snooker room and cinema. Bill is able to go to the swimming pool, chair yoga and bowls which is great.



We love Wiltshire. I'm enjoying driving around the area and caring for Bill. We do miss you all very much. Unfortunately, the URC church here closed 3 years ago. The good thing is we have a very

nice chaplain who takes a service here every Sunday evening and Communion the first Sunday in the month. He also takes a quiet hour every Wednesday morning and communion the first Wednesday in the month. I am keen to start playing golf again and we have a club within walking distance. We are also looking forward to visitors coming to see the many beautiful places in the area.

Lastly Bill's daughter and son in law are moving within a short distance to be near their daughter Sarah and us. Another member of the family, Gary's father, is joining us here, almost next door. So all Bill's family are down this way. His other daughter Brenda lives in Cardiff. Sheila's daughter is now visiting us each year because it is too far for us to travel to Australia.

Love from Sheila and Bill

In memoriam

Jim Mitchell, the husband of Ruth Mitchell, our minister, died on 29th December after a painful struggle with cancer. Ruth took early retirement at the end of May to spend time with him and together they lived those months to the full. Jim's Christian faith was so vibrant and he shared it with all he met – medical staff, people in shops, neighbours. He was so thrilled when he found a fellow believer on his hospital visits. He used to say he was tackling his situation with Comedy, Chemo and Cuddles.

Sally Bealey, Kees and I attended the service of thanksgiving in Western Road URC, Romford. The church was full – people had come from the many parts of Jim's life: family and friends, police colleagues, colleagues and friends from his lay reader days around Grays, members of the churches where Ruth had ministered etc. The hymns were uplifting choruses and Ruth herself bravely gave the tribute. Lovely photos of Jim through the years – often with trains – were projected on to a screen. Over a cup of tea an elderly woman told me how her husband had been a watchman at the police station where Jim was based. He became very ill and Jim gave her so much support – and that is why she was there, to give thanks for him, so many years later. Typical Jim! Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruth in her great loss.

Ray Reynolds, former church secretary of Ingatestone URC, died in a Brentwood care home on 13th January aged 94. Born and bred in Mountnessing, Ray used to cycle to work at Ilford Ltd. He and his wife, Liesl, moved to Brentwood 15 years ago after Ray's stroke rendered him virtually bed-ridden. Margaret Gazeley used to visit them

both, and Ray after Liesl's death in 2015, several times a week. Once a month I, accompanied by Margaret, took communion to them – and latterly to Ray. Ray remained mentally very active, interested in everything and everybody. His thanksgiving service was held in Ingatestone URC where his daughter, Ingrid, gave a fascinating account of his long life.

Phil Cole died on 11 January aged 100. He was a well-known optometrist in the town – the practice is still there - 'Cole, Martin and Tregaskis' - and made a considerable contribution to the national association of optometrists for which he was awarded the OBE. While in Brentwood he and his wife, Ruby, and their daughter, Alison were part of our church community and Phil continued to enjoy (and pay for!) the Courier until his death. Sadly, Alison died of leukemia just short of her 30th birthday. Ruby also died some years before Phil. In his Copford care home Phil continued to live a full and well-organised life, employing a secretary once a week to deal with his correspondence. His nephew, Steve Bobeldyk (a name well known in this church, especially through his mother, Viola) arranged the funeral. I took the funeral – Phil had written to me four years ago to book me! The high regard in which he was held by all kinds of people was shown by the large number who attended his funeral.

Jim Stratford died in St Georges hospital on Sunday 17th March. His funeral will take place at 2.30pm on Monday 8th April at Bentley Crematorium and will be conducted by a very old family friend, Revd David Skipp. Afterwards, from 3.30pm, there will be celebration of his life, with refreshments, in our church hall. Everyone is, of course, welcome.

Jim will be so much missed. He was a long-standing, faithful member of our church from 1975 when he and his wife and daughters moved to Brentwood from Chadwell Heath. He was an elder, for many years the treasurer, and, well into his eighties, a stalwart member of the Tuesday work group. In his old age, he promoted a Christian Aid Coffee Morning to make up for the fact he could no longer collect house-to-house. He had a warm pastoral heart but was also keen for members to be challenged about their giving to the church. Every few years he would ask church meeting to consider having a stewardship campaign so that members could review their giving of money, time and talents. He certainly gave of all three. He was also a great family man, and we all rejoiced with him over each successive grand-child, and then great – grandchild. He was a quietly faithful Christian.

Sheila Maxey

The logo for 'FOR LIFE' is a pink rectangle with a white arch over the text 'FOR LIFE' in white capital letters.

UN Investigates Possible Israeli War Crimes

On March 18th 2019 The UN began processing its report investigating the 2018 Gaza killings.

Saleh Higazi, *Amnesty International's* Middle East and North Africa Deputy Director, said: “The findings of this report echo *Amnesty International's* own conclusions – that many killings of Palestinian protesters by Israeli forces during the Great March of Return protests last year appeared to be wilful killings, constituting war crimes.” The report offers a harrowing depiction of Israeli forces deliberately shooting children, health workers, journalists and people with disabilities.

Commenting on the UN process, Christian Aid partner *B'Tselem's* director, Hagai El-Ad, called upon the head of the commission, Santiago Canton, to reject the “tapestry of lies” surrounding the violence.

“A real change in Israeli policy will only take place if the international community demands it clearly and unequivocally, and if it stops allowing Israel to do no more than offer hollow promises of ‘investigation’.”

Commitment for Life, along with Christian Aid, is committed to just, fair and equitable living conditions for all in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.



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***Commitment
for Life*** is the
Global Justice
Programme of
the United
Reformed
Church, UK

Revd Dr Kevin Snyman at Church House 020 7916 2020 ext. 256 or Suzanne Pearson (Tues or Wed) 020 7916 2020 ext. 224

Website <https://urc.org.uk/our-work/commitment-for-life.html>

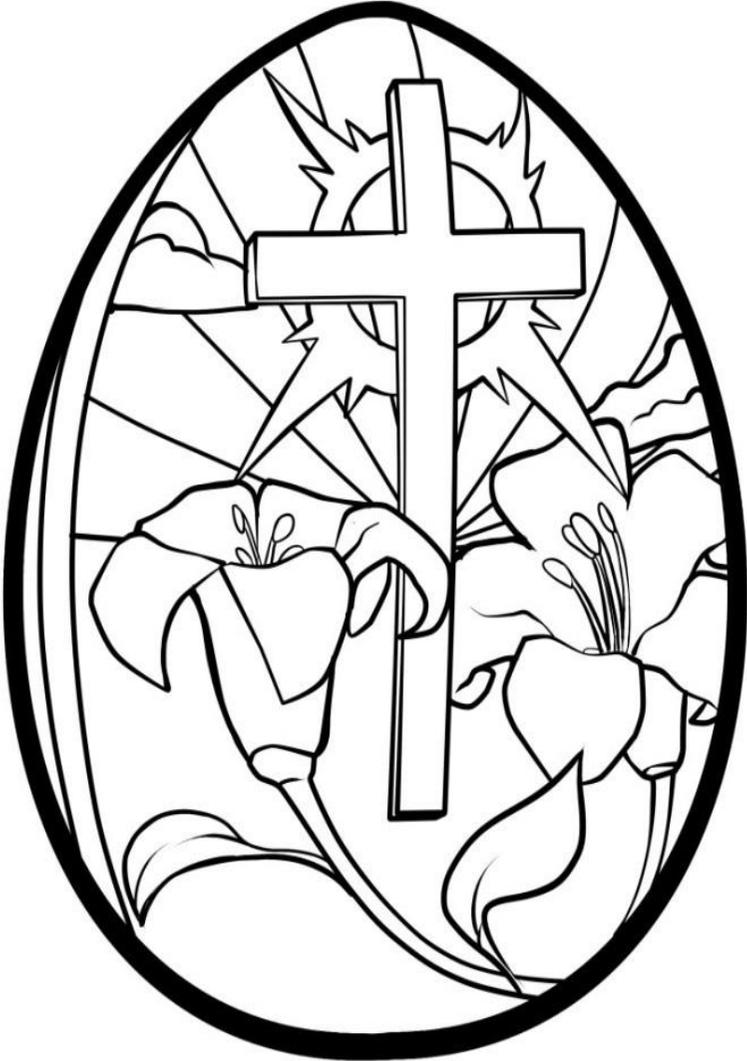
FB: @comm4life ; Twitter: @Comm4Life1

The cyclone in Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

My niece, Lesley de Briujn, lives in Harare, Zimbabwe and I sent her a concerned email about the cyclone which devastated Mozambique and parts of Zimbabwe in mid-March. I thought Courier readers would be interested in her reply.

The cyclone has had a devastating effect here in the eastern districts. Chimanimani and Chipinge are quite cut off with bridges down. Several villages and growth points have been really devastated. The wonderful thing is the response here has been quite overwhelming. A friend sent me videos and pictures from Highlands Presbyterian Church's Facebook page showing the quantities of goods and supplies that people have donated. The car park area was just full of stuff as they had no room to put it inside and lots and lots of volunteers were sorting it and packing it - and that is just one church. There have been lots of similar efforts coordinated by other organisations. It is so impressive that in these hard times everyone is managing to come up with such huge amounts of stuff for the people who have lost everything. And none of it from foreign aid organisations. Of course the situation is much, much worse in Mozambique. They say 1000 people are dead there but the stories we hear from people who are there makes it more like several thousand deaths. And more to come as people are not being rescued. Just too heart breaking. Of course Beira is really built in a flood plain so this sort of thing is going to happen more and more often, I guess, with the increase in extreme weather.

Sheila Maxey



EASTER CRACKED

Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust visited our congregation and shared with us all their message of hope, love and forgiveness. We had a quick Easter egg hunt in church and shared the messages on the hidden eggs with everyone before the lucky winners could eat them.



They are busy giving this message to all the schools and children they visit during Lent.

Christian Aid Week 12-18 May 2019



This year Christian Aid Week focuses on mothers and babies in Sierra Leone where 10 women a week die in childbirth. The money raised goes towards local medical services as well as health education.

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Jebbeh is heavily pregnant. As her baby grows, it's not joy that fill her heart, but fear. Recently, Jebbeh's sister, Fatmata, was pregnant in a village nearby. When she went into labour there were complications so she started to walk the three hours to the nearest hospital. She died at the roadside. Jebbeh has lost her beloved sister: let us help to make sure she and thousands like her survive to find hope and new life in giving birth to a healthy child.

Christian Aid envelopes will be available after Easter and the service on 12th May will focus on Christian Aid Week.

Sheila Maxey

COMMUNITY AIMS FUND COLLECTIONS



The retiring offering for April 2019 is for Home-Start Brentwood

Home-Start volunteers visit families at home each week, supporting parents in situations as diverse as isolation, bereavement, multiple births, illness, disability or who are just finding parenting a struggle. They provide non-judgemental practical and emotional support and help build the family's confidence and ability to cope.



The offering for May 2019 is for Brentwood Mind

Their aim is to support users of the service to become more independent and therefore have a worthwhile place in the community. There are two services: bridge-building which is working alongside service users in the community, and a drop-in

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service at 14 Ongar Road where people can meet to improve their social skills.

MONDAY GUILD

At the February meeting Jennifer Ward explained the development of Brentwood as a pilgrim route, the establishment of the chapel in High Street and the start of parish status for Brentwood.

In March we welcomed Rev. Barnabas who spoke about South Korea. He explained the make-up of the national flag, demonstrated traditional games, costumes and writing and explained some of the history of the country.

There will not be a meeting in April. Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm May 13th in the William Hunter room.

E.Goult

DUTY ROTAS – APRIL 2019

	Flowers	Vestry
7th	Elaine Austin	Moses Tsingano
14th	Margaret Cheer	Rosalie Brentnall
21st	Eileen Goult	Kees Maxey
28th	Mary Tate	Sally Bealey

	Steward	Reader
7th	Gabrielle Crowther	Lucy Crowther

14th	Gordon Hanna	Josh Hanna
21st	Corne Van Staden	Markus Van Staden
28th	Linda Hanna	Rosie Benjamin

	Prayers of Intercession	Coffee
7th	Jenny Mayo	Sally Bealey
14th	Moses Tsingano	Sally Bealey
21st	Clive Rudkin	TBC
28th	Linda Hanna	Elaine Austin

CHURCH CALENDAR – APRIL 2019

Monday	1st	10.15am	Lent Group at Brentwood Methodist Church
Wednesday	3rd	9.30 am 2 pm	Sacred Space URC Knitters
Sunday	7th	10 am	Mrs Beryl Hunt
Monday	8th	2.30 pm	Monday Guild - cancelled
Wednesday	10th	9.30 am	Sacred Space
Thursday	11th	7.30 pm	Bible Study at 48 St. Thomas Road
Sunday	14th	10 am	Revd Barnabas Shin – PALM SUNDAY Induction of Elders
Wednesday	17th	9.30 am 2 pm	Sacred Space URC Knitters - to be confirmed

Friday 19th 9.30 am **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** - with Brentwood Methodist Church led by **Revd Barnabas Shin** Followed by Walk of Witness and refreshments.

Sunday 21st 10 am Revd Sheila Maxey - EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Wednesday 24th 9.30 am Sacred Space
 Saturday 27th UNLOCK SPONSORED WALK

Sunday 28th 10 am Revd Barnabas Shin

DUTY ROTAS – MAY 2019

	Flowers	Coffee
5th	Elaine Austin	Gabrielle Crowther
12th	Margaret Cheer	Linda Hanna
19th	Eileen Goult	Eileen Goult
26th	Mary Tate	Sally Bealey

	Vestry	Steward
5th	Sheila Maxey	Mary Tate
12th	Kees Maxey	Rosie Benjamin
19th	Rosalie Brentnall	Sheila Maxey
26th	Moses Tsingano	Eileen Goult

	Reader	Prayers of Intercession
5th	Kees Maxey	Ian Davidson
12th	Jenny Mayo	Rosie Benjamin
19th	Jenny Mayo	Margaret Cheer
26th	Moses Tsingano	Jenny Mayo

CHURCH CALENDAR – MAY 2019

Wednesday 1st 9.30 am Sacred Space
2 pm URC Knitters

Sunday 5th 10 am Mrs Beryl Hunt
Wednesday 8th 9.30 am Sacred Space
Thursday 9th 7.30 am Bible Study at 48 St.
Thomas Road

Sunday 12th 10 am Rev Sheila Maxey
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Monday 13th 2.30 pm Monday Guild
Wednesday 15th 9.30 am Sacred Space
2 pm URC Knitters

Sunday 19th 10 am Mrs Amanda Dolan
Harrison

DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY COURIER

Tuesday 22nd 7.30 pm Joint Elders Meeting at
Billericay URC
Wednesday 23rd 9.30 am Sacred Space

Sunday 26th 10 am Rev Barnabas Shin - with
Holy Communion

THE COURIER

The next issue of The COURIER for June/July 2019 will be available on Sunday the 2nd June 2019.

All articles and content for publication of the COURIER should be sent to Corne Van Staden email: hcvstaden@gmail.com

If you have articles for inclusion please ensure that these are emailed to Corne as early as possible during the week commencing Monday the 20th May and before the final deadline of Sunday the 26th May.

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BRENTWOOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

New Road, Brentwood, CM14 4GD

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 am Family Worship with Creche and Junior Church

Holy Communion is usually celebrated at Morning Worship on the last Sunday of each month.

Details of preachers and special events are given in the COURIER.

EACH WEEK:

Brownies: To be confirmed

WEDNESDAYS: 12:00pm Luncheon Club

FRIDAYS: 09:45am – 11:45am Coffee Shop

