



Abbey Lane & Newport United Reformed Church incorporating Saffron Walden Methodist Church

Proclaiming the Gospel – Growing in Faith – Reaching out in Service

11 April

Welcome to our weekly newsletter

Sunday Service – 11th April

Worship Online at 10:30 a.m.

Led by Val Bowtle

Reflection by Elfreda Tealby-Watson

Zoom meeting and Passcode details are listed on the order of service sent separately, or call our Church Contact on 01799 528325

If you prefer to watch live on the website please go to <http://saffronwaldenurc.org.uk/services-recordings> where you will also find a recording of the service to YouTube each week available from Sunday afternoon.

Psalm 133



"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity"

Gill Howe's card for Caroline

On Easter Sunday we said farewell to our Minister Caroline Vodden who had spent six years with us at Abbey Lane and as part of the WEBS pastorate. **Elfreda writes:** Caroline brought Greg and me to membership, and then me to be ordained as an Elder. Her parting is encouraging me to support Val leading worship by sharing a reflection this week! I was happy therefore to write the valediction to her from WEBS for our farewell. With the help of Rachel next door, we presented her live during Zoom with a range of gifts generously donated from WEBS members towards her new life or as reminders of her time here. Psalm 133 (above) is a fitting reminder that

Caroline has been so much more than our minister at Abbey Lane – to WEBS, to Churches Together, and to the local community.

The collection of gifts assembled for Caroline: Cheque by Gill Howe, walking book, embroidery picture by Meg Nettle from all at WEBS, plus a bird-box made by Clara Fenwick and tea towel of Saffron Walden by-laws from Abbey Lane Junior Church presented in a gift box with their own drawings and FairTrade Easter Eggs for Caroline & Alice.



Extracts from the Valediction:

"From the 6 years Caroline has spent with us, her energy and enthusiasm have certainly left us looking forwards not backwards, with a wish to continue our witness to the reformed tradition in our area and to attract the next generation of the faithful. Her previous career and personal experiences, sharing her life with a mix of non-believers and believers of different hues equipped her well to meet people at different stages of faith or of none. She has a number of great qualities but her unfailing resilience and positive attitude – expressed best by her often commenting that 'God can find good in all things' – have brought us through tricky times and been remarked upon by many people. She saw potential in the church and pastorate to grow and evolve, despite perhaps our own hesitancy: Caroline, your work with Roy to lead us as a pastorate leaves a

Minister	
Rev'd Roy Fowler	01279 814 809
Church Secretary	
Val Bowtle	01799 526 271
Vestry Phone & Church Contact	01799 528325

Elders	
John Ford	07969 850 109
Stephen Rapkin	07730 393 603
Karen Start	01799 522 096
Elfreda Tealby-Watson	01799 530 175
Margaret Howell & Meg Nettle	Non-serving Elders offered pastoral care



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good foundation which has already borne fruit during this period of pandemic with our combined Zoom worship.

One Elder wrote: *'One of the most moving services Caroline held each year at Abbey Lane was the Advent Service of Remembrance. From her experience of her son Ben's death, Caroline brought real understanding and empathy, and led a service which was of comfort to many. When faced with the untimely illness and death of Paul, Caroline faced the many challenges with strength and fortitude. Despite all that was going on in her own life, she was there for anyone who needed help.'* No doubt, Caroline, you probably wished to do much more before you retired – I am sure you would have liked us to join with your guitar playing more often – but you have planted seeds which I hope we will each tend with care in the forthcoming months as WEBS emerges from virtual reality to whatever new normal awaits us. Caroline, on behalf of all at WEBS we offer our thanks for your time here, and prayers for your journey ahead. We also pledge that we will give you a proper church lunch at soon as it is safe, and you feel like you would like to return to tell us all about how your new life is developing."

Reminders for your Diary

Rev. Roy Fowler is currently on leave. If you have any pastoral concerns, please contact one of the Elders.

8th April - Elders' Meeting via Zoom.

13th April - New Bible Study series. Why not join one of our weekly meetings, on Tuesday or Thursday mornings at 9.30am? From 13 April we'll be starting to look at the book of Daniel - 'living faithfully in a foreign land'. Find out about the fiery furnace, the writing on the wall and, of course, the Lions' Den. What does it all mean for us, today? Contact Stephen Rapkin.

17th April - private prayer, Abbey Lane, 10am -12 noon.

18th April – Abbey Lane Church Meeting 12 noon after WEBS worship, both by Zoom.

10th -16th May – Christian Aid Week Appeal.



Young people in our Church (John Ford)

On Thursday 25th March we had an engaging discussion about children and youth activities at Abbey Lane. The evening started with Jo Ford

discussing what children in Junior Church liked and thought could be improved in church. Nicola Greaves, from Synod, then presented information about the URC Children and Youth Friendly Church Scheme. By the wonders of modern technology, we then split into two virtual breakout rooms to discuss what was working well and what could be improved.

We identified many activities which are working well, such as family talks (including puppets), Junior Church and children sharing at the end of the service. Children said that they particularly liked contributing in many different ways to Sunday services. There were lots of new ideas from children and adults about how to take activities forward. A selection of these included greater audio-visual use in face-to-face church services (e.g. powerpoint, videos), inclusion of a contemporary children's song and youth-led and café services.

Working with people across the church, we are planning to pull this together in a strategy for the children and youth activities. Watch this space!

<https://urc.org.uk/child-friendly-church-award-scheme>

Photo Pasqueflower by Mary Duxbury

All Things Bright and Beautiful (Val Bowtle)

Sadly, after 50 years, earlier this year the URC Musicians Guild has come to a close. In the final magazine was an interesting article by David M Thompson on the Making of Rejoice and Sing. He decides to (I quote) "describe what might be called the saga of 'All things bright and beautiful'." David explained, "When Rejoice and Sing was published in 1991, various people noticed that 'All things bright and beautiful' was not included. It was not long before I was asked why; and my answer was always the same: 'Because not sufficient people asked for it'. After all, with a first line beginning with 'All' it could not really be missed in an alphabetical list. There was a second chance to comment to the Committee when the Second List was published in REFORM for November 1988, with tunes; and some did. I was somewhat surprised, though the Committee had voted by nine votes to two against it. I therefore assumed that at last its popularity was diminishing. The traditional objection had been to the verse:

The rich man in his castle,
the poor man at his gate;
God made them high or lowly
and ordered their estate.





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Some inter-war hymnbooks had simply omitted that verse and ignored Mrs. Alexander's endorsement of the prevailing social order. One member of our Committee, however, took objection to another verse, referring to 'the rushes by the water we gather every day'. One of the boys in his congregation had been drowned in the rushes of a nearby river (which can happen very easily), and he said his congregation could no longer sing that verse. I pondered deeply over whether we should exclude a hymn on account of one accident; but I let the Committee vote on it and it was again rejected. In presenting my report to the 1989 Assembly I said this, 'My twelve year-old son said it was a good example of the kind of hymn grown-ups thought children liked singing.' A teacher in one of our theological colleges wrote to me that it would be a great pity to leave this children's hymn out. Another correspondent aged 91 attacked this and two others of Mrs Alexander's hymns, which are in the list, as examples of Victorian sentimentality which we ought to be bold enough to throw out'."

The hymn came back in the next list but after another round of voting it didn't make it into the book. David says that when visiting churches, he has often seen it stuck in on the flyleaf. It is still requested for weddings and funerals. I wonder what is your view? I don't think it is sung in schools today, even the local church schools. Maybe it belongs to those of us septuagenarians and older!

URC and Christian Aid working together

The URC has already raised £12,000 for its 'Give Thanks for Your Vaccine' fundraising campaign, developed with Christian Aid. The campaign does not pay for vaccines but is intended keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support. In the UK, nearly 32 million people have had their first dose of a coronavirus vaccine, but for the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These are people who already face lack of water, food, and basic healthcare. Christian Aid is already on the ground, but with donations, the charity can do more. You can donate at <https://giving.tapsimple.org/page/christian-aid/united-reformed-church-supporting-a-just-vaccine-rollout> Or donate directly to worldwide vaccine roll-outs <https://gavi.ctdonate.org/index:payment.html> and <https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/coronavirus/>



One in Heart and Mind, Prayer for 11th April (Fay Rowland in the URC Prayer Handbook)

Father of Multitudes,
You have brought us together as family –
From all places, all peoples, all times, all tongues –
And you have placed us in fellowship with one another,
With those who are like us, and those who are different.
We share communion through time
With the witnesses of your resurrection –
Those who saw and believed,
Those who doubted,
Those who spread the news,
Those who hid.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit as you filled your disciples, despite their faults and fears,
So that we can boldly proclaim the Good News
Of your kingdom life through our everyday living.
And may all your people, dwelling together in unity,
So display your love and grace
That others may come to believe,
And through believing have life in you.
Amen



Picture Caravaggio 'The Incredulity of St Thomas'

CHURCH FAMILY Prayers please for Colin Baldock, Pat Barker, Roger Metcalf, Ron Snowdon, and Tina Wilson, and their families as they each continue treatments and recovery. Thanks be for the Rhodes family who have been safely delivered of a new baby boy! All good wishes to Caroline as she completes her packing ready to leave the Manse this coming week.

and from WhatsApp....



Yvonne's Easter morning flowers on the Abbey Lane Cross.

Chocolate eggs & groceries taken to Uttlesford Foodbank.



Farewell from the Lukes, as they leave our WhatsApp chat and settle in Scotland.

WEBS Service (On Zoom)

Sunday 11th April 2021



Zoom

For those who wish to continue using the 'traditional' method of joining in fellowship, then the meeting details are to be found in the accompanying email or call the church Contact on 01799 528325. You can also follow live stream on YouTube via the link on the Abbey Lane website

<http://saffronwaldenurc.org.uk/services-recordings>

You'll then see a link to click through to the live service just before 10.30am.

Welcome and call to Worship

Val Bowtle

Hymn: Let All the World in Every Corner Sing (R & S 114)

1 Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The heavens are not too high,
God's praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
God's praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"

2 Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The church with psalms must shout:
no door can keep them out.
But, more than all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"

George Herbert 1593-1633

CCL Nos: 214400, 214699, 862106

Prayers of approach & confession

Bible Reading : John 20: 19-21

Led by Val Bowtle

Reader: Betty Francis

Young People's Talk

Young people go to Junior Church Zoom-room

Val Bowtle

Led by: John Ford

Reflection – Elfreda Tealby-Watson

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Led by: Sue Glass

Hymn: Thine Be the Glory (R & S 247)

1 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life!
Life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

Edmond Boudry; Trans. Richard Birch Hoyle 1875-1939

2 Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
[Refrain]

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Junior Church return to worship, followed by Blessing from Tina Wilson.

Please stay to see Junior Church share their activity.