



the magazine



Park united reformed church

October 2018

Inside the magazine this month...

Park Talent Scheme 2018	3
Secretary's Letter	4
Family News	6
The Mary Jones Walk.....	7
Look out for the Kite mark!	10
Lakeside Songs of Praise Dates for 2018.....	12
Update on Visiting Preachers during Vacancy	12
Holiday Forum Review	13
URG General Assembly 2018	14
Light Party.....	16
Reflections on our Harvest Weekend.....	17
Wash sets for the Royal Berks Hospital	18
Knitting & Crocheting for the Royal Berks Hospital.....	18
Church Contacts	19
Regular Activities at Park.....	20

Park Talent Scheme 2018

May I say a huge thank you to all who have supported the Talent Scheme since January this year, It was wonderful collecting in all your talents, plus the money you'd made with them, last Sunday during our Harvest Festival – there was so much that it overflowed the basket I had!

You will be pleased to know that the Talent Scheme raised just over **£3,500**, which is a tremendous effort from everyone.

Thank you again.

Carrie King

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual contributors, and do not necessarily represent the views of Park United Reformed Church. Apologies for any more errors than normal, I'm nearly sixty you know.

Secretary's Letter

Dear friends,

It certainly has been a wonderful summer both with the weather and the many church events where people have had time to be together and enjoy each other's company. I hope you have all been able to get away and time with your families and friends. It was with great pleasure I was able to attend Andrew Weston's wedding at St Enodoc's Church near Polzeath.



It was a fantastic location and quite a miracle how so many people squeezed into such a small Church. It was a beautiful service. It was jointly lead by Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Wild, the Rector of St.



Enodoc and Robert. The service ran spot on schedule, it had to Andrew had got the whole day organised on a spreadsheet. After the service the congregation left the Church and walked down onto Daymer Beach and waited to greet the Bride and Groom with confetti.

Amy was one of the Bridesmaids and looked wonderful. Toby was joint Best man with Kenny, an old friend of Andrew's from Anderson Church. It was good to meet up with all the Weston family and share this special day with them.



I am sure we all wish the happy couple, Andrew and Becki all our love and God's blessings on the life together.

There is still no further news on the vacancy but I am aware that there our conversations going on in the other churches and with the Ministers who are currently serving. As soon as there is more progress I will share it with you. I know this is frustrating and I thank you for your patience.

Many people have said how much they enjoy the current situation with so many different people coming to lead worship at Park. I must admit it is certainly different. I am also very encouraged by the number of our own fellowship who are coming forward to either lead or share in leading worship.

I know that this does create a challenge for Julia Marsh as she contacts different people every week and creates the Order of Service and notices. Julia is an absolute blessing and is doing a brilliant job. I can't thank her enough for all the work she does.

There are so many people in the background doing their thing and just keeping things going. I want to mention Alastair Clark who has been looking after the boilers over the summer. You may remember back in March the large boiler broke down. This is all now fixed, the boilers have been serviced and the chimneys have been swept. We are ready to start using them and by the feel of the weather this week that may not be too long.

Becky Jemmot has now started as our new Finance and Centre Manager and is getting to know our Hall users and learning how to use our accounting systems. I want to wish her well with this new role.

Things are still moving and changing at Park things do not stand still. I still continue to think of the words of Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

I know God has plans for us and we must continue to do what we are doing and those plans will come.

God Bless

Roger.

Family News

We congratulate Andrew and Becci Weston, who were married at St Enodoc's Church near Polzeath, Cornwall, on September 8th. We pray for their future together, and we also remember in our prayers Robert and Suzy and all the family.

We have also sent good wishes to Sylvia Wise, who celebrated a milestone birthday on August 24th .

We continue to pray for Becky Jemmott, who has commenced her appointment as our new Centre Administrator, whilst also giving thanks for the work done by Julie Cameron on behalf of the church over the past 10 years.

We continue to remember all young people who are returning to college or university, or who will be leaving home for the first time, including Stacey Oguna, who is commencing her studies at Cardiff University.

We pray for those who mourn, including Sylvia Wise, whose sister has recently died, and Lillian Oguna, whose younger sister has died suddenly in Kenya.

We also remember the family of Pat Stocks, who died in the Duchess of Kent home on Monday August 20th and whose thanksgiving service was held here at Park on Wednesday 12th September. Pat grew up at Park and as Pat Curtis was very much part of the church family. Her husband Mick, their children Michelle and Nigel, and their families, will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

We remember all those who are ill, including Bob Dewing's wife Andrea, who has been in the cardiac care unit of RBH this week. We pray too for those continuing to recover from or receive treatment, including Hilary Campbell, Linda Adkins and Thelma Butler.

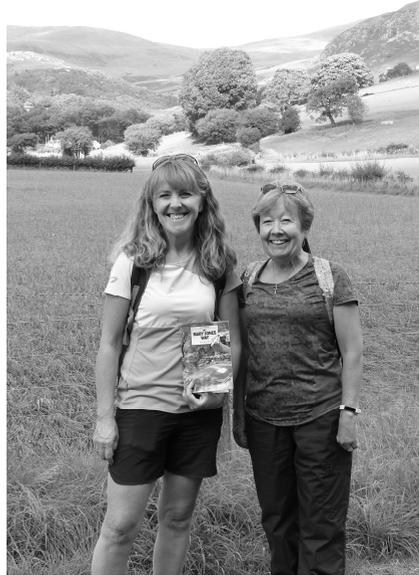
Carrie

The Mary Jones Walk

Friday 31st August

We arrived at Llanfihangel-y-Pennant at 1.30pm with our support team (Rod and Paul!) The sun was shining with views of Cader Idris in the distance. We all ate our picnic lunch and then went to see the ruins of Mary Jones' house and the chapel where she worshipped.

Then Carrie and I set off to walk our first five miles – thank goodness for walking poles! This was not going to be a straightforward walk. Within 50 yards was a waterfall, no visible track, we just had to climb. A tree had fallen across the route so Carrie climbed over it – I crawled under! But, when we got to the top, the views were breath-taking. Just beautiful. Then it was ascending and descending the rest of the way (did I say thank goodness for poles?!)



At one point, high above Tal-y-llyn Lake, we looked down on a tiny



hotel far below. Little did we know that our support team were sitting outside that hotel with a pint!

It took us over three hours to walk the five miles to Minfford, not a good pace when the plan is to walk 17 miles the next day.

Saturday 1st September

Set off at 9am after a hearty breakfast. Oh, look – we're going uphill again! After an early problem involving a very high hill and a very narrow ledge (and a very wobbly Sally) our pace improved as we got used to the terrain. Stopped for a cup of tea and a Welsh cake at Cross Foxes and carried on quickly because we wanted to be at Glan Wnion by lunchtime.

Whenever we stopped to admire the views Carrie would read us some Bible verses and (if we'd been very good) we allowed ourselves a jelly baby or two.

We got to Glan Wnion at 3pm. Lunch, a cup of tea, more verses and on we went. Up hills, down hills, across streams, through farmyards and conifer forests and fields.

Our route deviated a little towards the end that day but we were rescued by a lovely local farmer (or was he an angel?) who just appeared in a field to point out the way.

We finished at 6.45pm in Llanuwchllyn having walked 19 miles.
Dinner at the pub. Early night.



Sunday 2nd September

We set off at 9.30am for the last six miles to Bala. Uphill. Obviously. We could see Bala in the distance as we climbed higher beside Bala Lake. A steep climb and another slight deviation from the route but those views made it all worthwhile. Thank you, Lord, for the amazing weather all weekend.

We arrived in Bala, exhausted and a little emotional, at 2pm at the very building where Mary Jones met the Rev. Charles to buy her Bible. To add to the emotion, two of Carrie's sisters (Melanie and Louise) appeared from round a corner to welcome our arrival!

Our support team had brought prosecco and we were awarded with a medal of achievement each.

It had been an amazing challenge and a very special experience for both of us.

Thank you for your Bible verses, your sponsorship and encouragement.

We loved every moment.

Sally Street



Look out for the Kite mark!

I reached a significant birthday in April and one of my presents was a one-month course in Wales (Llanidloes) to go and build an acoustic guitar. Anyone who knows me will know that I am slightly bonkers when it comes to guitars. I have always been totally fascinated that some bits from a tree and a few bits of wire can make such a wonderful sound.

In my youth, my father built 3 guitars, one for me, and one for my two sisters. Whilst they were not exactly Gibson J200's, the guitar I had was good enough to get me going.

So, for the past 45 years or so I have dreamed of building a guitar, but I always knew that if I was going to do it, then I would need instruction if it was going to turn out half decent.

So, I have done exactly that. I have fulfilled a lifelong ambition. I hired a house on the edge of the River Severn and just immersed myself in the whole experience (that's the course, not the river !!)

I thought you might like a few pictures. The front and back are book-matched. That means that a plank of wood is cut lengthwise and opened out like a book so that everything is symmetrical along the join.

The front (the soundboard) is made of Sitka spruce that comes from Alaska. The sides and back are Indian Rosewood. The neck is mahogany, and anything black is Ebony.

The finish is a little unusual. Normally guitars are



sprayed with a lacquer. The process involves nasty chemicals, face masks etc, but this guitar is finished in a brushed water-based varnish. Water based products have improved significantly over the years and the satin finish on my guitar is beautiful. I am very very happy with it.

Oh yes – the kite mark – I nearly forgot. Red kites have made a real comeback in Reading in recent years. I decided that this would be the logo. It is made of mother of pearl and is set into the ebony on the headstock. So next time you see the band in church, look out for the kite mark to identify the guitar.

As for the result, certainly had expectations, but instruction and facilities were so my expectations been exceeded many times. I am absolutely delighted with the

Playing it is just a and once I start playing, it is so to put down. It is intention to build guitars in due course.



well I
some
as the

good,
have
by

result.

joy

hard
my
more

Tony

Lakeside Songs of Praise Dates for 2018

Everyone is welcome to join us at Lakeside Care Home for these Songs of Praise Services from 2.30 – 3.30 pm.

- Wednesday 17th October
- Wednesday 14th November
- Wednesday 12th December

Please sign in at the Care Home reception desk on arrival.

Julia Marsh

Update on Visiting Preachers during Vacancy

Thank you so much to all who have helped or are helping me to fill the slots in the visiting preachers' list. We are doing very well and the 2019 Pulpit Plan is now available to be filled!

Please see below the updated list for the next two months. I think you will agree that we continue to have a wonderful variety of people.

2018

- 7th October: Geoff Cornell (Roger leading Communion)
- 14th October: Colin Ferguson
- 21st October: Frances & Tim Lancaster (Roger leading Communion)
- 28th October: Michael Penny
- 4th November: Rev Ray Stanyon
- 11th November: Carrie & Rod King
- 18th November: Rebecca Bullard
- 25th November: Peter Ferguson

If you would like to lead a service or be involved in any way, or know of anyone else who might be interested to help, then please speak to Roger or me.

Thank you.

Julia Marsh

Holiday Forum Review

As many of you know I attended Holiday Forum in Derbyshire for a church holiday with a difference.

It really is lovely to meet so many different Christians from all over the country and not all are URC either but for that week we become one family.

Our keynote speaker was Lawrence Moore who was born in South Africa and as he grew older fought against the apartheid he witnessed. He was also Director of the Windermere centre for a number of years and prepared the documentation for the URC Walking the Way.

The theme was "Getting back to a Jesus Shaped Church". Every morning Lawrence would speak about why the church was in the place it is today and explore why it has drifted so far, in many cases, from how it was meant to be and how we can change things. Images are not always helpful – non Christians can see it as an exclusive club not easy to break into. The world needs sometimes saving from churches - apartheid and slavery were supported by the churches. How do the younger generation view Church members?

Do we spend too much time worrying about our buildings and rotas? It certainly gave us food for thought and especially interesting to hear from other churches and how they coped with resources etc.

I hope to be able to speak about this further to explain in more detail.

By the way, next year Richard Becher (he used to be at St Andrews with Robert Barthram) will be the theme leader. He has also written and produced a new film 'Longing to Belong' based on the Windrush stories. He is now at Broadway in the Cotswolds.

Gaye

URG General Assembly 2018

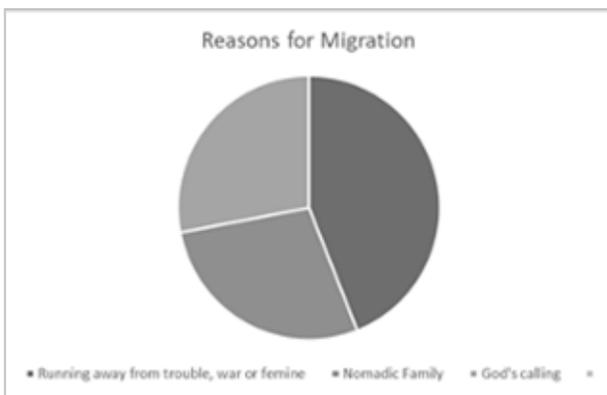
This year I was privileged to attend the General Assembly from the 6th to the 9th of July in Nottingham. At the General assembly is where the celebration, discussions and decisions on the life and work of the Church are made. 32 resolutions were deliberated upon, some were passed, others had to be referred back to the steering groups as more work needed to be done. Please refer to the book of Reports for individual resolutions. This is found on the URC website.

What was good

- This is a well-planned event. The book of reports is sent to the Assembly members more than a month in advance. Accommodation, food and maps are also organised well in advance.
- The pre-assembly meeting was very beneficial as one gets introduced to other members of the Assembly who are from the same region. Coaching is also carried out on how discussions and voting in the assembly work. This was done by Rev Clare Downing, our Wessex Synod Moderator.
- The beginning of each day started with prayers, worship songs and the word with a bible study session. The bible study session was my best highlight each day. These were led by Rev Dr Kathrine White from Northern College.

The theme was on journeys undertaken by people of God, Genesis 11v31-32 and Genesis 12v1-4. We were inspired to reflect on our spiritual journeys, individually or as a congregation.

Three reasons were identified for one to leave a place of origin:



Themes Identified

- Motivation: Abram's family was motivated by the call of God.
- Expectations: End of journey is a promise of God and the way was guided by God.
- Changed circumstances can also be an opportunity of making major changes: The death of Terak (Abram's father) motivated the second move of Abram to Taran.

Theology clarity.

- Adventure: For change to take place we need to move. New experiences are good for growth.

Exodus 14v8-15 When the Israelites were faced with danger, they thought it would have been better for them to die in Egypt than in wilderness. What is known even though not good is better than venturing into the unknown. Can this be true in our different situations? We may need to be reminded that Egypt can be kind to us- that is our enemies cannot be kind to us. Staying firm may not work, moving forward in faith may be the best thing to do. The Israelites had to move forward in faith.

The sermon on the last day was also on moving forward in faith by Rev John Proctor. "We have done that before and it does not work" or "We have never done it that way"

Let us not resist change or stay in our groove until it becomes our grave. The Bicycle was used as a symbol of God. It was said that the bicycle is like the kingdom of God. Stand still, you will fall, move and you will stay vertical.

The process of accepting and rejecting resolutions was humbling. Everyone's contribution was taken into consideration. Discussions, debates and explanations took place to help those who were cool to a resolution to understand it and be warm to it. Some resolutions passed with overwhelmingly, others passed with disagreements where very few people had reservations to the resolution. There were a few resolutions which were not accepted and needed more work on them e.g. Resolution 29 on Non-stipendiary Ministry of word and Sacraments. Please refer to the book of Records on the URC website

The involvement of ecumenical (number of different Christian Churches) representatives, some coming from different countries, shows that we are a church which is willing to listen to one another and

to God. So that we may hear the God's words through all. I am proud to be a member of the URC.

Stepwise: This is an intergeneration programme of learning and development of discipleship. The studies can be done individually or as a group. Mentors will be allocated. Please have a browse at www.urb.org/stepwise or contact stepwise@urb.org.uk for questions. The Children and Youth Charter has been redrafted into a child-friendly version.

I could write a book about the many good experiences I had at the General Assembly. If an opportunity arises for anyone to attend, I would highly recommend it. I am really struggling to find what was not so good about the General Assembly.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Rev Clare Downing and Mr Peter Pay for being elected to be Moderators of the next coming General Assembly.

Enala Bhebhe

Light Party

What lights do we need in our lives? What lights do you love to look at? What lights do you use every day, or only on special occasions? Could you live without light?

Light is such an important and integral part of our lives. But I wonder what you consider to be the best light of all?

On Wednesday 31st October, 4-6pm, Park United Reformed Church, Anderson Baptist Church, and St Peter's Church will be joining together for a Light Party. There will be lots of fun, games, craft, food, and, of course, exploring what really is the best light in our lives! It will be held at Park Church.

All are welcome – any age – and all may dress up in their favourite super-hero costume (optional!). Children need to bring an adult with them.

RSVP to Carrie King

Reflections on our Harvest Weekend

I love Harvest – it is my favourite festival in the year, and it holds so many memories with more being created year by year.

This year is no exception – we had a great time together on the Saturday evening for supper and barn dance. Our lovely Joan led the dancing with her wonderful sense of fun, even if we got it wrong and then continued to get it wrong time after time after time! I think Tony was secretly quite relieved when I asked him to be in charge of playing CD's on the night as it meant he didn't have to dance.

What a great team helped to prepare the room and food, and also with the clearing up. Thank you to everyone who helped and came to the evening, it was a super time of fun, laughter and friendship.

Harvest Festival was led by our friend John Lee, with Rachel helping to lead the music it was an uplifting morning. Mighty harvest hymns really raises the spirits, then to receive the gifts of food, return of the penny boxes as well as the talent money just made a moving service.

As I said earlier, I have so many memories – Martin and I would help Dad dig the vegetables, then help to wash and scrub beetroot and carrots clean before leaving them to dry. Mum would get hold of shoe boxes and we would take great pride in covering them with 'harvest colours' crepe paper and stuffing the bottom of the box with newspaper and more coloured paper before carefully arranging the vegetables and fruit that they had grown in the garden. Thinking about it – Mum had to sort four of these boxes as we had to take them into school as well. I miss preparing the veg, but know that whatever we give now will be used where it is most needed.

What a wonderful God we have – to give us such a variety of fruit, veg, grains, meat and fish that look and taste so different. How good it is to be able to say thank you, and celebrate again this year for the abundance of food available to us!

Helen Durrant

Wash sets for the Royal Berks Hospital

On an open day at the hospital last weekend we were informed that the hospital was running out of wash sets. These comprise a flannel/small soap, comb, toothbrush and paste with or without a small shampoo or some with a razor for the men. These are supplied to the many people are admitted as emergencies but have no personal wash bags with them.

Is it possible we at Park could come together to make up these wash sets for the Autumn period when they will be needed? You can elect to make up a set up with someone else or just make one up yourself and put in a plastic bag and give to me to pass on.

It seems a small thing but will make such a difference to those who are admitted to hospital.

If you have any of the little toiletries from a hotel stay these would be ideal. It does not matter if there are different makes of the toiletries in the set. They do not have to match with anything – just practical items.

Gaye

Knitting & Crocheting for the Royal Berks Hospital

The RBH would also like arm bands that can be knitted for their dementia awareness patients and Octopuses. I can give you the knitting patterns concerned.

If anyone has a problem with obtaining wool I have been given some oddments that would be ideal. Just ask. You do not have to match colours shown in the pattern.

Again, I am happy to collect for this.

Gaye

Church Contacts



Minister:

currently in vacancy

Church Secretary:

Roger Clark

e-mail: churchsecretary@parkurc.org.uk

Treasurer:

Yvette Gayford

Assistant Church Secretary:

Simon & Jenny King

Centre Manager:

phone:0845 463 6426

e-mail: centremanager@parkurc.org.uk

F & GP Committee Chairman:

Alistair Knox

Gift Aid Secretary:

Tony Durrant

Magazine Editor:

Rod King

e-mail: editor@parkurc.org.uk

Church Website: www.parkurc.org.uk

Our church website is updated regularly and has details of the many activities of the Church. You will also find some of the charities that we support, with links to even more helpful websites.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParkURC?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Regular Activities at Park

Sunday	10.30 am	Worship Young people's groups & Crèche facilities Holy Communion (1st Sunday)
	3.00 pm	Messy Church (1st Sunday of the Month)
	3.45 pm	Newlife Celebration Tamil Church
	6.30 pm	Ignite Coffee & Cakes (in term-time)
	7:00 pm	Ignite Worship (in term-time)
Monday	Various	Read Dance & Theatre College
	9.30 am	Park Mother & Toddlers Group
	5.15 pm	Beaver Scouts
	6.45 pm	Cub Scouts
	7.30 pm	Housegroup
Tuesday	Various	Read Dance & Theatre College
	10:00 am	Happy Feet Footcare (every 6 weeks)
	10.30 am	Fitness Pilates
	1.00 pm	Cranberry College (Sept-Mar term time)
	2.15 pm	Friendship Club
	2:00 pm	Reading U3A Yoga (every 2 weeks)
	7:30 pm	Earley Folk Dancing
	7.30 pm	Badminton Club (Sept – March)
	7.30 pm	Housegroup
	8.15 pm	Aldbrickham Clog & Dance Group
Wednesday	Various	Read Dance & Theatre College
	9.00 am	Morning Prayers
	9:30 am	Embroiderers' Guild (monthly)
	10.00 am	Park 60+ Exercise (12 noon seated session)
	12.00 pm	Reading Lunchtime Choir
	2.00 pm	Reading Macular Society (bi-monthly)
	5.00 pm	Beavers
	7.00 pm	Scouts
	Thursday	Various
9;45 am		Tuneful Tales
10.30 am		Reading MenCap
2.00 pm		U3A Madrigal Society (every 2 weeks)
2.00 pm		Active Living Tai Chi
2:00 pm		Reading Abbey Trefoil Group (4th Thurs of month)
5:30 pm		Brownies
5.30 pm		Rainbows
7.15 pm		Guides
Friday	7.30 pm	Housegroup
	Various	Read Dance & Theatre College
	9.45 am	Zumba Fitness Class
	6.30pm	Pilots
Saturday	9.00 am	The Allenova Ballet School
	9.30am	Reading Seventh Day Adventist Community Group
	10.00	Parenthesis Choir
	4.00pm	Reading Community Gospel Choir

