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August 2024

Change is afoot (or maybe 30 centimetres)

In July I wrote about the forthcoming General Election and sure enough we have a new government who are quickly making their mark with announcements, reviews and changes of emphasis. I also wrote about General Assembly, that didn't have many radical changes - we are perhaps working towards those in November 2025. Some change takes time!

This month we welcome Maxine to our new role of Administration and Fundraising Officer. We say thank you to everyone who has covered office duties over the last nine months. Your help has been invaluable and we may call on you again to cover holidays or workload, but it won't be the time commitment that each has made. One change will be to remind everyone that the Office is Maxine's workspace. It is not a meeting space and it is not a corridor. I do want us to make more use of the vestibule and worship space, but to do so we need to get used to going around the outside and using the front doors. We will perhaps look at storing cups, mugs and kettles there, so that there is less need to go through to the kitchen. Having said that, please take time to say hello and to welcome her into this community. We have decided that I will line-manage. In the initial period she will be learning our systems and working out how to manage the various roles we have given her. So any requests for her time should come through me.

We have also been experimenting. I would like some feedback about the afternoon service in July. I already have some adaptations in mind, but it would be good to hear thoughts from those who were there. I'm sorry that the stream did not work - we are still learning how to adapt to the technology and hopefully we can get that right next time, for I have pencilled in four possible dates for next year.

I was also hoping that I was creating time to do more pastoral work. However, the role I do for Assembly, investigating complaints against ministers, sadly is sucking in lots of time. I hope the bulk of it will be over by the end of August, but later in the year it will also need more attention. Hopefully I will be able to produce a Link for September, but that may change. So this calendar covers all dates until the end of September.

As I talk about change, I'm drawn to stories in Mark's gospel where the disciples have been learning all that is possible when they follow Jesus. They have been sent out to find places of welcome, heal people and cast out demons. They have returned excited, yet are still not prepared for Jesus feeding 5000 with five loaves and two fish, then they witness him walking across the sea to meet them in a storm. Jesus says, "Take courage!" Yet, it is too much for some of them, and we are told that hearts were hardened. May our hearts remain open to all that Jesus brings, and our minds be fed by the good news we share.

Be Blessed, Craig



Nature and Nurture for August saw us off the main path at Bradgate Park, going through the main wrought iron gates and turning left up over the top with the eagle eyed of us spotting landmarks way off in the distance. So far in fact, we thought we could see the tide was in! OK maybe a bit of an exaggeration. We have included two pictures because whilst we had the picture taken, we were unaware of the little family of ducks in the water to our right. As always, we ended the walk with a welcome cup of coffee and chatted about many things, but we managed to avoid politics. Next month (August 14th) we will meet at the Outwoods a well-trodden and familiar path, with knowledge that there is a great cup of coffee awaiting us at the end. Do you see a theme at work here?

FLOWER ROTAS

AUGUST

4	Una
11	Angela
18	Raied
25	Dilys

SEPTEMBER

1	Hilary
8	Neilea
15	Phyllis
22	Ann
29	tba

We are grateful to all those who provide and those who arrange the flowers. If you would like to offer to help in any way, please speak to Una or Sheila J.

August Calendar		
Thursday 1st	11:00am	Grub Club
Friday 2nd	10:30am	Bible Study; Joshua 6 in Blue Room or via Zoom Meeting ID: 893 0123 3247 Passcode: 772397
Sunday 4th	10:30am	Worship led by Daphne Beale
Monday 5th		Loughborough in Bloom
	11:00am	Grub Club
Tuesday 6th	11:00am	Grub Club
	2:00pm	Tuesdays@2.
	4:00pm	Prayers@4
Thursday 8th	11:00am	Grub Club
	2:00pm	Elders' Meeting
Sunday 11th	10:30am	Communion Service led by Craig Muir
Monday 12th	11:00am	Grub Club
Tuesday 13th	11:00am	Grub Club
Wednesday 14th	10:30am	Nature and Nurture from Outwoods car Park.
Friday 16th	10:30am	Bible Study; Joshua 7 in Blue Room or via Zoom Meeting ID: 893 0123 3247 Passcode: 772397
Sunday 18th	10:30am	Worship led by Craig Muir.
Tuesday 20th	2:00pm	Tuesdays@2.
	4:00pm	Prayers@4
Sunday 25th	10:30am	Worship led by Mike Playdon
September Calendar		Season of Creation
Sunday 1st	10:30am	Respecting God's Creation Worship led by Daphne Beale
(Or 8th)	12 noon	Christian Aid Lunch at LBC (awaiting confirmation)
Tuesday 3rd	2:00pm	Tuesdays@2.
	4:00pm	Prayers@4
Friday 6th		No Bible Study
Sunday 8th	10:30am	Remembering: Communion led by Mike Playdon
Thursday 12th	7:00pm	Elders' Meeting

Friday 13th	10:30am	Synod Quiet Day at Hockington Fen, Lincolnshire. We hope to take a group from Loughborough and Melton, If anyone would like to go, please contact Craig so that we can book in and arrange travel.
Sunday 15th	10:30am	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Worship led by Daphne Beale and Geetha Bala
Tuesday 17th	2:00pm	Tuesdays@2.
	4:00pm	Prayers@4
Wednesday 18th	10:30am	Nature & Nurture
Thursday 19th	10:00am	Mission & Outreach in Vestry
Friday 20th	10:30am	Bible Study; Joshua 8 in Blue Room or via Zoom Meeting ID: 893 0123 3247 Passcode: 772397
Saturday 21st	2:00pm	Issac Watts Commemoration Service at Melton Mowbray with Freeby URC
Sunday 22nd	10:30am	Responding: Worship led by Mike Playdon
Thursday 26th	7:00pm	Church Meeting in Blue Room or via Zoom Meeting ID: 881 4204 4106 Passcode: 158683
Sunday 29th	10:30am	Rejoicing with Creation: Harvest Worship led by Craig Muir
	12 noon	Harvest Lunch (but we still need a volunteer to organise)
October Calendar		
Tuesday 1st	2:00pm	Tuesdays@2.
	2:30pm	Choir Practice (please check nearer time)
	4:00pm	Prayers@4
Friday 4th	10:30am	Bible Study; Joshua 9 in Blue Room or via Zoom Meeting ID: 893 0123 3247 Passcode: 772397
Sunday 6th	10:30am	Worship led by Mike Playdon
	5pm	Living Well: Worship, discussion and Food in partnership with Trinity & LBC. Meeting at LCP
Saturday 12th	10:00am	East Midlands Synod Meeting at Abbots Road.
Sunday 13th	10:30am	Three Choirs: Communion Service in partnership with Trinity & LBC. Meeting at URC
Tuesday 15th	2:00pm	Tuesdays@2.
	4:00pm	Prayers@4
Wednesday 16th	10:30am	Nature & Nurture

Please send anything you would like included next time by August 16th ready for Sept.