



# NEWSLETTER OF

Ardeen Road  
United  
Reformed  
Church  
Doncaster

**November**  
**2023**

**Number 29**

---



**Minister:**

Rev. Matt Stone

01709 373355

07354 842542

[matt.stone@cantab.net](mailto:matt.stone@cantab.net)

**Secretary:**

Mrs. V. Morrison

01302 530109

[valmorrison7@btinternet.com](mailto:valmorrison7@btinternet.com)

**Sunday**  
**Worship**

**11.00 am**

**Everyone welcome**

<http://ardeenroadurc.org.uk>

## POPIES

Why are they selling poppies mother? Poppies in town today?

The poppy my child is the flower of love for the men, who marched away.

Why did they choose the poppy mother? Why not a beautiful rose?

Because my child men fought and died in the field where the poppy grows.

But why is the poppy so red mother?

Red is the colour of blood, my child, the blood that our soldiers shed.

The heart of the poppy is black mother. Why does it have to be black?

Black is the symbol of grief, my child, for the men who never came back.

But why mother dear are you crying so? Your tears like winter rain.

My tears are for fear for you, my child, for the world is forgetting again.

*When you buy your poppy this year, remember this poem, which is presumed to be anonymous but, in its correct form was written by John F. Willcocks and was found among his paperwork in 2004. He scarcely knew his father, as he was only nine months old when his father died as a result of being gassed on the Somme.*

## From Our Minister



Dear friends,

I wonder: In what ways have you experienced God's presence in your life?

At our final Bible Study on the book of Exodus back in September, it was wonderful to hear a range of different answers to that question. Some spoke of the Bible, others of times of quiet prayer, and others still of singing hymns or listening to music. For me, it's a mix of all of the above – but also through God's creation. As Psalm 19 puts it,

*“The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.  
They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.  
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.”*

God's creation is amazing, and we are part of that. The human body is 37,200,000,000,000 (that's 37.2 trillion!) cells all working together at the same time to keep us alive. Not only are we a wonder physically, but we can also recognise and delight in the beauty of God's wider creation. We can craft beautiful symphonies, write poetry and books, and make stunning works of art. We can forge relationships, enjoy hobbies, and experience all manner of emotions. Crucially, we can know that we are loved – and we can love others – including the Creator Himself.

Within God's creation, we are special. Everything else is good, but we are “very good” (Gen. 1:31). We can walk and talk with God. We can continue God's work. We are tasked by God to “rule over” God's world (Gen. 1:28). That command “to rule over” doesn't mean we can do what we like. It means we have a profound responsibility.

If you went away on a long holiday, and you asked someone to house sit – to feed your cats, to water your plants, to ‘rule over’ your house whilst you were gone - they would have a responsibility. They wouldn't suddenly own your house. They wouldn't be able to do whatever they wanted with it: whether redecorating the lounge in bright purple or holding wild parties every night (at least not without experiencing the

consequences when you return)! In the same way, we have been entrusted with God's creation.



When it comes to the environment, there's always a risk that we drift to one of two extremes. The first is that we think the world is all about us, and that we can do

whatever we like with it – leading us to exploit and abuse the world for our own ends. The second, and opposite extreme, is that we make creation into a god and start worshipping Mother Earth or Gaia. The Christian view is neither of these. Instead, we recognise that God is the Creator, the owner, the real ruler of all things, and that God has tasked us to look after His world – a world which reflects His beauty and glory. It's for this reason that creation care is so important, and an integral part of our Christian discipleship.

As a church family, we are exploring becoming an eco-church. We need to ponder how we might – individually and corporately – give glory to God through the ways we care for God's world. How might we worship God, not just in Bible reading, prayer and music, but in the ways that we live and the choices that we make? How might we be good stewards of the world God has entrusted to us, ruling over it wisely, justly and tenderly in the Father's name? There's much to consider!

With love,

Matt

---

### Worship Leaders

November 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Val Morrison
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.50am	Martin Johnson
		<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>
		<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Revd Matt Stone
November 26 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Val Morrison



**Please note the earlier start of 10.50am for the service on 12<sup>th</sup> November to allow time for the two-minute silence**

## **WhatsApp Prayers**

If anyone would like to join the WhatsApp prayer group please let me know my number is 07305530730. I will need your number please.

If you have a phone capable of receiving messages but not WhatsApp, please let me know so we can send out texts instead.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

God Bless – Judith

---

## **FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY**

**The United Reformed Church:**

**A Paradoxical Church at a Crossroads .....**

Last month I wrote about a report published by Theos in time for General Assembly in July.

A key question for the research was *‘What does it look like when local URC’s flourish?’*

We might all have our own views in answer to that question. We might point to such things as, all the seats full on every Sunday, lots of children and plenty of committed adults with energy and time. A more useable building with money to alter and renovate and upgrade. If only ‘they’ would come in ..... ‘

The report concludes that where the URC is flourishing it is seen to be so in its actions of service to the community, reflecting on mission with the following words:

*‘Our mission is to be out there, doing the work and maintaining a place of welcome, friendship, love and support, where we talk honestly about things and where we share as much as we can of our life and faith and our assets of time, money and gifts.’* It suggests that the marks of successful community outreach discerned through the interviews and conversations which led to the production of the report were:

- Intentionally listening to the needs of the community
- Recognising the assets of the community
- Creatively deploying the assets of the congregation
- Working as much as possible in partnership with the community

Notice in that list there is more about the community than about the congregation, a fact which may give us pause for thought and which may lead us to a further question – how can we offer within the community, a specifically Christian ethos. How do we nurture our own community within our wider community?

Within the report there are some thumb nail sketches telling the stories of specific places. Llanfair Uniting Church is one of those. High above the Rhondda valley in South Wales, Penhrys was a mining community until the mine closed when the community became isolated geographically as well as economically. The church became and still remains, the backbone of the community. Visit Llanfair Uniting Church and you meet a community, but you also meet with the Holy Spirit, present in the joys and the sorrows, in the sadness and the celebration. Everything we do here is faith and love in action says one of the volunteers.

Is that a sign of a flourishing church – ‘faith and love in action’?

---

## **WHITBY'S FISH & CHIP RESTAURANT**

### **LUNCH & SOCIAL**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 12 noon**

**& Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 12 noon**

Please sign up for this event on the sheet at the back of the Church or contact Jennifer Lowe for more details

---



A big **THANK YOU**

To everyone who donated items to the Harvest Food Bank appeal.

To all the staff and parents from Racing Start Nursery, Church members, and members of the local community. Also, to Navartis Recruitment who added to the donations after the service on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

## **FLOWER LIST**



Would you like to mark a special date, event, or memory by providing the flowers for a service? There are still a few empty dates on the list for 2023 which is now on the notice board towards the back of the church. Please sign up against any dates

you wish to provide the flowers for.

---



### **We are on Facebook**

Search for  
“Ardeen Road United Reformed Church”  
Or enter our link  
[facebook.com/Ardeen-Road-United-Reformed-Church-Doncaster-114034434522636](https://facebook.com/Ardeen-Road-United-Reformed-Church-Doncaster-114034434522636)

---

## **BIBLE STUDY**

The Bible Study is an informal group that meets on Tuesday afternoons to unpack the Bible and what it might say to us in our lives today. There’s no pressure to contribute or speak out loud – all are welcome just to come and listen – so please do join us if you can. We are currently linking in with our Sunday services looking at the minor prophets and will then be taking a break over Advent and Christmas, meeting again in the New Year.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Bible Passage</b>	<b>Sunday Link</b>
Tues 14 Nov, 1.45- 2.45pm	Joel	Following on from Val’s service on 5 Nov
Tues 28 Nov, 1.45- 2.45pm	Haggai	Following on from Val’s service on 26 Nov

## **SINGING GROUP**

The Singing Group next meets on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November  
at 2pm **everyone welcome**

---



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT  
YOUR MUCH NEEDED  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
FOOD BANK IN THE BASKET  
AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH.**

---

### **Hardship fund**

It has been a difficult time for some people. Costs of food and fuel rising and no promise that this will change. We do not generally share finance related concerns with each other thinking of it as a private matter. However, the Elders heard of one church where some money had been set aside and made available to any member of the congregation who was struggling. At the January Church Meeting it was agreed to hold a fund of £1,000 which could be used if any of the members of Ardeen Road URC Doncaster should be in need of some help. Any payment from the fund would be treated in strict confidence. Please speak to Matt or me if this would help you.

*Val*

---

### **To special friends**

**Just a quick thank you to you all for cards, prayers and messages on our move to Dunholme they were a source of strength and comfort at what was a difficult time. After 3 weeks apart Roderick and I were able to be home together for our Wedding Anniversary. And look forward to making this bungalow our new home.**

*Judith & Roderick*



## CRAFT GROUP



Earlier this year I was asked by Ailsa to suggest to the Craft Group that we made a banner for Remembrance.

After some discussion we had a design and the members, Elizabeth, Margaret, Ina, Dena, Jackie, Jennifer, Dorothy, Trish, Elaine, Barbara, Diane and Chris began making poppies and petals. Black for the Caribbean soldiers, red for remembrance, white for peace and purple for animals and birds.

When we came to finding material for the banner there was a problem due to the lack of haberdashery shops in the city. However, Diane, one of our members offered to visit Charity Shops and in the very first one she visited was a pair of curtains that were perfect. – what a relief.

The completed banner will be unveiled at the Remembrance Day service on November the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of November starting at 10am and the final one for 2023 will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December when we will be attending the Carolathon at Church which begins at 2pm.

*Margaret*



Why do hens lay their eggs?

..... Because if they dropped them they would break.

Why did the chicken cross the road and then go back across the road again?  
.....because it was a double crosser.



## WORLD WAR ONE BATTLES

The grid below contains the following battles from World War One

Aigne, Amiens, Ardennes, Artois, Cambrai, Cantigny, Champagne, Charleroi, Chateau Thierry, Epehy, Ginchy, Guise, Hindenburg Line, Hulluch, Liege, Loos, Lys, Malmaison, Marne, Maubeuge, Neuve/Chapelle, Passchendaele, Saint Mihiel, Sambre, Verdun, Vimy Ridge, Ypres, Ysar,

S	O	P	A	S	S	C	H	E	N	D	A	E	L	E
M	Y	N	O	S	I	A	M	L	A	M	C	S	N	G
L	R	M	E	B	E	L	E	L	C	A	L	I	E	D
E	R	S	N	E	I	M	A	H	M	A	L	U	U	I
I	E	W	O	E	A	O	A	B	D	G	O	G	L	R
H	I	O	G	R	T	M	R	S	R	C	O	H	S	Y
I	H	E	N	E	P	A	E	U	M	A	S	I	H	M
M	T	E	R	A	I	N	B	A	S	N	O	C	U	I
T	U	N	G	I	N	N	U	N	S	T	N	H	L	V
N	A	N	E	E	E	B	G	A	R	I	E	A	L	N
I	E	A	D	D	E	R	M	A	G	G	S	P	U	R
A	T	R	N	U	R	B	A	I	G	N	E	E	C	A
S	A	I	G	S	R	E	R	A	S	Y	R	L	H	A
Y	H	E	P	E	L	E	V	U	E	N	P	L	B	E
L	C	H	A	R	L	E	R	O	I	R	Y	E	T	P

---

### Contacts

**Minister:** Rev. Matt Stone 01709 373355 / 07354 842542

[matt.stone@cantab.net](mailto:matt.stone@cantab.net)

**Secretary:** Val Morrison 01302 530109 [valmorrison7@btinternet.com](mailto:valmorrison7@btinternet.com)

**Treasurers:** Tricia Larder & Rod Morrison

**Newsletter:** Martin Johnson

**Room Hire:** Ailsa Johnson

**Flowers:** Jennifer Lowe & Elizabeth Dodsworth

**Property Stewards:** Jim Harrison & Martin Johnson

---

Why did the chicken cross the road, roll in mud and then go back across the road again?

....because it was a dirty double crosser

## **Christmas Service Dates**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2pm**

Carolathon and carol singing

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am**

Carol Service

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**11.00am** Sunday Worship

**11.00pm** Carol Singing

**11.30pm** Service to welcome  
Christmas



In conjunction with Churches together  
in Intake

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 1030-  
12noon**

At Ardeen Road United Reformed  
Church Doncaster.

Planning session 6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
November at 2pm

**Helpers needed please**

# **IT'S BACK**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

# **NEW YEAR PARTY**

More details to follow

# *November diary dates*

Newsletter items for the December Issue to Martin by  
Sunday November 19th please.

## Door Stewards

- 5<sup>th</sup> Pat Jordan & Althea Burwell
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dena Hull & Jean Whitaker
- 19<sup>th</sup> Chris Garner & Jim Harrison
- 26<sup>th</sup> Althea Burwell & Malcolm Stanley



## Vestry Duty

- 5<sup>th</sup> Rod Morrison
- 12<sup>th</sup> Tricia Larder
- 19<sup>th</sup> Val Morrison
- 26<sup>th</sup> Jim Harrison



## Bible Readers



- 5<sup>th</sup> Dena Hull
- 12<sup>th</sup> Jim Harrison
- 19<sup>th</sup> Jean Brookes
- 26<sup>th</sup> Margaret Dyson

- 5<sup>th</sup> Margaret Dyson
- 12<sup>th</sup> From the flower fund
- 19<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Lowe
- 26<sup>th</sup> From the flower fund

## Flower list



## Refreshment Rota



- 5<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Lowe & Chris Garner
- 12<sup>th</sup> Janet Chorlton & Dorothy Keen
- 19<sup>th</sup> Dena Hull & Tricia Larder
- 26<sup>th</sup> Steve Armitage & Jean Brookes