



thank
GOD *for*
HARVEST

United Alive

Wotton United Church

Methodist & United Reformed
Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge

Sunday Worship at 10.15 am



October 2018

OUR PURPOSE

To worship God
and to serve Jesus Christ
in our community and the wider world
by communicating Christ's message
in word and action;
growing in faith; welcoming all ages;
showing care, friendship and love;
working with other churches

To accomplish all this through prayer
and the power of the
Holy Spirit

October Diary

October's Holy Habit is *Gladness & Generosity*

Mon	1	10am	United Ramblers meet at the church
Tues	2	2.30pm	Sisterhood AGM, presentation of cheques and entertainment by Rev Philip Hopes
Wed	3	12.30pm	Monthly Lunch Club
Fri	5	10 - 12	Coffee Morning in aid of Christmas Shoebox appeal
Sun	7	10.15am	Harvest Worship led by the Worship Group. Traidcraft stall open after the service
Mon	8	1pm	Pastoral Visitors' Lunch, followed by
		2pm	Pastoral Visitors' Meeting
Wed	10	2-4pm	Baby Café
		7.30pm	Ladies Group with Mandy Robinson from Robinson's Florist
Sat	13	9.30am	Aspects of Discipleship
		2.30-4pm	Dryleaze Saturday Club with The Morning Choir
Sun	14	10.15am	Sunday Worship: Chris Pearce. Followed by cake!
Tues	16	2.30pm	Sisterhood: meeting details to be confirmed
Wed	17	7.30pm	Wednesday Fellowship at 113A Parklands
Sat	20	10.30am	Reflect Conference and AGM, John Wesley's Chapel, Bristol
Sun	21	10.15am	Sunday Café-style Worship and Holy Communion: Rev Phil Summers
		1pm	Church Meeting
Wed	24	2-4pm	Baby Café
		7.30pm	Ladies' Group: Operation Christmas Child - <i>Sheila Whitaker</i>
Sun	28	10.15am	Morning Worship: Alison Jackson
		6pm	Evening Worship at Dryleaze House: Neil Grecian
Wed	31	7.30pm	Wednesday Fellowship at 113A Parklands

Church Meeting - 1pm, Sunday 21 October

Your chance to take part in your Church's decision-making



Gladness and Generosity

It is often the little things we learn in childhood that give us a bedrock of how to live as we're older. Who remembers, 'Count your blessings, name them one by one. And it will surprise you what the Lord has done'? I never went to Sunday School, but it has been sung to me since. A more modern children's song says, 'Love is like a magic penny, hold it tight and you won't have any. Give it away and you'll have so many they roll all over the floor'. Simple understandings of gladness and generosity but no less important because of their simplicity.

St David is renowned for saying 'Be joyful, do the little things that I have shown you'. Being glad for what we have in life can be such a little thing. Being generous with who we are can be so simple. But both of these attitudes – Gladness and Generosity – can sometimes feel like a great burden or an impossible challenge. How can I be glad when my world is not the way I want it to be? What can I be generous with when I have so little? The art of generous and joyful living is one that develops a lightness of touch to the way we live and the possessions we own. When Jesus asks us to 'consider the flowers of the field' (Matt 6:28), he is encouraging us to loosen our grip on the need to have things. 'Alone, God sufficeth' is a phrase from Northumbria Community midday prayer. It is not the ownership of material goods or the accumulation of wealth that is either the source or the point of life. If I am assured of God's love, then I can live life to the full whether I have vast amounts of worldly wealth or none (although Jesus points out it's harder for the wealthy to do that [Mark 10:25])

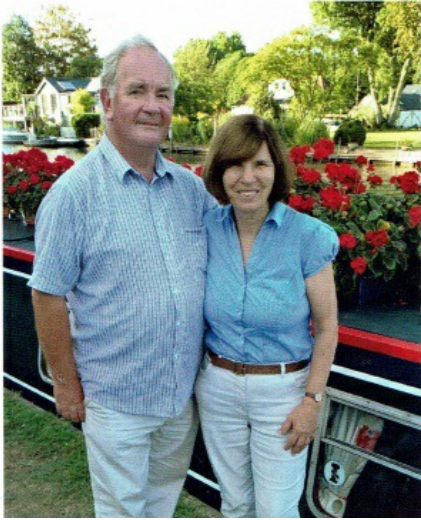
So, what is gladness about if it's not about celebrating all I've earned? It's about giving thanks for the little things. Simple as this may sound, here is the root of our Christian living – to appreciate the sunrise, the birdsong, the basic provision of food and shelter. We can find ourselves longing for more and in the process, we can begin to disdain what we already have.

What can generosity be if I only have just enough for myself? It's about living with an open heart. Simple as it sounds, here is the root of our Christian living – to look to the needs of others, sharing time and conversation, being a listening ear or a helpful companion. When we lock ourselves away behind the wall of 'being too busy' then we begin to see our lives as more important than those we are in fellowship with.

This month, through our worship and fellowship groups we will be looking at the Holy Habit of 'Gladness and Generosity'. May we celebrate the love that unites us, find new ways of sharing it and discover in Christ that we have so much more to rejoice about than we ever really knew.

Yours in Christ,

Phil



Gospel Belle

Last month the Gang of Four, or the Fab Four as we prefer to think of ourselves, took to the water in “*Gorgeous Grace*”, a canal boat on the Kennet and Avon Canal. Rob, Godfrey, Martin and myself enjoyed a week of mostly glorious weather cruising from Aldermaston, near Reading, to Crofton on the Wiltshire Downs and back again: only about 25 miles, but over 90 broad (two-boat) locks altogether!

We moored at the village of Kintbury, near Newbury, to fill up our water tank and found another boat already doing so. While waiting I got into conversation

with Linda Atwill, the lady filling the tank of her boat, and discovered that she and her husband, the Rev. Peter Atwill, work for the charity Canal Ministries, cruising the inland waterways spreading the gospel and helping boat-dwellers in need. They had been doing this for over twenty years in their narrow-boat “*Gospel Belle*”, which is their home. The name is taken from Romans 10 verse 16: “how *beautiful*” (*Belle*) are the feet of those who bring *good news* (*Gospel*)”.

Linda told me that there are ten boats doing the same work throughout the country. They attend canal rallies and other events taking the good news of Jesus. They also engage with people living on often run-down boats with little money; many of them are lonely and on the margins of society. Peter is a Canal Chaplain and preaches frequently in churches near a canal. They get involved with churches in mission and training in evangelism. All the Canal Ministries crews own their own boats – most of them are retired and have pensions making them self-sufficient financially, while others are supported by the Charitable Trust.

Canal Ministries is linked through Boats of Hope (www.boatsofhope.org.uk) to BCF, the Boaters’ Christian Fellowship which has over 700 members (www.boaterschristianfellowship.org.uk). Ann and I have spotted a number of BCF craft, but only once had we met a couple on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal engaged in the same work, so we knew about the Trust; the times it took to fill the 400-gallon water tank on “*Gospel Belle*” gave me an opportunity to talk to Linda and learn more about their work. The charity is supported by voluntary donations from individuals and churches of different denominations, and it occurred to me that it might be considered for our

Christmas Charity Appeal, perhaps in 2019 if we follow our usual pattern of a home cause followed by an overseas one- last year we supported the Bournstream Trust, so this year we may wish to choose an overseas charity.



You can find out more at www.canalministries.org.uk

Philip Revill

Wednesday Evenings with the United Church

Super Soup Suppers Are Back!

Wednesday 3 October at 7pm - Harvest Soup Supper

An informal time for exploration, discovery and chat using our Holy Habit topic for the month – ‘*Gladness & Generosity*’.

Please sign up on the notice board if you wish to attend.



Wednesday Fellowship

17 & 31 October at 113A Parklands

Looking at October's Holy Habit(s) - Gladness and Generosity

All welcome



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Rings and Things

There is a basket on the book stand by the hatch for all your unwanted mobiles phones, jewellery & watches which can be recycled to

raise money for Traidcraft - a full list of items is with the basket.

Also, please remember to bring your purses on the first Sunday of the month to buy groceries, sweets and cleaning products from the Traidcraft table.



Aspects of Discipleship

Saturday 13 October

9.30 – 10 Welcome & coffee
 10 – 11.20am What, Who and Where are disciples?
 BREAK
 11.40 – 12.30 Learning & Growin
 Closing Worship

Please bring a picnic lunch and stay for further fellowship

Sound System

We have an urgent need for people to operate the sound system on Sunday mornings. Potentially, after Christmas, the rota will be down to three people and two of those are Sunday Stewards and AV operators. Please consider prayerfully if this is something you could do. It is not very difficult and you will be given full instruction. It is important that we keep the system in place for those who rely on it for hearing the service and also for recordings for the house of worship.

Sue Marsland

Reflect Conference and AGM 2018

Saturday 20 October, 10.30 – 4pm

John Wesley's Chapel, 36 The Horsefair, Bristol

The keynote speaker will be Revd Michaela Youngson, President of the Conference, on 'God's Inconvenient Grace'. There will be an afternoon of workshops and activities. Drinks will be provided, please bring a packed lunch or buy from the café. To book a free place please email Gill Dascombe on gilldascombe@hotmail.com.

KAPS in concert

Friday 26 October, 7pm

Dursley Methodist Church

This Dursley-based guitar group will be playing a mixture of secular and Christian music. Tickets are £2 on the door. Doors open at 6pm. Please contact Phil Summers for details.



Shoeboxes

Time to start collecting items to fill all those shoeboxes!

To help raise funds and awareness there will be a coffee morning on **Friday 5 October, 10-12**, at the United Church.

There may be some changes in the way things are done this year, but we are still planning a Shoebox packing day on **16 November**. Please put it in your diary and we will give more details when known.



1000 letters

Could you write a letter to encourage a young person in their faith?

This is the challenge the Methodist Children & Youth Team has laid down ahead of the annual 3Generate event.

The aim is to get 1,000 Methodists to share via a letter something of their faith story, which will be shared with the children and young people attending 3Generate in November.

Could you share something about your faith experiences, being part of a church or faith community, something about special people or moments from growing up in a local church, or why you came to faith in the first place? The letter you write will be displayed at 3Generate for children and young people to read.

Send your letters to: **3Generate 1000 Letters, 6th Floor, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London• NW1 5JR**, to arrive by the end of October. See [the Methodist website](#) for more details.

Who are you? - John and Anne Rees-Simkins



As we have both been married before we have written this account in three parts. Each of our lives before we met and then our lives together.

Anne Rees

I was born in Sheffield, an only child of parents who had been married before with children by previous partners. I was close to two of my step siblings but never really got to know the others. We moved to Leeds when I was 5 and remained until I was 13 when my dad died. Whilst there mum used to take me regularly to Leeds Repertory and I developed a love of theatre. My mum and I moved back to Sheffield to live with my grandmother and a year later I started work and soon started going to dances with a work friend. I really loved dancing and through it met Eric, and we both got into ballroom dancing in a big way. I married at 21 after Eric returned from national service in the RAF; we saved and bought our first home when we had been married 3 years and when I was 26 our first child Joy was born followed by David and Martyn and seven years later, a little surprise, Anne Marie. I was a very happy stay-at-home mum until our children were at school when I decided to improve my own education and encouraged by Eric, I gained the required qualifications to enrol at Teacher Training College. Although a very happy experience for me, on the second day of my final teaching practice tragedy struck and Eric died of a heart attack in the street. He was only 44 and I was 43. However, Eric's advice and encouragement proved a great blessing as it left me in a position to support my young family and be available to them in school holidays.

John Simkins

I was born in Brighton in 1939. My dad was killed in 1942 whilst navigating a bomber over northern Germany. After the war, my brother Peter and I spent a short time at a Seaford convent boarding school. My main memory is being

forced to eat macaroni cheese for supper every night and hating it; it put me off cheese for decades. I then went to live with my dad's parents and sister Marie in Kent. I was happy there with a lot of freedom to cycle, swim and play cricket. I saw my mum and brother in school holidays, until, when I was nearly 12 mum married Charles and I went to live with them in Dublin. Charles (Carlo Silvio Ferrari) was Italian; he had moved to Eire just before the war and eventually became naturalized as Charles Farrar. He was well known as a cocktail barman and had his own bar, The Adam Room, in the heart of Dublin. He is particularly noted for creating the Irish national cocktail, Minearva, which eventually morphed into Bailey's Irish Cream. He was a good and kind stepdad who I came to love dearly.

Peter and I went to a Dominican boarding school, in County Kildare for three years and I then moved to Hull and lived with my grandmother while I studied for the educational requirements needed to join the RAF at Halton apprentice school in Buckinghamshire. On completion of my apprenticeship I was posted briefly to RAF Wattisham in Suffolk before being discharged on medical grounds due to a sports injury.

I returned to Buckinghamshire where I met and married my first wife, Heather. working in the aircraft industry for a couple of years until redundancy pushed me into other branches of engineering. One of these was at the Rocket Propulsion Establishment in Bucks where I worked on the Blue Streak rocket, Britain's first venture into space engineering. I set my stall out to become a Chartered Engineer and moved through a number of jobs and locations around the country while obtaining ONC, HNC and finally a Degree enabling me to achieve my goal. My final post was as an Engineering Consultant with an American company specialising in rescuing failing companies. My work in this period took me away from home for long periods and caused strains in my family life, particularly as we had three children, Richard, Rebecca and Rupert. My woeful neglect through work resulted in divorce which has brought me guilt and pain ever since.

Anne and John

John and I met in Sheffield at a music appreciation class and we later married, after John had combined our surnames by deed poll for the sake of our children. We soon resigned from our careers and moved to Gloucestershire to buy and run a Post Office and Village stores. After 12 years we sold up and moved to Wotton under Edge with our two horses and two cats. We supported ourselves here for 12 years with a variety of part time jobs until we retired, sold the house and bought a motor home which we lived in for 7 months while travelling around Europe. We then returned to Wotton and bought our present home. We lost John's daughter to cancer in 2015. His two sons and one grandson live in Sheffield and two other grandchildren live in London though one is currently studying science at Cambridge. My four children live in Sheffield, Cumbria, Eastington and Bristol with my ten grandchildren dispersed from here to Singapore and Oman. We both enjoy and love our families, but Christmas can be a very expensive time!

Dryleaze Saturday Club

The Club meets from 2.30 - 4pm on the second Saturday of the month, in the lounge at Dryleaze House. All are welcome.

Future dates:

Saturday 13 October: Entertainment from The Morning Choir

Saturday 10 November: Remembrance

Saturday 8 December: Christmas Event

At the September meeting, people were encouraged to have a go at a 'Harvest Acrostic' using the letters that spell Harvest Festival.

Hope for the future
Appreciation of a good harvest
Rituals from the past
Vitamins & vegetables in abundance
Engines we use today for speed
Speed to get the harvest in
Time when the weather is good

Failure can mean disaster
Easier nowadays – less manual work
Sowing the seed
Tractors that steer themselves
Vital for humanity to have a good harvest
All must keep the earth healthy
Living world is our gift from God

Gladys Heaven

*Having enough food to satisfy one's needs
All that we have to improve our lives
Remembering those that have no harvest to see them through the winter
Very many thanks for all the good things in our lives
Easter brings hope for the future
Suffering throughout the world
Trust we place in others who are involved in our well-being*

*Freedom denied to many people in other countries & not fully appreciated by us
Easter – a time of hope for the future
Surplus food that gets wasted in some areas while elsewhere others are starving
Time spent in helping others less fortunate than ourselves
Very many thanks for good friends and neighbours
Always give thanks for the good times
Luck in having many good friends*

Kathy Parry

And, from Margaret Jermy:

*Happiness to see the crops being gathered
Apples shining red on the trees
Runner beans hanging heavy from the vine
Victoria plums ready to go in a crumble
Eggs, a harvest from our feathered friends
Strawberries sweet and juicy with scones and cream
Thank you for all these gifts.*

Church Family News

Congratulations to Pat & Richard Bayliss who celebrated their Golden Wedding in September. Yes, that is correct: golden, 50 years ... many of us queried it. Thank you for the lovely cake we enjoyed with our café-style worship on Sunday.

Talking of **cake** - and it is family-related - Osh, Janet & Alun's grandson will again be selling cake after the service on 14 October as he continues to fund-raise for his World Challenge to Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Bring your money!

We read the list every week in the news-sheet, but for those of you who may have missed it, please take time to remember in your prayers those of our Family who are housebound or unable to come to church, especially Doreen Rodman; Mary Reynolds; Mary Le Riche; Jean Kelly; Gladys Heaven; Joyce Gault and Kay Davey. If the editor has omitted anyone, please let her know!



Men's Group

Ten of our men enjoyed their trip on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway from Cheltenham to Broadway in September; stopping in Broadway for lunch at the Crown & Trumpet.

So, yes, boys will be boys. And that is much the subject of the next meeting on 12 November when Judy Mills will be telling tales of some of her experiences in the police Service.

Rota for OCTOBER						
	7 October	14 October	21 October	28 October	4 November	
WORSHIP STEWARD	Alan Jackson	Roger Gunning	Ann Revill	Alison Jackson	Godfrey Marsland	
WELCOME	Betty Yeomans	Graham & Anne-Marie Jackson	Alison Sutton	Joy Robinson	Trish Davies	
TRANSPORT	Alan Pearn	Philip Revill	Alun Davies	Jill Polley	Roger Gunning	
COFFEE	Margaret & Mike Groom	Sandra & Trevor Owens	Margaret & John Alderson	Jacky Ling	Hilary & Alan McDermott	
FLOWERS	Ros Wakefield	Pearn Family	- oOo -	Trish Davies	Ann Revill	
SOUND	Brian Reeks	Godfrey Marsland	Tim Hayter	Martin Summers	Mike Groom	
SCREENS	Alan Jackson	Martin Summers	Godfrey Marsland	Alison Jackson	Philip Revill	
ORGAN	Sue Marsland	Ros Wakefield	Sue Marsland	Ros Wakefield (am & pm)	Sue Marsland	
GRASS	Tim Hayter	John Rees-Simkins	Peter Sutton	Alun Davies	No-one! It's stopped growing	

From the Remembrance Book in October



4th	Kenneth Long	1990	22nd	Ernest Wakefield	1981
4th	Flo Carter	2001	24th	Muriel Wood	1981
15th	Enid Marsh	2015	26th	Harry Telling	2009
15th	Hazel Webley	2016	26th	Geoffrey Morrison	1975

We give thanks for those who have lived and
died in the faith of Christ

MINISTER	Rev Phil Summers, 21 Kingshill Road, Dursley GL12 4DQ. Tel: 01453 542565. email: philsum41@gmail.com
LEADERSHIP TEAM	Rev Phil Summers, Martin Summers (01454 294920) Sue Marsland (844110) Graham Jackson (842449), Alison Jackson (843072) Roger Gunning (845232)
TREASURER	Tim Hayter, 88 Parklands, W-u-E GL12 7NR. Tel. 845520 email: tim.hayter@mypostoffice.co.uk
BOOKINGS	Pauline Jones, 55A Parklands, W-u-E GL12 7NR.
NEWSLETTER	Judy Mills, 1 Wotton Crescent W-u-E GL12 7JZ. Tel. 842421. email: judy.mills@live.co.uk .OR Philip or Ann Revill, 55 High Street, Wickwar, GL11 8NP Tel. 01454294466 email: pandarev55@gmail.com
NOTICES	Alan Jackson, 6 Old Town, W-u-E GL12 7DH Tel 843072 email notices@wottonunitedchurch.org.uk
WEBSITE	www.wottonunitedchurch.org.uk

Items for the **November** United Alive by **22 October** please to Judy Mills or
Ann & Philip Revill