

**NUNEATON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

***Christian witness in the local community for over 300 years***

**Outlook**

**April/ May 2024**



*“He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.” (Romans 4:25)*

**Jesus Has Risen**

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them,

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?

He is not here; he has risen

*Luke 23 - 24*



**From the Minister**

**Leading our Church into Growth**

Spring is here and growth is underway, not only in the world around us but also in our church.

We have embarked on a process under ‘Leading Your Church in to Growth’ (otherwise known as LYCIG), and had our first session on 26th February (following the LYCIG Local Course).

It was a very positive and encouraging meeting, with more than half of our Sunday morning congregation taking part .

 We considered how we might encourage a culture of growth and reflected on some passages from the Book of Nehemiah.

There were some interesting ideas coming out of our discussions, which we will be looking at taking forward (although some will definitely be easier than others!).

Some simple ideas about how we let people know that we are and active church included changes to the signage on the front of our building, opening our doors a little wider.

We noted the importance of welcoming individuals and groups (including a suggestion that we might offer pizza after Parade Services – likely to be a great hit with the Sea Cadets!).

We spoke of the possibility of more social events to build up fellowship and friendships.

The Elders will be looking at building on some of these ideas, and others that have been inspired by our discussions.

Underpinning are hopes to grow as a church we recognised that we need a positive mindset, trusting in God and being aware of the dangers of negativity. ‘GOD can’ is more powerful than ‘WE can’t’

We also recognised the importance of prayer. The example of Nehemiah praying and fasting was very much in our minds.

Throughout the LYCIG process we will use a prayer for growth:

*God of Mission,*

*Who alone brings growth to your Church,*

*Send your Holy Spirit to give,*

*Vision to our planning,*

*Wisdom to our actions,*

*Joy to our worship*

*And power to our witness.*

*Help our church to grow in numbers,*

*In spiritual commitment to you,*

*And in service to our local community,*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*.

Each member of our church is encouraged to make this part of their daily prayers, and we will pray it whenever we meet together.

Our next meeting of the LYCIG Local Course will be at 2 pm on Monday 15th April in the Bracher Hall.

We will be looking at how we might build opportunities for growth into our Church Calendar, how we balance numerical, missional, and spiritual growth and the 4P’s that an effective strategy for growth.

I’m looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us at this next meeting, it’s going to be good, will you join us?

***Allan***

**SUNDAY SERVICES APRIL at Nuneaton 10. 45 am**

Sun 7 Morning Worship with Holy Communion

Led by Rev Colin Offor

Sun 14 Morning WorshipLed by Ruth Gillett

Sun 21 Morning Worship Led by Rob Ballard

Sun 28 Morning Worship Led by Rev Dr Allan Smith

 Sea Cadets Parade

**SERVICES MAY at Nuneaton**

Sun 5 Morning Worship with Holy Communion

 Led by Rev Daniel Cheyne

Sun 12 Morning Worship Led by Rob Ballard

Sun 19 Morning Worship Led by Margaret Marshall

Sun 26 Morning Worship Led by Tom Baird



**REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS APRIL**

**April 7 Second Sunday of Easter**

[Acts 4:32-35](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster2_RCL.html#FIRST); [Psalm 133](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster2_RCL.html#Psalm1); [1 John 1:1-2:2](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster2_RCL.html#EPISTLE); [John 20:19-31](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster2_RCL.html#GOSPEL)

**April 14 Third Sunday of Easter**

[Acts 3:12-19](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster3_RCL.html#FIRST); [Psalm 4](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster3_RCL.html#PSALM); [1 John 3:1-7](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster3_RCL.html#EPISTLE); [Luke 24:36b-48](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster3_RCL.html#GOSPEL)

**April 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

[Acts 4:5-12](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster4_RCL.html#FIRST); [Psalm 23](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster4_RCL.html#PSALM); [1 John 3:16-24](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster4_RCL.html#EPISTLE); [John 10:11-18](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster4_RCL.html#GOSPEL)

**April 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

[Acts 8:26-40](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster5_RCL.html#FIRST); [Psalm 22:24-30](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster5_RCL.html#PSALM); [1 John 4:7-21](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster5_RCL.html#EPISTLE); [John 15:1-8](http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Easter/BEaster5_RCL.html#GOSPEL)

**REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS MAY 2024**

**May 5 Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

**May 13, Ascension Day**

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; *or* Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23;

Luke 24:44-53

**May 12, Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

**May 19, Day of Pentecost Whit Sunday**

Acts 2:1-21; *or* Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104: 25-35,37; Romans 8:22-27; *or* Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**May 26 Trinity Sunday**

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

**June 2** **First Sunday after Trinity**

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) Psalm 138 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-35

**MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

**Prayer Circle**

Each week in our Prayer Circle members of our fellowship are named in the Prayers of Intercession during Morning Worship and remembered in all our prayers during the following week.

Please remember in your prayers

Week beginning

April 7 Jenny Oliver

April 14 Colin and Pat Offor

April 21 Christine Roberts

April 28 Cindy Russell

Week beginning

May 5 Sandra Ryan

May 12 Allan and Fiona Smith

May 19 Kevin Swindell and Jill Tovey

May 26 Susan Thoume

And all who are unwell or receiving medical care at this time

***Prayer Book***

A prayer book is kept in the sanctuary for prayer requests to be included in the prayers of intercession.

Please ensure that those included are happy to be named in communal prayer

***Prayer Chain***

We have a list of people who are willing to pray in complete confidence in their own home when contacted by telephone for those in special or urgent need.

**MINISTRY OF FLOWERS**



**April**

 7 Doreen Spare

 14 Fiona Kinghorn

 21 Susan Thoume

 28 Janice Gordon

**May**

 5 Pat Lane

 12 Fiona Kinghorn

 19 Cindy Russell

 26 Margaret Marshall

**Bible Study and discussion for the Pastorate**

**At Horeston Grange Church**

**Wednesday April 10th 2024**

 **2.00 pm**

**ALL WELCOME**

to receive the session handout and log in details please send your email address to Diana (urc.newsletter@outlook.com)

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PENTECOST REFLECTION

**SPEAKING IN TONGUES.**

**MYTHICAL, MAGICAL OR MIRACLE**

What is speaking in tongues? A question many ask but few get to understand. It is shrouded with mystery.

Some would say it’s a mythical language, invented to serve no useful purpose but to confuse.

Some would say it’s magical, something that people only do when in a trance.

But the truth is, it is a gift from God.

Pentecost (also called Whit Sunday) is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 50th day  (the seventh Sunday) after Easter Sunday.

It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1–31). This year it falls on May 19th.

It is traditional that the gifts of the spirit are talked about at this time and the gift of speaking in tongues is often quoted although it was also around in Old Testament times.

The speaking in tongues is one of the most controversial spiritual gifts next to healing and miracles in the Bible, and biblical scholars seem to be split down the middle on this subject.

I believe that all parts of the Bible are words from God for us that will benefit our souls and build our relationship with our creator.

So, what is “speaking in tongues?” In simplest terms, speaking in tongues is when someone speaks in a language that he or she does not know. In Acts 2, at Pentecost, this is what happened.

People from all over the Roman Empire were gathered and they all heard the apostles speaking in their own languages.

If you look at the scripture in context with the apostles receiving the Holy Spirit, then it appears they were given the Spiritual Gift of tongues.

 There is a problem, however, because very few people who claim to speak in tongues today are speaking another human language.

Linguists have listened to thousands of recordings of tongues speaking, and only vary rarely have found even a fragment of another known language.

Does that mean that these people don’t really have the gift the apostle Paul talks about?

Are they just making gibberish noises?

I think not. In Acts 2 the apostles apparently spoke in tongues because the people listening to them spoke a wide variety of languages.

So, what is the purpose for speaking in tongues?

First of all, when it is interpreted it provides a message from the Lord, much as prophecy does. In 1 Cor. 14:5 Paul seems to think that a prophecy and a message in tongues which has been translated are valuable to the church.

The second purpose of tongues is, even if it is not interpreted, it can still provide spiritual encouragement to the one who speaks it.

The apostle Paul says that if you speak in tongues in private, you are praising God with your spirit.

He tells us that God gives some people the gift of tongues to use as their private prayer language.

Although some may argue, and often do, that the gift of tongues that are to be interpreted and the gift of tongues as the private prayer language (or the language of angels), are two different gifts.

They say that not everyone has the gift to speak tongues publicly, but every Christian can, and should speak tongues privately.

There is no biblical support for that point of view and it also contradicts what the Lord tells us in Chapter 14 of 1 Corinthians. There is no ONE gift that all Christians have.

So, what is it God is showing us today about the Spiritual Gifts of tongues and interpretation?

Is the speaking in tongues is a legitimate spiritual gift? Yes.

Is the gift of tongues for today? Yes.

Do all Christians speak tongues? No, we do not all have the same gifts.

Is the gift of tongues a sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit? Yes but, no more than any other spiritual gift.

Feel free to be filled with the Holy Spirit this Pentecost whatever form this may take for you. It is a gift from God so be thankful.

*Biblical references: 1 Cor. 14:1-25. Acts 2:4. Mark 16:17. Isaiah 28:11*

**Ruth**



**More Power to your Elbow**

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came

in living tongues of fire to rest on those who knew His name,

There was no fear, no doubt, that came to those who were now blest.

They knew of inner peace and joy, of love and happiness.

The Holy Spirit came to earth to rest among us then,

 And came to aid the work of those who were chosen men.

The Holy Spirit comes today to all who know the Lord,

Now ask that we might too be blessed with faith that is assured.

The Holy Spirit's always there to aid us in our strife.

To help us through the troubled times that still beset our life.

The Holy Spirit is God's hand still shown in us today.

And we can show to unbelievers, what makes us this way.

The Holy Spirit seems to me to be the power within.

The power to ensure that over goodness sin can't win.

The power to say and do what's right, to tread that narrow way

And lead a life as close to Christ's, and do what good we may.

The Holy Spirit comforts us, when in times of need.

The Holy Spirit prompts us, when the truth we ought to heed.

The Holy Spirit gives us just the right words we should say,

And helps us show to others the straight and righteous way.

So if you need a top up of the Holy Spirit's power,

Just ask the Lord and He will fill you in this very hour.

But don't delay, if Christ is really centred in your heart

the filling of the Holy Spirit is merely just the start.

Ruth

**This Is a Double Cross**

When the letters of the answers from this grid are transferred to the second grid, they give a quotation from the bible. If you need a clue, they are printed upside down below the second grid

1 Jesus did this to 10 but only 1 came back to say thank you. Part of the recipe at 6 below.

2. 6 balls in a cricket match. There were 7 cows and 7 heads of these in Pharaoh’s dream.

3. Naaman did this and was healed of leprosy. A maiden name indication

 4. With blankets they make a bed. Do this to your enemies (it will drive them mad!)

 5. An image captured on a phone these days. Past or present – it is all the same.

6. Made with just sugar butter & cream. The first man.

7. Pharaoh’s dream make the first 7 cows this. It could have been a miss but it got into the top 10.

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|  | **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** | **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** | **I** | **J** | **K** |
| **1** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **5** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **6** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **7** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| 1C | 7D | 6I |  | 2J | 5C | 3A |  | 6A | 4B | 1B | 4F | 3J |  | 7A | 3D | 2D | 3I | 4C |  |  |  |
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| 2G | 2C | 6K | 2H | 7G | 5I |  | 6C | 3B | 2I | 5G | 1A |  |  | 5B | 2A | 5A | 6F |  | 6H | 3H | 3F |
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| 1D | 5E | 4J | 6E |  |  | 1F | 1G | 7H |  | 1H | 7B | 5K |  | 2F | 1K | 5H | 6J | 1I | 4D | 5J | 5D |
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| 4I | 6D |  | 4E | 7F | 3E | 4A | 4K |  | 7C | 3C |  | 4H | 6B | 2B | 1J |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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SONGS OF PRAISE



**North Warwickshire Pastorate**

**Songs of Praise event**

**Sunday 12th May 2024 3 pm**

**at Bedworth Old Meeting Church**

**followed by Tea.**

**We’d love everybody to come.**

**Hope to see you there.**

**If you have a favourite hymn and would like us to include it, please let me know. If you would like us to know why it is your favourite, please send me the details or, if you are prepared to tell us yourself on the day that would be even better.**

**Suggestions for hymns to go to Ruth Gillett (Nuneaton URC) email: pollyannabutterfly17@yahoo.com.**

**FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY**

 members attended our AGM on March 20th

The following members of the church family had passed away during the year and were remembered in prayer.

Mary Ward 19th February 2023

Robert Collett 1st December 2023

**Post holders 2023**

The list of Post holders for 2024 was considered and those listed indicated their willingness to continue in their various roles and this was agreed by the meeting.

**Church Secretary**

Diana Collett agreed to continue as Secretary and this was endorsed by the meeting.

**Election of Elders**

There were two retiring elders, Diana Collett who was duly nominated for re-election, and Janet Newborough who wished to retire as a serving elder.

Thanks were expressed to Janet for faithful service as an elder over many years

There were no other candidates for election and it was agreed by the meeting that Diana be elected to serve for three years until March 2027.

The election as serving elders of Ruth Gillett (Church meeting September 2023) and Robert Kinghorn (Church meeting November 2023) was also confirmed. Both to serve until March 2027.

It was agreed to arrange for rededication of the Elders during the communion service on March 31st

**FAITHFUL FRIDAYS IN LENT**

The short acts of worship/meditation led by members of the Worship Group were very well attended and much appreciated by all who participated.

 It is hoped we may be able to arrange a monthly follow up. .

**THANKS**

Fiona and I, together with our Family, would like to thank all our friends at Nuneaton URC for their kind cards, messages, wishes and Prayers following my father’s passing. They have been much appreciated and are a great comfort.

***Bob KInghorn***

**ARE YOU CRAFTY?**

We are looking at the possibility of having a craft group to meet in our church premises on dates and times to be decided. To see if this is wanted, we would like people to come forward if they do any sort of craft that could be demonstrated, taught to others, or just done together for a bit of fun. If you knit, crochet, sew, make cards, whittle wood, make models, do decoupage, make crystal art, paint, draw or anything else crafty i.e. made by hand, please could you talk to Ruth.



**OFFERTORY**

**Thank you**

Thank you so much once again to all who regularly send in their offertory by cheque or BACs

Offertory January 2024 £1009.80

 February 2024 £943.09

**Prayer**

*Lord God, whatever we feel called to offer*

*our time, our talents, our treasure we bring it to you*

*We thank you for the gifts you give us and ask your blessing on our offerings and ask for you guidance as we discern how best these resources can be used to support your Church.*

*Amen*

We do not make a “collection” during the Sunday morning service

for those wishing to donate cash on Sundays

there are boxes for offertory at the back of the church near the exits.

**Please continue to set aside your weekly offertory if you are able.**

Please send cheques to

Jenny Oliver 203, Weddington Road Nuneaton CV10 0HE

For BACs transfers our bank details are:

Bank name Virgin money

Account Name Nuneaton United Reformed Church

Sort Code 05-06-43

Account Number 41771804

**We extend a warm welcome to all**

Sunday Morning Worship 10.45 am

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday each month

*The Church is open for Prayer, Quiet Reflection or just to look around Saturday Mornings between 10 am and 12 noon*

Baptisms and Marriages by arrangement – contact Church Secretary

**CONTACTS**

**PASTORATE WEBSITE**



https://www.nwpastorate.org.uk/nuneaton-urc/about-us/

**CHURCH**

2, Chapel Street, Nuneaton CV11 5QH

02476 375010 (ansaphone)

**MINISTER** Rev Dr Allan Smith

 11, Fleece Lane Nuneaton CV11 6BS

02477 921338 allan.smith@urcnorthwarwickshire.org.uk

**CHURCH SECRETARY**

Mrs D M Collett 209, Hinckley Road Nuneaton CV 11 6LL

02476 346175 urc.newsletter@outlook.com

**CHURCH FINANCES**

Contact Church Secretary

**FACILITIES MANAGER**

Mr P Williams, 73 Ashleigh Drive, Nuneaton. CV11 6GQ

02476 385540

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

Mrs J Oliver 02476 387065

**ROOM HIRE**

Contact Mrs J Oliver 02476 387065