



Wilmslow
United Reformed Church

ECO CHURCH
AN A Rocha UK PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

Summer Edition 2022



The Jubilee Beacon at Steeple Bumpstead, Essex by Bridget Jackson

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Wilmslow United Reformed Church

A warm welcome is given to all those who worship with us and are friends of this community. If you normally worship elsewhere, please give our greetings to your home Church

Services during July and August

Sunday July 3rd	10.30am Worship led by Revd Kirsty Thorpe
Sunday July 10th	10.30am Worship led by Revd Kirsty Thorpe
Sunday July 17th	10.30am Communion service led by Revd Kirsty Thorpe
Sunday July 24th	10.30am Worship celebrating Wilmslow Youth led by Kirsty, Rob White and Matt Williamson
Sunday July 31st	10.30am Worship led by Revd Kirsty Thorpe
Sunday August 7th	10.30am Worship led by Mrs Chris Goddard
Sunday August 14th	10.30am Worship – leader to be announced
Sunday August 21st	10.30am Worship led by Revd Kirsty Thorpe
Sunday August 28th	10.30am Worship led by Revd Kirsty Thorpe

Services are live streamed from 5 minutes before the start of the service. Recorded versions are available later at <http://wilmslowurc.org.uk>

More information on our services is available on our website <http://wilmslowurc.org.uk> in 'Message from the Manse' or via the Church Office 01625 532600

Dear Friends,

This is a special year not just because of the Royal Platinum anniversary but also as the United Reformed Church's 50th Jubilee year. The idea of Jubilee appears in the Old Testament as time to be celebrated, and the book of Leviticus describes what should happen in that special year. With great respect for creation, the land was to be given a rest from growing crops, so the fields were to be left fallow. Alongside this, all land that had changed hands in the past half century had to be returned to its original owners or their heirs. This meant that no land should ever have changed hands permanently in ancient Israelite society but in effect could only be leased by one person from another for up to 50 years. Because of this law no single group could grow very rich and remain so permanently. The third restoration in a Jubilee year was the freeing of all Israelite slaves.

Regular declarations of a debt amnesty were quite common in ancient near Eastern societies and new rulers often celebrated their accession by announcing a clean slate for non-commercial debts. What made the Israelite pattern more significant as a way of establishing social justice was that it happened every 50th year and was written into the law. Marking the Jubilee year was reduced to little more than a ceremonial event after the Israelites were taken into exile in Babylon in three waves up until 588 BC.

By declaring 2022 a Jubilee year the United Reformed Church is sending a message about restoration, celebration and beginning again which deliberately echoes the Old Testament pattern of justice and rebalancing society, relationships and the land. There is also a colourful free booklet called 'Celebrate Together!' (you can pick up a copy in church or the Undercroft café) which has lots of information about our diversity as well as our oneness in Christ. We're an ecumenical church, which likes to work with other denominations including Methodists, Baptists, Church of England, Church of Scotland, Church in Wales, Roman Catholics and Moravians. One third of our local churches involve more than one denomination and, as those of us who travel around the country will know, URC buildings come in all shapes and sizes too. Some are very historic while others are modern, multi-purpose spaces, and many are used for a wide variety of activities in their local community. You can usually tell you're in the right place from spotting a URC logo somewhere.

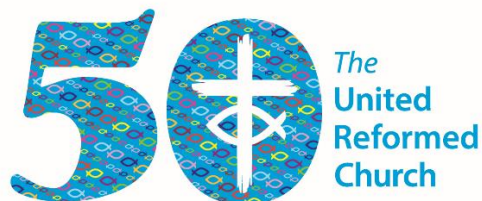
The church is marking our Jubilee year in a number of ways both at a national and synod level and we will share more news about this at Church Meeting after worship on Sunday July 17th. North Western Synod invites us to a communion service in Bolton at 2.30pm on Sunday September 25th. The Elders propose we could hire a coach and pick up folk from other URCs on our way. On Saturday October 1st there are events in London with an Open Church House event from 10am to 1pm at 86 Tavistock Place, our administrative headquarters, and a Service and Thanksgiving and Celebration for the URC's 50th Anniversary from 3-5pm in Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. This latter venue was where the first Uniting Assembly for our new denomination took place half a century ago. If you would like to attend the service in London you will need to reserve a free ticket by using this link: www.bit.ly/urc50

Another suggestion is to plant a tree. This is something we will need to think about carefully and decide on a suitable species and site for it.

John Bradbury, General Secretary of the URC, wrote these words last year: 'it is right that we discern once again what it means to be faithful. Jubilee is classically a moment of "re-set". Are we called in this moment to "re-set" the life of the United Reformed Church better to enable us and those who will follow after us to respond to the call to be faithful?'

These are significant questions. Many of us would have liked to be able to press a 're-set' button to take us back to life before Covid but that's not been possible. Pressing a 're-set' button that restores our Church life and witness to focus on justice, fairness, freedom and a hopeful new beginning for all is both a big challenge and a real cause for celebration. Let's make this our prayer, our song and our mission, not just for the rest of 2022 but beyond, into the future. Every blessing,

Kirsty Thorpe



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

The Fundraising Team

The Platinum Jubilee Celebration - Thursday 2 June 2022 at 6pm

As a fundraising team we wanted to mark this once in a lifetime celebration of Her Majesty the Queen being on the throne for 70 years.

So we decided to throw a party.



Notebooks out, thinking hats on, we went ahead with the preparation. Date to be decided, venue sorted (always an easy one) now on to the menu and entertainment.

We thought if we held the party at the beginning of the long Jubilee bank holiday then hopefully

more people would be free and we were right. We sold 69 tickets.

We decided that we would go traditional for the menu, looking back at the Queen's coronation. So we chose Coronation chicken with new potatoes and a fruity watercress salad followed by trifle, tea and coffee with the special Platinum Jubilee cake made by Liz Mair.

Now on to the entertainment which was sorted by Sonia. She knew Toby, who totally dressed for the occasion, from the Green Room. He was an excellent magician and would perform his magic tricks going round all the tables.





Now on to the music. Everyone was fully booked, but on walking down Grove Street, Sonia heard a busker singing, who had a wonderful voice and sung songs throughout the decades. On approaching him he happened to be free and was delighted to come. All sorted.

The next meeting was to divide the tasks, work out quantities for food and timetable the day. Peggy was going to be holidaying in Scotland so we knew that she would be with us in spirit. Everything sorted we began to get excited about our celebrations.

So Thursday 2 June came, we were to meet at 9am. Gillie and Amanda had cooked 8 large chickens each, shredded them and made a coronation sauce with a few sultanas. Wendy had put together 10 trifles and had also made blinis to go with the Prosecco on arrival. Sonia had been slicing radishes, grapes and oranges to go in the salad as well as making the beautiful table decorations.

By midday we were ready. Bunting up, tables set, plates and serving dishes all laid out. Now time for a break and we will meet again at 4pm.

On our return we entered the halls all of us dressed in red, white and blue. With the water boilers and dishwasher switched on and the blinis all made up we were ready for our guests to arrive and in style they did. Resplendent in red, white and blue, ladies with tiaras, men with red bow ties, sparkly Union Jack bow ties, everyone had made an effort and you could feel the atmosphere starting to build in the church halls, a feeling we have not had for several years due to the pandemic.

Everyone seated Kirsty started the evening with Grace followed by a toast to our Majesty the Queen and then we all stood and sang the National anthem.

Running shoes on the fundraising team set into action as Toby went round showing off his wonderful talent as a magician. A Royal Quiz by John H was left on tables for everyone to peruse. After the meal, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, it was now time for the cutting of the Platinum Jubilee cake. Lilian was asked to cut the cake and she gave us a true royal performance, waltzing up, tiara in place, a small speech and the cake was cut ready to be handed out.



Now it was time for the music to commence, Sam gave a truly professional performance, singing Fleetwood

Mac, Queen, David Bowie to mention a few and finishing with Sweet Caroline and the Fundraising teams' anthem "I would walk 500 miles". Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it singing along, waving flags and even some dancing.



It was an evening of fun, friendship and laughter and new memories made. Thank you to everyone who helped

to make it so special.

Other Fundraising Activities have included...

The duck race for Christian Aid. It lasted a week and we had 41 ducks racing. HRH won the race travelling



1626km this duck was Anne Brander's and she won the Queen rubber duck. She was closely followed by Woody, who travelled 1624km and was Steve Wood's duck and in third place was Braveheart who travelled 1622km and was Ken Wallace's duck. The race raised £1050 for Christian Aid and with other donations we raised £1856.35 in total.

The plant sale for Wilmslow Youth included the sales of plants, tea, coffee and cake. We raised £500.38.

Best wishes, The Fundraising Team. Amanda, Gillie, Kirsty, Peggy, Sonia and Wendy



Wilmslow URC – Carbon Footprint 2022

We have attempted to calculate the carbon footprint of the church premises using readings taken from the gas and electricity meters.

The net result is that we generated 34.14 tonnes of CO² from these sources. This compares with a figure of 36.99 Tonnes of CO² in 2010. This suggests we have made some progress in cutting the impact of our buildings on climate change in recent years.

In 2010 we also tracked how many miles we each used a car to travel to Church or to a church-based activity.

Help please - we would like to do this again by asking you to keep a record, over a four week period, of how many miles you drive to either to church or to a church-based activity. Please then let us know by preferably emailing the figures to the office on wilmslow.urb.office@gmail.com or writing them on a piece of paper and delivering it to the office. Let's all try to do this by the end of August.



Our next task, identify opportunities for reducing our carbon footprint.

Administration Team

My thanks go to all our newsletter contributors, especially those whose memories and images of Royal history and events follow here. Juliet Harris (editor)

Memories of Coronation Year 1953

- by Liz McGuire



Early in 1953 the National Savings branch of Royal Mail instigated a handwriting competition for school children which involved pupils writing out the words of the Queen's Coronation Oath in their most perfect handwriting.

I was 10 years old at the time and took great pride and care in neat, precise writing. Each evening for a week I practised at home ensuring that my slopes were parallel and my spacing equal.

On the official day in school, on specially provided quality paper, using a new-nibbed pen with blue ink from the desk inkwell and blotting paper under my left hand, six of us preselected pupils set about showing our neatest presentation of the oath. From these, three were chosen by the headmaster to go forward to represent the school in the national competition.

About a week before the Coronation date the headmaster announced in assembly that I had won a prize in the competition and presented me with national savings stamps to the value of half-a-crown, (2 shillings and 6 pence in old money and 12.5pence in decimal currency since 1971).

I was absolutely thrilled at winning and overwhelmed by the prize money as well as having to go forward to accept it in front of the entire school. However, it was a lovely memento of the Coronation Year.

About one week before the Coronation the sheet-sized flags were brought carefully out of their storage wrappings, attached to their flag poles and placed in the permanent flagpole holders on the broad stone window ledges of the upstairs windows of our house; the Union Jack at one window and the yellow and red Lion Rampant at the other. These were normally displayed each year on Armistice Day.

Coronation Day June 1953 – by Sylvia Baker

In June 1953 I was 19 years old and a probationary clerk at the Bank of England Branch in Leeds. One of the London premises used by the Bank was situated on the route of the forthcoming coronation. Every viewing possibility was in great demand for people to watch the parade. The Bank decided to hold a ballot, open to all members of the staff, for places on the balconies at Regent Arcade House. I entered and was unsuccessful but a friend, Margaret, won a ticket for two people and asked me if I would go with her to London. I don't think that I had ever been to London before which was exciting enough without the coronation!

We got the train to King's Cross at about 4 o'clock the afternoon before and made our way to the Royal College of Art where Margaret's sister was a student. The college was holding an all-night party ending with breakfast of bacon and egg and sausage – no-one was checking who was there and we just joined in the fun. Everyone was making a night of it ready for the next day but we were different WE HAD TICKETS.

We had strict instructions to be inside the police cordon by 6.30am. There was a crush of people but the police made way for Margaret and me to go through. An amazing feeling! We got on the tube and it stopped at Green Park but the doors didn't open. The platform was full of Lords and Ladies in their crimson robes with ermine trim and coronets for the ladies – every one of them holding an identical packet of sandwiches in their hands. I picture that scene, to this day, every time I go on the tube through Green Park station.

At Regent Arcade House we were made so welcome. I have no idea how many of the big-wigs from the Bank were there but they treated us as though we were just as important as everyone else. There were large TV screens to watch what was happening on Regent Street and a super buffet, although I have completely forgotten what we ate. We were allocated seats on a balcony and others in front of the TVs. The atmosphere was electric and quite unforgettable.

For many years after that day I would meet people from Head Office who would say "I remember you at Regent Arcade House" and we would start to talk about that very special time we shared.

As the Golden Coach approached of course everyone was on the balconies. From whatever height we were I saw the Queen with her hands on her knees and the beautiful fabric of her dress. The bands played and we were too excited to feel tired.

Thank you Margaret for letting me share that wonderful experience.

Margaret went on to marry a member of the Bank's staff and we were invited to the wedding in her parent's garden where she wore a stunning dress made by her sister - thanks to her training at the Royal College of Art.

Coronation Day June 1953 – *by Richard Banwell*

I lived in Streatham, I was 13 and a member of a local Scout troop. Our Scout District had been allocated the sale of the official Programme Brochure on the north side of the Queen Victoria Memorial, outside Buckingham Palace. I was a member of that programme selling group. By 6.30am the crowds were beginning to gather. The 'buzz' news was that Everest had been climbed!

The crowds built up, many were standing, some squatting, and we programme sellers mingled and sold the brochures. There were lines and hurdles marking the crowd area, with Policemen and Guardsmen spaced about a metre apart controlling these lines. The wait was boring, so any car passing was given a cheer! The street cleaners were also cleaning up after the horses!

The first procession was to the Abbey. We saw them all leave the Palace, some marching, others in cars or in carriages. The bands played and the sound slowly reduced as they marched down the Mall towards Trafalgar Square. As they came down Whitehall the sound level again built up. There was also a commentary from street loudspeakers so all were well informed of events. We heard all the Service from the Abbey and participated in the cheers.

The return procession started back down Whitehall and it made a big loop around inner London before coming back down the Mall. It was very noisy! The bands and the cheers from the crowds swelled to a great cacophony

— everyone was 'hoarse' by the end! The pageantry was magnificent. All of the soldiers, sailors and airmen were dressed in full dress uniforms.

The crowds were later allowed to move down the Mall and everyone converged on the Palace. You could hardly breathe, we were so tightly packed! 'We want the Queen' was the shout as we focused our eyes on the balcony.

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh came out several times to great cheers. Eventually the balcony door was closed and the crowd slowly dispersed.

Back at home, as we grabbed some food, members of the family swapped their stories as we had spread ourselves over several locations. Westminster, Whitehall, Green Park and watching on the new black and white TV! Guess what, we then watched a repeat on television!

Coronation Day June 1953 – by Liz McGuire

A few weeks previously my aunt and uncle, who lived in the neighbouring house, had bought their first television set and displayed proudly the enormous H-shaped TV aerial on their roof. This was essential if an acceptable signal was to be received but were few and far between.

On Coronation Eve my aunt, mother and gran spent many hours preparing sandwiches for the invited family and neighbours, even buying Scottish 'pan' bread for the occasion. This was easier to slice than the traditional 'plain loaf' and, of course, sliced bread had not yet been thought of! The fillings were probably egg, of which we had plenty as my gran kept hens in her garden, and possibly spam or meat paste as rationing was still in place for many food items. Everyone was so excited!

On the day itself we crowded (8 family members and 6 neighbours) into my aunt's reasonably large sitting room and gazed with wonder at this small flickering black and white screen in the corner. I was given a cushion placed at Gran's feet to sit on for the entire day whilst my brother and male cousin had to kneel on the floor. We oo'd and ah'd at the military and horse processions and smiled with the large figure of Queen Salote of Tonga. How we children giggled when hearing that the Sultans' wives were called Sultanas, as we only knew these to be dried fruits. I was totally

enthralled by the coronation ceremony and only moved away from watching when asked, at an appropriate time, to offer plates of sandwiches to the guests. The Queen appeared so small among the grandeur of Westminster Abbey and the crown looked very large and heavy. Although she was extremely solemn during the service, when she left the Abbey and drove off in the waiting coach she was smiling radiantly. What a day so far, and the Queen's appearance on the Palace balcony was still to come! We may have been hundreds of miles away in the Western Isles but on Coronation Day felt very much part of Great Britain.

Coronation Day June 1953 – by Lillian Grimshaw

My memory goes back to February 1952 and the death of the King. There were plenty of tears among us all. Then the arrival home of our new young Queen from a tour of Kenya. But it was not until the next year that there was the Coronation. We were invited to stay with friends in London and had a good overnight spot on the edge of the pavement. The day dawned grey and drizzly, but we cheered as the Procession went by, especially as we saw a friend in the Parade. Then we went home to watch the indoor parts on a television, many of these which newly bought for the occasion. Since then I think of the many years of service by our Gracious Queen.

Silver Jubilee – June 1977



Image by <https://pixabay.com/users/artelliiii72-15900295>

Golden Jubilee - June 2002 – *The Jackson Family*



- The Queen & Duke of Edinburgh on the balcony.
- Family and Friends at Buckingham Palace
- James awaits the arrival of Jubilee Parade to St Paul's Cathedral at Lancaster Place/Strand, London.
- The flypast (Concorde & the Red Arrows), taken from Birdcage Walk



Diamond Jubilee – June 2012

The Jackson Family



Sunday 03/06/2012. The Royal Barge approaches Blackfriars Bridge, taking part in the Thames Jubilee River Pageant.



Tuesday 05/06/2012. The Royal Standard flutters above the Palace of Westminster and Union Flags on Whitehall.



Tuesday 05/06/2012. Emma and James await the Royal Parade on Whitehall, with the Band of the Royal Marines.

Platinum Jubilee - June 2022

The Jackson Family (some in London. David prioritized tickets to the test match!)



Julie and Emma on the Mall and watching the procession to (or from) The Trooping of the Colour.



David saw the Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane flying over Lord's so he took part in the Jubilee celebrations as well.



Messy Church Everyone is Welcome

4-6pm in Wilmslow URC Halls, Chapel Lane.

3rd April and 8th May

messychurchwilmslow@gmail.com or 01625 532600

or just turn up.

Please bring a picnic tea – drinks are provided. Different theme & activities each month. Children must be accompanied



Book Club

The next book club meeting will be held on Monday July 11th at 2pm in room A when we will discuss 'The Paris Library' by Janet Skeslien Charles.

"The Paris Library's [Odile and Lily's] dual narratives explore the relationships that make us who we are – family and friends, first loves and favourite authors.

Image and words from

<https://www.jskesliencharles.com/about-the-book>



At the following Book Club meeting on Sept 12th, we will discuss 'The American' by Jeanine Cummins.

Printer Ink Bargain

The Church Office has changed its printer recently and has a surplus brand new unopened Canon PIXMA PG-40 Black 16ml cartridge. If this would fit your printer, and you would like it Michael Williams will accept the first donation of £10 or more (and offer free delivery!)

Wilmslow Youth

You may be interested to know that every quarter Waitrose, as part of its Give a Little Love scheme, donates £1,000 between three local charities. For the current quarter the theme has been Health & Wellbeing. As an Alderley Edge Waitrose Partner I was able to nominate Wilmslow Youth as a worthy recipient and was delighted to hand over a cheque recently for £333 to Matt Williamson. Matt said the money will be going towards supporting the Wellbeing Workshops for young people which take place on Wednesday evenings.



Cathy Wallace

For more information, please visit <http://www.wilmslowyouth.com/>



ROC Café



Friday Night Dinner



Parenting Course

Modern Believers Group

The Modern Believers Group meets in the Undercroft on the third Tuesday of the month, starting at 7pm with coffee, cookies and conversation. Our discussion on a chosen book begins at 7.30pm and finishes at 8.30pm, or thereabouts. The final meeting of the current session is on Tuesday 21 June, when we will reflect on the parable of the Prodigal Son. This is the last section of Abbot Christopher Jamison's book "Finding Sanctuary".

The next session will start on Tuesday 20 September 2022 and will run through until June 2023. At the September meeting we will welcome a speaker. The discussions at the subsequent meetings will be centred on a book, to be confirmed shortly, as all our members contribute their ideas. Everyone is warmly invited to come to any of our meetings.

Elsie Gilliland

The Art Group

The Art Group which meets in our church halls on Friday mornings during spring, summer and autumn is hoping to find some new members. You don't need to be an experienced artist and any complete beginner who comes along will find a warm welcome and plenty of encouragement. Having said that, none of the group is qualified to teach art – they just share their knowledge, learn from one another, enjoy the friendship and social side of the group, nobody counts themselves as an expert.

They meet from 9.45am to 12 noon, with a coffee break halfway through the morning and each week they choose a different subject to paint. Water colours is the most popular medium although some of the members prefer acrylics, chalk or pastels instead. Everyone provides their own painting materials.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in then why not go along on a Friday morning to meet the group when they restart on September 9th? Membership costs £30 per term which goes towards the cost of room hire. For more information contact Eileen Dunbar on egdunbar43@hotmail.com

Church Weekly Recurring Events

For a full list please visit our website <https://wilmslowurc.org.uk/>

Mondays

The Undercroft Café 10-12:00 – everyone welcome

Monday Fellowship (Undercroft) 2-3.30 Restarts in September

Tuesdays

Junior Badminton (large hall) 6.30-7.30

Adult Badminton (large hall) 7.30-9.00

Wednesdays

The Undercroft Café 10-12:00 – everyone welcome

Midweek Reflections (church vestibule) 11.30-12, July 13th, Aug 10th, Sept 14th

Thursdays

Ladies Badminton (large hall) 10-12

Brownies (large hall) 6.15-7.30

Fridays

Gardening Team (am)

Beavers (large hall) 6-7pm

Scouts (small & large hall) 7-9pm

***Citizens Advice** in the church halls on Monday mornings for drop-in and Wednesday mornings for appointments. Free, confidential advice on benefits, work, consumer, housing and other concerns. To book an appointment please call 01625 432847*



To book space in the church rooms please email bookings@wilmslowurc.org.uk or call the office on 01625 532600. Or visit <https://wilmslowurc.org.uk/hiring-rooms-in-our-buildings/>

Thank you for all your compliments, comments and contributions

The deadline for articles for the next edition is Fri 2nd Sept

All contributions gratefully received at newsletter@wilmslowurc.org.uk

