



Wilmslow
United Reformed Church

ECO CHURCH
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NEWSLETTER



Illustration by a Friday Art Group member

Autumn Edition 2022

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Dear Friends,

This autumn newsletter marks a new season on many levels. We are entering a world without the steady presence of Queen Elizabeth at the heart of our national life, with a new Prime Minister in Downing Street and facing a future full of economic uncertainty. As we give thanks for the Queen's example of Christian living, we also value the fact we are part of a Christian community. This issue celebrates some of the community groups now using our buildings and the people who run and attend them.

Churches consist of people, although sometimes we think of them mainly in terms of the buildings where the people meet. Of course, many church buildings are much-loved places of worship and offer valuable community facilities too, but I still wonder why we often get so fixated on bricks and mortar. In this 50th Jubilee year of the United Reformed Church I have noticed how many of our anniversary publications have focused on church buildings. The 2022 calendar, the Prayer Handbook and a new history of the URC, 'Traditions and Transitions', all feature illustrations of church buildings without a human being in the picture. That seems to me a missed opportunity to celebrate the people who make our churches worth joining and who matter more than the buildings where we gather.

Of course, some churches operate without owning buildings and rent spaces to use instead. LifeChurch Wilmslow have had many different worshipping homes over the last decade. Before and after Covid they met in two different restaurant/bars in Wilmslow, which meant packing up quickly after worship so Sunday business could follow on. In August their latest 'home' decided to close. Currently they meet in the Undercroft on Sunday afternoons from 4pm and enjoy it greatly. Any of us would be very welcome to join them there so do feel free to try out a different style of worship and build friendships between our two fellowships.

Plenty of people in our world now know how it feels to lose their home. Recently I called in on a Tuesday evening meeting in our buildings for local hosts and their Ukrainian refugee guests. Organised by Wilmslow Town Council, these gatherings began in June and allow people to

support one another and share conversations in their own language. There are 42 Ukrainian refugees in Wilmslow, within the Cheshire East total of 800. Most of them are mothers with school age children and their fluency in English varies widely. Drinks, biscuits and news sharing are always appreciated, as is information about educational courses, transport or places to find other help. Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church houses a collection and distribution hub for clothes and toiletries to support Ukrainian refugees. We can encourage the Tuesday gatherings in church by helping the Town Council team which hosts them. Please contact me if you would be interested in doing this. We are now collecting toiletries for the Ukrainian refugees, as well as for male asylum seekers in a local hotel.

Losing your home and all the land around it under water is a nightmare thought. This is the experience of millions of people in Pakistan whose lives have been devastated by the recent floods. At least 33 million people have been displaced. We have made the Disasters Emergency Appeal for Pakistan our Harvest Charity and any profits from our Harvest Fish and Chip Supper and Quiz on Saturday October 22nd at 6.30pm will go to this cause too. The money will help those without shelter, clean water, food, medicine or any protection from the elements. There is no chance that this vast environmental catastrophe will be resolved quickly. This year's high flood levels are due to record monsoon rains and melting glaciers, both blamed on global warming. The weakest members of the community, many of them children, are suffering most hardship in Pakistan's isolated, rural areas. Our gifts will do something to help rebuild the lives of families who have lost everything. Supporting this emergency appeal is a good way to mark the URC's Jubilee year and to give thanks for the lifelong public service and dedication to duty of the Queen, who always strongly championed the Commonwealth, of which Pakistan was a founder member in 1947. Every blessing,

Kirsty Thorpe



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972



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.

Sunday Worship in our Church

We welcome everyone to our worship in church on Sundays at 10:30am. We also Live Stream our services from 10:25am and these can be accessed through our website or on YouTube. Recorded versions are available later.

[Our Worship – Wilmslow United Reformed Church \(wilmslowurc.org.uk\)](http://wilmslowurc.org.uk)

More information on our services is available in 'Message from the Manse' or via the Church Office 01625 532600

As those of you who have any involvement in our church will know, outreach and community involvement are matters our church community value highly and like to get involved with. This edition is themed around some of our outreach activities and has articles written by other groups that use our church. We hope you enjoy it. The Editor



The Undercroft Café

When I returned to live in Wilmslow in March 2019 I was thankful to receive a warm welcome from friends I had known in the years 1974-1993. The church and its activities were an attraction and comfort. The Undercroft café was a new innovation to me and almost immediately I became a regular attender. I renewed friendships, met many new friends, enjoyed a very reasonably priced mug of coffee and a homemade biscuit, all served by efficient, pleasant ladies who are always happy to chat to customers. I am now a customer or a server every Monday and Wednesday.

Why not make a point of visiting the café in the Undercroft where a warm welcome awaits? There is a choice of tea, coffee or hot chocolate. I look forward to seeing you.

Christine Noden



Stand Strong – Fall Prevention Programme

The years of Covid did nothing for my health! By the end I found I was having balance problems and did not feel safe tackling even one step without something to hold on to. I was therefore delighted to find that Cheshire East were sponsoring classes and contacted them on their web site: oneyoucheshireeast.org or I could have phoned 0808 1643202.

On the site I found a long list of classes including 'Stand Strong' a falls prevention class to help to prevent falls and improve strength, balance and mobility, just what I needed. There were also 'Move More' classes and organised walks on the list. A few days later I was contacted and given an appointment for an assessment, where I was timed while doing a series of things, including going up a step and weaving between chairs. I was told that I was eligible for the 'Stand Strong Class' which takes place at 11.30-12.30 and 12.30-13.30 in the large hall. Cheshire East fund 26 one-hour classes doing the Orago strength and balance programme, put together by Physiotherapists and staffed by Reed Wellbeing.

The hall was set up with chairs (without arms) in two rows. We started with a 'warm up', then a series of moves to work each of the many joints we have in our bodies, we had the chair handy if we needed its support. We also did other things like 'heel walking', which I found difficult. We had a short break and a glass of water before going on to other stretching movements. After completing the 24 classes we had a further assessment and I was pleased to find that I had made a very positive improvement and I felt better for it.

I therefore decided that I would apply to join the 'Move More' class which is similarly sponsored, this time for only 12 weeks. After a warmup walk round the hall doing various things, like holding an arm out and circling them, we each went to a circuit of various pieces of apparatus - a step, a chair, a selection of dumb bells - and did each exercise for one minute before moving round to the next one. We usually went through these at least twice. We finished with a 'warm down'. We didn't have a break, but we were able to take a bottle of water in to drink as we needed it. It's my intention to keep up some regular classes when I can so that I don't lose the benefit of the improvement I made.

Valerie Puleston

Wilmslow U3A



My husband died very suddenly just before Christmas 2014 leaving me with quite a few problems to sort out although I was helped by friends and neighbours. I have no children and my closest family members live at a distance. After all the immediate problems were sorted I found I had quite a lot of time on my hands but I did not want to sit and stare at four walls for the rest of my life, so I looked around to see what I could do. At the time I was 81 and so joining in sports or volunteering were out but I remembered the U3A which is an organisation for semi or fully-retired people. Meetings were (and still are) held at the URC and I decided to go to the upcoming meeting and see how I liked it. The general meetings are held in the large hall at the URC on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

The programme generally is a talk by an invited speaker on some subject, followed by refreshments, which provides an opportunity for people to talk and get to know one another. I found the members very welcoming and as time has gone by I have become more and more involved and am now the Business Secretary.

The U3A does much more than just hold a meeting once a month. It supports several groups covering many activities such as Bridge, Scrabble, cycling, science talks, walking, bowls, table tennis, discussion groups, book groups, play reading, crafts, garden visits, theatre visits and from time to time we organise special outings to a stately home or something similar. Most groups meet once a month, some in the church halls, some at a local retirement home (where the residents join in) and some in members' homes. Apart from these meetings there are invitations to all members to come to morning coffee, afternoon tea and Sunday lunch get-togethers which take place once a month.

As you can see, there is plenty to fill up your time and because of all these functions and the great friendliness of the membership no-one need feel lonely. I have made many friends and I am very thankful that I came to the church that day for that first meeting and I hope if you find this interesting you will come and join us. Our subscription fee is low enough not to be a burden to most people.

Pauline Bushnell

The Arts Society Wilmslow



The Arts Society Wilmslow is delighted to be making its new home in the lovely, airy worship area at the United Reformed Church from September this year. We meet at 7.30 on the second Thursday evening of each month and we'd love to welcome new members to our activities.

We present a brilliant series of illustrated lectures by outstanding speakers, bringing to life paintings, architecture and gardens, fashion and design, the ancient and the modern and the whole world of fine and decorative arts. The Arts Society Wilmslow, founded in 1997, is affiliated with the national Arts Society which gives us access to a wide range of accredited speakers who are experts in their fields. Deliberately we present a programme that straddles the world and all genres of the arts. For example, our first three lectures this year are on the architecture of Mughal India (on Sept 8th) on Hollywood in the 1930s and on the Culture of Ukraine (on Nov 10th), the latter especially relevant at this time.

We are open to all ages and outlooks, and we try to make our meetings as social as we can, offering a glass of wine in the Undercroft when permitted by the Church. Members also enjoy a regular programme of outings, visits and social events. For example, groups have recently attended concerts locally, visited Tabley House in Knutsford and the ancient library at Chethams School in Manchester. We are planning a rather swish Christmas Lunch at the Alderley Edge Hotel in December!

We have a membership of more than 100 and are keen to attract more. The annual membership costs £50 and it is possible to try us out as a guest at a lecture for a small fee. We would be delighted to hear from any members of the United Reformed Church who might consider joining us. Please go to our website taswilmslow.org.uk or drop a line to our Membership Secretary at wilmslow@theartsociety.org

Citizens Advice



The Citizens Advice service in Wilmslow is almost back to the delivery schedule we had prior to Covid. Like most face-to-face services, we moved all our operations to telephone, email and webchat from March 2020 and although operating in this way meant we in fact saw a 30% increase in the people helped, however we also know that some issues do not lend themselves to being supported remotely. At the same time some clients can only be assisted through face-to-face support, therefore we reinstated some face-to-face advice as soon as it was safe to do so and increased this incrementally and are continuing to do so.

Citizens Advice deals with all kinds of problems experienced by local people, these include welfare benefit claims, debt problems, relationship issues, trouble at work and housing problems. Below is a summary of the issues dealt with in 2021 in Wilmslow.

Citizens Advice support summary in Wilmslow for 2021

427 Clients; 927 Issues; 462 Welfare Rights; 117 Housing; 68 Relationships; 68 Debt; 44 Legal; 28 Employment

When we reinstated face-to-face advice, clients were still telling us that they were concerned about the threat from Covid and so we maintained a dedicated telephone support option for Wilmslow clients.

Currently we are operating face-to-face services every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, full details below.

Mon	9:15am - 12:15pm	URC Drop In
Wed	9:15am - 12:45pm	URC Appointment via 01625 708608
Thu	9:15am - 12:45pm	Parish Hall

We have seen a lot less Debt issues since Covid, however we know these kinds of problems will be there and so we are prepared for an increase in these kinds of enquiries. As the cost of living crisis continues and fuel prices increase, we encourage people who are concerned and in need of help to come to us as soon as possible and we assure them that we will be able to help.

from Will McKellar, Chief Officer

Kerzenheim Rises from the Covid Ashes



It was back in pre-covid 2018 that we were last in Germany at the home of Barbara and Christoph Cronrath, two of the Kerzenheim "gang", enjoying their hospitality and making plans to meet up again in Wilmslow in 2020. Covid put paid to the 2020 plans of course and so it was with even greater pleasure that we were able to welcome them to our new home in Poynton in early August this year. We were blessed that week with very fine weather, the sort we expect when visiting Germany, and

although the heat became rather tiring at times it did not stop us from getting out and about and enjoying ourselves. Many of you will have met and spoken with Barbara and Christoph when they came to church on the Sunday after their arrival and some twenty of us with connections to Kerzenheim met up again at our house the same evening for food, wine and a lot of catching up on events both here and in Germany over the last four years of enforced isolation. It was a very enjoyable and chatty evening. In best Wilmslow URC tradition nearly all the food was eaten!





During their week with us we followed the Kerzenheim pattern dividing our time between outings and

more relaxing time in and around the house. For excursions we took them on visits to Lyme Park, Dunham Massey and the RHS Gardens at Bridgewater. For Lyme we walked from our house as it is only a little over an hour but with time spent having coffee (of course), visiting the house and gardens, and walking back it turned into a full day out. For more local



flavour we spent time taking them around downtown Poynton – a real thrill! We also walked round to the nearby Anson Engine Museum where Barbara and Christoph were fascinated by the

large model of Poynton as it was in 1900. We were able to use the model to pinpoint our house and other landmarks in the town and show how it has changed from the mining community that it once was to the far more diverse community that it is today. And no, Kerzenheimers, it was not shades of the John Deere tractor factory tour.

Sadly the end of the week came too soon but we know our visitors went home delighted to have met so many old friends and with very happy memories. A possible return visit is already being considered for 2024.

Colin and Trudy Shepherd

Two Musical Events

In October this year there will be two concerts you may wish to support. On Saturday October 15th at 7.30pm the Laurence Singers will present their second concert in our church this year celebrating their 50th year in existence. Then on the following Thursday, October 20th, there will be another of the regular Lunchtime Recitals in church, 12 noon to 1.00pm.

The Laurence Singers gave their very first concert at Christmas in 1971 in Gatley. During the half century since there have been almost 300 concerts at 117 different venues stretching from County Durham to south Shropshire but mainly in the greater Manchester area.

The concert on the 15th October will contain a wide variety of music as always including some of the more popular items of the last 50 years. The first half will have the Cantique de Jean Racine, the Benedictus from The Armed Man, the Hallelujah Chorus (acknowledging the many times the choir has sung The Messiah) as well as The Lord is My Shepherd from the Vicar of Dibley. The second half of lighter music will include Autumn Leaves, Mack the Knife, and Bridge over Troubled Water among other well known items. Regular supporters at previous concerts have also enjoyed the solo playing of Lauren Turner, the choir's accompanist and Richard Brocklehurst who has played the organ regularly at our Sunday services for many years. They too will play in the concert.

All in all it should be a tremendous concert to everyone's taste and with some former members coming back for the evening, it will be one of some nostalgia. Tickets are £10 and will be available in mid September from Cliff Crewe and Steve Wood.

On Thursday October 20th the Lunchtime Recital at midday features Lucy Farrimond now a professional soprano but who sang in our church as a student with the Opera Group from Chetham's School of Music some years ago. When Lucy heard that the Chet's group were still singing each year, she contacted me to offer her services and we were delighted to accept. She will sing a very varied programme with something for everyone. As usual entry is free with a retiring collection.

Please do come and support!

Cliff Crewe

Wilmslow Historical Society



Wilmslow Historical Society
@wilmslowhistoricalsociety · Community Organization

Image from [Wilmslow Historical Society | Facebook](#)

1111 012345 6789 1011 1213 1415 1617 1819

Wilmslow Historical Society meets on the second Wednesday of every month from September to May in the Large Hall at the URC.

The Society has been meeting since 1969 and boasts over 100 members. Our meetings usually revolve around a 60-90 minute lecture on subjects of all sorts of historical interest. Examples for the year ahead...

2022

- 14 Sep Claire Moores - Unearthing Cheshire's Quaker Community
- 12 Oct Gill Rossini - Researching Outcasts of Family & Local History
- 09 Nov Joanna Williams - The Great Miss Lydia Becker- Suffragist, Scientist and Trail Blazer
- 14 Dec Our Christmas Social - food, drink, raffle and quiz

2023

- 11 Jan Stephen Shakeshaft-A tour around the old city centre of Chester
- 8 Feb John Wallace - Overpaid and Over Here
- 8 Mar Dave Walmsley - Post War Britain 1945 -60, Politics & Society
- 12 Apr Paul Newman - "Cheshire's Archives: a story shared"
- 10 May David Briggs-Down the Rabbit Hole with the Hankinsons & AGM

Our speakers come from within the Society and further afield and we try and find a balance of historical subjects of local interest and wider topics.

The Society is also involved with, and encourages, local initiatives of historical relevance. This includes annual walks around the village/town and partnership with Wilmslow Civic Trust to commemorate Alan Turing in Wilmslow as one of our important past residents. In recent years Society members have also comprehensively researched and shared details of all the WW1 fallen from Wilmslow, early stories of Grove Street, the coming of the railway, and the start of public housing in Wilmslow. We are hoping to organise some Society trips to one or two places of historical interest in 2023 and continue with a programme of recording oral histories based on the memories of interviewees.

We gather at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month with tea and coffee available and our presentations commence at 8.00pm. Membership of the Society costs £15 per person, per year – with free membership for students. Guests of members are also welcome at any time for which we charge £5 per visit. If you would like to join us then membership application requests can be made via our email address wilmslowhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or to David Briggs, Wilmslow Historical Society, 01625 536909.

David Briggs

The Art Group

The Art Group meets in our church halls on 9.45am to 12 noon Fridays starting this term on 9th Sep. We published an article about the group in the last edition but, in summary. You don't need to be an experienced artist to join us and any complete beginner who comes along will find a warm welcome and plenty of encouragement. None of the group are 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. Each week they choose a different subject to paint.

Membership costs £30 per term which goes towards the cost of room hire. For more information contact Eileen Dunbar egdunbar43@hotmail.com

Messy Church Everyone is Welcome

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

On Sunday 2nd Oct, 6th Nov and 4th Dec

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

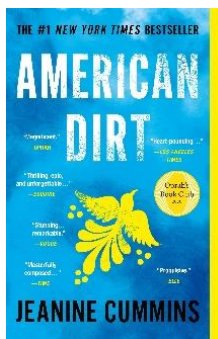


Book Club

The next meeting of book club is to be held on Monday, 12th September, 2pm in room A, when we will discuss 'The American Dirt' by Jeanine Cummins.

"Lydia Quixano Perez runs a bookstore in the Mexican City of Acapulco until one violent day changes everything." Image and text from

www.jeaninecummins.com/american-dirt/ ins



The following meeting is to be held on Monday, November 14th when we will discuss 'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus. Image from

<https://www.bonniegarmus.com/lessons-in-chemistry>



Book Club is held every two months when a small group of ladies, who enjoy reading, meet to discuss a set book. All of us agree that we have read books that we would never have come across had we not belonged to the Book Club. Everyone is welcome whether you have read the book or not so if anyone is interested in reading, perhaps, different books to come along and join us.

Pat Crewe

Modern Believers Group

The Modern Believers Group meets in the Undercroft at 7pm on the third Tuesday of the month, with coffee, cookies and conversation. Our discussion on a chosen book begins at 7.30pm and finishes at 8.30pm.

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. Everyone is warmly invited to come to any of our meetings.

Elsie Gilliland

Wilmslow Youth

For all of us at Wilmslow Youth the run up to a new school year is always a time of busy preparation as we look forward to welcoming young people back through the doors of the Undercroft once again. It's always a wonderful reminder of how much the young people value having such a lovely space right on their doorstep – particularly for the new year 7's who come along for the first time and invariably show huge excitement at the prospect of having a place to meet with their friends and play all their favourite games with a hot chocolate in hand.

When we opened the Undercroft back in 2017 James Pullé, head of Wilmslow High, spoke about the old proverb "it takes a village to raise a child". The fact that as the local church, we can play our part in helping Wilmslow to be a healthy, nurturing place to grow up is a huge privilege, and to see the young people who come along benefitting from the community they find at the Undercroft is a real blessing.

We are also hugely aware of the responsibility we have to care for and support all of these young people coming through our doors. Each time a young person visits the Undercroft it provides an opportunity for us to make them aware of the support they can receive through Wilmslow Youth should they ever need it. The demand on our counselling and mentoring services grows each year, and we know that this year will be no different.

In response to this ever-increasing need, Emma Thilwind-Culleton, a counsellor who has been working with us one day per week, will now be doubling her time with us - offering more counselling sessions and continuing to support the rest of the team with the young people who represent the highest level of need.

Matt will also be starting the final 2-year course that will qualify him as a counsellor, enabling us to further increase the level of support we offer to the young people who come through our doors.

The heartbeat, though, of the Wilmslow Youth team is our volunteers. Every part of what we do, from ROC Café and wellbeing groups to schools work and counselling, all benefit from a group of wonderful people from our community who give their time to make our young people feel cared for and welcome.

The young people benefit from all kinds of role models in their life, be it brother/sister figures, to parent figures and grandparent figures. We are always looking for more people to join in and support the work. This year we are particularly looking for some volunteers who would be able to run arts and crafts activities and some who would be able to run some sporting activities. If you are interested in talking to us about volunteering, please do come and see us!

In the meantime, a huge thank you for the amazing, continued support we all feel from the WURC family. We are so grateful to have the URC as our home, and we're excited for all this year has to bring.

The Wilmslow Youth Team

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



ROC Café



Friday Night Dinner



Parenting Course

The 50th Birthday of the United Reformed Church

In a statement I made at my ordination in 1961 I spoke of my commitment to seeking the unity of the Christian Church. Eleven years later, having served two pastorates and being a lecturer at Northern Congregational College, I rejoiced in then belonging to the United Reformed Church. It was a union of the Congregational Church in England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England. Still a young minister, I had not been involved in the preparation or decision-making. Neither did I attend the Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey. *If the venue seems improper, we had not at that time been reminded by Malcolm Lovibond that Puritan Dissenters formed the church there in 1650-1660.*

Both uniting churches grew out of the Calvinist side of the Reformation. However, the first modern attempt at union began with discussions in 1933, which failed when the two Assemblies considered the proposal in 1947. Following a covenant agreed in 1951, close cooperation began and, ten years later, formal talks about union began. The principles were agreed in 1965 and the full proposals were considered and voted upon at every level in the two churches.

Here at Wilmslow the church was Congregational and our minister (1969 - 1974) was Robert Courtney. He was also a member of the uniting commission for nine years. At a church meeting on 23rd June 1971, the proposals for union were discussed and it was agreed to participate with 82 members voting in favour and 17 against. This was the first union of churches in the United Kingdom which crossed denominational boundaries.

In some church unions in other parts of the world, the minority opponents took legal action against the new church. They argued that, as the remnant of the original churches, each was entitled to **all** the assets of their former body. It was therefore agreed that the United Church would protect its proper share of the assets by promoting a Private Act of Parliament. This was debated in the House of Commons and amongst those opposing the bill were Ian Paisley, Tony Benn (whose mother was an active Congregationalist), and a few others. However many MPs had been lobbied to vote in favour by their constituents from the two churches.

When the time came for a vote, only two MPs objecting were required to divide the house. But only one distinctive northern Irish voice shouted 'No'. The House rapidly agreed the Third Reading and the Act received the royal assent within a few days.

Since 1972, we have been part of two other unions with smaller churches, in 1981 with the Churches of Christ and in 2000 with the Congregational Church of Scotland. With regard to the latter union, it was my responsibility, with the Scottish General Secretary, to serve the Joint Committee and for us to organise both a third Act of Parliament and the Uniting Service in the Barony Church in Glasgow.

So it was that, in the year before I retired, I was able to play a part in a union I had desired since my ordination thirty-nine years earlier.

Tony Burnham

Letter of Thanks

On behalf of myself and the family I would like to thank everyone for the cards, letters and flowers received after the sudden death of Ronnie.

The family have been overwhelmed with kind messages of support that you have given at this time.

Ronnie and I were married in this Church (by Fred Noden) 36 years ago and so the Church has played a huge part in our lives. We felt blessed to be a part of the life of this Church.

A very caring community.



With grateful thanks, *Sonia Dykstra*



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in...” Matthew 25:35

Nightstop is a homeless prevention charity working with young people aged 16-25 who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. Young guests are placed in the homes of volunteer hosts who provide a safe place for them to sleep, whilst volunteer drivers make sure they get to and from their bed for the night.

Homelessness can bring to mind someone sitting on a cardboard in a shop doorway. Whilst ‘rough sleepers’ are sadly around, the young people whom Nightstop help aren’t like that. They’ve often been hiding the fact that they have nowhere to sleep - sleeping on different friends’ sofas; staying out at all-night parties or in cafes; riding the bus; sleeping in their car.... Whatever they have been doing, the cause is often a breakdown of loving relationships. They could have fallen out with their parents, a new stepparent or flatmate - the very relationships most of us take for granted.

Our family has been hosting young people with Nightstop for over 10 years and those we help currently are all referred from Greater Manchester. We want to re-establish a Cheshire service as well, to help those in our area who need this help. You may remember that Churches Together in Wilmslow raised money for Nightstop as a Harvest charity two years ago but now we’re looking for potential local hosts as well. Could this be you?

Nightstop volunteers come from all walks of life - young and old, families and single people, busy workers and retired folk. Both volunteers and guests are vetted to keep everyone safe. I do remember the nervousness when we had with our first guest, but the bible tells us many times “Do not be afraid”. I try to hang on to that along with the 24-hour support and help of experienced professionals. I will be taking part in worship on Sunday October 16th when I will share more. Or please contact me, kate.downes@depaulcharity.org.uk about Nightstop in Cheshire.

God Bless, Kate Downes

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 12th 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, Sept 14th, Oct 12th, Nov 9th

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 708608*



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 Christmas edition is Fri 18th Nov

All contributions gratefully received at

newsletter@wilmslowurc.org.uk

