



Worship at 11am every Sunday followed by tea and coffee

Community Lunch: Every Thursday from 12-3pm at Rhos URC
lunch, coffee & cakes, jigsaws, board games
Warm space, warm food, warm welcome and it is free!

Church Contacts

Administrator: Pete Fawcett churchrhos@gmail.com
Minister: Rev Julia Bartholomew 07852 281006, juliawave@icloud.com
Trainee Minister: Mark Rodgers mark.rodgers73@icloud.com
Secretary: Fiona Coleman 01492 545590, colemans@uwclub.net
Treasurer: Delyth Beecroft 01492 547859, delyth.beecroft@gmail.com

Worship: All services will be streamed live from the church.
Contact Pete Fawcett to arrange an invite or use the links
Meeting ID: 407 593 4256 Passcode: 123456

God loved the world so much that He gave
His only Son so that all who believed in Him
should have everlasting life John 3:16

CONNECTED 18 FEB and MARCH 2023
United Reformed Church, Colwyn Avenue, Rhos on Sea



Dear Friends,

This year, more than ever, I have loved receiving Christmas cards. When I took them down from their perches around the house last week and had a final look at them I so appreciated the purposeful choice of picture, poem, or personal message that they contained. With postal and card costs spiralling, people had clearly thought very carefully about how they wanted to convey their message. But above all, what I loved more than ever, was the homemade cards. From Mark's home video recorded on a beach last summer, to Leigh's beautifully crafted card, and the ones from David R (see back page), Mandy and the Frankish clan, they all brought a smile to my face. When we stop and take time to create something, we are being neither childish, 'cheapskates' or show-offs, but are imaginatively expressing ourselves and even risking, exposing our vulnerabilities.

Beyond that we are echoing the nature of God our creator, who not only creates the awesome universe that we are a part of but makes us humans in his image.

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:16)

God chose to create us in his likeness, with his tendency to love, care, seek justice and truth, but also to create. And so when we create, whether it is to play a piece of music, nurture a garden, paint a picture, bake a cake or make a card, we are allowing ourselves to be caught up in God's loving creative ways.

As we create we can find ourselves reflecting deeply on what we want to 'say' and why. As we do so we can find ourselves on an emotional and spiritual journey that is both healing and challenging as the 'objects' of our creation speak back to us. Our creative activities also enable us to treasure more deeply the world that God has made and provide us with a vehicle for blessing others and showing them love. What's not to like!

You were taught ... to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

Why not use this season of New Year to join a choir, start a hobby, or join a new group, allow the fresh air offered by new beginning to draw you into new places in your walk with God.

With every blessing for 2023,

Julia

WOW!

If you are a female (with or without a creative bent) and would like to join an informal evening get together every month or so then do contact Mandy Pemberton (07799 467773) or Julia Bartholomew (07852 281006) for the date and venue of the next gathering. We'll enjoy some food, a creative activity, and a reflection. Bring your friends along.

**An Interactive Seminar for elders, worship leaders,
youth & children's workers and helpers
Saturday 4th Feb
at Tyddyn Street Church, Mold, CH7 1DX**

Led by Dr Sam Richards, Head of URC Children's & Youth Work and member of the pioneer worship project 'mayBe Community' in Oxford

We will address an agenda vital to the life and witness of the church, including, how we can:

- develop the inter-generational life of the church
- increase our appreciation of sacred space
- ensure that all really are welcome
- use innovation and creativity in worship
- engage with all our senses in worship
- take risks and try different forms of worship



Meet from 9:30am for a 10am start. Soup, lunch and refreshments will be provided. We will finish by 4:30pm.

Please let Rev Julia Bartholomew know by Tuesday 31st Jan if you are able to come 07852 281006 juliawave@icloud.com



THE RIVER OF LIFE by David Reed

There is a river that runs all the way through the Bible. It rises in the mountains of Genesis; it flows through the great plains of Ezekiel; it reaches the sea in the book of Revelation. It is called 'The River of Life.' All the great men and women of the Bible swam in it and all drank its waters. It rises in the Garden of Eden



where it becomes four rivers: the Pishon, which flows through a land of gold and pearls and precious stones; the Gihon, which flows through a hot, dry land; the Tigris and the Euphrates, where the great enemies of God built their cities of Babylon and Nineveh. Thus all who swim in it find great treasures, a pearl beyond price, but also difficulty and danger and the opposition of the enemies of God. Abraham swam in that river, all the way from his place of birth in Ur of the Chaldees to his new home in the Promised Land. Moses swam in it all the way from the Nile in Egypt to the Jordan, where he died looking at the Promised Land. Samuel and David and all the prophets swam in it, finding it sometimes a place of still waters and green pastures and sometimes flowing through the valley of the shadow of death. I have swum in it all my life. It is not an easy river to swim in, but it brings great rewards and eternal life.

Funnily enough, the River Jordan is not part of this river. The Jordan symbolises death. 'When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.' The Jordan flows from the Lake of Galilee down to the Dead Sea where nothing lives. Jesus was baptised in it, symbolising the passing from the old life into the new life of a Child of God. He did not need to do this, as John the Baptist pointed out, because he was already the Lamb of God and did not need to repent and be 'born again.' But he did it as an example for others to follow; as well as marking the end of his old life as a dutiful son, brother and carpenter and the start of his new life of service to God as 'prophet, priest and king.'

The River of Life flows from the Temple of God. At first it is a trickle, ankle deep, then it is knee deep and then waist deep. Then it is a mighty torrent, deep enough to swim in. (Ezekiel 47) Trees grow by that river – fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their fruit will serve

as food and their leaves for healing. (Ezek. 47:12 Rev 22:1,2). This river 'makes glad the city of God.' (Ps. 46:4.)

How far have you ventured into this river? Ankle deep? Knee deep? Or are you swimming in it? I have travelled on it all my life, from the mighty Zambezi in Africa to the Lualaba which becomes the Congo, to the Great Lakes of East Africa, to the Nile, to the Liffey in Dublin where I studied, to the River Conwy in North Wales. It is not an easy river. There are rapids and waterfalls. Sometimes I have nearly drowned. But it flows into the sea of God's love and leads to the Gates of Eternal Life. Those who find it 'feast on the abundance of God's house; they drink from the river of delights; for with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.' Ps 36:8

Church Family News

In memory of **Howard Clayton** just over a year on: Howard was a family man who left us unexpectedly, But his life has given us much to remember such as his commitment to his faith, his service as an elder, his love of cooking from which we all benefited, and a lifelong interest in steam railways and photography. Howard will always be with us in our thoughts. **From his wife Angela, brother and sister-in-law Martyn and Deborah and his Dad Norman.**

Many thanks for the beautiful cyclamen I received from the Church at Christmas. It is very much appreciated. **Irene Laxton**

Thank you very much for all at the URC do to help me. And thanks for the beautiful plant. Karen and Delyth are marvellous and keep me supplied with all I need each week. And I enjoy watching and listening to the Sunday morning service now that I am disabled, even though I miss coming to the services - thanks to Pete Fawcett. All my love **Ann Turton**

I do enjoy hearing all the news and the other things in the magazine. Thank you very much for all the work you have done and are doing. Kate has helped me very much. Best wishes to all the team and all the members of the United Reformed Church, with love **Eira Hughes.**

We remember in our prayers; Anne Haynes who is bereaved following the death of her brother Robin; Eira Hughes who is having respite care, Jim Ray who is unwell and Joyce Pullin moving into a new flat in Rhos Manor.

Sunday Worship at 11am every week, with tea, coffee and chat

We continue our spring series exploring what it means for each one of us to serve God? What might that look like in practice?

22 January Galatians 5:13-14 Jesus frees us to serve one another

with Harri Bourne's Youth award, led by Julia, Mark and Judy Harris

29 January Romans 12:1-3 How can I be a living sacrifice?

followed by soup lunch and AGM, led by Pete and Julia

5 February Matthew 5:1-12 The upside-down values of the Kingdom

with Communion, led by Julia and James

12 February Luke 6:27-45 The call to spread a little love around!

followed by Valentines Lunch at the Cricket Club, led by Mark and Keith

19 February 1 Peter 4:7-11 What are our gifts for?

Led by Carolyn and Ellis

26 February Mark 10:42-45 Jesus came to serve.

Led by Mark and Julia

5 March Ephesians 6:7-8 Serve others as you would serve the Lord

Communion, led by Pete and Carolyn

12 March Luke 22:24-27 Privileged to serve.

Led by Alastair and James

19 March Luke 10:38-42 The dilemma of Mary and Martha

Mothers Day, led by Mark and Julia

26 March John 13:1-17 Jesus serves by washing his disciples' feet

followed by soup lunch and Church Meeting, led by Julia and Mark

Sunday Lunches - once a month we have lunch after the service

Sunday 29th January

Worship is followed at 12:30 by soup lunch and the church AGM

Sunday 12th February Valentine's Lunch 12:30 at the Cricket Club

Hollandaise Salmon, Parmentier Potatoes and veg. With fruit pie and custard or fresh fruit salad and coffee. £16. Book in with Sue Williams (07500 362415) or Delyth Beecroft with your payment and choice of desert by Sun 5th Feb

Sunday 29th March

Worship is followed at 12:30 by soup lunch and church meeting



Sunday 22nd January 3pm Colwyn Bay and Rhos Cytūn Service for Christian Unity at Rhos URC.

Please join with other local churches
as we pray for God's strengthening of our witness to Jesus in
the local community and further afield
Contact Julia or Keith if you can help with the welcome team
or serving refreshments



The FELLOWSHIP GROUP meets every other Monday from 2-4pm

Themes/Activities

23rd Jan 'Children's Hospice',

6th Feb 'The Body Shop'

20th Feb 'Delyth Beecroft Special',

6th March Card Bingo and Quiz

20th March 12:30 for 1pm Lunch at Adlington House

New members, male or female welcome.

Friendly chat, interesting talk or activity, raffle & refreshments every time!

Carers and Toddlers

Contact Sue Williams (07500 362415) to find out more about joining the team hoping to restart a Toddler and Carer group on Monday mornings.

Holy Land Trip Nov 6th-16th 2023 with Julia Bartholomew and Rev Nick Sissons. With visits to Galilee, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and the Desert. Meetings with local believers. Flying from Manchester. Contact Julia.