

OVERVIEW

Depicting the life and witness
of the church.

We are here to worship God as disciples of
Jesus; to welcome, love and serve the
community, and to share our faith in God



Photo Robert Wiedeman on unsplash

August / September 2021

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HARVEST FESTIVAL

26th September 2021 @

10.30am Rev David Spence



on Elaine Casap unsplash



Photo Markus Spiske on unsplash

LIFTING OF COVID RESTRICTIONS



The COVID rules have been changed, many restrictions have been lifted, however we are urged by our Synod Moderators and local council to be cautious. The Elders' meeting has the responsibility to ensure that everyone can worship safely, and we will be retaining a number of the special measures which we have used to keep people safe in the past few months. We encourage you to continue to wear masks inside the building especially while moving around. You will still be asked to sanitize your hands as an ongoing precaution. We will also be maintaining a cleaning routine, at touch points such as door handles and switches and will retain the use of the one-way system in church. While infections remain high, certain pews will remain closed, and we would encourage you to leave a reasonable space between yourself and those who have not been in your bubble.

If you really wish to remove your face covering, please wait until you are seated to remove it. Please do not feel embarrassed if you feel safer wearing your mask while you are in church.

Something many of us have missed is congregational singing. Some have been quietly miming the words behind masks, but it is not the same as lifting our voices in praise. Congregational singing is now allowed in church, but we must remember that singing is one of the most dangerous ways to spread COVID in church. If we are not sitting too close to other members of the congregation, and **provided you are wearing your mask**, you may sing. If you would rather not sing that is also acceptable. We will continue to display the words of the songs on the screen rather than use hymn books.

The plates for the collection and prayer request slips will be retained at the front of the church for

the time being, and a record of those attending worship will continue to be taken by the door stewards. This includes details from any visitors worshipping with us whose names do not appear on the tick list. These records are shredded after three weeks.

We will discuss the release of restrictions further at the July church meeting.



Thank you to Mike and Pam Byrd for their generous gift of roses, such a lovely surprise, thank you too to Ann Kilshaw for her welcome visit and her blessing of roses. Love Mara.

The Next Overview

Will Be - October /November

Out on – Sunday 3rd October

Last day for articles – Sunday 26th October

Thank you very much to the people who have contributed articles to this edition of the Overview. Sally

Time capsule from 1876 discovered at URC school

A 145-year-old time capsule, containing ten coins and a rolled-up newspaper, has been discovered in the foundations of a United Reformed Church (URC) primary school.

As reported on [BBC News](#), the glass jar was found "by complete accident" while workers renovated the chapel at Barrow URC Primary School in Clitheroe, Lancashire, built in 1876.

The artefact had been placed inside one of the chapel's foundation stones.



Speaking to the BBC, Head teacher Sue Taylor said the "incredible find" had brought "history of the school alive for the children."

"It was obvious it was a time capsule when I picked it up. I could hear the coins jangling at the bottom," she said.



A conservation team is now examining the time capsule and will unroll the newspaper and research the coins' history.

Building work was carried out at the school in April. The demolition team lifted up the foundation stones in the chapel and found the glass jar.

During the first coronavirus lockdown some of the school children buried a time capsule from 2020.

Ms Taylor said finding this capsule meant "history has come full circle".

"It was found by complete accident," she said, adding: "It's so interesting and has sparked so much interest for the children."

The time capsule is now in the hands of Lancashire County Council's conservation team which will involve the children as much as possible in the process of conserving it.

When the capsule is returned to the school it will be placed in the new main entrance which is roughly where it was planted many years ago.

From the URC Website

FROM THE SECRETARY

Elders have recently been completing some Safeguarding Training in Zoom sessions, so I thought I would take this opportunity to remind people that we all have a duty to act responsibly with respect to Safeguarding. So, what is Safeguarding? It is not just about reporting an incident which we think could lead to harm it is much more than that, although reporting an incident may be very important.

Safeguarding is about creating a safe and welcoming environment in our buildings for all users and visitors to the premises. It not only concerns us when in church, but it also concerns us as we go about our day to day lives. It is about creating an environment which prevents harm, allows everyone to do their job safely and protects everyone, children, and adults alike. If you see something outside of church which you think should be reported then report it to the appropriate person/authority whether it takes place on the church premises or not.

Our church Safeguarding policy is displayed in the Lecture Room and includes details of who to contact if you wish to report an incident. They are also displayed in the vestibule. If you do have a concern about an incident or a child or vulnerable adult says something to you which could suggest some form of abuse, there are a few simple guidelines to help you through the situation.

Once you have recognised the concern, listen to what you are told; do not ask leading questions, but you can ask open questions such as "explain to me" if you are unclear what you have been told. Do not agree to keep the conversation a secret; you need to pass the information on to the Church Safeguarding Coordinator or myself as her Deputy. Your role is not to investigate but to listen and reassure the person that they have done the right thing to tell you. If they want to speak freely for a while, let them and avoid making judgemental comments. As soon as you are able write down what you have been told, by whom, where and when. This note is for your use should you need to refer to it again at a later date. You should then report the conversation to either Diane Parkey as the Church Safeguarding

Coordinator or myself as her Deputy. Our contact details are available in church. We will report the incident to Julie Rafferty the Synod Safeguarding Officer who will take the necessary steps to progress the matter. It is not your job to investigate only to report. It is however very important that you **do not tell anyone else** about your initial conversation and do not confront the person alleged to be responsible.

Helpful things to say include:

- You have been brave telling me
- Thank you for telling me
- It's not your fault
- I will do what I can to help you
- I believe you
- It is OK to tell me
- I am sorry that happened

Avoid saying:

- Are you sure?
- This is really serious
- Don't tell anyone else
- I can't believe it
- This is awful!
- I won't tell anyone
- Are you sure you are telling the truth?

you might feel the need to include the matter in prayer, you must not say words out loud which suggest that someone may be suffering abuse or that an incident has been reported. You can pray for the safety of those we meet in our day to day lives, their well-being etc but keep it very general and non-specific and you can always offer a silent prayer.

The URC Safeguarding Policy GP5 includes extensive information on the subject and can be found at <https://urc.org.uk/images/safeguarding/SafeguardingDocuments/GP5-Safeguarding-Pack-2020-web.pdf>

Ros Ellison

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Something I have always done at night before I go to sleep for about half an hour or so. It helps me relax and takes my mind off my day-to-day tasks and responsibilities. I particularly enjoy historical fiction, adventure stories set in bygone times when life was vastly different.

One of my favourite authors is Bernard Cornwell and some of his books, such as "The Last Kingdom" series are set in an age when Britain was made up of many different kingdoms each with their own ruler. If a warrior made his home in a certain kingdom, he was expected to pledge his loyalty and swear allegiance to that particular king. This meant that he would be true to that king, stick by him and serve him faithfully. Not just when all was well and the land was at peace, but in times of conflict and danger, when the realm was under threat of being attacked and raided by hostile neighbouring kingdoms.

In the gospels Jesus often speaks of a kingdom, the Kingdom of God, the rule of God in the hearts and minds of his people. Jesus himself is our King. When we become Christians, members of the Kingdom of God, we pledge our loyalty, we swear our allegiance to Jesus our King. The first disciples did this when they responded to the call, 'follow me'. And when all was going well and he was increasing in fame and popularity, they stuck with him and faithfully supported his work. But Jesus knew that the time would come when his enemies would rise against him, his popularity would wane, and when that happened even his closest friends would desert him. One person who was convinced that this would never happen to him was Simon Peter. On the night of his Lord's arrest, he even followed the soldiers to the courtyard of the High Priest, putting himself in danger. But then he lost his nerve, his fears took over and he denied even knowing Jesus.

I have great admiration for Peter and much sympathy. He went further in his loyalty than any of the other disciples, and when that loyalty slipped for those brief moments, broke down and wept. But that was not the end of the story for Peter. In the weeks following that first Easter,

Jesus his King, appeared to him at the lakeside and gave him the opportunity to renew his allegiance and pledge, three times, his loyalty, and his love.

For we Christians today, it is not too difficult to remain loyal to Christ and his Church when our church is seen as alive and active, and our ventures are meeting with reasonable success. But when most people have no interest in Jesus or his Church, and those who follow him are in a tiny minority, we find our loyalty comes under considerable strain and our allegiance is put to the test. For some Christians, the long-drawn-out experience of pandemic has put their loyalty to Jesus under great strain and their allegiance to their Lord has begun to slip. We have not had experience of worship to sustain our faith and remind us of where our allegiance lies. We might not have had the same support and encouragement that we would normally have from other members of the church community. Our prayer life may have waned causing us to lose touch with Jesus our King. And like Simon Peter we might have lost our nerve and Christian confidence for a time as we faced scary situations.

But the good news is that even if we have not remained faithful and failed, perhaps for a time, to stick by our King, he will always stick by us. More than that, he will always give us the opportunity to renew our allegiance and pledge our loyalty afresh. And when we do, he commissions us and entrusts us to continue his work.

God bless you all,

David

King of Kings



Photo – Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk.
Unsplash

Duty Rota and Diary Dates for August & September 2021

	Vestry elder	Welcomer/Steward	Preacher
1 st Aug	Mrs Gwen Bushill	Mrs Fiona Worthington	Rev Garry Wareham – service includes Communion
8 th Aug	Mrs Ros Ellison	Mr Ian Tabernacle	Rev David Spence
15 th Aug	Mr Maurice Boughey	Mr Len Moss & Mrs Barbara Moss	Mr Chris McKie
	2.30pm		Blessing: Rev David Spence
22 nd Aug	Mr Philip Burrows	Ms Moira McLachlan	Rev David Skitt
29 th Aug	Mr Chris McKie	Mr Ian Mason	Mrs Simone Burrows
5 th Sept	Mrs Simone Burrows	Mrs Pam Bird	Rev David Spence
12 th Sept	Mrs Gwen Bushill	Mrs J Challinor	Rev Garry Wareham
19 th Sept	Mrs Ros Ellison	Mr Ian Tabernacle	Rev Jennie Wakefield
26 th Sept	Mr Philip Burrows	Mrs Lesley Clarke	Harvest: Rev David Spence

Covid safe church update:

It is recommended to continue to maintain some social distancing in the church.

We should wear a mask as we walk around the church, we CAN sing (but with mask on please.)

Other dates for your diary:

Café Service (zoom) 2nd Wednesday in the month – next meeting 11th August – zoom opens 10.45am

Speaker: Rev David Skitt

Verse of the Day (<https://www.verseoftheday.com/>)

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. ([Hebrews 13:2](#)



Photo- Alexis Brown from unsplash