

OVERVIEW

Depicting the life and witness
of the church.



October/November 2021

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



11th November

Remembrance Sunday Service at
10:30am with Rev Garry Wareham

28th November

1st Sunday in Advent
10:30am with Rev David Hamblin



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

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KaLisa Veer ,Unsplash

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Churches Together in Winsford and District

Redeeming Our Communities (ROC)

See poster on page 7. This event will be held on Thursday 7th October at Winsford Lifestyle Centre from 7.00-9.00pm. There will be the chance to meet with other faith communities, the police, fire and ambulance services and other community groups. There will be a Churches and banner, and Good News for Everyone branch members will help man the stall and distribute Badge Testaments to the Police Together stall, with a table and other Christian resources. If you wish to help, please let Simone know.

Other Church News:

Salvation Army

They are now meeting in person. Masks are worn for moving around and singing. A Zoom Bible Study in Farsi is held on Sunday afternoons for the Iranian refugees. The Iranians have been converted through the witness of other Iranian asylum seekers. The Salvation Army hasn't restarted midweek activities yet, but the Brownies are about to start meeting. The Toddlers are due to return soon. 99% of their congregation have been double vaccinated, but some are still nervous of returning to worship.

St. John's:

St. John's are now meeting in person but wearing masks indoors and for singing. Drinks are served out of doors, weather permitting. Midweek activities, such as Bible Study Groups, are now being held in person.

Rev. Chris Moore is now retired and living in Warrington but has become the Chaplain for St. Luke's Hospice.

Overflow Church:

They now meet at the Academy, in the Lecture Theatre, and that this is going really well. About 20-40 people attend on a Sunday. They meet on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays. Missional Community groups are held on the 4th Sunday. Overflow Church was formally known as the Storehouse Church.

Proposed future activities with Churches Together in Winsford and District:-

Lights on Ceremony:

Remembrance Sunday:

Joint Advent Service:

Excerpt from Churches Together in Winsford and District meeting on 8.9.21. With thanks to Sue Evans

**We walk by Faith
Not by Sight**

2 Corinthians 5:7

“When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things....”

Our daughter Esmée turned 18 and whilst she had her first legal alcoholic drink we tested out the phrase, ‘You are an adult now’ meaning that she was no longer a child – at least in Law. The end of childhood is celebrated by many cultures in different ways and at different ages.

In the Brazilian Amazon, young boys need to wear a glove filled with angry bullet ants for 10 minutes several times over many months to prove they can withstand the pain, thus demonstrating they are ready for manhood.

In some parts of South America, young girls celebrate their ‘Quinceanera’ when they turn 15 with a mass renewing their baptism vows before having a fiesta with family and friends.

The Japanese believe 20 is the age where a youth becomes a mature, contributing member of society. They attend a traditional coming of age festival known as Seijin-no-Hi where they dress up in their finest attire, attend a ceremony and are treated to gifts and parties.

Of course the end of childhood isn’t necessarily the same as the beginning of adulthood.

Some of these rites of passage listed are stages in development, growth and responsibility.

For example, all Jewish boys, and Reform Jewish girls, become bar or bat mitzvahs at age 13.

After this point, children are held responsible for knowing Jewish ritual law, tradition, and ethics, and are able to participate in all areas of Jewish community life to the same extent as adults.

They are not legal adults but they are expected to have understanding and responsibility within their faith and culture.

As we sipped cocktails, we pondered what being a legal adult meant.

Esmée could now vote, be a legal Trustee, get married without parental approval, sit on a jury, be in the military in a war zone, get a mortgage, gamble, stand as an MP, buy fireworks, get a tattoo, watch an 18 rated film, get tried in a magistrates court.....

The real party-pooper was summed up in the phrase: ‘you are now accountable for your own actions!’

But how does this change occur?

There is a comedy sketch created by Harry Enfield called ‘Kevin becomes a teenager’. The sketch has a 12-year-old boy waiting excitedly for Midnight and as the clock is still striking 12, Kevin morphs instantly from an excitable, naïve child into a stropky, moody teenager.

In a similar way, do we instantly become adults? Of course not!

Although the arrival of a date means legal freedoms and obligations, the reality is that we grow into being an adult as we learn and experience life with all its challenges and this is true of our faith journeys as well.

When the Apostle Paul wrote about putting away childish things in 1 Corinthians 13, rather than a sudden transformation he goes on to describe a development. He continues, ‘**Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.**’

When we give our lives to Jesus and become Christians, our eyes of faith begin to open and as we grow and mature in faith, so the way we live our lives in God and for God becomes clearer.

Whatever stage of life or faith you are at know that ‘God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6 Good News Bible).

Every blessing

Garry

Thank you from Revd David Spence



Dear Friends,

I wanted to use the latest issue of Overview to say a huge thank you. First of all, for the lovely gathering with coffee and delicious cakes after the Communion Service on 5th September to mark my retirement, and particularly for the kind and encouraging words spoken by our church secretary, Ros, when she talked about my ministry at Over. Secondly, I wanted to say thank you to all of you for your lovely cards, beautiful flowers and generous gifts, as Joyce and I settle into our new home. The money is already being well used on various items for our bungalow in Middlewich.

One gift that still puzzles us is a beautiful floral display which came via Interflora. It included the message "I do hope you will keep in touch. You're welcome here any time" but the message did not say who it was from and Interflora will not give out that information! So, if you are reading this, please let us know who you are, so we can say a proper thank you.

As I write it is just 3 weeks to the day since we moved out of the Middlewich Manse and into the bungalow on Poplar Drive. The day went well and the three men and a young lady who moved us were so helpful and did an excellent job. All the boxes are now unpacked, and we even have most of the pictures on the walls, so it is feeling very much like home.

We are very blessed in that the bungalow has been freshly decorated, with a new shower

room and new kitchen. There are new carpets and a new wooden floor in the hall and kitchen. With some of our retirement gifts we have bought a new Shark Hoover to look after the carpets and wooden floor.

Something else we have needed to order is blinds for the windows. Joyce and I decided they would be much better than curtains. They are due to be installed in a couple of weeks, so at the moment it is a bit like living in a goldfish bowl. At night we put flattened cardboard packing boxes at the bedroom window to give us some privacy.

One of the things that was missing from our newly refurbished bungalow was a fireplace. Some people prefer not to have one, but Joyce and I do like to have a focal point in the living room. So, one of the other things we have bought with the retirement gifts we have received is an electric fire suite with a realistic log effect. In the evening it makes the room feel much cosier.

One of the nice things about retiring locally, is that we will not lose touch with our church friends as tends to happen when you move far away to another part of the country. We are only 5 or 6 miles away I will be leading worship from time to time as a retired minister. I look forward to seeing you then.

God bless you all,

David



NAVIGATING THE UNKNOWN

Mersey Synod has offered churches the opportunity to explore the idea of how to be church now, in the times we live in, with the pandemic still very much around. The programme, called **Navigating the Unknown**, includes four Zoom sessions, each one and a half hours long. The Elders decided to take up the offer and have met for 2 sessions so far. In the first session we reviewed the last 18 months for each of us personally and also for us as a church and looked at Psalms of Lament. In a group discussion we noted down some of the feelings we had about being a church during this time and turned our thoughts into a Psalm. Each of us was invited to complete the Psalm in our own way. Below are three of the Psalms which were offered.

Psalm 1

We were lonely at first
We felt lost, disconnected
Our stabilising routine was shattered.

No services to attend in church
No social events being held on the premises
Forbidden to meet friends at home.

How long would this situation last –
Were we the only ones feeling this way?

But you didn't leave us stranded God.
You'd already put alternative measures in place.
All we had to do was to look for You –
Seek your will, be guided by Your vision.
And follow faithfully.

You encouraged us to use the imagination
You had given us at our birth.
You encouraged us to be receptive
To new technology – and we Zoomed.
You reminded us of long-standing ways
Of communicating – we emailed,
we hand-wrote letters to one another,
We made contact by phone.

We extended our contact, we looked
outwards –
to family and friends
to the church family.

to those out in the community.

With the evidence we found,
It is difficult to think that the situation
Was a surprise to You.
Every step we took in this new journey,
We found you ahead of us.

We now need Your help to keep these
New channels open.
We need You to show us the possibilities
And the positives.
We need your help to keep us alert to further
opportunities.

Thanks to Your love, our feelings of loneliness
and disconnection are diminishing.
But others may not be as fortunate as us.
So, please help us to continue employing the
coping mechanisms
You taught us, in order that we may help
others
With what is often called 'The New Normal'.

Psalm 2

We were lonely Lord at first
Isolated from our family and friends
How do we worship together when we are
disconnected?
Disconnected from our Church hub
How can we be a Church without a building?
But you didn't leave us stranded!
Please God show us how to keep the channels
open?
Show us the possibilities and the positives.
We didn't believe God was silent.
We waited for God to act
He was working on a new set of
opportunities.
We were challenged in ways to communicate
and connect.
Church started to visit people for doorstep
chats
We prayed using prayers on Sunday Link.
The voice of the Church was heard through
"Overview"
Telephone ministry, cards and letters from
our ministers and technology.
Other life still went on and God was still God.

Psalm 3

Rescue us from the power of disease O God,
Show us your strength and compassion.
We were told to stay indoors and not mix
with other people, to work from home,
That this mysterious disease spreads with
speed amongst people
And kills indiscriminately. Why did you let this
happen O God?

We could not meet to worship, to plan or to
mix with those of faith.
We were told to stay at home and only go out
for one hour a day for exercise or to shop,
But you O Lord are always present by our side
and not limited by disease and its effects;
So why is it so hard to find you?
We waited thinking the message of “hands,
face, space” would be over in a few months,
That life would return to “normal”.
But our ways are not your ways O Lord and
we still find that the disease is with us.

You directed our thoughts and showed us
your way of reaching others,
Of keeping in touch and sharing with your
people.
You brought us out of the isolation and
loneliness and guided us in the desert of non-
activity.

Great are your thoughts and your ways
transcend all human knowledge.
From simple steps we learnt to walk your way
through the pandemic to reach your people
and share your word.

Give thanks to God for his love shown to us
through human contact, greetings shared by
phone, letters and cards, door step chats, and
zoom.

The building may have been closed but we,
the church are your people and seek your
voice as we step out into this changed world.
Bless the Lord O my soul, worship wherever
we are.



Climate Sunday 2021

The UK will be hosting the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November, bringing together parties from all over the world to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. For more details see: <https://ukcop26.org/>

The Climate Sunday initiative is calling on all local churches across Great Britain & Ireland to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before COP26. Over 1,000 churches have committed to holding a Climate Sunday and the collective action and commitments from local churches was presented to the UK Government at a Nations' Climate Sunday Service in Glasgow on Sunday 5th September 2021. Congregations are encouraged to make a commitment to greater action to address climate change in their own place of worship and community and to use their voice to call for a cleaner, greener, fairer future at the heart of plans agreed during COP26. Details are provided on the Climate Sunday website, <https://www.climatesunday.org/>

In response to this call we will be holding a Climate Sunday on 24th October when Garry will lead our service. Let's come to this service prepared to think about and pray for our world and determined to act as a church and as individuals to play our part in this initiative.

Thank you"

To all the Church family a heartfelt thank you for calls and messages while Frank is laid up and in particular to Stephanie who has put her own issues on hold to share ours.

Also, to Garry and Peter and Elizabeth Drew for the fabulous cake.

Love, Frank and Mara.

THE PRAYER TREE

With the easing of the Covid restrictions, the Prayer Tree is back in church in the Children's corner. There are spare leaves on the table, but please note that, (for COVID related reasons), there are no pens. If you wish to place a leaf on the prayer tree, please bring a pen with you with which to write your request.

Afternoon Tea at Tarporley Garden Centre (CW6 9EE)



This is roughly once a month, in the past couple of months the date has been set at the end of one afternoon for the next occasion. So, we can't say that it is always monthly – just typically. If you are interested in joining us, please check either with Ann or in the Sunday Link.

Thank you to everyone for the beautiful cards, flowers, and gifts I received on my 90th birthday. With much love from Hilda



MACMILLAN COFFEE FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all who attended the MacMillan coffee morning. £310 was raised, Sandra Finney

Thank you to Sandra and Martyn for opening up their home and giving a very warm welcome to those who were able to attend.

FAMILY NEWS

The funeral of Mr John Lomas who died on 9 September, will be held at Trinity Methodist Church on Monday 4 October at 2.00pm. This will be followed by John's burial at Weaver Chapel. Please keep June and all John's family in your prayers.

Congratulations to Gillian and Michael Stitt who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday, 28 September.

Colin Urqhart **(1940 – 13th September 2021)**

Pastor, Evangelist, Apostle, Teacher, Preacher, Prophet.

Colin Urqhart was born in Twickenham in 1940. His father was an architect and wanted Colin to join him in that profession.

Neither of his parents were particularly interested in church.

At age 10, Colin joined the choir of a local church and even at that young age, he had a desire to know God.

He prayed each night, and for a long time nothing really happened but one night he had a vision of God's glory that changed his life.

At age 13 he was recommended by his church minister to join an ordination course – even though the normal starting age was 16 years. Colin did follow his father's wishes in the first instance but after taking his A levels he knew that God was calling him into ministry.

He was ordained at age 23 and became a curate in a church in Cheshunt.

It was there that he learned to share his faith in a simple way.

Three years later he was put in charge of a district church in Letchworth – during the time of the Mods & Rockers!

He had a good youth leader and between them they reached a lot of young people.

A few years later he was invited to become the vicar of St Hugh's Church in Luton.

Colin's vision of church was far removed from traditional Anglican worship.

He wanted to develop a style of church that was more in line with the early church as represented and described in the Book of Acts.

He established a discipling group at St Hugh's and before long both Colin and members of the group experienced amazing answers to their prayers – which encouraged them and strengthened their faith so that when they prayed for somebody's healing – people were healed.

A TV company did a programme on them and life at St Hugh's became completely changed.

People were coming to the church - not just locally – but people from all over the UK and then across the world.

Colin was approached by a publisher to write a book and his first book – "When the Spirit Comes" – was an immediate best seller.

Bishop Robert Runcie – later Archbishop of Canterbury – said to Colin:

"I don't begin to understand what is happening here, but I can see it is of God."

In 1976 Colin resigned as vicar of the church. By then he was living in community with 50 other people and was being invited to speak at churches across the globe.

The "Community of Love and Prayer" became "Kingdom Faith."

We were introduced to Kingdom Faith in 1986 by Peter & Elizabeth Drew and in that year, we attended FAITH CAMP as a family for the first time.

A week's camp of all age worship and teaching held at the end of July near Peterborough – the East of England Showground.

We went to Faith camp for the following 20+ years. Our experiences there – not just the teaching and the worship – but the experience for one week in each year – to live in community with the other campers/caravaners on our unit – get to know them, pray for each other, help and support one another – those experiences were just awesome.

Our daughter Stephanie got to go to Uganda with MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) in 1996 and later, with husband Mattias, they led another group of youngsters on a MAF trip to Uganda.

The children's ministry groups at Faith camp were awesome!

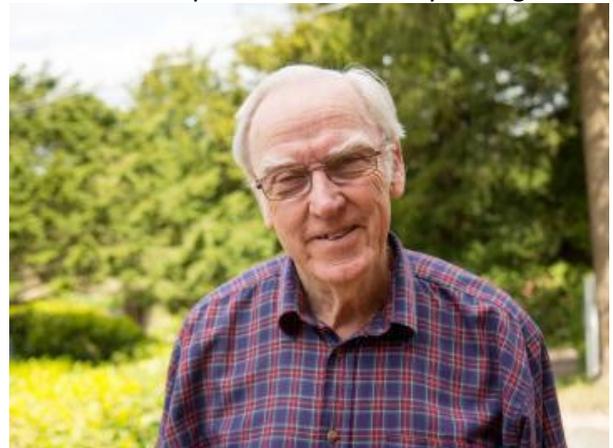
PowerPack; Ishmael; Young Generation.

The speakers we heard: Colin himself; Brian Houston (Hillsong); Dan Chesney; Bob Gordan; Hector Humenez (Argentina)....

The worship leaders: Chris Bowater; the Owens.

Gary & Hilary Atkins church in Winsford – Storehouse – was a Kingdom Faith Church.

Colin came to speak there about 6 years ago.



Colin handed over the reins of Kingdom Faith Church to his son, Clive in 2014.

In 2018 he celebrated 55 years of ministry.

He was a great man of God

www.roc.uk.com

ROC

CONVERSATION

WINSFORD

DATE & TIME:

THURSDAY 7TH OCTOBER
7PM - 9PM

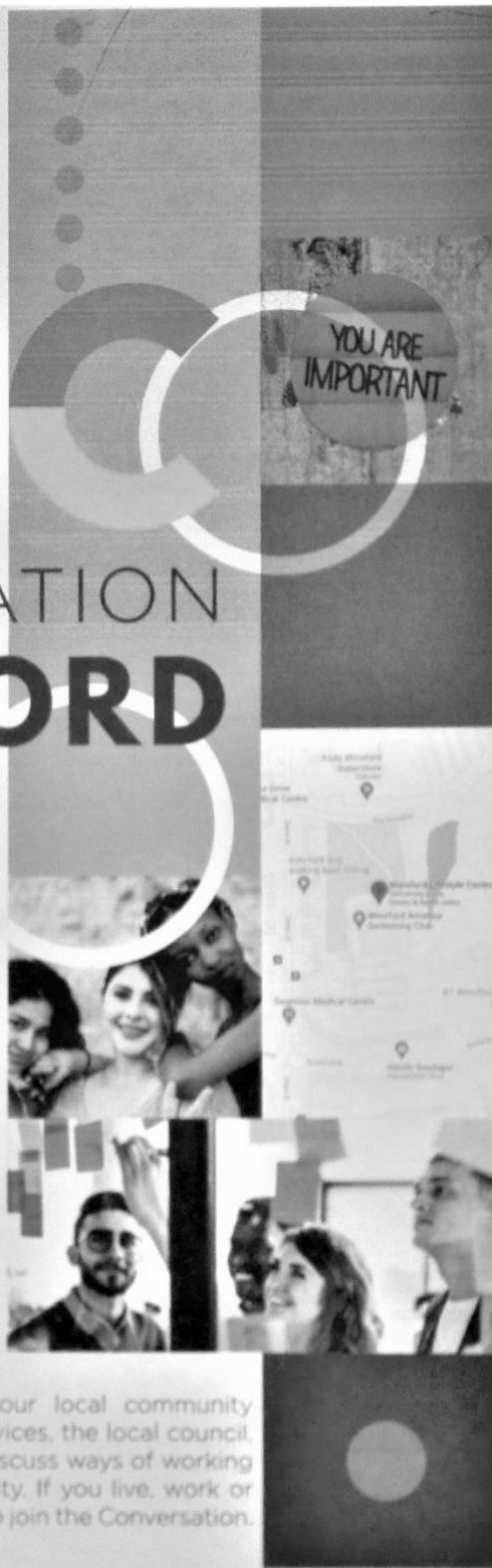
LOCATION:

Winsford Lifestyle Centre
The Drummer
Winsford
CW7 1AD

BOOK NOW:

www.roc.uk.com/winsford
0161 393 4511

Come and meet with others from your local community including police, fire and ambulance services, the local council, community and faith based groups to discuss ways of working together for the good of your community. If you live, work or volunteer in Winsford you are welcome to join the Conversation.



Although the ROC Conversation is free to attend, has free parking and free light refreshments if you arrive before 7pm. We do need to make suitable preparations and would ask you to encourage your guests to register online to reserve their place. *(Please note that over 60% of available places have already been reserved)*

If you haven't yet registered but intend to join us, please book in on line.

[Click here to book in](http://www.roc.uk.com/winsford)

It's a very easy and quick process, but if you'd prefer to talk to one of our team who can book in for you, call us on 0161 393 4511

Duty Rota and Diary Dates for end September through to 5th December 2021			
	Vestry elder	Welcomer/Steward	Preacher
26 th Sept	Mrs Ros Ellison	Mrs Lesley Clarke	Harvest: Mrs Olwen Ineson
3 rd Oct	Mrs Simone Burrows	Mr Ian Tabernacle	Rev Garry Wareham service includes Communion
10 th Oct	Mr Maurice Boughey	Mr Len Moss & Mrs Barbara Moss	Rev Michael Field
17 th Oct	Mrs Gwen Bushill	Ms Moira McLachlan	Rev Dr Jan Berry
24 th Oct	Mr Philip Burrows	Mr Ian Mason	Rev Garry Wareham: Climate change See page-
31 st Oct	Mr Chris McKie	Mrs Pam Bird	Mrs Joan Colwell
7 th Nov	Mrs Ros Ellison	Mrs J Challinor	Rev Dr Jan Berry
14 th Nov	Mrs Gwen Bushill	Mr Ian Tabernacle	Rev Garry Wareham Remembrance Sunday
21 st Nov	Mr Chris McKie	Mrs Lesley Clarke	Mrs Sue Moul
28 th Nov	Mr Maurice Boughey	Ms Moira McLachlan	Rev David Hamblin 1st Sunday in Advent
5 th Dec	Mrs Simone Burrows	Mr Len Moss & Mrs Barbara Moss	Rev Garry Wareham

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:

13th October – zoom opens 10.45am: **Speaker: Rev Dr Nigel Wright**

10th November **Speaker:** to be arranged

Chat & Craft: 3rd Tuesday in the month 2 – 4pm

Tea & Chat: Monday 15th November (2 – 4pm) Christmas carols – accompanied by Mrs Sandra Finney on piano

Tuesdays at 1.30pm - Adult Institute

Thursdays at 5.00pm -Rainbows

6.30pm -Brownies

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

We wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. ([Titus 2:13-14](#))

NEXT OVERVIEW Will be for December 2021 & January 2022

Last day for articles is Sunday 21st November.

The Overview will be out on Sunday 28th November.