

Monthly Notices - October 2024

Our Minister - Rev Bethany Willers

To contact us please email: caldicotmc@gmail.com and your query will be directed to the relevant person. Or if you need to contact our minister, Rev. Bethany Willers, email revbwillers@gmail.com (preferred) or call 01291 625015.

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

I have a confession to make... I love Halloween. The way I grew up celebrating this holiday in the States was all about fun costumes, getting candy from trick or treating, and decorations like pumpkins and scarecrows with the occasional creepy bat, mummy, or zombie. As an adult I enjoy scary movies this time of year (and this time of year only!) and giving out candy to the adorable kids that come ring the bell on Halloween night. I've never thought of it as a holiday that might be controversial or unsavoury for Christians.

In every church I have attended or served in the US, Halloween is one of the biggest nights for outreach to the community. Churches often host an event called "Trunk or Treat" - people come to the church parking lot and dress up the trunk (boot) of the car and give candy to the kids in costumes who come around to each car. Churches will also give out information about worship services and programs they offer, and end up reaching hundreds of people that otherwise never come to church. When I was a teenager, past the acceptable age for regular trick or treating, we had two alternatives we did as church activities. One was trick or treating for the local food bank - instead of asking for candy we would ask for donations, and often came home with more than we could carry! The other was "reverse trick or treating" - instead of asking for candy we rang doorbells and gave people a piece of candy that also had an attached sheet with information about the church. This is just a small example of ways that I've seen Halloween be an event that can reach new people.

As I've settled into life in the UK, I've come to realize that Halloween is approached quite differently here. While some of the traditions from the US are making their way across the pond, not everyone is happy about that. Many Christians I have spoken to find that, for them, Halloween is incompatible with their Christian faith. This has caused me to think more deeply about my love of Halloween and how it does or doesn't interact with my faith.

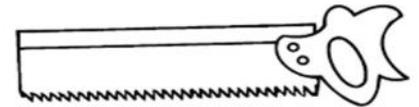
I am still pondering this question, but the main thing I've come to realize is this; for me, Halloween actually makes "scary" things less scary. In a way, it mocks things like demons and death and all the things that go bump in the night. For me, it is a way of defeating those things by making them nothing more than a fun holiday. And, as a Christian, I worship a risen saviour who has defeated death, so that seems pretty compatible to me.

I'd love to have conversations about this with anyone who wants to chat. I am absolutely open to hearing opposing views or why I might be wrong in my stance. In the meantime, don't be surprised if you find me out and about in pumpkin leggings or spot a Jack O'Lantern at the manse. (Ask me about my theology of Jack O'Lantern pumpkins sometime - they shine the light of Christ!)

**Blessings,
Bethany**



If you would like to donate any unwanted DIY tools to the TFSR cause, please see Margaret during Tuesday or Friday Coffee Mornings.



Recharge the Café church will be on Monday 14th October at 7pm - Caldicot Methodist Church.

Pet blessing service Saturday 5th October at 10am

The date of the next church council has been moved from October to Saturday 16th November at 10 am

COFFEE MORNINGS



Every Tuesday & Friday 9.30am



PET BLESSING



Please bring your pet along for an outside Pet Blessing service

Saturday 5th October at 10.00 am.



We welcome all who worship with us

MORNING WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCH BUILDING

Every Sunday at 10.00am

Preachers for October

6th Rev B. Willers (Holy Communion) ++ 13^h Mr R. Bafico
20th Rev B. Willers ++ 27th Mr P. Burke
3rd November Rev L. Healey (Holy Communion)

Zoom Service - Every Sunday at 10.00am

United with the service in the church

To join the service or for further details or to request the Zoom link be emailed to you please contact Jack Healey or Gareth Edwards (caldicotmc@gmail.com)

Adapted from UCB 'Word for Today'

LEARN TO 'WAIT WELL' FOR THINGS

'My future is in Your hands...'

In her helpful book, *When, God, When?* Joyce Meyer writes: "God has taught me to keep living the life I now have, while I am waiting for the things that are in my heart to come to pass. We can become so intent on trying to birth the next things that we neither enjoy nor take care of the things at hand. I had a vision from God ten years before I began to see it fulfilled. During those years, I believe I missed a lot of joy trying to give it birth outside of God's timing."

Learn to enjoy where you are, while you're waiting to get to where you want to be. After all, all your life you will spend more time waiting than you will receiving. And when you receive what you're waiting for now – you'll begin waiting for something else. That's life! If we don't learn to 'wait well', we'll live with endless frustration.

Waiting well is what will deliver our dream. Listen: "in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9). "Due season" is when God knows we're ready, not when we think we are. He has set appointments to accomplish certain things in our life, so we might as well settle down and wait patiently, because that's when it will happen – and not before.

Growing up

Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the crisis facing Nature

CARE FOR CREATION

António Guterres (United Nations Secretary-General) has said that we're at 'Code red for humanity: the alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk.'

At this time of Creationtide, how are we to respond to these climate concerns?

The world belongs to God:

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but

God's! We are called to share in care for God's world: 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.' (Genesis 1:28). We represent God by governing with the same self-giving generosity that we see in His creation of the earth. This challenges our consumer mindset, that sees the earth's resources as both limitless and existing simply for our needs. For example, the fashion industry uses as much carbon per minute, as a car emits going six times round the world! How can we make a difference in our world?

We belong to Christ:

We also belong to the one who's plan is: 'to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.' (Ephesians 1:10). We can look forward to the time when God will create a new heaven and a new earth and make everything new. Meanwhile, we are called to serve as He serves, caring for the earth and our fellow humans, by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options.

In terms of our world, there is no plan B! God gave us only one planet!



Prayer for October 2024

Lord, As we move into autumn and the month of October, the normal seasonal changes are all around us, the beautiful colours, the falling leaves, the cooler days. And that is reassuring. But, so much else in our world is changing so rapidly, often in ways we don't understand. And that can be worrying.

Thank you that You never change. You are always the same, faithful, present and loving. And You tell us in Your Word, not to be anxious about anything, but to bring all things to You in prayer and to trust You. When we do this, You promise us Your Peace – a peace of heart that steadies us and helps us move forward.

Thank you that whatever comes, we are secure in You, when we put our trust in Jesus. In His name, we pray. Amen.— **By Daphne Kitching**

NEXT MONTHLY NOTICES

If you have an item, please contact Roger Simms by **30th October**