

**KNOWLE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
**STATION RD. KNOWLE**



February 2012

**Minister**

Rev. Mark Fisher  
Phone: 0121 628 5472

Rest Day: Friday  
e-mail: [mjf.urc@me.com](mailto:mjf.urc@me.com)  
Mobile: 07950399615

**Secretary**

Jenny Scott, *Elder 2011*  
51 Hanbury Rd.,  
Dorridge, Solihull. B93 8DW  
Tel: 01564 770730  
e-: [jenny@knowleuc.org.uk](mailto:jenny@knowleuc.org.uk)

**Treasurer**

Mike Robertson *Elder 2011*  
132 Lodge Rd.,  
Knowle B93 0HF  
Tel: 01564 773940  
e-m: [mike@knowleuc.org.uk](mailto:mike@knowleuc.org.uk)

**Hall Secretary**

Edna Grimmett,  
Tel: 01564 772552

**Junior Church**

Pat McKee  
Tel: 01564 773911

**Property Secretary**

David Stewart *Elder 2008*  
109 Links Drive, Solihull  
B91 2DJ  
Tel: 0121 704 9906  
[david@knowleuc.org.uk](mailto:david@knowleuc.org.uk)

**Magazine Team**

Mary Kirwan *Elder 2011*  
99 Newton Rd.,  
Knowle, Solihull. B93 8HN  
Tel: 01564 776050  
e-mails: [mary@knowleuc.org.uk](mailto:mary@knowleuc.org.uk); [graham@knowleuc.org.uk](mailto:graham@knowleuc.org.uk)

Graham Tall, *Elder 2010*

**Church Notices**

Mike Robertson *Elder 2011*  
Tel: 01564 773940

**Additional Serving Elders:**

Mandy Cunoosamy	2010	Isobel Robertson	2008
Diana Dicker	2010	Stephenie Tall	2009
Alison Hockly	2009	Kath Vale	2009

**Non-serving Elders:**

Margaret Allen	John Heatley	Eileen Pitkeathly
Kenneth Alway Jones	Glenys Lamb	Judy Preece
Sue Bateman	Alan Lang	Jan Richardson
Terry Dicker	Lucilla Lang	Brian Richardson
Clive Griffiths	Pat McKee	Mauvine Squire
Edna Grimmett	Ian Miller	Ron Squire

**Note: This magazine is free to all members and friends of Knowle URC. We rely on donations to help cover the costs.**

## **Time needs to slow down for Mark**

No, this is not a plea for less to do, but a reflection that time does seem to fly, not least in our church life. We have been looking after our 10 month old grand-daughter over a weekend, which has been a delight, but one realises that the various stages of the ‘early years’ pass by rapidly and already the baby-bath has been consigned to ‘the loft’! In the church calendar we have moved rather swiftly with Jesus from birth to baptism and are planning for Lent, which has its sights on Holy Week and Easter.

All this is a gentle reminder to each of us to ‘take stock’ of what is going on in our personal and church lives, to perhaps focus on some aspects more specifically, so that they are noticed and given attention, so that they might bear real fruit rather than simply pass by. It is for this reason that ‘Pancake Praise and Prayer’ is being arranged for all the churches in the SE Birmingham and Solihull Group (Shrove Tuesday 21st February 7.30pm at Olton URC). I am not sure that we will summon up the energy of a Mardi Gras, but we plan to celebrate the life and activities of all our churches, enjoying some pancakes as part of our worship. Then in more reflective mode we will seek to focus on key elements of our churches’ life and mission, ‘*clearing the cupboards*’. The purpose? - simply to worship and celebrate together and to identify some areas of mission where we can support each other in realistic ways.

This event is open to any and all from our churches and will hopefully ‘*set the tone*’ for our Lenten ‘, to be followed by an Easter celebration of the life that only Jesus Christ can give us.

Do come and join in!

Blessings

Mark

## **Prayer Fellowship**

We met in December 2011 and again in January 2012, we remembered in prayer all on our prayer list. Every month we add to those on the list and remember the families of those “called to higher service”, and most wonderful to add Stephen Daniel Smith born January 5<sup>th</sup>.                      Kath Vale



**21st February**

**Olton URC  
7.30pm**

**CELEBRATE  
RICHNESS**

**CLEAR  
THE  
CUPBOARDS**

United Reformed Churches in the South East of Birmingham and Solihull join to celebrate the life we have in Christ and to reflect at the beginning of Lent how we might better witness to the life of others

Shrove Tuesday as a preface to Lent is a time for celebration, thanksgiving and praise, as the cupboards are cleared, a time for reflection about what is essential and to be kept. We don't do it in our kitchens any more, but we do it for our church life and witness. We look forward to welcome any or all from our churches to Olton for an evening together.

## **Church Family**

Happy Birthday to Judy 1<sup>st</sup>, Terry 8<sup>th</sup>, Ian R 8<sup>th</sup>, Edna 9<sup>th</sup>, Harry 14<sup>th</sup> and Daniel 23<sup>rd</sup>. February's Birthstone is Amethyst and Flower is Violet or Primrose. Many Congratulations to Chris Smith on the safe arrival of her Grandson Stephen Daniel who arrived (eventually) on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Mary Vale for the beautiful flower chart at the back of church. For those who were at church on January 8th, when Rev Roger Hall mentioned his Daughter Alison being ill, we have had a thank you from her – Dear friends at Knowle URC, How very kind of you to send me a card with your good wishes to-day. It was a very strange Christmas for my family, I was actually unaware it was even Christmas for a short time, but as you know we had our Christmas Day on Sunday (8<sup>th</sup>) with all the family. Once again I am most grateful for your kindness. Yours most sincerely Alison (Hall).

We also had a Thank You from Bloomsbury Church Centre for all the Toy donations, the full letter is displayed on the notice board. Please remember in your prayers Rosina Forsyth who is rather unwell at the moment.

Please remember we have a "fish bowl" at the back of church for "tiddlers" – small change, we have not had any donations for a while now!

Your ELDERS list will be updated in the near future – can you please give new address/phone number etc to Mary Kirwan.

## **St. Valentine**

Every February 14, for about 1700 years, people have remembered St Valentine, a man who died because he was a believer in Jesus Christ. At that time, the Roman Emperor, Claudius II, was imprisoning Christians for not worshipping the Roman gods. With innocent Christians suffering unspeakable horrors, dying like flies around him, Valentine was unfazed by the question as to why a God of love would allow such things. Valentine was arrested. While in prison Valentine continued to preach. One of the guards had adopted a blind girl. He asked Valentine if his God could help his daughter. Valentine prayed and laid hands on her and the girl was given her sight. The guard and his whole family, 46 people were baptized.

When the emperor heard about this he was furious that Valentine was still making converts even in prison, so he had Valentine beheaded. On the eve of his death, Valentine wrote a last note to the Jailer's daughter, urging her to stay close to God, and he signed it, "*From your Valentine.*"

The Bible Says: "*Greater love hath no man than this, than a man lay down his life for his friends.*" (John 15:13)

A beautiful warm church, decorated very tastefully, candles adding to the 'magic', Rev Mark Fisher said the evening was perfect. Grand to see Phyllis & Derek, Kevin, Helen & Drake, and the Handbell Ringers performed well – all combining to make our Carol Service 'wonderbar'. Our Christmas Day service was a combination of our talents, amazing what can be done when we pull together. Number wise we were 85 for the Carol service plus Drake, 44 on Christmas Day with 20 apologies, and on New Year's Day we had a Joint service with/at Christ Church when 15 of us attended. A Happy New Year to us all.

Kath Vale

## **Arrest By Churchwarden?**

I was browsing through "police law", a book written by Charles Moriarty, a onetime chief constable of the then Birmingham City police, And I came across the following:

**Clergymen.** Ministers of religion are by law specially protected when carrying out their duties in a place of divine worship, or burial ground.

**Offences** offences against the person act, 1861: this section makes it an offence to obstruct, prevent or endeavour to obstruct prevent any clergyman or other minister in or from celebrating divine service or in the performance of a burial service. It is also a misdemeanor to strike or offer any violence to any clergy or other minister engaged in the discharge of their duties as above.

### **Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act 1860:**

It is a summary offence to molest, disturb, or By any unlawful means, disquiet or misuse any authorised preacher or clergy celebrating divine service, or office in any church, chapel or burial Ground, and under section three the offender may be arrested by **any churchwarden** or constable.

Oh dear, don't forget to switch your mobile off - beware the churchwarden!!!

Les Bridgwater

## **Humour**

May you never forget what is worth remembering, or remember what is best forgotten

Have an awesome day, and know that someone who thinks you're great, has thought about you today!..

# The Sunday Before Christmas

In addition to the choir singing to us, we were entertained by Junior Church, Their greater age this year enabled them to participate far more to tell the congregation the story of three trees.....



Mike faced the interesting task of having to cope with too many volunteers wishing to light the Advent Candles.



Daniel shouted from the Pulpit Peace be Still.



Caelin and Hamish carried the Crib

Stephenie and Pat used a blue roll of cloth to simulate the sea, for the tree that wished to be a ship. George, Richie and Harry were the three trees.in the story.



Gemma encouraged the children to tell us the story of the three trees. Abigail carried Baby Jesus.



## . Christmas Carol Service



The candlelit atmosphere and the decorations set the scene at the Carol Service. The carol singing itself filled the Church. But our choir and the visiting St Alphege Bell Ringers made an enjoyable evening a memorable one.

The collections on the Carol and Christmas



Day services combined raised £881 for the Indian Hospital Charity that Knowle URC has supported now for many years.



## Stephenie's Birthday



Stephenie cuts her cake with the aid (?) of her husband Graham and grandson. As usual the cake was delicious and the flowers attractive.

## Charity Donations

In addition to the donation to the Indian Hospital (see opposite). £70 was sent to St Basil's from money used instead of sending Christmas cards. The Christmas box donation was described last month.

## Midweek Service!

Our midweek services on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month are very small in attendance, we would like to know if more people would attend if it were on a different day? – say a Tuesday instead. Please give consideration to this and pass your comments on to Mary K.

## Prayers for Grandpa (and Grandma)

*This is just too beautiful not to share.*

The photograph on the right was sent in by Jan.

The poem below was heard at the funeral of Chris Talbot an old schoolmate of Graham Tall's.

Each grandchild read out a short prayer. The youngest simply wrote:

Dear God,  
My Grandpa has died.  
I won't see him anymore  
Mummy and Daddy  
say he's living with you  
now. Please look after  
him Henry (7)



You can shed tears that he is gone or you can smile because he has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back or you can open your eyes and see all he has left,

Your heart can be empty because you can't see him or you can be full of the love you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember him and only that he's gone or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back or you can do what he would want; smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

Emily (9)

Source: David Harkins 1981 - Silloth, Cumbria, UK

## Hymn: Just As I Am, Without One Plea

Charlotte Elliot belonged to a noted Anglican evangelical family. She had a serious illness in 1821, which left her a complete invalid for the rest of her life. In 1822 she came under the influence of Cesar Malan, the evangelist, of Geneva. While seated at supper, the minister said he hoped that she was a Christian. She took offense at this, and replied that she would rather not discuss that question. Dr. Malan said that he was sorry if he had offended her, that he always liked to speak a word for his Master, and that he hoped that the young lady would some day become a worker for Christ. When they met again at the home of a mutual friend, three weeks later, Miss Elliott told the minister that ever since he had spoken to her she had been trying to find her Saviour, and that she now wished him to tell her how to come to Christ. "Just come to him as you are," Dr. Malan said. This she did, and went away rejoicing. Shortly afterward she wrote this hymn. She began a correspondence with him which continued for forty years. In her youth she had written humorous poems, but after her Evangelical conversion she devoted her talents and her life to religion. Most of her hymns were written under great physical pain and suffering, and have brought comfort to many. She died in Brighton on September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1871.

Verse 1 of 6

Just as I am, without one plea  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come

Verse 6 of 6

Just as I am, of that free love  
The breath, length, depth and height to prove,  
Here for a season, then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliot (1789-1871)

### DATES

February is Heart Disease Awareness Month

Feb 6<sup>th</sup> – 60<sup>th</sup> Ann of H.M. Queen Elizabeth 11 Accession

Feb 14 St Valentine's Day

Feb 21<sup>st</sup> Shrove Tuesday

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Ash Wednesday

Feb 27<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup> is Fairtrade Fortnight

## A Journey through the Bible with Tiglath. Samuel 1 Ch's 1 to 3.

### Our Apologies this should have been in Dec/Jan Magazine

Our journey now takes us through the two Books of Samuel. We have just ended the period of the Judges and the two books will cover about one hundred years from 1076BC to 976BC. It takes us to the end of the reign of King David.

Chapter 1 takes us to a scene of domestic discord. A man named Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Penninah. Penninah had children but Hannah had not been so fortunate. Penninah mocked Hannah for her lack of offspring and upset her very much with the result that Penninah went off her food. In Chapter 1 Elkanah, her husband, cheered her up with these words 'Hannah why weepest thou? And why eatest thou not? And why is thy heart grieved? Am not I better to thee than ten sons?' After this Hannah began to eat and drink.

At this time the chief priest was a man named Eli. He was sitting by the Temple one day when he noticed a woman moving her lips from which issued no sound. The woman, of course, was Hannah who had gone to the Temple to pray to God in her distress. Eli seeing her mouth move and hearing no sound concluded that she was drunk and admonished her. Hannah said, in verse 15, 'no, my lord I am a woman of sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither



*Eli sees Hannah praying in the Temple*



*Hannah delivers Samuel to Eli*

wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul to the Lord'. Eli said

(verse 17) 'Go in peace; and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him'.

Verse 11 told us what Hannah had said to God. She promised that if God would give her a man-child, she would give him to the Lord all the days of his life and no razor should ever cut his hair. This was a sign of dedication to God. Sure enough, in due time Hannah's petition was granted by God and she bore a son.

## Tiglath Continued

His name was Samuel and we are going to hear quite a lot about him as we continue our journey.

Chapter 1, verses 21 to 28, relates how Hannah took the baby Samuel to the Temple. The first 10 verses of Chapter 2 are Hannah's song of thankfulness to God. Verses 12 to 17 tell of the grasping greed of the priests at that time. Samuel is growing up and making himself useful in the Temple. To thank Hannah for lending Samuel to the Lord, Eli, the priest blessed her and her husband Elkanah and they soon had a family of three sons and two daughters.

The sons of Eli were named Hopm and Phinehas. Although they were priests, verse 22 informs us that they were very wicked. In verse 27 a man of God came to Eli to inform him that because he and his sons had fallen well below the standard expected of those in the priesthood they are going to be destroyed. As a sign of this in verse 34 Eli is told that both his sons will die on the same day.

Chapter 3 is a most interesting and important chapter in our story. In it we find Samuel asleep in the Temple. Eli, the priest, is also asleep. Verse 1 tells us that 'the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision'. In the dead of night Samuel hears a voice calling him. Thinking this was Eli calling, Samuel ran to him to ask him what he wanted. Of course Eli said that he hadn't called. This happened three times and on the third occasion Eli



*The Lord calls Samuel*

realised that Samuel was being called by God so he told him to lie down and if he was called again to reply 'Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth' (verse 9). The Lord does speak to Samuel and in verses 11 to 14 he tells Samuel what is going to happen to Eli and his family. When morning came Eli was curious to know if the Lord had spoken to Samuel and what He had said. At first Samuel was afraid to tell him, but, in the end, he did so. Eli's reaction was to say 'It is the Lord: let Him do what seemeth Him good' (verse 18).

Next month we shall learn what happened to Eli and his sons after the Israelites were defeated by the Philistines.

## SOSage Factory presents "Dazzle"

Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sat 25<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 pm and Sat matiné e 2.30 pm  
Solihull Arts Complex

Enjoy a fun-filled journey through Space and Time with the crew of Starship Sunburster. A brilliant show packed with fabulous songs and hilarious one-liners. Great for all ages including young children.

Tickets from Judy or Lucilla, the Box Office 0121 704 6962, online at [www.solihullartscomplex.co.uk](http://www.solihullartscomplex.co.uk) or on the door.

Come and see what this fantastic group of young people can do who rehearse each Saturday in the church hall.

### **Commitment For Life. Vision 2020 January**

Commitment for life is about fullness of life for all people

Commitment for life is about helping this become a reality for all God's people

Commitment for life is about commitment to generous and just stewardship

Commitment for life is about commitment of time to fullness of life to all people

Chosen for life – Material for Worship 1996 ©Revd John Hetherington

### **Valentine Sayings**

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew a name from a bowl to see who their valentine would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

In some countries, a young woman may receive a gift of clothing from a young man. If she keeps the gift, it means she will marry him.

Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch,

14 she would marry a millionaire.

## **Rotas**

### **Vestry and Communion Elders**

Sun Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny Scott
Sun Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Hockly
Sun Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Stephenie Tall
Sun Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Mandy Cunoosamy & David Stewart
Sun Mar 4 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Kirwan

### **Door Stewards**

Sun Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Bateman & Pat McKee
Sun Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ron & Mauvine Squire
Sun Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny Scott & Christine Harfoot
Sun Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Clive & Avril Griffiths
Sun Mar 4 <sup>th</sup>	Graham & Stephenie Tall

### **Flower Rota**

Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Edna
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Fellowship
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Kath & Mary

Thank you all concerned, the church was beautiful for Christmas and thank you for all the clearing away afterwards too. The 2012 Flower Chart awaits your names please! Thank you. Prayer Fellowship.

### **Lectionary Readings**

Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Eileen Pitkeathly	Isah 40; 21-31	Mark 1; 29-39
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Kath Vale	2Kings 5; 1-14	Mark 1; 40-45
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Amanda Cunoosamy	2Kings2; 1-12	Mark 9; 2-9
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	Isobel Robertson	Gen 9; 8-17;	Mark 1; 9-15
Mar 4 <sup>th</sup>	Avril Griffiths	Gen 17; 1-7, 15-16	Mark 8; 32-38

### **Junior Church**

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26	Judy	Helpers	Isobel/Fiona
-------------------	------	---------	--------------

## Church Diary

Sun Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Mr Ian Thomson
Wed Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Midweek Service
	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Sun Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Mr Michael Platt
Sun Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Mr Andy Vaill
Tues Feb 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30 pm	Pancake Prayer & Praise @ Olton URC
Wed Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 am	Midweek Service Ash Wednesday
Sun Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Rev Mark Fisher Communion Quadragesima Sun
Sun Mar 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Mr Martin Withers

## Valentine's Day History and Things

Hundreds of years ago in England, many children dressed up as adults on Valentine's Day. They went singing from home to home. One verse they sang was:

*Good morning to you, valentine;  
Curl your locks as I do mine ---  
Two before and three behind.  
Good morning to you, valentine.*

In Wales wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on February 14th. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favourite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant, "*You unlock my heart!*"

## Thank You

Stephenie would like to express her appreciation of the time and effort spent on producing a delicious cake for us all to share and a beautiful flower arrangement which brightened her hallway for weeks.

Articles for March Magazine to be with Mary by February 12<sup>th</sup> please