

# Triangle



*"There is a time for  
everything, and a  
season for every activity  
under the heavens"*



The quarterly magazine of the  
Methodist Churches of  
Springdale and Wombourne

## Autumn 2014

# Silver threads among the ginger

David Hotchkiss, editor



*“Grey hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life” (Proverbs 16:31)*

Hello and welcome. I begin this quarter with the above quote from Proverbs as I reach my 60th birthday.

The fact is, as a “ginger” I am not going grey at all (my mother always referred to it as “auburn”, unwilling as she was to confess she had given birth to a ginger child). No – black turns to grey; ginger turns to . . . well, light ginger. If I were a marketing man I’d say “Ginger Lite”.

Should the Lord spare me, it might go to white. At that point I would at least be on a par with the non-ginger majority, apart from the fact that I’d still turn lobster red at the merest hint of sunshine. This happened recently when Wombourne Men’s Fellowship group, eschewing the usual talk and pub lunch, began its new season with a day at Worcester County Cricket Club. It was a great day out, apart from the sensitive skin issue, but such is the burden of gingeriness. Anyway, if I behave myself, I may get membership of said cricket club as a birthday present, along with one of those floppy hats which tell the world you are a cricket fan.

As for the “righteous life” bit, that’s not really for me to say. In the days before antibiotics and countless other medical wonders, lasting long enough to go grey was quite a feat in itself, and likely to be attributed to “good living”. More like the luck of the draw, I suspect, although a twenty-a-day-and-ten-pints lifestyle wouldn’t do you any favours.

This time of year has always been my favourite, possibly because of my birthday and because the shortening days remind me of parties that concluded riotously with games of “Murder in the Dark”. But as the leaves fall from the trees, we trust they will return. And as we gather in the harvest – here or abroad, food or non-food – we have God’s promise that He will provide for us always.

God reaps what He sows, be it green, black, gold – even ginger. I thank Him for my 60 wonderful years.

The deadline for the next edition of Triangle is

# November 30

Articles can be given to me or your stewards, sent by post to David Hotchkiss, or emailed to [triangle@springdalechurch.org.uk](mailto:triangle@springdalechurch.org.uk)

# Remember: God loves you!

The Reverend Christopher Collins



Psalm 139 is one of my favourite Psalms and it is in that Psalm that we read some of the most beautiful words of scripture:

*For it was you who formed my inward parts / you knit me together in my mother's womb / I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

Whenever I ponder those words, something stirs within me that says: "you are unique, you were made exactly how you are". I am reminded of the beautiful image of the potter in Isaiah 64:

*Yet, O Lord, you are the Father; / we are the clay and you are our potter / we are all the work of your hand.*

Just as a potter forms and shapes each pot to be unique, lovingly made and cared for so we are unique and lovingly made. Every one of us. You and me. The man walking his dog down the road. The woman on the checkout in Sainsbury's, the schoolchild on the swing. Just as the potter tenderly throws a pot, shaping the contours through her fingers, willing its shape by every fibre of her being, so God shapes and forms you and I. Not as a moulded replica, but as a unique creation.

You are unique and loved because God made you and calls you by name. Imagine the pride you get when you have created something. A cake. A flower. A ripe and juicy tomato you have grown. Remember how you felt. The pride. A grin from ear to ear, a twinkle in your eye. Surely that's how God feels about us because God made us and loved us before we could know anything of it.

In our Methodist tradition, we would call this prevenient grace. That even before we could do anything to earn it or even recognise it, God loved us. We say that every time someone is baptised. In one of the most beautiful prayers in our Worship Book, we call all who are to be baptised by name and declare:

*For you Jesus Christ came into the world; / for you he lived and showed God's love; / for you he suffered death on the cross; / for you he triumphed over death, rising to newness of life, / for you he prays at God's right hand; / all this for you, before you could even know anything of it. / In your baptism, the word of Scripture is fulfilled: / 'We love, because God first loved us'.*

And we should never forget the fact that God's love does not depend on our own achievements. It doesn't depend on our qualifications, our earnings, our neighbourhood or even the company we keep.

Some days I need to be reminded of that and I have a hunch I am not alone. So perhaps the next time you are in church and sit down, turn to the person next to you and tell them: "God loves you." And perhaps try it when you meet someone from church at the shops or on the bus, and perhaps if you are feeling brave enough what about telling the stranger on the bus that God loves them too? You never know, it might just make their day. Remember: God loves you!

**Rev'd Chris**

# The vital children of church

Jamie Bruesehoff

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You are doing something really, really important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car-seat and the nappy bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your pre-schooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you beg your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is so important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about Bible Study or personal, quiet contemplation, but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in ten years when your kids are old enough to sit quietly and behave in worship. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of crisp bags and the growing pile of crumbs I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his drink, determined not to miss a drop. I watch a child excitedly colour a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echos of Amens just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of those mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know, it matters. It matters to me. It matters to my children not to be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people. And even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that

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everyone is welcome, that their worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are enough right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly-timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines are a joyful noise, because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family – with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy – are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.

***Jamie Bruesehoff** is the wife of a pastor in New Jersey and this entry in her blog on the internet has proved so popular that we were asked to include it in Triangle. You can follow her at [www.iamtotallythatmom.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.iamtotallythatmom.blogspot.co.uk)*

## Ministry of music

Carole Walker

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On August 16, Eric and I were privileged to join with Christian Music Ministries, led by Roger Jones and his team for the week. Willersley Castle Hotel was our venue. The windows provided spectacular views at every mealtime.

During the week we learnt one of Roger's first musicals, Apostle. Although having sung it twice before, it was a joy to experience it again, as this was a new edition with narrative links by Alison Fuggle, and a new hymn to complete the music, written by Timothy Dudley-Smith. This is entitled "Give praise to God for his apostle Paul". The musical was originally written in the 1970s for Roger's school choir and Sunday school anniversary.

Each morning, after breakfast, there was a time for prayer, led by various people. Then, from 10am until 1pm we had a time of worship, always very inspirational, followed by learning the musical. Our afternoons were free and we were able to enjoy the glorious swimming pool and to explore the beautiful scenery nearby, including the hotel grounds, which were quite extensive.

After the evening meal each day we had a time of praise and reflection.

We met lots of Christian people from all walks of life and from all over the country. The love and fellowship we received were truly uplifting. It was a week that we will remember for a long, long time. We felt the love of God so strongly, and wish to praise Him for everything.

**Springdale Church & Community Centre**

# **Christmas Fayre**

**Saturday, December 6**

12 noon – 2pm

*Adults 50p*

*School-age children free!*

**Santa's Grotto, Cakes, Jewellery, Christmas Food, Secondhand Books, White Elephant, Toys, Lucky Dip and much more!**

**Refreshments served throughout – please come and join us!**

**Wombourne Methodist Church**

# **Christmas Bazaar**

**Wombourne Community Centre  
Saturday, November 22**

10am – 12 noon

*Entrance 30p*

# Driven up the wall

David Hotchkiss finds himself chairman of the boards

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“Who’s binned my prayer circle poster?” “Why has the coffee rota been moved, it was always here?!” “That notice is out of date!” “They’ve got more space than we have!” “Well what’s Zumba got to do with church?”

Strange how the noticeboards, of all things, can be such a source of friction, even in the best-run churches. Trouble is, everyone thinks their announcement is more important than everyone else’s. Only strict enforcement by the Noticeboard Police can avert fisticuffs in the vestibules.

At Wombourne it was decided to defeat noticeboard chaos, and to improve the appearance of the entrance lobby and other areas, with a summertime project. It began with Brenda painting the boards in the schoolroom in an elegant terracotta colour she found in the garage, finished with headings for various church groups (these were not to be found in her garage, of course).

The biggest board in the entrance lobby was replaced with a more drawing-pin-friendly one, and it too was given a coat of the warm terracotta to which everyone had . . . warmed. A table full of leaflets, magazines and pamphlets was removed, and the material put into purpose-made Perspex holders fixed along the bottom of the board. Blutak was banned outright, and the ever-changing notices, now carefully monitored by the stewards, are held in place by proper pins.

Meanwhile, the noticeboard facing the entrance was designated “The Welcome Board”, to be a semi-permanent display especially aimed at visitors. We discovered some decent hessian under the existing display, and it, too, had a coat of paint. Steward Charles Clowes had wielded the paintbrush, and was now commissioned to provide 3D lettering of the word “welcome” to go across the top. This he duly ordered and carefully screwed into place. It looks great.

Beneath is a heading with the church name, a list of “church life” activities, information about worship, including the circuit plan, and, most strikingly perhaps, details of church officers, most with photographs and all with contact numbers. The activities list was also turned into three-fold Church Life leaflets, and they are housed in another Perspex holder mounted below the board.

We’re not quite finished. A three-dimensional metal cross is to be made for the top corner of the board and hopefully there will be some kind of shelf or table to go in front of it all. A box with a hinged lid is being restored in which items can be collected, such as food for the food bank or materials for the children’s Saturday group. We’ve also tidied up the prayer requests book and installed a new visitors’ book.

My Pauline took it upon herself to clean the brass umbrella stand by the front door and took Charles’s advice to avoid repeating the onerous task every week – “Cover it with hairspray,” he said. So far, Charles, it has worked . . .

# Springdale vestry news

Phillippa Cooper, senior steward

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The past three months have flown past so quickly, we have certainly been very busy for a variety of reasons! It was such a shame that the weather was so disappointing during August for the majority of the school holidays.

Since the start of the new term the weather has been glorious, but there does seem to be an unusually large number of berries on the trees. I wonder what the next few months have in store for us.

Looking back since my first report there have been a number of events. The successful summer fair was followed very quickly by the Scouts' 60th anniversary camp at Patshull from June 20th to 22nd.

I have heard many amazing comments from the visitors to the afternoon tea campfire celebrations on the Saturday evening. The report by John and Jean Hodgson in Let's Connect included some lovely photographs of the event. Just two weeks later we continued the 60th anniversary celebrations with a community tea. We are all grateful to everyone involved in the organisation of these events.

The summer certainly did not go to plan for the Reverend Chris and Jenny. It was such a great shame that their Canadian holiday was cut short by Chris's accident. I have to admit that when we heard that he had been airlifted from a mountain in the Rockies we were all most concerned.

However, it has been wonderful to see him gaining some mobility and being able to join us for the morning service for the past few weeks. We are glad that his phased return is imminent as I write this.

Of course such an event does tend to panic the team of stewards but I have to say how lucky we are that the Reverend Donald Ryan and our worship leaders have taken on so much extra work in the past few weeks. That enabled our communion and baptism services to continue as planned. Thank you all so very much.

Once again we have to thank Helen Cook for the ecumenical summer bible study "Three in one, exploring the Trinity". The sessions certainly seemed to be very interactive. We are grateful to Helen for all she does for ecumenism in Penn.

Although Jane will give more details in her pastoral report we have been pleased to celebrate the baptism of Emilie Plant and Harrison Banks recently. It is always lovely to have the church full with young families.

Two of our young people, Olivia Cooper and Elizabeth Philpott, are beginning university courses at Exeter and Edinburgh respectively and we send our very best wishes to them both as they begin their studies.

We are very sad that our dear friend and former treasurer Ken Fynn died recently. Ken was such a devoted Methodist. The service of thanksgiving on September 9

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was a wonderful celebration and very fitting for a gentleman who was so highly regarded by all of us. September sees the start of Hotpot after a well-earned summer rest for the leaders. The theme for the first session is “Community”. It is a real privilege to welcome the children into Springdale each month.

Finally, I must say how fitting it was to have our junior church presentations during the baptism service on September 7. The young people were all so thrilled to receive their bibles and I am sure the congregation appreciated being part of the presentation itself.

After a rather traumatic time for Chris and Jenny we do hope that everything goes smoothly in the coming months. With every blessing . . .

## Thursday morning prayers

Penny Baldwin

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Every Thursday morning at 10am at Springdale there is a short time of prayer. This is usually held in the atrium and is for anyone who would like to spend a peaceful 20 minutes or so in fellowship with God. On every 2nd Thursday the prayers are included in a quiet Communion.

I have been leading this while Chris has been recovering from his broken ankle, and have found it a really special, uplifting time. All problems are laid aside and it is a time to concentrate on having a quiet conversation with God.

The best bit is that problems never seem so difficult after this one to one. You see things in perspective and you are ready to face the day. So why not take the time to join me? Remember, everyone is welcome.

## Dear God . . .

An innocent question, a loving response

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Amy, aged six, wrote a letter which read: “Dear God, how did you get invented?” Her father sent a copy of her letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, at the time Rowan Williams, who wrote back to the little girl saying: “I think God might reply a bit like this . . .

“Nobody invents me – but lots of people discovered me and were quite surprised. They discovered me when they looked round the world and thought it was really beautiful or really mysterious and wondered where it came from.

“They discovered me when they were very quiet on their own and felt a sort of peace and love they hadn’t expected.”

● *This is not the only mention of Mr Williams – see Page 14.*

# Wombourne pastoral news

Pauline Hotchkiss, pastoral secretary

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As I write this report I am looking forward to the season of Harvest. I am so pleased that this year David and I are able to celebrate in our own church. We always take a holiday the first week in October and the celebration is usually on the first Sunday. This year it will be celebrated on the second Sunday, so we will be back. How wonderful that we will be able to share in a faith lunch and in fellowship with our OWN people.

Val and Stan Edwards were delighted to announce the safe arrival of a great grand-daughter. Maddie Charlotte was born on November 9 and weighed in at 6lb 12oz. We send many congratulations to all the family.



John and Edna Fellows and Joe and Joy Brandrick celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in September. Our sincere congratulations to both couples. May God bless their continued married lives.

Our prayers are with those who are in hospital, or have been in hospital. We remember Doug Monckton, who has now moved into residential care. We continue to pray for Kath, Doug's wife, as she comes to terms with his situation. We remember in our prayers Cintra Beaumont, who has recently moved into another care home after being in hospital. We continue to remember Cathy Anderson in our prayers.

Our prayers are also with Robyn Walker, the grand-daughter of Carole and Eric Walker, as she undergoes tests on her spine and her hip and further investigations due to her accident. We thank God for her "slow" recovery and ask that she will continue to show progress. We remember in our prayers Emily, the granddaughter of John and Edna Fellows. Emily is nine months old and has recently been in hospital. She is now at home but her parents will need our continuing prayers asking God to support them in dealing with this situation.

We remember Pat Earlam in our prayers at the loss of her husband, Walter, on August 28. His funeral service was led by Mr Denis Beaumont and Walter's son and Pat's nephew paid fitting tributes to him.

At the July meeting of the prayer circle we prayed for the families of those who

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had lost loved ones. We remembered those who are sick and in need of God's healing hand. We always remember our older loved ones who are no longer able to care for themselves and are in residential care.

Each month we share in ministry to The Maltings sheltered accommodation in Wombourne. It is always a delight to share with this wonderful group of people. We celebrated the Harvest at our September meeting and items of food were given to be donated to The Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd for their work with needy people. We visit Himley Mill Nursing home each month and minister to the residents in two of the units there. They always appreciate us being there and join in with the singing.

Suzanne Fenny and Jamie Ramsey were married on Friday, September 5. I was not able to attend the service but was fortunate enough to be in church on the morning of the wedding. The church looked outstandingly beautiful. I have never seen such beautiful sunflowers in abundance. The overall effect was very natural. The school room was also beautifully decorated and set up for afternoon tea. Well done all who helped to make this a very special day for the bride and groom. We ask God to bless them as they continue their lives together as husband and wife.

Many thanks are due to Denis, our Lay Pastoral Worker, and all the Pastoral Group visitors, for all the work they carry out in caring for us all in many ways.

Val Edwards' three grandsons are now at university. Jac has gone back to Birmingham for his third year where he is studying for a degree in architecture. George is in his first year at Worcester and will be studying for a degree in sports therapy, and Sam has gone to Liverpool where he will be studying accountancy.

Edward (Teddy) Martin has begun at Aberystwyth University where he will be studying Business Studies. Teddy has already made it to the hockey first team and has played his first match, scored two goals and was named "man of the match". Well done Teddy.

If I have failed to mention anyone with a need or with good news then I apologise. Jesus knows our every need and will watch over us.

Finally, here are two thoughts to bear in mind as you go through today or indeed any day of the week:

**Smile – it increases your face value.**

**Smile – sunshine is good for your teeth!**

# Wombourne vestry news

Diana Beaumont, senior steward

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Since I last wrote, many of us have been fortunate enough to enjoy a holiday here or abroad. We were all sorry to hear that Chris had fallen and broken his ankle, and part of his leg, while on holiday in Canada. We hope that he continues to make a good recovery, and a gradual return to work.

After the summer break (sorry, Chris) we have started up our various activities again, including our monthly Good News for Kids Club and coffee and hymn singing on the first Thursday in the month. The Men's Fellowship has enjoyed a day's cricket at Worcester. The Wives' Group began their 50th anniversary year with a special thanksgiving service. It was good to see some former members again, as well as the Reverend Philip Harrison, who used to be our minister.

We have just had the first meeting of Toddlers, Tea and Toast, a new venture started by Carole Walker, to which a good number came. It will take place every Wednesday morning in term time.

A few weeks ago we lost one of our older members, Walter Earlam. He had not been able to attend church for some while, owing to ill health. We send our sympathy to Pat and the family.

It was lovely to see a wedding take place in church early in September, when Suzanne Fenney married Jamie Ramsey. The sanctuary and hall, had been decorated with love and care by Suzanne and her friends. The wedding was conducted by the Reverend Ian Heath from Codsall. It was good that our own minister was able to come, although at that stage he was not able to conduct the ceremony.

When you enter our church now, you will see that there are two new noticeboards in the vestibule. These have been painted in a shade of terracotta, as have the noticeboards elsewhere in the building. It does make the church look fresher, and we thank all those who have been involved. So, please read them to find out what is happening here in Wombourne and elsewhere!

We have had the opportunity to experience two different kinds of service on Sunday evenings in the last month or so. At the end of August we shared in a "Love Feast" service led by the Reverend Mark Sherman. Mark was able to lead the service on behalf of Chris who was not able to. The worship was appreciated by all who came.

Love feasts were held in early Methodist times. They are not communion services, but – well, if you want to know more, come to one the next time it takes place.

On the last Sunday in September we had a café-style service in the hall, preceded by delicious sandwiches and cakes. We do thank Brenda and others who planned and took part in the service and provided the spread beforehand.

In the last year or more the circuit has been short of preachers and we have been very fortunate that various people, Brenda in particular, have stepped in and led them.

# Ground the drones

Chris Collins on the world's deadly 'video games'

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As Triangle prepares to “go to press” preparations are being made for events around the UK for the Drones Week of Action 2014. The week is an opportunity for concerted action to call for the grounding of military drones.

Drones, or to give them a proper name, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, are found in a variety of contexts. From surveillance operations, filming in remote areas and in conflict zones. They are operated remotely either by ground-based pilots or autonomously by following pre-programmed missions.

Drones, the military argue, offer several advantages over other forms of engagement. They can be airborne for longer and are cheaper than aircraft. Crucially they offer a form of engagement which significantly reduces the risk to personnel. The biggest users of this equipment are the US, UK and Israel. While accurate statistics on the use of and impact of drones are problematic, it is estimated that since 2009, 2,400 individuals have been killed in drone attacks by the US.

Remote operation removes the target to a dot on a screen and for the pilot it can be like playing a video game. Ethicists worry that operators can take greater risks because they do not face the same danger as when they engage physically. When you can't see the person, does it feel the same?

This form of warfare allows for targeted killing of individual suspects by foreign states and also endangers innocent citizens and bystanders. This is a particular concern to peace organisations, including the World Council of Churches, which has stated that the targeted nature of killing through the use of drones cuts across the human right to life. The use of drones must surely deny Jesus' command to love your neighbour.

We may find this alarming and we need to remember that drones are being used in our name, whether we like it or not. It might also be of concern that the deployment of drones is not subject to the same parliamentary scrutiny as the deployment of military personnel.

If you feel strongly that it is not something that should be done in your name, then perhaps we could write to our MPs asking them to support a motion in parliament calling for the same scrutiny. They can do this by supporting the “Early Day Motion 136”. If you would like a sample letter to send, please contact me on 01902 687635.

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● *Chris is willing to continue his occasional series “Ask Chris”, in which he will be pleased to answer your questions. Trouble is, no-one has asked him anything. If you have a question on why we do things the way we do, please Ask Chris so that he can reply in a future edition – Ed*

# Fellowship of Reconciliation (England)

Invites you to their

## CENTENARY CONFERENCE

*22 November 2014, 10.30am – 5pm, Magdelene College,  
Cambridge*

*Cost: £20 to include lunch*

The day will include an **INTERFAITH PANEL** on peace and a  
**KEYNOTE ADDRESS** by former Archbishop of Canterbury,  
**ROWAN WILLIAMS.**

**Speak to Denis Beaumont or Rev'd Chris to book a place**

*“A day of exploring the past, present and future of FoR. Speaker sessions,  
panellists and a relaxed lunch will enable a day of learning and engage-  
ment, while allowing time to meet other FoR members/interested parties  
and walk together for a while along the path to peace.”*

## A Study Day

with

*Rev Dr Neil Richardson*

## The Gospel we know and don't know – Exploring Mark

10am – 3pm

Saturday, November 8

Wednesfield Community Church

Wood End Road, Wolverhampton WV11 1YJ

*Please bring a packed lunch. Hot and cold drinks available*

*Limited parking on site. No 28 bus stops opposite*

Booking required: phone **Lesley Cook** or emailK

 **lesleycook@btinternet.com**

# Stitches of faith

## Jackie Neilson on the symbolism of Aran knitting

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As knitting seems back in fashion I thought I'd share the story of Aran knitting. Did you know it originated in the Aran Isles? They are off the west coast of Ireland.

The three islands are Inishmore (big), Inishmaan (middle) and Inishmeer (the west island). It all started with the men of Aran. They were strong fishermen, able to make a living in their canvas-covered boats called currachs, and were nimble-fingered at making and mending their fishing nets. In time these talents were used to make garments using goose quills and local rough spun wool. This wool was known as *bainin*, meaning little white (off white), as opposed to better quality scoured and bleached wools.

The stitches in Aran knitting today are the same as those used hundreds of years ago. They were inventive and symbolic, based on the deep religious faith and way of life of these islanders. Every family had its own design which was handed down the generations. It was a matter of pride to be identified by these family variations on the traditional stitches.

### 1 **Cable stitch**

There were many variations of this, representing the fisherman's rope (essential to their livelihood).

### 2 **Diamond stitch**

This symbolises success or wealth, and is often combined with cable to denote prosperity among fisherfolk.

### 3 **Honeycomb stitch**

It denotes hard work resulting in plenty, as bees producing honey.

### 4 **Blackberry stitch**

This is a representation of the countryside. Its 1-from-3, 3-from-1 nature is also known in Ireland as Trinity stitch.

### 5 **Basket stitch**

This refers to the fisherman's basket known as a creel, and embodies hope for a good catch.

### 6 **Claw pattern**

This also has a fishing link, as lobsters were fished extensively off the west coast of Ireland, and were a good economic resource.

### 7 **Zig Zag stitch**

Portrays the winding cliff paths of the coastline.

These designs also had a tragic use. If Aran fishermen were drowned it was sometimes months before their bodies were washed ashore. Often it was only by the design of their sweater that they could be identified.

# Justice and Peace Group

Brenda Shuttleworth

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Do you wish that you knew more about the situation in Israel/Palestine?

Would you like to know more about what life is like for Palestinian Christians in the state of Israel?

Would you welcome an opportunity to try to understand the complex situation in the Holy Land?

Palestinian Christian leaders have called on Christians worldwide to support them as they struggle in their ministry under occupation. Do join us in the event below which is part of our response to their call.

**Springdale and Wombourne Justice and Peace Group**

invites you to a showing of the new film

## **THE STONES CRY OUT**

at **Springdale Methodist Church,**  
on **Saturday, November 15, at 2.30pm**

This will be followed by traditional

**Palestinian refreshments**

*Admission free, but donations accepted*

Please contact **Brenda Shuttleworth, [brendaksouth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brendaksouth@hotmail.co.uk)**  
or **Lesley Cook, [lesleycook.org.uk](http://lesleycook.org.uk)** for more details