

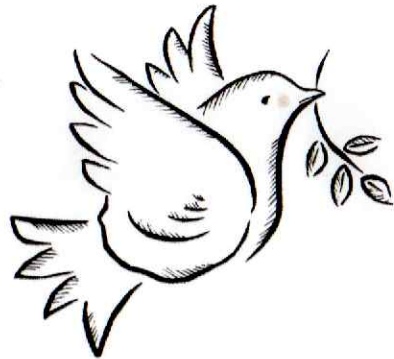
Proclaiming the Gospel. Growing in Faith
Reaching out in Service



CONNECT

NEWSLETTER

for
Abbey Lane URC
incorporating
Saffron Walden
Methodist Church



April 2025

Dear Friends,

It is with both sadness and gratitude that we say farewell to Revd Nigel Uden at the beginning of April. He has served us and Water Lane in Bishops Stortford, as our Interim Moderator on two occasions, with efficiency and kindness, while we have been in vacancy, as well as leading his own church, Downing Place, and Fulbourn. During this last vacancy, with a reduction in serving Elders and a dwindling congregation he has been over-generous with his time and encouragement and the Elders would have struggled without his guidance and support. He has become a wonderful friend to us and we wish him well as retirement approaches and he moves to pastures new.

We are moving towards a new Mission Partnership which is encouraging even if we now must declare a vacancy with the inclusion of Water Lane. Synod is happy for us to move forward quickly on this and it will increase the Minister/church ratio. We will have the support of Phil Nevard to guide us through the process.

I believe God is promising a future for Abbey Lane though many of us like Abram will not live to see it fulfilled. However we still have the opportunity to grow the church, not just through our outward actions but by developing a right relationship with God in order to discern his will, and by putting our trust in him.

I close with a prayer included in the 2025 URC Prayer Handbook

In Christian love,

Val

Learning to trust

Our heavenly creator,

I am bowed down by the troubles around me.

All I have been able to think about on my problems

And the challenges facing those causes and people
for whom I care.

I do not dare listen or watch the news:

all I see is conflict or the destruction of your creation.

Then I add to my own unhappiness with guilt:

guilt that I am not faithful enough

to trust my cares into your safekeeping,

guilt that your love seems not enough to give me peace.

I ask for the strength of mind to act as every day in faith,

for faith is the assurance of things hoped for,

And the conviction of things not seen.

Elfreda Tealby Watson

URC 2025 Prayer Handbook

5th Saffron Walden (Free Church) Scout Group

In addition to attending the annual Church Parade Service, the 5th SWSG aka "Mighty 5th", have been keeping busy with all manner of activities.....



On Sunday 16th March, a group of 16 Beavers and Squirrels (aka Squivers), plus leaders and helpers, spent the afternoon at Anglesey Abbey NT property. Whilst there they completed the Shaun the Sheep Sculpture Trail. It was BAAArilliant fun and everyone had a great time.

On Saturday 29th March, the Scouts held their first fundraising event for the upcoming trip to Ypres in October.



Continuing
'The Peacock At Home'
The guests are arriving ...



There was Lord Cassowary, and General Flamingo,
And Don Peroquito, escaped from Domingo.
From his high rock-built eyrie the Eagle came forth,
And the Duchess of Ptarmigan flew from the North:



The Grebe and the Eider-duck came up by water,
With the Swan, who brought out the young Cygnet, her daughter.



The one like a Nabob, in habit most splendid,
Where gold, with each hue of the rainbow was blended:

From his woodland abode came the Pheasant to meet
Two kindred arriv'd by the last India fleet:



In silver and black, like a fair pensive maid,
Who mourns for her love, was the other array'd.

The Chough came from Cornwall, and brought up his wife:

The Grouse travell'd South from his lairship in Fife.

To be continued ...

Carlin Sunday

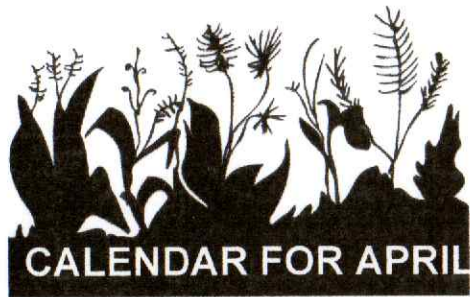
The fifth Sunday in Lent (this year 6th April) is also known as Carlin Sunday. Carlin is a variety of pea, similar to sweet peas, which produces edible chick pea type seeds. The eating of carlin peas during the period of Lent bears no religious significance but, instead, seems to be linked to events which took place during 1644 and the civil war, where the Royalist Newcastle was under siege from the Scots. The lack of food meant that the people on both sides of the Tyne were dying of starvation. Legend has it that a French ship managed to dock at Newcastle with a cargo of carlin peas. Other tales tell of a ship, laden with peas, which became stranded at South Shields a fortnight before Easter Day. The peas were washed ashore and salvaged by the locals.

The real story is lost in time but for centuries in some Northern regions of England, Passion Sunday, the other name given to the fifth Sunday of Lent, became known "Carlin Sunday" and the small brown peas became popular at this time. Although it would appear that the folklore is strongest in the North East, the tradition of eating Carlin peas at this time has spread to other areas of Northern England, Yorkshire and Lancashire.



Can You Help?

We all enjoy our cup of tea/coffee and a chat after the Sunday service, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to compile a rota of helpers. If you would be willing to help with these refreshments - even if only on an occasional basis - please have a word with Mary Duxbury. Any offers of help will be MOST enthusiastically received!



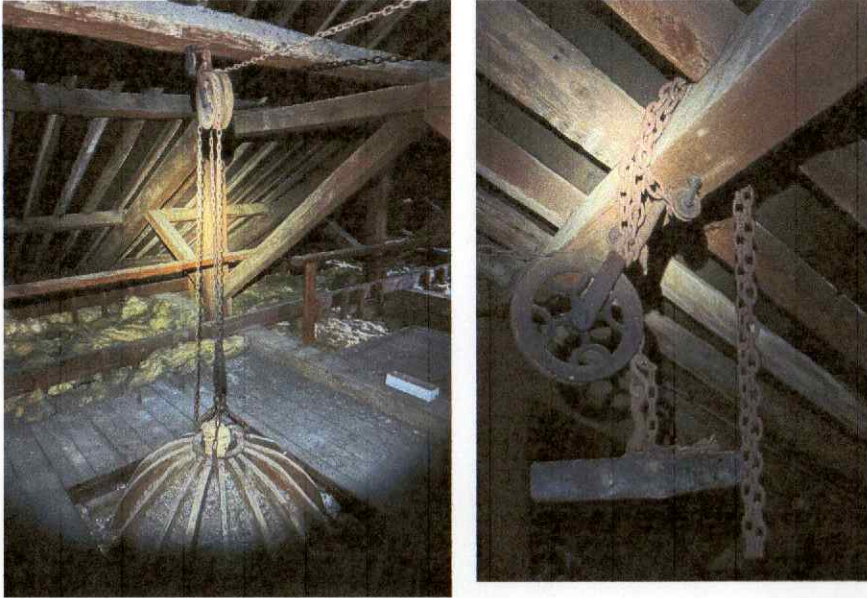
Wed. 2nd	Book Group in the Vestry	2.30-4
Sat. 5th	Farewell Service and Tea for Nigel Uden	3.00p.m.
Sun. 6th	Morning Worship at Abbey Lane led by Faith Paulding	10.30a.m.
Sun. 13th Palm Sunday	Prayer Meeting in Vestry Morning Worship with Communion led by Rev. Stuart Veitch	9.15a.m. 10.30a.m.
Mon. 14th	Bible Study in Vestry	10.00a.m.
Fri. 18th Good Friday	Walk of Witness - starts from Abbey Lane Refreshments from 10.00a.m. Service of Reflection at Abbey Lane	10.00a.m. 2.30p.m.
Sun. 20th Easter Day	Morning Worship at Abbey Lane led by Colin and Grace Baldock Preceded by Easter Breakfast	10.30a.m.
Sun. 27th	Morning Worship at Abbey Lane led by Elders Board Games & Jigsaws Afternoon in the Hall	10.30a.m. 2-5.00p.m.
Mon. 28th	Bible Study in the vestry	10.00a.m.



Wed. 2nd	Book Group in the Vestry	2.30-4
Sat. 5th	Farewell Service and Tea for Nigel Uden	3.00p.m.
Sun. 6th	Morning Worship at Abbey Lane led by Faith Paulding	10.30a.m.
Sun. 13th Palm Sunday	Prayer Meeting in Vestry Morning Worship with Communion led by Rev. Stuart Veitch	9.15a.m. 10.30a.m.
Mon. 14th	Bible Study in Vestry	10.00a.m.
Fri. 18th Good Friday	Walk of Witness - starts from Abbey Lane Refreshments from 10.00a.m. Service of Reflection at Abbey Lane	10.00a.m. 2.30p.m.
Sun. 20th Easter Day	Morning Worship at Abbey Lane led by Colin and Grace Baldock Preceded by Easter Breakfast	10.30a.m.
Sun. 27th	Morning Worship at Abbey Lane led by Elders Board Games & Jigsaws Afternoon in the Hall	10.30a.m. 2-5.00p.m.
Mon. 28th	Bible Study in the vestry	10.00a.m.

What Goes On?

Have you ever wondered what goes on right above your head when you sit in your pew on a Sunday morning? These are two photos taken by Graham Newman when he very kindly closed the ceiling fan aperture - good job those beams are solid!



Thank You from George and Marion

WOW! What a lovely surprise to receive the cheque for £1011! It has come at a time when it will be used in May at our **30th Revival Anniversary.**

Abbey Lane URC has been with us for the whole 30 years at Revival and, for 5 years before that, in Croatia as well. Marion and I have missed the URC since moving here, and you have no idea how much of a lift your gift has given us.

Please tell everyone THANK YOU, and our love to all,
George and Marion

Boxers Barbers

After our 3-year anniversary of starting this charity, our 32nd trip took us to Borodyianka, known as the worst hit town at the beginning of this war. Amere 25 miles from the Chernobyl exclusion zone, Borodyianka and its volunteers is a town serving the needs of refugees, displaced families, orphans of the war and soldiers recovering from injuries sustained on the front lines.

It is our privilege to be able to deliver much needed humanitarian aid to these areas where it really is needed most and we were fortunate enough to not only have very full loads in our vans, but also two industrial washing machines donated for the direct use of the local hospital whose machines were broken..

The team were met by the Mayor of Borodyianka and the local volunteers to thank us all for our efforts.

My particular thanks to you all at the United Reformed Church in Saffron Walden for your continued support and your wonderful donations.

My best wishes,
Steve Parker



Church Action on Poverty

Following the Church Action on Poverty Sunday Scout Parade Service on 2nd March, we donated £190 to Church Action on Poverty and a huge pile of toothbrushes and toothpaste to Uttlesford Foodbank -



Here's the reply from CAP -

We would like to thank you for the donation we recently received from you. Your support is very much appreciated. When we give, act and pray together, we can reclaim dignity, agency and power - and start to build a more just and compassionate society. "Church Action on Poverty opened my eyes to injustice and gave me the confidence to speak out for my right to food." (*Martin, a lone parent from Halifax, went without food due to problems in the benefits system*). Your donations help people like Martin to make their voices heard and to speak truth to power.

Thank you again for being part of this.

Best wishes

Liam Purcell (Supporter Relations Manager)

For more information about the work of Church Action Poverty visit their website

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/>

Why come to the Bible Study Group?

The Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church (#761 Rejoice & Sing) has the following to say on the Bible; "The highest authority for what we believe and do is God's Word in the Bible, alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit. We respond to this Word, whose servants we are with all God's people through the years."

This is an acknowledgement that reading the Bible is an essential part of Christian living. Reading the Bible helps deepen our understanding of and our relationship with God, and has

Whilst this is an activity that can be done on our own (I highly recommend URC Daily Devotions for this), it is one of those things that's best done in the company of other people. Sharing our own insights on a particular passage of scripture, listening to the insights of others and talking about them together, enables us to see the relevance of the Bible in our lives today; it helps us gain a better understanding of the reading and the message that God is wanting to share with us. You don't have to be an academic to study the Bible or to have an opinion on it, we are all God's people and as such all our contributions are equally valid.

Currently the Bible Study Group is using material from the Scottish Bible Society to look at "Psalms of Lament" (10, 13, 42, 57, 69 and 102). We use different translations depending on individual preference and the first question is always "what jumps off the page". It's interesting to compare what the different translations say and how this might affect what strikes us about the passage. We then go through the other questions, which helps us think about the passage, how it relates to our own experience of God and how what we talk about applies to our daily lives as Christians living in the 21st Century.

So do please come along and join the Bible Study Group which meets on the 2nd & 4th Monday in the month, 10.00am in the Vestry (next dates are 14th and 28th April).

Alison

Soup on Saturdays

We agreed to experiment with a monthly Soup on Saturday gathering open to all. About six of us were willing to support it. I will get some free Saturdays from Julian and see what we can arrange. I suggest we offer home-made soup and bread followed by fruit or cake, tea and coffee. Please let Val know if you would like to be involved.

Val

**BOARD GAMES and JIGSAWS
Abbey Lane Hall
Sunday 27th April
2pm-5pm**

Our first Board Games and Jigsaws Afternoon!

An opportunity to play games or to complete jigsaws with other people - or just pop in for a cup of tea. It's a drop in session, so you can stay as long as you like, and there will be games and jigsaw puzzles suitable for all ages.

Future dates are
20th July, 10th August and 16th November.

**ABBAY LANE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**
incorporating
SAFFRON WALDEN METHODIST CHURCH

Abbey Lane,
Saffron Walden,
Essex
CB10 1AG

Correspondence etc.	admin@saffronwaldenurc.onmicrosoft.com
Secretary	secretary@saffronwaldenurc.onmicrosoft.com
Treasurer	treasurer@saffronwaldenurc.onmicrosoft.com
Items for Newsletter	gillhowe500@gmail.co.uk