



The United Reformed Church in  
Desborough  
THE WINDOW  
through which you see the life of  
the Church

May 2018

God makes clouds rise from the  
ends of the earth: He sends lightning with the rain and  
brings out the wind from His storehouses. Psalm 135:7

By day the  
LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to  
guide them on their way. Exodus 13:21

God covers  
the sky with clouds. He supplies  
the earth with rain and makes the  
grass grow. Psalm 147:8

"Can you count the  
clouds or pour out their  
rain?" Job 38:37

A bright  
cloud covered them and a voice  
from the cloud said, "This is My Son and  
I love him. Listen to him!" Mark 9:7

And while they  
were watching, Jesus was taken up into  
a cloud, and was hidden from view. Acts 1:9

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**Meals with Jesus**

The tax collector had climbed a tree  
Trying to see what it was all about  
'Come down Zaccheus, I'll eat at your house',  
And Zaccheus' life was turned inside out.

Simon the Pharisee invited the Lord  
And at the meal a woman came in,  
With tears and perfume she anointed His feet  
And Jesus responded forgiving her sin.

Breakfast was ready, fish on the coals  
They'd toiled all night and were cold and tired,  
'Put your nets down again' the Master called  
And fish were caught on the other side.

And now we come to the feast of all feasts,  
The Marriage Supper of the Lamb,  
Hallelujahs resound over victories won  
As we celebrate with the great I Am.

*By Megan Carter*

## **From the vicar but not the manse**

### **What is Holy Spirit all about?**

At Pentecost, we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples. It was a powerful experience, when along with wind and fire, *'all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit'* (Acts 2:4).

Power is experienced in two ways: it can be either unleashed or harnessed. The energy in petrol can be released explosively by dropping a lighted match into it. However, in the engine of a car, it will transport people in a controlled way! The Holy Spirit works in a similar way. At Pentecost, he exploded onto the scene and 3000 people were added to the church, because of Peter's preaching. He also equips us with his gifts to engage in the mission and ministry of the church.

However, the Spirit's power also enables us so to grow in our faith. He assures us of God's love and acceptance in our lives, despite our fears, doubts or failures: *'God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us'* (Romans 5:5). The Holy Spirit is also committed to producing the character of Jesus in us, enabling us to live as Jesus would in our place i.e. job, family and time: *'the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* (Galatians 5:22, 23).

The Spirit gives us a new love for God, a longing to read the Bible and pray, a desire to meet with other Christians and a readiness to share our faith. He will also challenge wrong habits, attitudes, words or lifestyle in our lives.

*'Let the church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him'* (Andrew Murray).

***The Rev Paul Hardingham***

## **CHURCH AND FAMILY NEWS**

Sadly we heard early in April that Jean Filsak had passed away. Jean was very well known within the Church many years ago. She regularly received a magazine every month and kept in contact with a few people within the Church. Her son Tony has written a short piece about her which appears later in this magazine.

Barbara Rixon is now back home and we send her our best wishes and our thoughts and prayers will be with her and her family.

## **DATES FOR MAY**

6th	10.30	JaM
12th		Cavy Club
13th	10.30	Rev'd Helen Wakefield-Carr – Church Parade
17th	7.30	Impact: Colin Ray – ‘The Music Hall’
20th	10.30	Mrs Jill Coe – Holy Communion (Prep: Carole)
26th	2.00 – 4.30	Patchwork Club
26th	7.00	Concert by ‘The Tenor’ and guests
27th	10.30	Mr John Taylor
31st	7.30	Doll’s House Club

**Please note that Holy Communion is on the third week of the month rather than its normal spot on the fourth Sunday.**

## **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

6th	Sally DiMartino
6th	Sharon Hully
24th	Margaret DeSantis

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Brownies**

3<sup>rd</sup> Desborough Brownies urgently require adults to help at Brownie meetings on Monday evenings in the U.R.C. hall.

We are a busy active unit who love to have fun.

If you think you would like to join us please contact:-

Carole Rowsell at [cymrowsell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cymrowsell@yahoo.co.uk)

Thank you

**Birds of a feather flock together and mess on your car**

## **FLOWER LIST**

May 6th	Mrs Pam Coe – in memory
May 13th	Mrs. Pat Blissett - in memory
May 20th	David/Celia Coe – in memory
May 27th	Pat/Eddy Short - in memory
June 3rd	
June 10th	Mr David Wonfor – in memory
June 17th	Mrs Dorothy Hall – in memory
June 24th	Mrs. Helen Johnson - in memory

Many thanks to everyone who donated flowers in the month. Following the Sunday services the flowers were given to friends in our Church and throughout the town.

Paul York, Mary Flude, Derek Redfern, John Westley, Tony & Alison Filsak, Graham & Jane Coe, Arnold Feakin and Mike Binks & wife.

## **IMPACT**

Our April speaker was Catherine Mallin who works as a paramedic. She started with patient transport, then as an ambulance technician and then trained as a paramedic. She is now a first responder.

She demonstrated the equipment she has, as part of her uniform, and explained what was expected of her.

A very interesting talk by a very friendly person. We all enjoyed it.

Our speaker this month on May 17<sup>th</sup> is Colin Ray talking about 'The Music Hall'.

## **Marjorie**

## **SPRING FAIR**

The Spring Fair was held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. The attendance was very poor. I know we blame the weather for most things but I think we would be justified in this case. The day was warm and sunny and we believe people took the opportunity for family outings and for gardeners the first real opportunity to get out and do something.

We only raised just over £300 on the day but very generous donations took the final figure to £500 which was a very welcome income for Church funds.

The equivalent figure last year was £616.

**The deadline for the June magazine is Sunday May 20th**

## **Jean Filsak**

**30<sup>th</sup> July 1928 – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018**

Jean was an active member of the Church for many years until she left Desborough for the West Midlands in August 1980. It was because of her association with the Church that she met her husband Rudi when a choir of German prisoners of war were invited to sing.

She left Desborough when Rudi trained for the ministry and was assigned to a group of Churches around the Stourbridge area. It was in this area where she had “the accident” when she was hit by a car while crossing a road. This caused multiple fractures and other injuries which took quite a while to heal. Despite the injuries, she enjoyed an active life walking in the hills around Stourbridge. She often played the piano at Church services and other events. She even managed to keep on playing when some of her fingers became unusable due to arthritis.

Jean gradually deteriorated following a fall in the latter part of 2017 when she fractured her pelvis and arm. Despite recovering quite well, she never really went out much after that and it also became obvious that dementia was developing. Her son Martyn was still living with Jean and he took on the task of looking after her, Rudi having died in 2001. Jean deteriorated quite quickly and eventually went into a care home. She was only there for two weeks before she contracted a chest infection and died on the evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

Jean never regretted moving to the West Midlands. Her only regret was not being able to spend more time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## **Eve and leaves**

Adam bit the apple and, feeling great shame, covered himself with a fig leaf. Eve, too, felt shame and covered herself with a fig leaf. Then she went behind the bush to try on a maple leaf, a sycamore, and an oak.

## **You asked for it**

The student, when asked by the teacher to write an essay on ‘The Effects of Laziness’, turned in a blank sheet of paper.

## **ALL IN THE MONTH OF MAY**

### **All in the month of MAY**

It was:

400 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1618, that the Thirty Years' War (Central Europe, mainly present-day Germany) began. One of the longest and most destructive conflicts in European history. Millions of people were killed. Finally ended on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1648.

200 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1818 that Britain and the Netherlands signed a treaty on the prevention of the slave trade.

Also 200 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1818 that Karl Marx, influential German revolutionary socialist, sociologies, economist, philosopher and journalist, was born. Best known for his pamphlet The Communist Manifesto and his book The Capital.

150 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1868 that the last public execution in England took place. Irish nationalist Michael Barrett was hanged at Newgate for his role in the Clerkenwell explosion in London in December 1867, in which 12 people were killed.

75 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May 1943 that the Dambusters Raid took place. Britain's RAF launched Operation Chastise, deploying bouncing bombs to bypass anti-torpedo nets and breach dams, causing catastrophic flooding in Germany's Ruhr Valley.

70 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1948 that Israel was declared an independent state as the British mandate in Palestine came to an end. (Several Arab states invaded Israel the following day.)

50 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1968 that British gangsters, the Kray twins, were arrested for murder. They were convicted in 1969 and sentenced to life imprisonment.

20 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1998, that in a referendum, the people of Northern Ireland voted to accept the Good Friday Agreement. 75% were in favour of a Northern Ireland Assembly.

10 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2008 that NASA's Phoenix robotic lander spacecraft landed on Mars. It searched for environments suitable for microbial life and studied the history of water on Mars.

## **Church AGM – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Desborough Rainbows Report**

We have 19 Rainbows aged 5-7 who attend our meetings regularly and 2 joining us after Easter. The unit has 8 girls on 'Join us' our online waiting list. No girls have left us this term to URC Brownies.

Our unit consists of 2 adult leaders, 1 unit helper and sadly our Young Leader (who used to be Rainbows at our unit) has had to leave us temporarily and myself. Four of the Rainbow Mum's have offered to help on rota basis this will continue this term.

April to July we did our Rainbows 30th Birthday Challenge badge: including designing and making a commemorative banner for the church to go next to the Brownie banner. Rainbows made gifts for Father's day, visited East Carlton Park, took part in Desborough Carnival Parade, visited Twycross Zoo.

September to December we obtained our Seasons Rainbow badge; made Igloos out of marshmallows, Butterflies, snacks for our local birds, Fin night at Kids Play, learnt all about penguins and bats. Our last meeting of term consisted of a visit to Rock and Bowl - we have some awesome Rainbow bowlers.

On 3rd February 2018 we went to see 'Dick Whittington' performed by Market Harborough Youth Theatre an excellent performance again enjoyed by all.

In the Jan to April term we had lots of fun working towards the Library Challenge badge; looking at our favourite books, making an Elmer the elephant, attended a Thinking Day event with all Desborough Girlguiding, book themed tea party. Mother's day gift. We had a fantastic visit to Desborough Library.

The term after Easter we are going to be working towards the Unicorn Challenge badge activities to be chosen by the girls. We will be getting out and about having fun, helping to develop useful skills and going on a few more special visits! Gallones Ice cream parlour, Unicorn Picnic in East Carlton Park.

Kind Regards,

Shirley Handley

Girlguiding Rainbow Leader at 1<sup>st</sup> URC Rainbows

**The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.**

## **Church AGM – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 201**

### **Report – 3<sup>rd</sup> Desborough Brownies**

3rd Desborough Brownies continues to be a popular unit currently having 30 girls and a waiting list. This year we have raised money for the Air Ambulance with our coffee evening. We chose this charity as one of our young leader's families had to make use of the service in November .

Recently we have completed the “up up up and away “ challenge badge which involved lots of fun activities including balloon powered Lego cars, designing, making and flying paper aeroplanes and learning how to Samba with the help of Nicola Green.

We also all received a special badge for taking part in Parliament Week activities.

Later this term we are planning a trip on Wicksteed Park lakes with Kettering sea cadets again. As we had so much fun last year they've invited us back. We are also planning on going to see the show “Annie” at Corby Cube and are having a fitness session with a personal trainer.

This summer we are spending five days at an activity centre in Leicestershire, where we hope to have lots of fun using the Go-Karts, climbing wall, grass sleds and assault course.

We are though quite desperately looking for new leaders / helpers as in September we will be down to 3 adults which is not enough for our ratios. If anyone reading this report knows of anyone who may be able to help please get in touch.

We are also hoping to arrange some joint activities with the URC Scouting Groups.

Our new Guiding Programme gets unveiled in July and we are looking forward to seeing the new challenges and opportunities that will give us.

Thank you

Carole Rowsell - on behalf of 3rd Desborough Brownies.

**Don't give up on yourself. Even Moses was once a basket case.**

## **Church AGM – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Desborough Scout Group - Report**

Since being appointed as Group Scout Leader in November 2017, all three sections of the Scout Group have been active.

Events have included

- Desborough Town's Remembrance Parade
- Christmas Scout Post
- Lego Build and Show weekend
- Joint meetings between sections to assist with retention
- Youth forums

Future events include attending –

- Glendon Scout District St Georges Say Celebrations at Wicksteed Park for all sections
- Beaver Scouts - District Camp & Fun Day
- Cub Scouts - Cycle ride around Rockingham Motor Speedway, County Camp and a sleepover at Twycross Zoo
- Scouts – District Camp and an International Camp

From the 2018 census figures, numbers across the group have reduced from those of 2017. This reduction would have also been seen at District level if new Groups hadn't been opened. We are looking at ways of recruitment, promotion and retention across the Group.

As a group we are actively looking at meeting the requirements of the young people within it, to reach their full potential. Including developing skills including teamwork, time management, leadership, initiative, planning, communication, self-motivation, cultural awareness and commitment

Graham Patrick  
Group Scout Leader

**The same yesterday...**

Why did Moses wander in the desert for 40 years?  
Because even back then men wouldn't ask for directions.

## **Church AGM – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **Jesus and Me – JaM**

JaM began in June 2017

There are currently 2 JaM leaders and 1 registered Adult Helper.

12 children (ageing from 1 - 10) are registered.

It is being advertised on Facebook weekly via various Facebook pages and groups.

We are currently looking at introducing Young Leaders to encourage an older youth participation which could lead to an older youth group.

### **Honeypots**

In January we started an under 5's group on a Tuesday morning from 9am to 11am, during term time.

It is a charged event (£1 for 1 child, £1.50 for 2 and £2 for 3+).

We have a Facebook page and are currently advertising on Facebook and by word of mouth.

### **Little Pickles**

Parents/carers/relatives of Special Needs meet up.

This is currently on Thursdays during term times from 1pm to 2.45pm.

### **All Ages Community Choir**

Start date: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

This will run weekly on Wednesdays in the Church.

There will be 2 sessions: 4pm to 5pm and 8pm to 9pm.

Choirmaster is Rose Atkinson.

Beci

**Concert by 'The Tenor' and guests. United Reformed Church**

**Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 p.m.**

**Tickets £6 from Desborough Heritage Centre 01536 765734 or**

**Pat Blissett 01536 760927**

**The things that come to those that wait may be the things left by those who got there first.**

**Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.**

**Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.**

## **St James the Least of All**

### **On church towers, rock cakes, scaffolding and the merits of confirming bats**

My dear Nephew Darren

We are finally about to start repairing our medieval church tower. Would that we still paid medieval prices for having it done; there would be a degree of satisfaction in giving the builders a hogshead of ale and 10 sheep once the work was completed. I would even be prepared to throw in an Indulgence, sparing them 100 days in purgatory (the architect probably claiming 15% of them for himself).

After several endless jumble sales, coffee mornings – where we were obliged to eat Mrs. Jarvis's rock cakes (many of us would have been happier to make a substantial donation to the fund provided we didn't have to eat them) – sponsored events (Mr. Peat has yet to return, five years late, from his sponsored cycle ride across the Sahara – but fortunately, we had his sponsor money collected before he departed) and a substantial loan from the bank that makes the National Debt seem trivial (and has the same probability of being repaid), we are now able to begin. The only sponsored event I regretted not having was paying to have Lady Trotter remain silent for a month. Even sponsoring her to keep quiet for half an hour would have been pleasant.

We received a substantial donation from a local manufacturer. It was suggested that as a sign of appreciation we advertise their products from the top of the tower – until it was gently pointed out that they produce nuclear warheads. I would have had no objection; knowing that council members possessed tactical nuclear weapons would make discussion at meetings rather brisker.

Scaffolding has now been erected around the tower, with the first 20 feet covered in sheet metal in order to stop the Young Farmers, after refreshing themselves at their Tuesday meetings in the pub, from trying to see who could be the first to reach the top. Personally, I suspect it is to stop the more athletic members of the Ladies' Guild from attempting the same feat. 80-year-olds these days can have fearsome energy and determination.

Fulfilling current safety regulations, there is now a security cordon around the tower of approximately 10 square miles. “Lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone”? These days, a dashed foot would involve court proceedings and damages of several million pounds.

Inside the church, the organ has had to be covered in polythene sheeting in order to protect it. Parish relations were somewhat strained last week when our deputy organist, Mrs. Ffrench, while playing for Evensong, overheard me refer to the large bag on the organ and got quite the wrong impression.

The greatest inconvenience will be caused to our population of bats, but if it dissuades them from flying into church so much the better. The only other possibility is to get them all confirmed; we will then never see them inside church again.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

### **Got it all already**

‘I cannot understand you,’ said the young man to his unmarried aunt. ‘You seem so happy and contented. I’ve always thought that unmarried women are lonely and miserable and just longing for the presence of a man about the place.’

‘Well,’ his aunt responded, smiling, ‘I’ve got a fireplace that smokes, a parrot that swears, a cat that stays out half the night with no explanation, and a dog that leaves muddy footprints all over the house and lies on the couch in front of the telly for hours. What more do I want?’

### **Say yes**

We accompanied our son and his fiancée when they met with the priest to sign some pre-wedding ceremony papers. While filling out the form, our son read aloud a few questions. When he got to the last one, which read ‘Are you entering this marriage at your own will?’ he looked over at his fiancée.

‘Put down “yes,”’ she said.

## **21<sup>st</sup> May      Helena, Protector of the Holy Places**

Helena should be the patron saint of all mothers who help their sons achieve great things.

Helena was born at Drepanum in Bithynia about 250. Although only a stable-maid or innkeeper's daughter, she caught the eye and affections of a Roman general, Constantius Chlorus, while he was stationed in Asia Minor on a military campaign. She bore him a son, Constantine, in about 272.

But Constantius was ambitious, and when he became co-emperor (Caesar) in the West in 292, he abandoned Helena in order to marry the stepdaughter of his patron. Helena and her son were sent to live in the court of Diocletian at Nicomedia, where Constantine grew up as a member of the inner circle. Helena never remarried, and lived close to her son, who was devoted to her.

Then, in 306, Constantius died, and Constantine became Augustus of the Roman Empire. He brought his beloved mother to live at the imperial court.

When Constantine became the first Christian emperor of Rome, Helena also became a Christian. She was devout, dressing modestly, and giving generously to churches, the poor, and to prisoners. But soon Constantine had other plans for her: they agreed that she would help him locate the relics of Judeo-Christian tradition in Palestine. To aid her, Constantine gave her the title Augusta Imperatrix, and unlimited access to the imperial treasury.

And so, from 326-28, even though she was very old, Helena explored the Holy Land on behalf of her son, the Emperor. She went to Bethlehem and founded the Church of the Nativity. She went to the Mount of Olives and founded the Church of Eleona. She went to Calvary, and tore down a temple built to Venus over the tomb of Jesus. Constantine then ordered the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Helena also seems to have also founded the chapel at St Catherine's Monastery.

Helena died in 330 in the Holy Land, with Constantine at her side. He brought her body back to Constantinople and buried her in the imperial vault in the Church of the Apostles.

We owe to this special mother and son the preservation and honouring of the most famous sites of Christianity.

**Lead me not into temptation. I can find it myself.**



