

Welcome to our May 2026 Newsletter



Please send your contributions by email or post.

It would be lovely to hear from you.

Please email your material to office.heswallurc@gmail.com

or post it to

Avril Lock, Heswall URC, 199 Telegraph Road,
Heswall CH60 7SE



Deadline June Newsletter:

Tues 26th May

Foreword

The first day of May has long been an occasion for festivals and celebration linked to the start in summer. The Romans held a festival dedicated to Flora, the Goddess of flowers. The Celtic festival of Beltane celebrated the first day of summer when cattle were moved to new pastures after the winter, and this would be marked by feasting and decorating homes with yellow flowers. In England, traditions include dancing around a Maypole which perhaps can still be seen in a few places. Later in the 19th century 1st May became International Workers' Day and is used as a celebration of workers and trade unionism. In the Soviet Union they had huge parades showing their military might. It's amazing how one day in the calendar can have different contested meanings, and how Christianity took on and adapted existing festivals rather than trying to remove and replace them.

By May the days are getting much longer and the signs of the coming summer are growing stronger.

In the church we have the spring festival of Easter, which of course moves around but is always in March or April. Then seven weeks later, in either May or June, we have the day of Pentecost, when we remember and give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit. In England this was often known as Whitsuntide and there were many folk traditions associated with it. This year Pentecost falls on 24th May and we will, of course, be marking it in worship, and with a church barbecue.

The Holy Spirit can be a complex and mysterious part of Christian theology, hard to explain and understand. But ultimately it's about how we experience God in our lives. How does God inspire and move us, draw us into action and give us the strength to act?

There are many images of the spirit in scripture – a dove, tongues of fire, a rushing wind – and the spirit's work can be both intimate and forceful. And, as always, we have to ask as a church where the spirit is leading us as we move on to what will hopefully be a delightful summer.

Yours in Christ

Nick



We were delighted to receive a visit from Jenny on 24 March bringing the beautiful flowers from the Church. We enjoyed her visit and had a good chat.

Audrey & Ken Jack

Thank you very much for the delightful bunch of flowers which Jenny brought. It was a lovely surprise and most unexpected.

Avril

Dates for your Diary in May


Sun 3 rd May	Worship	10.30am
Wed 6 th May	GEM	2.00pm
Sun 10 th May	Sunday Worship	10.30am
Wed 13 th May	GEM	2.00pm
Sun 17 th May	Sunday Worship Led by Revd Gwynfor Evans	10.30am
Sun 17 th May	Second Sunday Lunch	12.15pm
Wed 20 th May	GEM	2.00pm
Thurs 21 st May – Sat 23 rd May		10.00am – 4.00pm
Wirral Flower Club: Festival of Flowers in our Church Hall		
Sun 24 th May	Sunday Worship	10.30am
Sun 24 th May	Pentecost Barbeque	12.15pm
Sun 24 th May	Open Table Service	6.30pm
Wed 27 th April	GEM	2.00pm
Wed 27 th May	Midweek Communion	11.00am
Wed 27 th May	Souper Lunch	12.15pm
Fri 29 th May	Book Club	2.00pm

Baby Massage

Have you recently had a baby or know someone who has? You are invited to a TinyToes Baby Massage taster session on 7th or 14th May, 9:30–10:45am at Heswall URC for a relaxed and nurturing introduction to baby massage.

Led by Vickie, a qualified baby massage instructor and midwife, these sessions are a lovely way to bond with your baby while learning gentle techniques to support their wellbeing.

Suitable for babies from 1 month to 12 months. Spaces are £10 and perfect for new parents looking for a calm, supportive environment.

For more information or to book, please contact Vickie on 07721 576437 



WSO
WIRRAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Ensemble Vocal
Renaissance
Le Havre

St. Peter's Singers
Heswall

wirralsymphony.co.uk

VERDI Requiem

Conductor

Jonathan Small

Soloists

Barbara Ruzsics

Anne-Claire Tilly

Pascal Bourgeois

Chae-Wook Lim

BIBER

Sonata for 8 trumpets
and orchestra

VERDI

Requiem

Sunday 3rd May 2026 at 2pm

Tickets £22

U18 and students £12

Boxes £27/£17

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

Hope Street, Liverpool L1 9BP

Tickets available only from
the Philharmonic box office 0151 709 3789 or website liverpoolphil.com
or scan the QR code



Patron: The Mayor of Wirral

President: Andrew Manze

Registered Charity No. 1112140

“Second” Sunday Lunch Sun May 17



Please let Avril know if you wish
to attend

**by Sunday 3rd May preferably
or
Sunday 10 May at the latest**

Next Lunch: Sunday June 14th



Wirral Flower Club

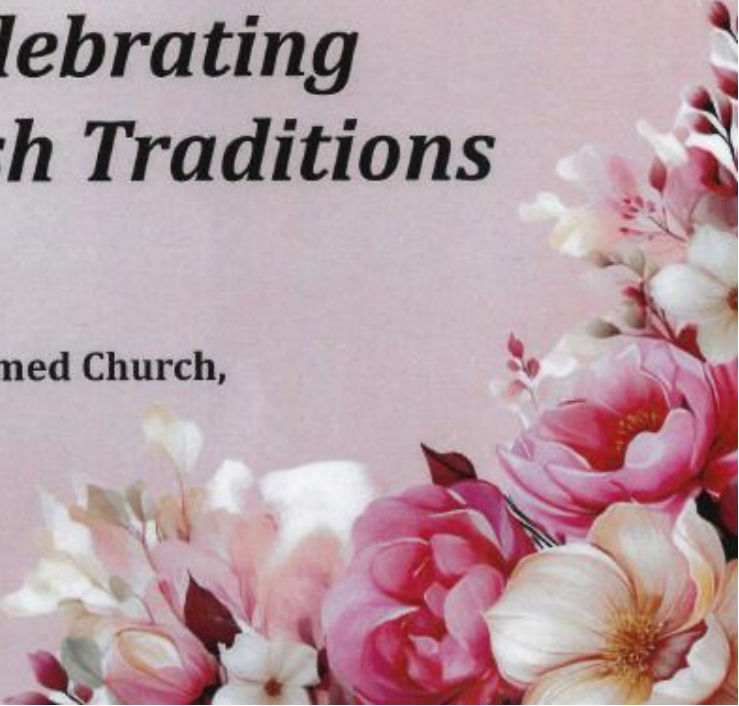
Festival of Flowers

21st - 23rd May 2026

10am - 4pm.

***Celebrating
English Traditions***

**Heswall United Reformed Church,
Telegraph Road
CH60 7SE
(Next to Tesco)**





24th May 2026

Barbecue

Join us for the Annual Pentecost Barbecue
in the Church Hall
at 12.15

There will be a list outside Room 2 to sign up
and a list to offer to bring a salad.



Open Table Service



The Open Table Service is held on the fourth
Sunday of the month.

This is a Communion Service
to which everyone is invited.

Tea, coffee and cake will be served on arrival from
6.00pm

Service 6.30pm

Sunday 26th April 2026

A Healing Service for Pentecost Sunday and
Mental Health

Led by Richard Bibby-Brooke
and Rev Nick Jones



Open Table is an LGBTQIA+ affirming Christian community, which aims to create a safe and supportive place for you to explore your faith and what this might mean for your own spiritual journey.

We meet on the fourth Sunday of the month at Heswall United Reformed Church at 6.00 pm for refreshments, followed by an inclusive, ecumenical Communion service at 6.30 pm.

No matter who you are, where you've come from, or where your journey may take you, you are [#MoreThanWelcome](#) to [#ComeAsYouAre](#)

Everyone is welcome.
All members of Church are welcome.



OPEN TABLE

25th January - Christian Unity - Rev Fran Skinner

22nd February - LGBT+ History Month, First Sunday of Lent
Rev Ana and Tod Gobledale

22nd March - Fifth Sunday of Lent
Rev Richard Skinner

26th April - Fourth Sunday of Easter, International Lesbian Visibility Day
Rev Nick Jones

24th May - A healing service for Pentecost Sunday and Mental Health Awareness month
Richard Bibby-Brooke and Rev Nick Jones

28th June - Anniversary of Open Table Heswall
Rev Heather Atkinson and Liz Cooper Clark

26th July - Non-binary Awareness week

23rd August

27th September - Bisexual visibility and the Season of Creation
Warren Bohan and Rev Colin Hart

25th October - Asexual Awareness week

22nd November - Feast of Christ the King

Refreshments from 6pm

Worship 6.30pm



'TIME TO BE STILL'



**MID-WEEK
COMMUNION**

11.00 am Wed 27th May

**A quiet, meditative Communion Service
led by Rev Dr Nick Jones**

Followed by-

**Mid-week
SOUPER LUNCH'**

Wed 27th May

12.15 pm





Around the world in 8 books



Join us for a book club trip around the world



Last Friday of the Month
Heswall URC
2pm



Heswall
United Reformed Church



Around the world in...
8 books!
First Stop, May
JAPAN



Inspector Imanishi Investigates by Seicho Matsumoto (352 pages). First published in Penguin Classics in 2024: “ a fascinating glimpse into Japanese society at a time of great change...a riveting mystery from the master of Japanese crime.”



Second Stop, June
IRELAND

The Story of Lucy Gault by William Trevor, 2002 (240 pages). “...gravely beautiful, subtle and haunting Irish novel” Hermione Lee writing in the Guardian.

Third Stop, July
FRANCE



Clochemerle by Gabriel Chevallier 1934

Do you remember the 1972 BBC dramatisation? (I wasn't allowed to watch it, and so I'm looking forward to reading the book - Decima)



Fourth Stop, August
FINLAND

The Summer Book by Tove Jansson, 1972 (192 pages). Ali Smith wrote of The Summer Book “the writing so lightly kept, so simple-seeming, so closely concerned with the weighing of moments that any extra weight of exegesis is too much.”

Fifth Stop, September
THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



South Sea Tales by Robert Louis Stevenson (257 pages). Published as an Oxford World Classics paperback in 1999.



Sixth Stop October
ITALY

By Its Cover by Donna Leon, 2025 (304 pages). A detective novel set in Venice. Commissario Brunetti will solve the crime, and we'll come to understand modern day Venice through his eyes.

Seventh Stop, November
ENGLAND and AUSTRALIA



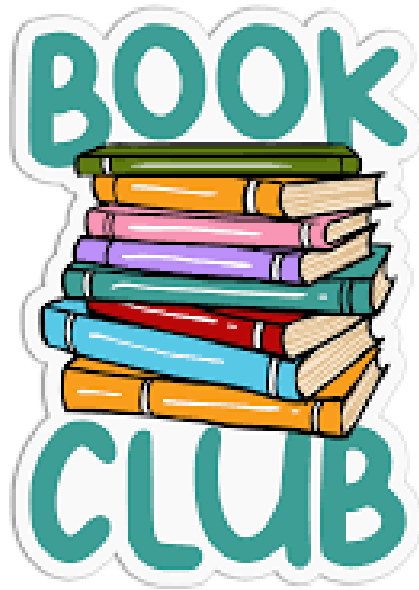
Oscar and Lucinda by Peter Carey, 1988 (528 pages). The longest book of our tour but it is a Booker Prize winner (1988) and a Miles Franklin Award winner (1989).



Eighth Stop, December
ENGLAND

Christmas at Cold Comfort Farm and Other Stories by Stella Gibbons. Christmas Day with the Starkadders? Anybody?





Starting this May, the Book Club will be travelling the world, not in eighty days but in eight books. We'll be arriving at our final destination in December, ready to start a new adventure in January. Everyone is welcome to join us on our literary travels.

Book Club meets in the coffee lounge
on the last Friday of the month
29th May
at 2pm.

Afternoon Guild: Easter Crafts led by Anne

We had a great afternoon, the last Afternoon Guild meeting for this session. Under Anne's expert supervision we made Easter baskets accompanied by chicks with googly eyes. Great fun!

After our exertions with scissors and glue, Muriel treated us all to lovely cake to make the afternoon extra special.





Easter Garden in the Welcome area



Thank you to Anne who created
the Easter Garden for Good Friday
and then recreated the garden for Easter Sunday.

Easter Flowers in the Welcome Area



Thank you to Mo for this lovely Easter arrangement and to Jenny and all those who came to help decorate the church for Easter.



1. Name given to a young hare in its first year of life?
2. 'Honi soit qui mal y pense' is the motto of which noble order?
3. What product was originally marketed as 'chem grass'?
4. In the King James Bible, God ordered Noah to use what material?
5. Which seasons are described as hibernal and vernal?
6. Capital city of the State of Louisiana, USA?
7. Village which is home to the National Motor Museum?
8. What is Japanese word for Goodbye?
9. Since 2016 what has been the most popular girls' name in UK?
10. How long was Lady Jane Grey Queen of England?
11. Type of tree on Lebanese flag?
12. Aviemore, Braemar & Kingussie are all in which National Park?
13. Parus Major is scientific name of which garden bird?
14. Name the most southerly of the Australian States capital?
15. What maritime creature has types: Albacore, Skipjack & Yellowfin?

Answers on Page 26.



*The Castle Singer
invite you to a
Summer Concert of
Music at 7.30pm
on Saturday
27th June 2026
at Heswall
U R Church
(next to Tesco)*

*Tickets including programme
and refreshments
£10*

*also featuring The Bebington Bittermen &
guest choirs: Creative Community Choir*

Musical Director Jeanette Davies

Co-director, Pianist Chris Watson

Doors open at 7:00pm

Tickets available from North Wirral

Rotary Club members or call John

on 0151 653 0600 or 07731 472201

Any remaining tickets may be purchased on the door
but entry depends on there being space available.

***In aid of diverse
charities and
good causes***

Presented by

Rotary

Club of North Wirral





Stamp Collecting for Guide Dogs for the Blind

Joyce and Michael Gray are now collecting British, Foreign and Christmas stamps on behalf of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Please will you put your used stamps in the collecting box by the Pidgeon Holes.

Handmade Cards for All Occasions



We have a lot of cards on sale on Sundays for all occasions, priced from 10p. All monies raised go to North West Air Ambulance.

We have been asked to put the "Charity" labels on the cards again. This is now being done on all new cards.

Some people have asked for cards without a sentiment. A selection is now available.

Thank you,

Joyce and Michael Gray



Jam, Marmalade and Chutney to support the Charles Thompson's Mission

All the jam profits go to the Charles Thomson's Mission so, with your buying and my making, let's make it a good year for the Mission.

Jam: Apple Ginger, Apricot, Blackcurrant, Damson, Fig, Loganberry, Mulberry, Plum, Rhubarb and Ginger

Chutneys: Granny MacLeod's Apple Chutney, Delia's Damson Chutney and Delia's Runner Bean Relish.

Marmalades: Traditional, Ginger and also Ruby Grapefruit & Cranberry.

If anyone has any jam jars **with lids** that you could give me, particularly the **smaller** size (the one you can buy with mint sauce, apple sauce in) **and Coffee jars no larger than 100g with plastic lids** I'd be grateful.



If you have received any containers, baskets, bags etc that you do not wish to keep but would be suitable for me to make packs for the next Christmas Coffee Morning this December I should be most grateful for them. Thanks, Avril.

Paper Plastic Bags to Recycle

If you have any unwanted plastic bags, please could you pass them on to Avril for apples and jams etc. Thank you.



The following people pray for members of our church family and friends throughout the year:

Jean Ashcroft
Marion Boden
Helen Eastwood
Sue Fletcher
Faith Hardie

Carolyn Johnson
Barbara Peace
Val Street
Sheila Wadhams

If you wish for prayer for yourself or anyone you are concerned about or would like to be part of this group, please contact Faith on 923 8081



Prayer in the Quiet Room

If you would like someone to pray with you, prayer will be available in the Quiet Room most Sundays.



Lifts to Services

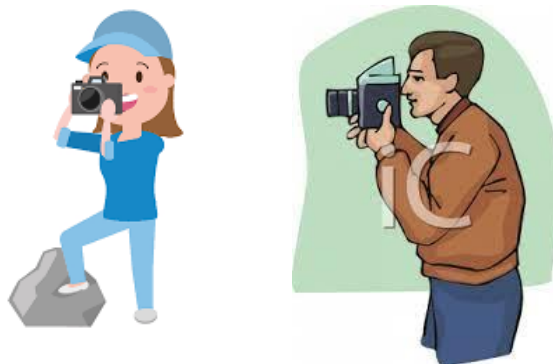
If you could offer someone a lift to a Sunday service please let Rachel know. It does not have to be every week.



1. Leveret
2. Order of the Garter
3. Astro Turf
4. Gopher wood
5. Winter & Spring.
6. Baton Rouge
7. Beaulieu
8. Sayonara
9. Olivia
10. 9 days
11. Cedar
12. Cairngorms.
13. Great Tit
14. Hobart
15. Tuna

To All People with Mobile Phones

STILL URGENT REQUEST from the editor



In order that we have a photographic reminder of Church Events for the Newsletter may I ask those who have a phone with them at these events to take photographs and send them to me to put in the Newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who has taken photos.