

RIPE FOR HARVEST

Jesus said, 'Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest?". Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.'



Someone close to you today may be in desperate need of God's love. Wouldn't it be worth risking rejection to find that one who's ready and willing to respond? The fact is, you may be the only Christian they will meet - or meet today. So if you don't tell them, who will? Generally speaking, there are five reasons we don't share our faith more often:

1. We think it's the preacher's job to do it (see Acts 1:8);
2. We aren't certain about our own salvation (1 John 5:13);
3. We're afraid of being rejected (Luke 12:8-9);
4. We've never taken personal responsibility for learning how to share our faith (1 Peter 3:15);
5. Our love for Christ has grown cold (Revelation 3:15).

The UCB Word for Today Thanks to Jim Turbayne for finding this item.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Please send in news and details of special celebrations to Christine Wright candgxwright@msn.com 01296 624084 Next month's deadline will be Monday 26th July.

PRINT OR DIGITAL?

It's proved easy to distribute our monthly newsletter via e-mail with only a dozen printed versions for those who need paper copies. We now need to decide what to do in the future - return to paper only or carry on as we have been since March 2020. The present system is easy and saves paper, but how many people read the newsletter sent by e-mail? How many used to read the paper copies? Please let me know your views (phone and e-mail in the box on the left), so a workable system can be devised. **Christine Wright**

NEWSLETTER NO. 190

Wendover Free Church

July 2021

EVENTS IN JULY



book club

Saturday 17th
July at 10.30am

We will observe government guidelines, forming two groups if necessary. Bring your own coffee. Please let our regulars know! As usual, no set books, just interesting discussion about what we've been reading.

In the Christian Centre.

CLIMATE SUNDAY

18th July

St Mary's Church is organising a day of events to mark Climate Sunday - including workshops, churchyard nature walks, craft & drama workshops, information displays, free film shows, interactive prayer wall. Booking for most activities is essential. Details on St Mary's website.

BBQ AT BANKSIDE

Exciting plans are afoot for a social event at Bankside. The provisional date & times are Saturday 31st July from 2-6pm. Please look out for updates.

As a church we want to keep our historic links with Bankside so everyone is encouraged to get involved. If you'd like to help, please contact Jim Turbayne or

Christine Wright. There will be a tombola in aid of Rennie Grove Hospice and other entertainment. The aim is to make relationships with and within Bankside after a long period of isolation for many residents. It's a great way of sharing God's love.

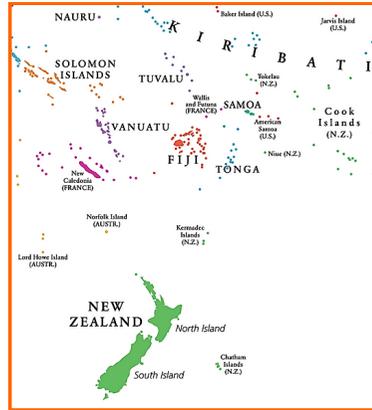


MISSION PRAYERS FOR JULY



The Council for World Mission, to which the United

Reformed Church is affiliated, has just organised Talanoa Oceania 2021, a series of talks exploring the legacies of slavery and colonisation in Oceania. We thank God that through CWM, we can engage with Christians living at the opposite side of the world in reflecting on issues that have also - directly or indirectly - shaped our own country and lives.



CWM continues to highlight the diverse contexts and experiences of member churches across the world, exploring issues from violence against women and girls in south India to the URC's involvement in the campaign coalition "Together with Refugees". We are invited to pray for 'Life-Flourishing Evangelism':

We pray that the evangelical fervour of the church would be rekindled in the midst of life's pain; and that those who are bruised by life's circumstances would find renewed hope for a life-flourishing future. We remember displaced people who seek refuge from political, economic or social discrimination and persecution.



THE NEXT STEPS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

For a while we have been looking forward to returning to some form of normality doing some of the things we used to do before the Coronavirus pandemic hit us last year. We are waiting for the government to lift restrictions and until we and our volunteers feel ready to resume things. We know we need to be careful and are aware that we will all come out of lockdown at our own pace. In preparation for this we had a meeting on Zoom recently to talk about our regular weekday activities. We looked at the start of Jesus' ministry in Luke 4 and following that we discussed our purpose and goals as a church community. Our purpose and calling, both as church community and as individuals, is to follow our Lord Jesus Christ, and to show his love to the people around us in what we say and in what we do.

Many of our activities are aimed at welcoming those who don't yet know of God's love for them. Through opportunities to meet and take part we aim to make space for people to feel accepted and loved and build relationships with them and meet their needs, (for example,

Lunch Club). We also encourage, support and learn from one another through our discipleship activities such as homegroup, bible studies, awaydays & courses. These opportunities to talk about our faith with one another are important in our walk of faith. Everything we do, of course, needs to be underpinned with prayer. So many times, in the gospel stories we see Jesus going off to pray, to spend time with God, before embarking on teaching or working miracles. And I believe that we need to do the same.

I would like to encourage you all to think and pray a bit more about this. Please do consider what activities you would like to be part of, what would help you in your discipleship and where could you help to reach out to others with God's love.

The report from our Zoom discussion was sent out with the paper for our church meeting at the end of June. If you would like any more information or have questions or comments please do let me know.

May God bless you in all you are and do,

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