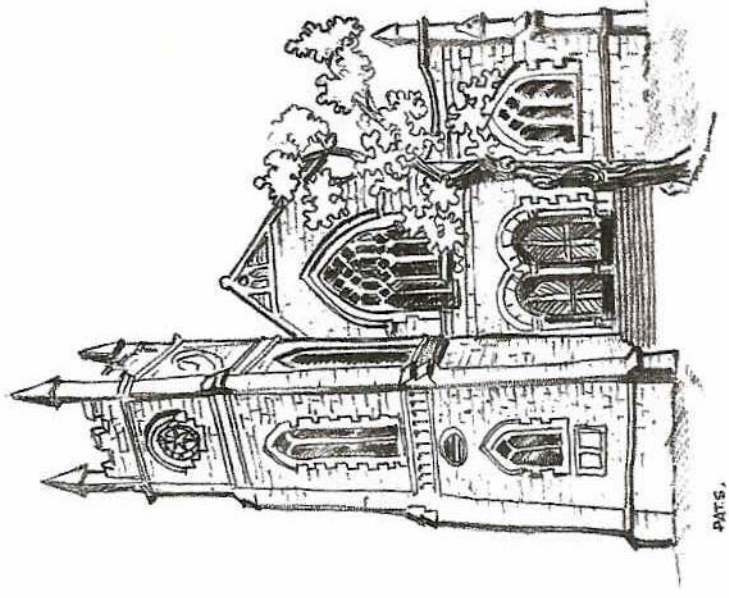


MALVERN LINK URC INFORMATION BOOKLET



MALVERN LINK



UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

106 Worcester Road
Malvern Link
MALVERN
Worcestershire
WR14 2SS
ENGLAND

Web site: www.urchinmalvern.org.uk

FLOWER FUND

Flowers are placed in our church each week by members and friends to bring beauty into the services and also as special acts of remembrance. Mrs Sheila Young; (01886 832491) is the co-ordinator of a band of helpers in this ministry. Mrs Elizabeth Blake distributes the flowers to the sick.

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Should you wish to commit your life afresh to Jesus Christ, please feel free to say this prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,
I know I have sinned against you
in my thoughts, words and actions.
There are so many good things I have not done.
Please forgive me.
I am sorry for my sins
and turn from everything I know to be wrong.
You gave your life on the cross for me.
Gratefully I give my life back to you.
Now I ask you to come into my life.
Come in and rescue me.
Come in as my Lord to control me.
Come in as my friend to be with me.
Thank you for hearing and answering me.
Amen.



General Secretary: The Revd Dr David Cornick

The URC was formed in 1972 by the union of the *Congregational Church in England and Wales* and *The Presbyterian Church in England*.

It continued to express its deep commitment to the visible unity of the whole church in subsequent unions with the *Re-reformed Churches of Christ* and in 2000 with the *Congregational Union of Scotland*. Through continuing talks with other traditions and in more than 400 local churches united with other denominations.

Though one of the smaller 'mainstream' denominations in Britain, the URC has contributed to the life and leadership of ecumenical institutions to a degree belying its size. The church comprises some 150,000 adults and 100,000 children and young people in 1750 congregations spread through England, Scotland and Wales, served by 1100 ministers, paid and unpaid, both men and women.

The URC stands in the historic Reformed tradition, the largest single strand of Protestantism, with more than 70 million members worldwide. Along with other reformed churches, the URC holds to the Trinitarian faith expressed in historic Christian creeds and finds its supreme authority for faith and conduct in the Word of God, the Bible, discerned under guidance of the Holy Spirit. The URC's structure also expresses its faith in the ministry of *all* God's people through the structure of democratic Councils by which the church is governed.

Theologically, the URC is a broad church. Its membership embraces evangelical and liberal understandings of the Christian faith.

LADIES CIRCLE

An ecumenical group of women who meet in the Link Hall on the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month at 8:00 pm. They meet for fun and fellowship and have a monthly guest speaker.

Contact persons: Secretary Janet Marsh 01684 564769; Chairperson Margery Clare 01684 892991.

MALVERN EMBROIDERERS

Meet in the Link Hall on the third Tuesday of each month.

Contact Person: 01684 562551

BIBLE SOCIETY

The Bible society was founded in 1804 with the aim of making Bibles available to all language groups throughout the world. We subscribe to their fund raising activities in Malvern.

Contact Person: Christabel Wilson 01684 572333

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MALVERN

This ecumenical grouping of most of the churches in Malvern aims at sharing in many activities which can be of mutual benefit to all of its constituent members. Churches Together supports mission activity as well as fund raising for charitable work. It is also a successful vehicle for communication in the town.

Malvern Link URC subscribes to the work of the main body as well as to the Link Group of churches. The Friday ecumenical Service for Shoppers was, for example initiated by this group, and has done excellent work in bringing co-operation and fellowship between members of the diverse congregations in Malvern.

Contact person: Mr Terry Blake 01684 575597.

THE SYNOD

Malvern Link URC is part of the West Midlands Synod.

Each of the 13 Synods of the URC is divided into *Districts*:

The West Midlands Synod
Digbeth in the Field URC
Moat Lane
Yardley
Birmingham, B26 1TW
Tel: 0121 783 1177
Fax: 0121 789 8500
e-mail: admin@urcwestmidlands.org.uk

The Synod is headed by a full time Moderator. Our current Moderator is the Revd Elizabeth A Welch.

The following Districts make up this Synod: A Staffordshire; B Shropshire; C: Worcester and Hereford; D Gloucester; E Birmingham; F Coventry and Warwickshire.

The Synod meets in spring and autumn each year at different venues. It is attended by the minister and a representative elected at the annual general meeting of the Church Meeting. The current representative is Mrs Vicky Cornwell.

HEARING LOOP

The church and hall each have an induction loop system for the hard of hearing. By setting your hearing aid to 'T' you will be able to hear what is said through the microphone. This system needs to be set up in the hall at present. Please enquire about this when you book the hall. The system is in operation in the sanctuary for all church services.

LARGE PRINT HYMN BOOKS

'Rejoice and Sing' is available in large print. Please ask the sideman when you require one of these.

'New Hymns and Worship Songs' is not available in large print. However if you would like to have large print words and you attend regularly, please speak to the organist and we will arrange to have these printed for you under our CCLI licence.

Contact person: Mr Dennis Clare 01684 892991.

CHOIR

We have a small choir that needs folk to come forward to serve God in this way. We sometimes combine with the Holly Mount URC choir to perform special services. Should you wish to join the choir, please contact our organist.
Contact person: Mr Dennis Clare 01684 892991.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

This group of ladies from Malvern Link and Holly Mount congregations meet together on the second Thursday of each month at 2:15 in the Vestibule of the Holly Mount Church in Queen's Drive, Great Malvern. Fellowship is the main objective of this group and they usually have a guest speaker each meeting.

Contact persons: Mary Wells 01684 565682; Pat Simons 01684 899112

THE DISTRICT

District meetings occur quarterly in Worcester. These meetings are attended by the Minister and a representative elected by the congregation at its quarterly Church Meetings. The current representative is Mr Terry Blake.

REFORM

This is the official Magazine of the URC and is available by subscription from:
REFORM SUBSCRIPTIONS,

86 TAVISTOCK PLACE, LONDON,
WC1H 9RT

Mr Harry Reek 01684 562568 is our contact person in the congregation.

CONTACT MAGAZINE

This is the magazine of the West Midlands Synod and is sent to each congregation of the Synod free for Elders and others by request.

FORWARD MAGAZINE

Malvern Link URC publishes this magazine monthly. It contains articles of interest and reports on the activities of the church. It has the programme for the following month as well as a set of Scripture readings for each day which help focus on the seasons of the church's year.

Articles can be submitted to the Editor or the Church Secretary.

Editor: Mrs Viv Thompson 01684 568866

PILOTS youth groups meet each Friday at **Holly Mount URC** at 5:30 during term time. VOYAGERS, for older teens meets, directly after PILOTS.

Contact person: Jane Banwell 01684 592046.

TAPED SERVICES

If you are ill, or for some reason cannot attend a Sunday morning church service in the Link URC, we have recorded versions of the service available. Please would you contact David Reynolds on 01684 568396 who will see to it that you receive a copy.

VISITING

Regular members and adherents of the church will be assigned to the pastoral care of one of the Elders. Elders may visit or ask the minister to visit with him/her should you require it.

The minister, when requested, will bring communion to those who are confined to bed or are in hospital or a care home. Please telephone your Elder or the minister should you require a visit in your home.

HALL BOOKINGS

Fellowship groups welcome new members, and you should contact them directly.

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

Malvern Link URC is concerned for the poor of the world and has elected to support this organization sponsored by the URC as the Church's unique way of working with the World Development Movement and Christian Aid to tackle poverty and injustice.

The call to live justly and to love our neighbour is central to the Bible and challenges the very heart of our faith and action.

Commitment for Life is one way in which we can respond to the challenge and combine faith and action.

Commitment for Life helps address the Fourth mark of mission; to seek to transform unjust structures in society.

Commitment for life is about more than giving money – though that is important. Charity can make a difference but it is not enough. We recognize that if poverty is to be eradicated, structural change must accompany charity and aid.

Contact person: Church secretary: 01684 575597

THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers;
- To respond to human need by loving service;
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society;
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation;
- To sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Formulated by the Lambeth Conference of 1988, the Five Marks of Mission have been adopted by most denominations and have become an important focus for Christian unity. The Five Marks continue to be the testing ground for each local congregation as they seek to turn to reality their ideals of mission as shown in their life and witness.

Malvern Link URC Vision

Our vision is to be a thriving, loving, caring and spiritual fellowship of God's people.

SERVICES AT THE MALVERN LINK URC

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

1st Sunday of the month: **Service of Word and Sacrament at 09:30.**

Members and adherents and any communicant member of a Christian church are invited to share in the Lord's Communion at His table.

The Sacrament of Baptism is usually administered at this service when required.

2nd to 4th Sundays of the month: **Service of Morning Worship at 09:30**

All are welcome to come and join in these services where hymns and songs are combined with Bible readings and a sermon. Services for special occasions such as renewal of marriage vows may be included at this time.

5th Sundays in a month: When a calendar month contains a fifth Sunday, we combine on a rotation basis with our sister congregation at Holly Mount URC in Queens Drive Malvern. Holly Mount URC meets each Sunday morning at 11:00, with Communion on the second Sunday of each month.

SUNDAY EVENINGS:

Every Sunday: **Praise and Worship at 6:30 pm in the Link URC Hall.**

An informal, ecumenical service led by members of this group where prayer and praise form the main emphasis of ministry.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

At present there are three regular groups that meet:

Ladies Bible Fellowship: Meetings take place on Monday afternoons in the Link area of Malvern. They are particularly interested in ministry to women's needs. Prayer, praise and Bible study are the main activities.
Contact: Christabel Wilson 01684 572333

Evening Bible Study: Meets on the first Tuesday evening of each month in the vestry of the Link church at 7:30.

Contact Person: Revd Gilbert Hallows 01886 832480

Ecumenical Bible Study: Meets on the first and third Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 pm in the Link Church Hall.

Contact Person: Revd Denis Simons 01684 899112

BIBLE COURSES

Shorter courses such as ALPHA, LIFE WORTH LIVING, AND LENT COURSES are arranged. These are advertised on the notice boards of the church and hall. Contact the Minister or Church Secretary

JUNIOR CHURCH

We have excellent facilities for this activity and suitably trained teachers. They meet during the course of the Sunday services in the vestry or hall.

Contact person: Joy Reynolds 01684 568396.

COUNSELLING

The Minister will make himself available for counselling for any member of the congregation or any other person who has need of such a service. Such counselling is done from a Christian perspective and is free of any cost except your time. Sessions may be conducted in your home or at the Manse or in the church vestry by arrangement.

The Lyttelton Well also has a team of counsellors available in their rooms at their Church Street premises. Telephone 01684 573702 or the Head of counselling: Revd Ian R Sim 01531 632851.

FUNERALS

The minister, in conjunction with the Funeral Director will help you organise this service when you have been bereaved. Counsel for coping with your grief will be done by the minister before making any arrangements. Christian burial or cremation services may be arranged. Cremation usually takes place at the Worcester Crematorium as no such facility is available in Malvern.

Contact persons: Minister 01684 899112; Church Secretary 01684 575597

CHURCH HYMNODY

Malvern Link URC uses "Rejoice and Sing" and "New Hymns and Worship Songs" as two sources of hymns and choruses. Should you wish other music for weddings or special services of celebration such as Golden Wedding thanksgivings, please consult the Church Organist to make arrangements.

Contact person: Dennis Clare 01684 892991

SPECIAL SERVICES

Services to mark special wedding anniversaries or special times of thanks giving can be arranged by contacting the minister at least a month before the event. Phone Minister 01684 899112

FRIDAY MORNINGS:

Every Friday morning: Service for Shoppers 10:30

The Service is held between 10:30 and 10:50 and is led by lay or ordained members of the various churches in Malvern.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the hall from 10:00 to 11:45; a small charge of 35p is asked for this. The ecumenical nature of these brief services, regularly attract over 50 folk for a time of fellowship each week.

Contact Terry Blake 01684 575597 for details.

EASTER SERVICES:

Good Friday: An act of public, Christian Witness takes the form of a walk from Handyman House in Spring Lane to the Link URC. The walk begins at 9:15 and then arrives for an ecumenical service at 10:15 which is arranged under the auspices of the Link Group of Churches Together in Malvern. All are welcome at this service.

Easter Sunday: **A Communion Service** is held at 09:30 in the church; and the normal evening Praise and Worship service in the hall at 06:30.

CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Eve: Because we are a shared pastorate with Holly Mount URC, we meet at Holly Mount for a Combined Service at 7:00 of **Nine Lessons and Carols**.

Christmas Day: All are welcome at this combined service of the members of the shared pastorate which is a **Family Service with carols at 09:30**.

BAPTISM (CHRISTENING) AND CONFIRMATION SERVICES.

The URC observes the gospel sacrament of baptism into Christ as a gift of God to His church, and as an appointed means of grace. Baptism is administered with water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is the sacrament of entry into the church and is therefore administered once only to any person.

When the church observes this sacrament it makes explicit at a particular time and place and for a particular person what God has accomplished in Christ for the whole creation and for all humankind – the forgiveness of sins, the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit and newness of life in the family of God. In this sacrament the Church affirms its faith in the action of God in Jesus Christ; and takes corporate responsibility for those receiving baptism, promising to support and nourish them as it receives them into its fellowship. Baptism may be administered in infancy or at an age of responsibility. Both forms of baptism shall be made available in the life of our worshipping congregation. In either case the sacrament of baptism is a unique part of the total process of Christian initiation. When baptism is administered at an age of responsibility upon profession of faith, those baptised enter at once upon the full privileges and responsibilities of membership.

When baptism is administered to infants upon profession of faith by their parent(s), they are placed under the nurture of the Church that they may be led by the Holy Spirit in due time to make their own profession of faith in Christ as their saviour and Lord, and enter upon full privileges and responsibilities of membership. These two patterns of baptism are recognised by the URC.

Whether the baptism is of an infant or a believer, whether it is by pouring or by immersion, it shall not be such to which a conscientious objection is taken neither by the person administering baptism or by the person receiving it, or by the parent(s) requesting it for an infant.

At Malvern Link URC, baptism is administered within the Service of Word and Sacrament on a Sunday morning.

The minister will have visited with the person or family of the one to be baptised and explained what the Sacrament means and what occurs within the

service. All those who are baptised will be given a Certificate of Baptism stating that they have been baptised in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A Certificate of Membership of the congregation will be issued by the Church Secretary to those of an age of responsibility and the recipient's name will be entered on the Roll of Members.

Should you wish for membership of this congregation, please contact the Minister or Church Secretary.

WEDDINGS

Wedding Services will be conducted in the Link Church for those men and women who wish a church wedding of a Christian nature. The couple will have to arrange this through the Minister who will visit them and advise them in the legal steps necessary for completion before the ceremony. Malvern Link is a registered place for weddings.

The minister will conduct a number of counselling sessions with the couple before the wedding. These sessions may include attending a Saturday seminar at the Lyttelton Well entitled "Getting it Together"

The costs related to use of the facilities, the organist and/or the hall must be ascertained from the Church Secretary by telephoning 01684 575597.

HEALING SERVICES

Prayers for healing are included especially at services of Word and Sacrament. The anointing with oil and laying on of hands with prayers for healing is part of the Bible based ministry of our congregation.

We run a **Prayer Chain** where a number of members will undertake to pray for any need you may have. The 'chain' is a system of telephoning those on the chain to commit your needs to prayer daily.

Contact person: Christabel Wilson 01684 572333