

UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM

A local union of the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church

OCTOBER, 2018

Dear Friends,

October is set to be a busy time in the Wickens household, not least since our son, James, is marrying his fiancée, Zoey. Family weddings are usually happy occasions, providing an opportunity for family and friends of the happy couple to meet and share in the celebrations. A wedding day is the culmination of months of planning. Firstly, there is the service to plan, then the reception, the cars and all those incidental items which are an integral part of the day. Then, of course, there is the decision as to what to wear - a decision I would guess applies more to the women than the men! Overall, a stressful time as the various components come together, in the hope the day runs smoothly without any glitches - and if they do occur, that they will be accepted in the joyful spirit of the occasion.

On the subject of weddings, you may recall a certain wedding which took place in Cana of Galilee 2,000 years ago. On that occasion there were a number of special guests present and one in particular stood out from the rest. I am referring of course to the wedding we find recorded in John's gospel (chapter 2 verses 1-11). On that occasion things did not initially run smoothly and required some spiritual intervention.

In Jesus' time, weddings didn't just last one day, but often went on for several days. It was normal practice to serve the guests the best wine at the start of the celebrations and gradually move to the poorer quality as the banquet progressed. In Jewish society families were scrutinised to ensure everything went without a glitch, in order to preserve the family's reputation. Not surprisingly, when the stewards reported to the host they had run out of wine, this presented a real challenge, for the family reputation was on the line.

Word reached Jesus when his mother, who was also present at the wedding, told the stewards to do as Jesus tells them. As we know, Jesus sent the stewards to fill six stone jars with water. Having filled them to the brim, he told them to draw off some of the water and take it to the steward. When the steward tasted the offering, it was no longer water but wine, and indeed it tasted so good that they believed the best wine had been saved until last. This incident records the very first miracle that Jesus performed during his ministry.

John's gospel contains much symbolism and there have been many observations about this particular one. In the context of a family wedding we can see how Jesus takes something from our ordinary lives and transforms it into something special. Rather like the wine, Jesus transforms our ordinary lives from water into wine - into the very best wine possible. However, unlike the wedding, this is not just a 'one off' event, but rather this goes on throughout our lives.

So, as James and Zoey exchange their marriage vows as many, many other couples have done in the past, I pray they will know the love and blessing of Jesus upon them as they start out on their future lives together. I pray, too, that we may know Jesus' transforming power touching our hearts and lives day by day, as he journeys alongside us.

Your friend and Minister, *Alan*.

MINISTER: Revd Alan Wickens

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UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM - OCTOBER, 2018

Tuesday 2 nd	8.00 pm	Tuesday at Eight - Maggie Goodwin will be giving a talk on her experiences in the Police Force.
Wednesday 3 rd	12.30 pm	Craft Club
Thursday 4 th	2.30 pm	Bible Study "Talking of God Together" at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Windsor
Saturday 6 th		Harvest Supper - <i>time and venue to be advised!</i>
Sunday 7 th		HARVEST THANKSGIVING:
	11.00 am	Morning Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Alan Wickens
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Revd Andrew Reed
Friday 12 th	10.00am to 8.00 pm	(Book Sale -----
Saturday 13 th	8.00 am to 12.30 pm	(----- in the Church)
Sunday 14 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mrs Thelma Roberts
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Mr Peter Marks
Wednesday 17 th	12.30 pm	Craft Club
Thursday 18 th	2.30 pm	Bible Study at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Windsor
Sunday 21 st	11.00 am	Morning Worship - Mrs Jane Mackerness
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship - Mr Paul Murphy
Sunday 28 th	11.00am	Morning Worship - Revd Julie Underwood
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship and Holy Communion - Revd Alan Wickens

Regular Meetings: we have - RAINBOWS (Mondays at 5.00 pm); BROWNIE GUIDES (Mondays at 6.30 pm); BEAVER SCOUTS (Tuesdays at 6.00 pm); CUB SCOUTS (Thursdays at 7.00 pm); SCOUTS (Fridays at 7.30 pm).

COFFEE AND TEA will be served in the Vestibule of the Church each THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY from 10.00 am to noon, when the Church will also be open for prayer. On each THURSDAY there will be a LUNCHTIME SERVICE at 12.30 pm followed by a TIME OF FELLOWSHIP (bring your own sandwich or salad, and coffee and tea will be available).

DUTY ROTA FOR OCTOBER, 2018

		<i>Sunday Deacons</i>	<i>Sidesmen</i>
7 th	am	Harry Cumming	Janet Figgins and Jean Bradley
	pm	Lindsay Mair	Lindsay Mair
14 th	am	Anthony Long	Rowena Ferneley and Marion Mason
	pm	Graham Burrough	Graham Burrough
21 st	am	Jane Leckie	Christine Maynard and Frank Clark
	pm	Graham Burrough	Graham Burrough
28 th	am	Di James	Derek Weston and Nyree Long
	pm	Lindsay Mair	Lindsay Mair

FLOWER ROTA FOR OCTOBER, 2018

7th: Harvest Thanksgiving flowers; 14th: Alan and Anthea Wickens;
21st: Anthony and Nyree Long; 28th: Di James

DATA PROTECTION ACT

In common with most other churches and organisations, the United Church of Egham keeps pastoral records of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of regular worshippers and friends. The information is used for church purposes only, is never communicated to any other body and is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.