



**OCTOBER  
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**BUCKLEY BULLETIN: No 428**

The Autumn setting on the stage and windowsills in the Schoolroom remind us of how beautiful God’s nature is. The glorious colours delight us for a while....and then....they depart and are replaced with another season, another palette of colours, another mystery as to what is to develop.

The hymn writer puts it so well – Hymn 66, Methodist Hymn book:

*“Summer and winter, springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in the courses above.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.”*



Although we celebrate the joys of Autumn, have you noticed that the darker greyer skies are appearing, the nights are closing in, summer clothes are put away – all signs of winter approaching. We can already see many shops have Christmas displays and, as we turn the calendar over to show October, we start to look forward to the wonder of that season.

Yes, it’s October already – the last quarter of another year. How many times do you hear someone say, “How quickly the year seems to have gone by”. Reading previous newsletters, we have proof of it all, how we have marked each month with news and reflections.

Just a little time ago the fields were gold with ripened crops, now, across the bare stubbles, ploughs are making furrows and preparing for new plantings.

**OCTOBER DIARY**

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Service: Heather Hague
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1.30pm	Ladies Group
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Shoebboxes
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Coffee Morning
	11.15am	Service: Deacon Alison McCauley
		Flowers: Jayne and Steve Howe
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	Ladies Group
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Coffee Morning
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Service: Jackie Praed
		Flowers: Pat Goodall
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	Ladies Group
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	10am	Coffee Morning
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Service: Rev Lynn Gregg
		Baptism of Benjamin Watson
		Flowers: Yvonne and Doug Parkin
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	1.30pm	Ladies Group
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Coffee Morning: Bacon Sandwiches
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	United Service at Emmanuel
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	Ladies Group

## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES



Amazingly we have already filled 110 shoeboxes with toiletries, knitted items, sweets, stationery and toys. We hope to fill another 20 boxes to use the items so generously donated.

As always, one can visualise the children opening their gifts in a decorated shoebox – something that we might consider ordinary, but to those children the contents will bring great joy. It must be a wonderful sight to see their faces and hear their delight.

We have some funds left from last year but would be grateful for any donation towards the transportation costs. We are asked to provide **£3 per box**. Please pass any gifts to Pat Goodall or Sue Stokes.

On November 11<sup>th</sup> shoeboxes from around the circuit will be brought to Buckley for the Shoebox Service. Blythswood will collect all the shoeboxes on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November to start their long journey across Europe, with many being delivered to children in Ukraine.

On occasions like this we realise just how much help is needed along the way:

- collecting and covering the shoeboxes;
- sourcing the soaps, flannels, toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs and hair accessories for girls, then packing them into toilet bags;
- getting pencils, crayons, biros, felt pens, rubbers, rulers, writing and drawing paper and putting them into pencil cases;
- knitting hats, scarves and mittens suitable for boys and girls of different ages;
- finding soft toys, cars, balls and other toys;
- getting lots and lots of sweets.



A friend of Yvonne and Doug's gets lots of soft toys and washes them so they are really clean for their new owners:

Thanks to all involved in this wonderful project.

## 60 Years Service

As part of the Harvest Service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September, Marjorie's retirement as a Church Steward for over 60 years was recognised with a presentation of flowers and a card by Ann Sutcliffe and Deacon Alison McCauley, with some cream cakes as an extra treat from Pat Goodall.

"Mrs Mick", as many people call her, has been a lifelong member of Buckley and served in various roles including Sunday School teacher from the age of 16 and the editor of this newsletter for over 50 years.

Marjorie, totally surprised by the occasion, said "I've seen many changes here and made many friends. Buckley is my second home, part of my family and I treasure the memories of what we have done together."



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**Good News**

- The family from Sri Lanka who attended our Coronation Brunch, took their 3 sons to the Circuit Youth event last weekend and will probably continue to attend. Thanks to Wan for facilitating this: she will gladly tell the story of a chance meeting on a train with the mother of the 3 boys.
- Men in Sheds are looking into helping to provide us with a new Noticeboard for outside the Schoolroom
- Funding has been granted by the Central Ward Alliance for kitchen equipment.