

The Good News

Autumn 2022



North West Northants Pastorate

We all leave something behind; traces, remnants, relics. Parts of a whole, 'ghosts in the machine'...

For each of us, a lifetime of encounters with the world leaves things behind; lost loves, traces of learning, the relics of an empty home, of a life gone by.

It is easy to get drawn back or stranded on a raft of memories; but, as we all know, some things are best left behind.

While respecting the past and trying to avoid judging it by our present (transitory?) standards; let us try to learn from it and ask, where do we go from here? I know this is not a new idea, but sometimes the longer we stay in one place, committed to an idea or attitude, the more we become reluctant to consider even the

possibility of something different.

Sometimes though, the cross roads are unavoidable, and although the signs are clear; the signposts are not...

Let us hope and pray that in the coming weeks, months and years, our leaders will find the right ways; that there will be steady hands on the tiller.

None of us can stay in one place for ever, so let us have faith that each day we can awaken to something positive, something new, young and vital; and in our wake let us leave something good for those yet to come this way...



Deepdale to Ribbleshead, Yorkshire Dales

"When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands" (Deuteronomy 24:19 NIV)

Inside this Autumn Issue

The best laid plans of mice and man...

North West Northants

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Deadline for contributions to next issue: 16th November 2022

Good News welcomes contributions from readers, though publication is not guaranteed.

Editorial

Staying Cheerful

Hello,

Let's keep things in perspective.

As I'm sure you all know; "Now is the winter of our discontent.." are the words put into the mouth of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, by a certain William Shakespeare at the beginning of scene 1, act one, of his play, Richard III; whom Richard Duke of Gloucester was to become.

All sounds a bit bleak, indeed at the time of writing this I am thinking it will soon be easier to list who is not on strike, or not thinking of going on strike, than those who are. This seems reminiscent of a more recent 'winter of discontent' that was the period between November 1978 and February 1979; characterised by widespread strikes by both private, and public sector workers.

Some of us can remember further back to the early seventies and the three day week – luckily dad still had a Tilley lamp... (what's a Tilley lamp?) no fitted carpet, what's a stereo? We had a radiogram. A holiday?!

But you have to 'look on the bright side of life', to quote Monty Python (er, twice?);

"Right. I had to get up in the morning at ten o'clock at night half an hour before I went to bed, drink a cup of sulphuric acid, work twenty-nine hours a day down mill, and pay mill owner for permission to come to work, and when we got home, our dad and our mother would kill us and dance about on our graves singing Hallelujah"

(Extract from Monty Python's Flying Circus - "Four Yorkshiremen" [from the album Live At Drury Lane, 1974])

But then as Shakespeare/Gloucester continues; "...of our *discontent* Made glorious summer by this sun of York..." , you know the rest. After all; all's well that ends well and all that...



The Appointed Time, Bleak House (1852-3)
plate Hablot Knight Browne ("Phiz")

(Both Richard III and All's Well That Ends Well are currently showing at The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford (Until 8th October))

A Message for All

From Rev Geoff Townsend

50 Not Out !

In October our denomination celebrates 50 years since its creation, although, of course, our 4 Chapels are much older.

How old, depends on your criteria and which source you choose to rely on. In the URC Year Book, it gives 1670 for Creaton, 1820 for Crick, 1662 for Kilsby and 1707 for Long Buckby.



Vincent van Gogh: Church Pew with Worshippers
Kröller-Müller Museum, Netherlands

English Heritage dating our existing buildings gives 1794 for Creaton, 1763 for Crick and Kilsby and 1771 for Long Buckby.

Before becoming part of the URC, all 4 were formerly Congregational Churches, although Creaton claimed to be of a Presbyterian origin.

Shortly after the end of World War 2, discussions began between the Congregational and Presbyterian Churches but attempts to agree a union were not successful until 1972.

Following a lengthy debate in the House of Commons on 21st June 1972, the United Reformed Church Act was finally passed.

Prominent politicians of the time participated including David Steel, Anthony Wedgewood Benn, Dennis Skinner, Ian Paisley and Norman St John Stevas (can you guess which one was against? See hint opposite).

A Message for All cont.

From Rev Geoff Townsend

Given the different structures of each denomination, all the Presbyterian Churches in England and Wales joined, while each individual Congregational Church had to vote, with most deciding to join, with a few remaining independent.

Then in 1981 the Re-formed Churches of Christ agreed to join and in 2000 most of the Congregational Churches in Scotland joined.

Given that most churches do not like change, it's remarkable that the URC has held together churches which previously were different.

Congregationalists had Communion every month, often once in the morning and once in the evening. Presbyterians had Communion only every 3 months.

The Churches of Christ, like Baptists, had Believers Baptism by immersion and in a Churches of Christ service, the Minister only preached the sermon.

The inaugural service for the creation of the URC was held in Methodist Central Hall on 5th October 1972 and this year on October 1st a special service will again be held there to celebrate the 50th Anniversary.

The hope in 1972 was that our Union would be the catalyst for other denominations to consider something similar, a hope yet to be realised.

(Hint, he came from Northern Ireland)

Happy 50th,

Geoff.



We are asked to remember in prayer

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, shown right; a very grand building compared to our local churches and chapels. An expression of its age, nevertheless an architectural celebration of its kind. This year on October 1st a special service will again be held there to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the URC.



(Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Photo by Philip Pankhurst)

Although our local churches and chapels may be expressing their different ages in different ways; let us pray that our spirit of hospitality and generosity is second to none, and that that our discipleship and mission as a church might outshine all of these buildings however grand.

The Group for Evangelism and renewal ask us to remember in Prayer:

Harvest celebrations during this period. Please pray for farmers and all involved with bringing produce to our tables.

50th Anniversary Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the URC on 1st October 2022, at the Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London, for all those attending and taking part.

Church Related Community Workers. This year we are celebrating 30 years of CRCWs. They are spread across the Synods. Pray for fruitfulness in their outreach work.

Children's work across the URC. Pray for continued blessings on those caring for children and for children to become future leaders of the church.

(Extracts from Summer Edition 2022 'In GEAR' Magazine)

Let us remember in prayer

Remembrance:

Leader We will remember that poppies grow in
broken ground
where pain and loss recall the fallen.
We will remember parents and children,
lovers and friends,
who never came home.

All **We will remember them.**

Leader We will remember those who gave all they had,
those who fought and those who refused to fight,
those who rescued and those who waited,
those of whom our poppies speak.

All **We will remember them.**

Leader We will remember the cost of war and the
price of peace.
We will remember the battles fought this
very day,
the places where war is waged and poppies grow
in shattered earth
even as we gather here.

All **We will remember them.**

Leader We will remember the long journey into peace,
and those who plant the seeds of reconciliation
and hope.
We will remember those who use power
wisely and well,
those who turn aside from hate,
those who seek to heal and mend.

All **We will remember them,
in the name of Jesus Christ our lord,
and in the power of the Holy Spirit of God.**

Amen.

Creaton News

News from Margaret Anderson

Hello from Creaton everyone!

Our Mission Statement:

Worship God joyfully
Offer Christ faithfully
Promote growth hopefully
Serve others lovingly.

Recent times

Many of us found the recent heatwave rather overpowering, and are glad of the current more normal weather.

Services

You are warmly welcome to join us for Sunday Worship. For more information, look at our website: search Creaton URC online (<http://www.creaton.org.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=319435>)

September 18th **Harvest Festival** with St Michael's Parish Church

October 2nd **Service celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the URC** taken by Lindsey Cole

October 30th **Joint Service** to be taken by The Moderator

October 24th **Concert:** The Creaton Singers—Proceeds to Creaton Church

Pilots

Meets on Monday nights led by Marion Heard

Poppies Coffee Shop

Is open from 10.00am to 12 noon Wednesday and Friday.

Margaret.

Kilsby News

News from Val Janes

Hello from Kilsby everyone!

Our Mission statement:

The purpose of this church is to provide a warm welcoming place for all people, of any age, to worship and to learn about faith.

Services are on Sunday mornings at 11am

Welcoming new people into our congregation; you can find our list of Services and Preachers in the Diary of Services.

Community cafe

Our increasingly busy and popular community café; every Monday and Thursday at 9am until 12noon everyone is welcome.

Scrabble

Every Wednesday at 1pm everyone is welcome.

Sewing

Every other Friday at 2pm until 4pm everyone is welcome.

Val.

The Season of Creation

From the 1st September runs the 'Season of Creation'. The 1st September is World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The season, sometimes known as 'Creation Time', runs to 4 October, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, each year. A season dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation.



Abington Park, Nearer to Kilsby than the Yorkshire Dales.

Long Buckby News

News from Peggy Bond

Hello from Long Buckby everyone!

Our Flower Rota:

Sept	4th	Mr & Mrs P. Colton
	11th	Diana Osbourne
	18th	Andrew and Yvonne Howes
	25th	Norman Chandler
Oct	2nd	Marion Boucher
	9th	Alan Ketley
	16th	The Bruce Family
	23th	Family for Gwennie Wilkes
	30th	Joint Service at Creaton
Nov	6th	Kath Packer
	13th	Remembrance at St Lawrence's
	20st	Diana Osbourne
	27th	Sue and Kath for Grace Mawby



Birthday Wishes to:

Sept: Andrew Howes, Norman Chandler

Oct: Peggy Bond, Gill Best, Joy Patterson, Marian Boucher

Nov: Lucy Faulkner, Emily Faulkner, Sian Ellison, Phyllis Collins, Abbey Faulkner, Yvonne Howes

The Hope Centre

Please remember the collection box for the Hope Centre in Northampton. Food, coffee, tee bags, cleaning materials and laundry detergents very welcome.

Coffee mornings

Charity Coffee Mornings will be held every first Saturday for the rest of the Year. See the Notice board and Long Buckby URC web site for further information.

Andrew Howes Invites You; Fun, Fish and Chips

Finally this is happening! (said the editor with great confidence)



Long Buckby URC

Fish and Chip Lunch and Beetle Drive

Saturday 10th September 2022: 12.00 – 14.00

£8.00 to include lunch and dessert

There will be a Raffle.

Please contact Andrew Howes to book your place

07814076027

01327705115

andrewhowes66@gmail.com

The rather erudite 'Anthicidae', sometimes called a 'flower beetle', is quoting Lady Mary Montgomerie Currie (1843-1905) from her poem 'Tout vient a qui sait attendre';

"All hoped-for things will come to you who have the strength to watch and wait, our longings spur the steeds of Fate. This has been said by one who knew.... Ah, all things come to those who wait"

Diary of Church Services September to November 2022

Date	Long Buckby All services at 11am unless otherwise stated	Creaton All services at 11am unless otherwise stated
04/09/22	Cecil Gill	Rev. Geoff Townsend
11/09/22	Rev. Geoff Townsend with Holy Communion (URC 50th)	Jon Heard
18/09/22	Margaret Hooper Harvest Festival	Rev. Geoff Townsend
25/09/22	Jon Heard	Rev. Tim Huc
02/10/22	Andrew Howes With Holy Communion	Lindsey Cole
09/10/22	URC 50th Anniversary Service at Daventry	Jon Heard
16/10/22	John Perkins	Rev. Geoff Townsend
23/10/22	Tom Baird	Margaret Hooper
30/10/22	The Moderator Joint Pastorate at Creaton	The Moderator Joint Pastorate Here
06/11/22	Rev Nigel Adkinson	Rev. Geoff Townsend
13/11/22	Remembrance At St. Lawrence's	Jon Heard
20/11/22	Rev Liz Adams With Holy Communion	Rev. Geoff Townsend
27/11/22	Jon Heard	Vaughan Griffiths

Diary of Church Services September to November 2022

Date	Crick All services at 11am unless otherwise stated	Kilsby All services at 11am unless otherwise stated
04/09/22	Bobbie Wakeleigh Jones	Wendy Pittman
11/09/22	Cecil Gill	Tony Cervantes
18/09/22	Tony Cervantes	Cecil Gill Harvest Festival
25/09/22	Wendy Pittman	Clive Leakey
02/10/22	Wendy Pittman	John Perkins
09/10/22	URC 50th Anniversary Service at Daventry	Keith Bishop
16/10/22	Trevor Boys	Cecil Gill
23/10/22	David and Pat Biddle	Andrew Howes With Holy Communion
30/10/22	The Moderator Joint Pastorate at Creaton	The Moderator Joint Pastorate at Creaton
06/11/22	Andrew Howes With Holy Communion	David Biddle
13/11/22	Wally Mullar	TBA
20/11/22	Margaret Hooper	Cecil Gill
27/11/22	Ray Smith	Tony Cervantes

Crick News

News from Jenny Goodger

Hello from Crick everyone!

The purpose of this church is to provide a warm, welcoming place for people of all ages to worship God and to grow in faith.

Chapel Birthdays

Happy birthday wishes to Tom Nisbet and Brenda Morgan who have birthdays in September .

Scarecrow Weekend

It was a pleasure (but a busy day!) to serve so many old and new friends with tea and cake on the Saturday.

We raised a good amount for chapel funds.

Redecoration

The chapel is looking spick and span once again after external painting. Alas, one of the gallery windows needs a new frame, the original 1820 frame has at last succumbed to wear and weather. The joiners have measured and are ready to start once they have cleared their orders backlog. Scarecrow money will soon be spent!

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are now back as a regular feature on the first Saturday of the month, with numbers rising steadily as people become more confident about social events.

We have recently made a donation of £100 each to BLESMA and the Maple Unit at St Cross Hospital, Rugby.

Harvest Thanksgiving

We will hold a Harvest Service on September 25th at 11.00 am if you are free to join us.

We collect dried and tinned goods which will go to the Hope Centre for the homeless in Northampton.

Jenny.

Seasonal Madness

Getting out and about again

And so, in the finest tradition of church magazines the world over, we come to mention of such things as garden parties (vicars and otherwise), coffee mornings, concerts, tombola and the like, has anyone been to a garden fete this year?

These days of course, we can also talk about the strange and growing phenomenon of scarecrow events, they get about a bit don't they?

Oh, yes and apparently 'welly wanging' (I hope it doesn't hurt)...

After the previous couple of years it's good to see these things happening again, and their inclusion into each of our churches news pages over the past few months; and there's still more to come.

Now, where have those morris dancers got to? Will I have time to go to the produce and craft show? How does she get her onions that big! That can't really be a marrow...

Where's my dog gone? Sorry Miss Jones, er, yes I will pay for that cake...

All the things we thought so twee and common place, the things we have missed and are so glad to see.

It was also good that the Queen (quite a few of them actually), and at least one Paddington Bear took the time to visit. When I say the Queen and Paddington bear, I do of course mean the scarecrow versions, like the ones seen here sitting down to tea outside Long Buckby URC.

The tall one in the background on the left? Oh, that's Norman, an Elder, no not a scarecrow!



Tea and Gakes Marmalade Sandwiches

The Story Behind the Hymn

'Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine' — Contributed by Norman Chandler

Frances Jane Crosby was born 24 March 1820 to widower John Crosby and his second wife Mercy. John Crosby died when Frances, who was always known as Fanny, was only six months old.

So Fanny was brought up with her step-sister by her mother and grand-mother both devout Christians. Fanny learned large sections of the bible by heart and this was to stand her in good stead later.

Fanny lost her sight as a baby due to medical ignorance and when 15 years old attended the New York Institution for the Blind in New York City. She was encouraged to become a poet and published her work in newspapers and books from 1841 onwards.

After graduating she became a teacher of English grammar at the school.

She met and married Alexander Van Alstyne who had also been a student at the school, they had one child who died in infancy.

Fanny started writing verses to be set to music in 1851 and was very successful, in 1864 she began writing hymns, eventually writing between 5,500 and 9,000.



Lilly Pads, Cotton End Park, Long Buckby

The Story Behind the Hymn

'Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine' — Contributed by Norman Chandler

Why the question mark over the numbers you may well ask, well she wrote many hymns under pseudonyms to preserve her modesty.

In 1873 Fanny was visiting her friend Mrs Phoebe Palmer Knapp who was having a new pipe organ installed, during the visit Mrs Knapp played a new piece of music that she had composed and asked Fanny what she thought.

Immediately Fanny said "Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine" and went on to complete the first verse during the visit. It is thought that Fanny drew her inspiration for the words from Hebrews 10 verse 22 but she always claimed that her inspiration came from God.

Her hymns were especially popular in the Methodist Church in America and for a time they even observed a Fanny Crosby day.

The hymns gained international attention due to her musical collaborators one of which was Ira D. Sanky who undertook evangelical missions throughout the USA and to Britain.

This strange inclusion might turn out to be useful later, oh yes it will...
Ghost in the Machine, Album by rock band the Police, released October 1981
Spirits in the Material World
Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic
Invisible Sun
Hungry For You (J'Aurais Toujours Faim De Toi)
Demolition Man
Too Much Information
Rehumanize Yourself
One World (Not Three)
Omegaman
Secret Journey
Darkness

Thinking about the Lectionary

The Seasons of a Church Year

So, having flown through Pentecost, with some explanation, and (neatly side stepping) Trinity we now seem to have a lot of Proper time around. In some churches, this is known as ordinary time.

Hmm, nice to have some ordinary time, or even proper time, as opposed to the Interesting Times in which we seem to live. Oh! There seems to be a potential goldmine of jokes and quips in here even without mentioning Terry Pratchett or a famous cockney chef...

So, Proper time (there are weeks and weeks of it!) is that period after Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost; it's when the church enters that long period (no, not of rest) all the way to the start of Advent, that is to say about half the year. That's all the way up until the start of the new church year.

And the start of the church year? It is the bit we are coming up to now, well in late November anyway; the first Sunday of Advent. Should I mention the change of Liturgical colours here? No, perhaps not...

Have I been here before? Yes I have; about a year ago. Goodness me, doesn't time fly? How many shopping days are left, does anyone have any money left for shopping these days? Oh! What interesting times we live in...

So, this is the last in my series of 'Thinking about the Lectionary' articles, but there is one more thing worth mentioning, and this is the point really: If you follow the readings referred to each week, to read them and to think about them; amazing things eventually start to happen...

Yes they do...



John Sloan, Turning Out the Light, 1905, etching. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas

Lectionary Readings

September 2022

Proper 18

September 4

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 1

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

Proper 19

September 11

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm 51:1-11

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

Proper 20

September 18

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

Proper 21

September 25

Amos 6:1a,4-7

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

Weaving Sacred and Secular September

1st Creation Time Begins

11th Education Sunday

18th Peace Sunday

30th Macmillan Coffee Morning

Lectionary Readings

October 2022

Proper 22

October 2

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Psalms 37:1-10

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

Proper 23

October 9

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Psalms 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

Proper 24

October 16

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

Proper 25

October 23

Sirach 35:12-17

or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

Psalms 84:1-6

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

Proper 26

October 30

Isaiah 1:10-18

Psalms 32:1-8

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Luke 19:1-10

Weaving Sacred and Secular October - Black History Month

6th National Poetry Day

10th World Mental Health Day

Lectionary Readings

November 2022

Proper 27

Job 19:23-27a

Psalm 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

November 6

Proper 28

Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

November 13

Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

November 20

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

Psalm 122

November 27



Abington Park, Northampton

Weaving Sacred and Secular November

18th Children in Need

25th Black Friday

A Late Night Reflection: And The Page Fell Open...

Coming together, drifting apart and moving on

Meditation

'In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row...'¹
Row on row of loss,
of seeds blossoming amidst the desolation of bombed land,
of red petals poured across the mud amidst the
shattered trees.
In the fragility of a poppy's petals dancing in the breeze
we remember the lives and loves lost,
the homecomings that never happened,
the sons and daughters, wives and husbands, undone,
the dreams and hopes that met their end in war.
In the momentary life of a wild flower
we remind ourselves not only that our lives can
be fleeting,
but that the loss and cost of war can be unending.
Remembering,
we sit with past and present;
the battles of history and the violence of today.
Remembering,
we offer up our prayers:
for those whose loss is greater than our many
words can tell
for those still bearing the wounds in body, mind or spirit
for those fighting and dying still.

(Meditation: from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorogood © Neil
Thorogood/United Reformed Church 2016.)

¹ © John McCrae 1872-1918



Image: from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorogood © Neil
Thorogood/United Reformed Church 2016.

Stranded on an Enchanted Isle..

From Hamlet in Hamlet, to Prospero in The Tempest, to Peace

If you take away all of the troubles of this world, all the conflict in our little lives, what are you left with? If we live a simple life, if we allow our generosity and natural hospitality flourish. If we embrace the diversity and love of our fellow human beings? And just hear Gods Cry..

Is it us, that wield the very “slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” that we suffer. Are we not like fractals, eternally inward turning, winding, and becoming our own “sea of troubles”? Taking up arms and opposing only ourselves, and by opposing, ending?

Or can we, each stranded on our own enchanted isle, hear Gods Cry, and can it be that in ourselves, we can see that as Shakespeare/ Prospero said:

“Our revels now are ended. These our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits and
Are melted into air, into thin air:
And, like the baseless fabric of this vision,
The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff
As dreams are made on, and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep. “

(William Shakespeare: From *The Tempest*, Act 4 Scene 1)

As any child will tell you, after each sleep is a new day
A new day
A new Dream
Hear Gods Cry!

Lord, may your Light shine through us
Your Grace empower us
Your Love embrace us
May Your Spirit blaze in our hearts
Burst out and overflow into your World...

Amen!



The Globe Theatre, London

Thanks, Afterthoughts and Connections

Wandering From Whence We Came, What Do We Leave Behind?

Now, before you all go off and start digging out your old Police album and trying to remember the tracks that were on it¹, I should say that on the front page I wasn't referring to the Police when I mentioned 'ghosts in the machine'.

For the young people reading this, 'album' means record, lots of your parents would have had police records... No, no that's not what I mean, a record was a vinyl disc that was used to record music. What, you don't believe me? Well the Police were a rock band, yes a rock band—Oh, I give up...

Can you believe the album was released over forty years ago? Now even I don't believe me...

Of course, as most of you realised straight away, I was referencing Philosopher Gilbert Ryle's description of René Descartes idea of mind-body dualism as the "ghost in the machine" (Ryle, *The Concept of Mind*, University of Chicago Press (1949)). But, then of course, so was Sting. Glad I've got that settled...



Cotton End Park, Long Buckby

As ever, many thanks to all Good News contributors; writers, sifters and wranglers of content, proof readers, printers and distributors; all those that collaborate across time and travels, in all sorts of ways to produce and deliver all of the wonderful resources into which we dip and find treasures to share.

Most of all, thank You, for reading this magazine.

¹ See bottom of page 17 to save you time...