

# THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



PETERSFIELD AND LISS  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

February 2025 No. 735

## From the Minister ..



We started the new year as we often do, by thinking about an event at the very start of Jesus' ministry, his baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist. I was struck when putting my sermon together, that God's affirmation; "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased" came at the very start of Jesus' ministry, he had not done anything particularly remarkable (that is written down in any case), he'd been born, spent too long in the temple and at the beginning of Luke 3, it's all about John the Baptist until verse 21 when Jesus comes to be baptised. These words it seems, are spoken as if he is being applauded for just being there and for being who he is.

How often do we appreciate people just for who they are? Human nature is to seek gain a lot of the time. We look to build relationship with others because we hope to get something in return, perhaps a new job opportunity, a new love interest, the opportunity to socialise with others similar to ourselves. How often do we put ourselves down, striving to be more than we are somehow? Its January and many of us will be looking in the mirror wishing we were a bit less chunky, wishing we had a little more money in the bank, a little bit more mobility, a little more of whatever might make us happier.

The great news is that God loves us just for being us.

Later in this month's Messenger, there is a letter that was sent to all church ministers and secretaries from our Synod Moderator the Rev'd Dr Michael Hopkins. He is advocating a 'Gentle January'. He encourages us to embrace gentleness... we should strive to be;

- Gentle with ourselves,
- Gentle with each other,
- Gentle with our to-do lists and plans,
- Gentle with our creation,
- Gentle tones of voice to accompany gentle footsteps and gentle thoughts, all of which can be gently brought into our pauses and prayers.

Whether the waters we find ourselves in feel calm and pleasant or whether they feel dangerous and scary, the wonderful thing about our God is that God goes with us through it all, God will not let us go, God will be there loving us and accepting us whether we manage to lose all our Christmas pounds or not. We are enough, we are loved, and we are worthy of that love shown to us. How might we show this kind of love to those we meet in our daily lives throughout 2025?

I ended the service with a blessing which was published on the Church of Scotland's weekly worship resource on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January<sup>1</sup>, the words of which were helpful to some in the congregation. I'm not sure about the copyright situation and whether I can copy and paste it in this magazine (and I'm writing this article right at the time of deadline – sorry Carolyn!), but I include a link at the bottom of this article, and you can look it up for yourselves. The main message being, you are loved and cherished by God, your true identity can be found in God's unending love and the Holy Spirit can, if we accept it into our lives, fill us with peace, joy and a true sense of belonging.

May 2025 be a gentle year in which you feel your true worth, God loves each one of us more than we can ever know or imagine, and it is our job as God's representatives on earth to mirror this in our lives to the best of our abilities. Let us look for opportunities to do so as we venture forth!

Every blessing,

Your brother in Christ,

Josh.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/2025-january/sunday-12-january-2025-first-sunday-after-epiphany-year-c#topic10>

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# Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,  
As I write this on 6<sup>th</sup> of January, it is the day when things return to sort of “normal”!

Christmas decorations are down, children have gone back to school, lots of folk back to work after the Christmas break and me back at the computer doing all the things that have been neglected for the last 2 weeks.

We have our first elders' meeting of the year tomorrow with a full complement of 12 elders and a challenging time ahead. After the excitement of our new sanctuary, we still have the loan to pay back. Costs inevitably rise for the church, just as they do in our personal lives and so, as trustees of our church, we have to be very mindful of our responsibilities and plan accordingly. However, we entered the whole refurbishment project knowing that it was the right thing to do and that God was looking after us all. We know that we need to raise a significant amount of money so if anyone has any ideas please speak to one of the elders. All (sensible) ideas will be considered!!

On a completely different subject I had the honour of visiting Petworth House and seeing the wonderful creations made by our very own Nathan Ward, Rosemary's son. This was a life size nativity made from origami. What amazing talent! Thank you, Nathan.



God bless you all, Carol

## A look back at Christmas 2024

### A Wonderful Service with Liss Band



## The Nativity Story Brought by Children's Church



## No Nativity would be complete without a Very Pink Flamingo



## **Faith Comment**

**Name of Author: Esmé Kelly**

**Name of Church: Petersfield & Liss URC**

**Date of Publication: 26<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

### ***'Always have an attitude of Gratitude' – Sterlin K Brown***

Are we grateful? We have so much in our lives yet, are we thankful for what we do have?

Do we concentrate on what we don't have rather than on what we do have? Do we see all the ugliness and wrongs in this world and miss the beauty of a beautiful sun, magnificent mountains, breathtaking sea views and let's not forget the very precious people in our lives? Can we be grateful for that beautiful smile, that listening ear, the friendship, the sharing, the laughter with loved ones, the shoulder we cry on. Are we so caught up with the lack in our lives that we cannot see all the good things we've been blessed with?

In Luke 17 verse 11 to 19, Jesus healed 10 lepers and only one came back to say thank you. Jesus asked this healed leper in verse 17, 'Were not all ten healed? Where are the other nine?' Implying why has only one of these healed lepers returned? Only one realised that they will be welcomed back into society and will not be rejected because of their illness. Only one realised how grateful he was for that healing. That healing is the reason he was able to live amongst his own people again and not be rejected.

Dr Caroline Leaf says, 'Gratitude is one of the most powerful tools to improve your mood, mind and mental health. And it's free and simple but often underutilized.' As Doris Day says, 'Gratitude is riches. Complaint is poverty.'

Can you find anything in your life right now to be grateful for? A simple 'Thank you' is all it takes.

Christmas has just passed, and the new year is around the corner. A challenge for you and me – let's make one of our new year's resolutions to be more grateful in 2025! As the saying goes,

**'Whatever be your goal, keep your eye upon the doughnut and not upon the hole.'**



### **Smile Lines**

#### **Lion**

A Sunday school teacher was telling her youngsters about Daniel and the Lion's Den. To illustrate the lesson, she drew a picture of Daniel standing, brave and confident, with a group of lions around him. Suddenly, one little girl started to cry. The teacher said, "Don't cry. The lions are not going to eat Daniel."

Snuffling back the tears the girl replied: "That's not what I'm crying about. That little lion, over in the corner, isn't going to get anything to eat."

\*\*

#### **Chocolate**

A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine's Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the inscription: 'To Helen, with all my allowance.'

\*\*

Blessed are they who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

Cleaning house with children at home is a lot like snow blowing during a blizzard.

Marriage has three states: cooing, wedding, and billing.



# Community Matters

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE  
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

## Frontline Petersfield Debt Advice

c/o Life Church Centre  
16D Chapel Street,  
Petersfield,  
GU32 3DZ

Telephone:  
**07919 998442** (24hrs)

Email:  
petersfield@frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

Website:  
www.frontlinepetersfield.org.uk

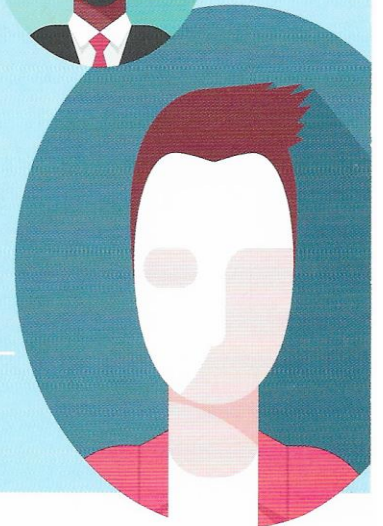


[www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk](http://www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk)

## FREE DEBT & BENEFIT ADVICE

Are you struggling  
with your finances?

You do not have  
to cope alone.



"After a  
horrendous time  
in my life I am  
now debt free!"

### Frontline Debt Advice (UK)

Registered Address: c/o Three Counties Church,  
Haslemere Locality Office, Lion Green, Haslemere,  
Surrey GU27 1LD

A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered in England No. 7136786

Registered Charity No. 1134908

Licensed by the FCA to provide Debt Adjusting & Counselling No. 694921

FRONTLINE® is the registered trade mark of  
Frontline Debt Advice (UK)



## Food Bank Updates



Our opening times are: -  
**Stock and Donations: Mondays and  
Wednesdays: 9.30 am – 11.30 am**  
**Distribution: Tuesdays and Fridays:  
9.30 am – 11.30 am**

**At Petersfield Methodist Church**

For more information please check our website: [Petersfield Food Bank](http://pactfoodbank.org.uk)  
([pactfoodbank.org.uk](http://pactfoodbank.org.uk))



Open every Wednesday from 2pm till 3.30pm at St Mary's. You can meet us, enjoy a cuppa and take away your food bags. Delivery can be arranged for those on foot. Can't get to St. Mary's? Then a

Wednesday delivery can be arranged if a request is made by lunchtime on Monday. Ring 01730 00659/300921 or text 07570792525

The Liss Foodbank is for surrounding villages as well as Liss. It can be accessed for your short-term need without a referral.

Please continue to drop off donations in St. Mary's Rectory porch, 111 Station Road, or bring donations to St. Mary's on a Wednesday afternoon.

### Free Shop Petersfield

The Shop collects food from supermarkets, farms, community gardens and others, that would otherwise go to waste.

Anyone is welcome to come along and take what they need.

It is not part of the Food Bank; the goal is purely to keep good food out of landfill.

The Free Shop is located to the right of Petersfield Station Entrance.

**Opening times: Wednesday 1.30 pm – 3 pm**

**Friday & Saturday 10 am – 11.30 am**

For more information contact: [easthampshirerail.co.uk/freeshop-shop](http://easthampshirerail.co.uk/freeshop-shop)

Or call Lucy on **07988043870**



**Wessex Synod**

*120 Alma Road, Southampton, SO14 6UW*

**Synod Moderator:** *The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins*

**Moderator's PA:** *Mrs Deborah Walker*

**New Year message 2025**

Dear Friends,

First, let me express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication and hard work over the Christmas season. Whether through community events, activities, or leading worship - often including special and extra services - you have gone above and beyond. In doing so, you have not only shared the story of Jesus but also made Christ visible in the world today. There is no greater calling, and your commitment is deeply appreciated.

As we step into a new year, I wish you a Happy New Year. For many, 2024 brought its share of challenges and a mix of sadness and joy. While some achieved much, for others, simply making it through was an accomplishment in itself. As we look to 2025, our hopes are renewed.

2025 also marks a significant milestone: the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, a defining moment in the formation of our faith. At our Synod meeting on 11 October, we will be privileged to welcome the Revd Dr Susan Durber, President of the World Council of Churches and a familiar figure to many in Wessex. She will guide us in reflecting on this important anniversary. Such moments remind us that our hope is not in the turning of the calendar but in Christ, who makes all things new.

You may have noticed the popular refrain of "New Year, New You." Yet this idea, rooted in both self-criticism and consumerism, can feel harsh. We are not disposable objects to be replaced annually, nor should we discard ourselves like outdated electronic devices. Instead, I encourage you to reclaim the "old you." Refine, evolve, and improve if you can, but move toward your true self, not away from it. Be kind to yourself and your mind.

This brings me to an alternative approach for the start of the year: Gentle January. In a season where many feel the weight of exhaustion rather than refreshment, let's embrace gentleness:

- Gentle with ourselves,
- Gentle with each other,
- Gentle with our to-do lists and plans,
- Gentle with our creation,
- Gentle tones of voice to accompany gentle footsteps and gentle thoughts, all of which can be gently brought into our pauses and prayers.

Gentle January sounds inviting to me: a soothing, restorative alternative to the hurried resolutions and relentless pace of the world. May it bring you peace, renewal, and grace as we journey together into this new year.

With every blessing for 2025,

Michael Hopkins New Year, 2025



### ***An observation on our Christian life...***

We live in a world of conflicting stories trying to shape our identity and our understanding of who we are and how we are to live. These cultural stories offer us fulfilment found in success, family, love and acceptance. The God story often jars and conflicts with our culture, but it offers us all a beautiful, true and compelling vision. We are invited into this story of mercy, grace, forgiveness and transformation. – *Peter Lynas*

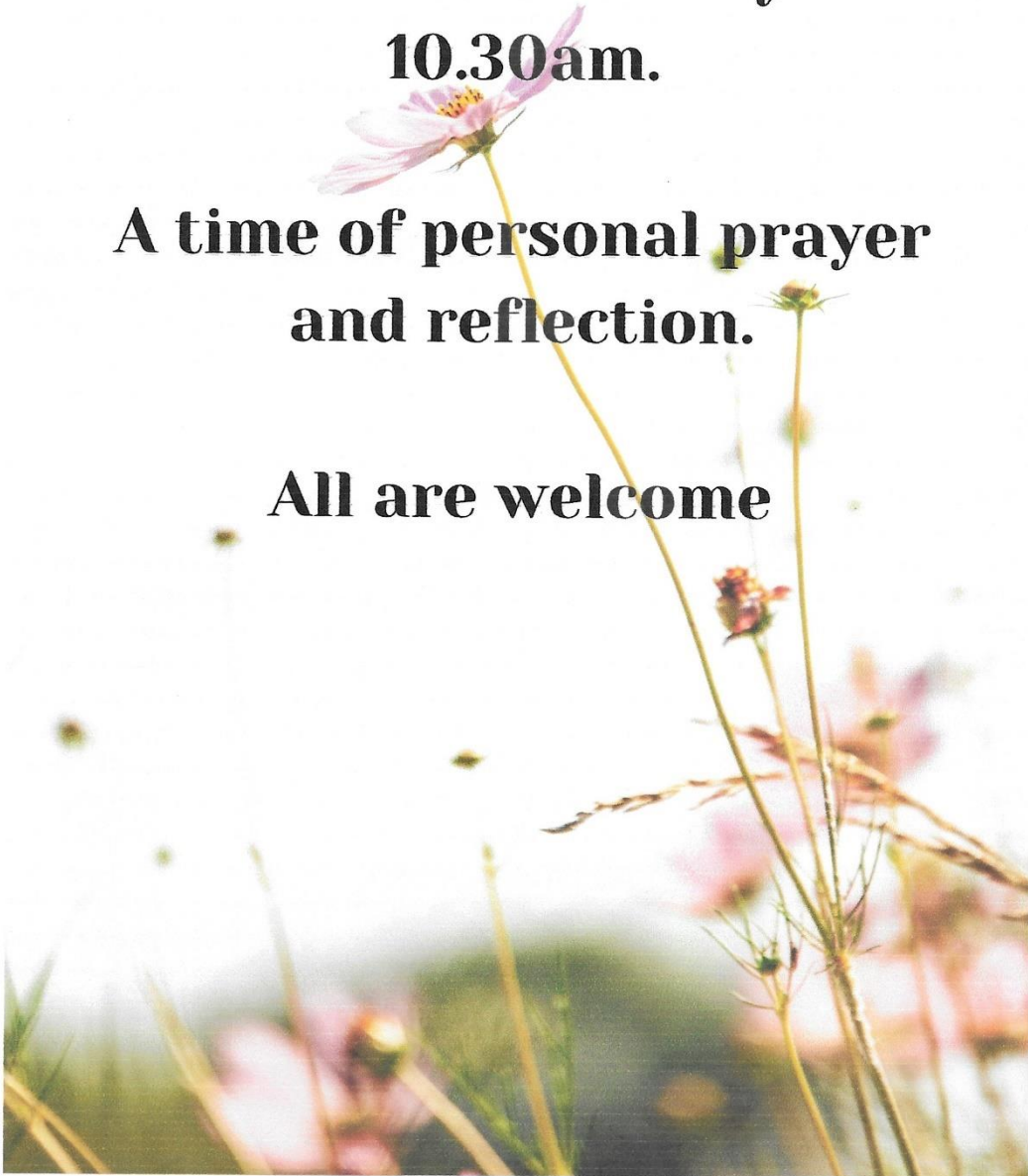
# **Friday reflection**

**Every 4th Friday of the  
month.**

**In the sanctuary  
10.30am.**

**A time of personal prayer  
and reflection.**

**All are welcome**



**Petersfield and Liss United Reformed Church  
Update on regular weekday activities**



Please note the following updates.

- **Drop in Tea** – Drop-In Tea for February will be on the 11<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity for anyone to come to the CFC for a chat and a cuppa and even some cake! Call in any time between 2 and 4pm. Come when you can - go when you must! We look forward to seeing you then.

Julie, Keith and Mary



**Rotas – February 2025**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Duty Elders</b>	<b>AV</b>
February 2	Anne Glenn	David Darling
February 9	Peter Jolly	Roy Knight
February 16	Wendy Cassar & Jo Oru	Jonathan Oru
February 23	Mary Fair	Carolyn Barton

**Welcomers' Rota**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Welcomers</b>
February 2	Val Torrance
February 9	Doreen Lewis
February 16	Peter Jolly
February 23	Brian King

- Please arrive 30mins before start of the service
- When all have arrived, count the adults and children, and enter the numbers on the notice board record sheet.
- Carry the offertory box to the Communion Table for the service.
- If your date is not suitable, please adjust with another person as a swap.

**February 2025 Petersfield and Liss Church Calendar -**  
**Please note Services are held at College Street, Petersfield.**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Esme Kelly</b>	
Monday	3	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	4	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	6	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home group	84 Moggs Mead
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Minister</b>	
Monday	10	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	11	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2-4 pm	Drop-in Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	13	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Friday	14	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	Sanctuary
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Minister</b>	
Tuesday	18	2 pm-4 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	20	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Minister</b>	
Monday	24	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	25	9.30 pm	Little Fishes	CFC
Thursday	27	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Friday	28	10.30 am	Friday Reflection	Sanctuary

## Love in Action!

*'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.'* (1 John 3:18).

The writer Gary Chapman describes how love can be expressed in 5 different 'languages': words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred language of love? As we think about St Valentine during this month, let's consider how God's love language is expressed in the word *agape*. This is exclusively found in the New Testament and is uniquely defined by Jesus: *'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.'* (1 John 3:16). Jesus' giving of His life on the cross provides the model for how we can demonstrate God's love in our relationships with others.

*It is self-giving:* are we ready to put the other person first, as Jesus did when He died for us in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service, whatever the cost?

*It takes the initiative:* are we ready to show love to those who don't deserve it or who we find hard to love? Do we have eyes of compassion to see their needs and a heart to love and serve them?

*It is intentional:* are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of the time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, *'how much do you love me?'* The child replied *'lots and lots and lots!'* Then they asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said, *'I love you this much'*, as they nailed Him to a cross.



# Mission News

*For your information and prayers, there will be news from one or more Missions each month. If you support a mission that has any information and prayer updates, please send these to the editor so that they can be included*



## UKRAINE MISSION UPDATE

Thank you very much indeed for your continued kindness to Ukraine Christian Partnership (UCP). We are most grateful for all your donations and prayers. We would like to especially thank Connie's handicraft group for further kind donations (£345) which meant the wonderful total of £1145 was raised during 2024. Thank you also for your generosity at the Liss Band Sunday service – the retiring collection raised the super sum of £378 for UCP.

Pastor Sergey, his church and house rebuilding team have continued their tremendous service to the community of Chornobaivka, Kherson despite extremely difficult circumstances. A new and deadly danger is the appalling use of Russian drones for targeting individual civilians in what the locals term 'human safari' (not pleasant viewing, but more information can be found at these links: [Russian Attack Drones Hunt Down Individual Civilians In Ukraine](#) ; [Drone strikes on civilians suggest new Russian terror tactic in Ukraine - BBC News.](#))

Approaching Christmas, Russian shelling intensified. In some streets in Pastor Sergey's village nearly all the houses have now been hit at some point during the war. Pasha, one of the house rebuilding team, who lives closer to the Dnieper River, had his house completely destroyed, but thank the Lord he and his wife were not in it at the time.

For other very badly damaged houses, all the rebuilding team can do is clear out the rubble and board up walls and windows. Thankfully, for one very poor elderly lady who lives alone, the team were able to make her humble abode liveable once more with a new roof replacing tarpaulin sheeting. And as a wonderful example of churches working together, Pastor Sergey's Baptist church has been repairing the war-damaged Orthodox church in Chornobaivka with funds raised by a charity, UCP, run by Anglican and United Reformed Church members.

Please could you pray for Pastor Sergey and his congregation at this truly horrific time. The shelling, drones and missiles are a constant danger. Please pray they may be protected and that they would know God's comfort and strength. Please also pray that they would be spared from Russian reoccupation. Having endured that horror in 2022, Pastor Sergey says the people are more afraid to be under Russian control, than shelling.

**David Darling**

**Ukraine Christian Partnership ([www.ukraineecp.org](http://www.ukraineecp.org))**



Pasha's house completely destroyed



Repairing the Orthodox Church



A humble abode made liveable once more



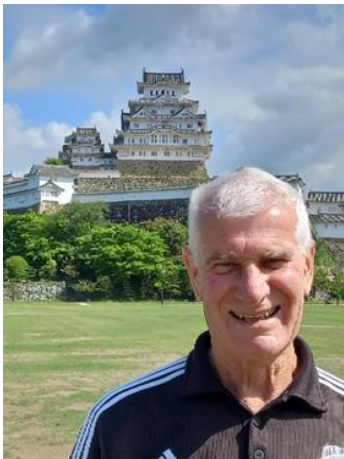
Emergency repairs to badly damaged adjacent buildings

## Christmas 2024

Dear family and friends

This year has been a year without my darling Sue and I have missed her hugely, especially when taking some trips down “memory lane.” I calculate that I have been away from home 38% of the year. Apart from seven visits with Pepper down to the caravan and six visits up to my daughters in the Bay of Plenty, I have also made overseas trips to Japan, Woolongong (Australia), and to the UK and Italy.

The trip to Japan in the latter half of April took me into Tokyo (whereas previously Air NZ flew into Osaka). After a couple of days there I travelled to Osaka and visited where Melvin and his Japanese wife (now ex-wife) lived, and where Sue and I stayed with them on at least two occasions. Then I travelled to the area where they lived at first and revisited places that Sue and I enjoyed back in 2005 onwards. I had an especially lovely day with a cousin of Hiromi’s and her husband—Kauri and Toshi. Their daughter stayed with us for a few days in 2010. Apart from taking me to Himeji Castle and out for lunch to a Korean restaurant, they treated me to a lavish meal at their home washed down with numerous little cups of saki! I calculated that I walked 120km in the 15 days I was in Japan.



In late August and early September, I took a flight to Sydney and stayed with two of Sue’s brothers and their wives in Woolongong. Steve and Irene, and then Rob and Nicky made me very welcome and took me to a number of local tourist spots where we did a good amount of walking. I also met up with other family members and overall had a great time!

Then in mid-September to mid-October I flew to the UK and also went on an eight day tour of Italy. The Italy trip included fantastic food and amazing architecture and historic sites. We travelled from Rome to Florence to Venice, then back to Rome stopping at key places in between. They included Bologna, Assisi, Pisa, and Montepulciano. Venice was remarkable with all its waterways, and unfortunately our visit to the Vatican on the final day was marred (for me) by the huge crowds.



Cuttle fish spaghetti

I reckon that during my time in the UK I either stayed with or met up with 12 family members of myself and Sue, and 24 of our friends! Visits back to where we did ministry exchanges—Petersfield and Southport—were especially significant.

The year included several visits to daughters and grandchildren in the Bay of Plenty (Katikati and Waihi) to celebrate family birthdays, as well as several visits to the caravan in Bannockburn to connect with Penny and Shaun and special friends down there. I became adept at collecting rabbit poo which is great for the vegetable garden! And Pepper really enjoyed running around in the sluicings and other places we walked.



I have enjoyed having Melvin and his boys (Leon and Joshua) living with me this year and that will continue in 2025. Melvin is a great help looking after Pepper when I am up north or overseas. I am blessed that my four daughters and two stepsons get on well with each other and with me.

I concluded my connection with the North Canterbury churches in June, but then I agreed to take on the role of Interim Moderator for St Albans Uniting Church in November. That will involve me quite significantly next year in leadership meetings, pastoral care, and taking Sunday services for about half the Sundays in the year. As I say, “no rest for the wicked!” No, I enjoy the ministry and the contact with people.

And my health has been good as I get in a good amount of walking with the dog, etc. I am also continuing my role as Secretary/ Treasurer for the Rangiora Rotary Trust. I am now attending a new fitness facility in Rangiora and also learning German with Duolingo. Plus being a frequent customer at our local movie theatre!

Last but not least, after an interesting experience with a rental car in November, I purchased a 2023 Ford Escape, a hybrid car with intelligent cruise control. On top of that I am having solar panels installed at present, so I am “going green” (or greener). Since I voted that way at the last elections you could say I “am putting my money where my mouth is.”

I wish you all the best for a blessed Christmas and a productive New Year.

In Christ’s love, Alan  
(*edited version*)

## 14th February - St Valentine's Day, a poem

Saint Valentine's Day, many believe, was named after one or more Christian martyrs and was established by Pope Gelasius 1 in 496 AD. Valentine of Rome was martyred about 269, and this day usually 'belongs' to him.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

To-morrow is St Valentine's Day  
All in the morning betime  
And I a maid at your window  
To be your Valentine.



The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

The rose is red, the violet's blue  
The honey's sweet, and so are you.  
Thou are my love and I am thine  
I drew thee to my Valentine.

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Our love for God is the root; our love for others is the fruit, expressed through patience, kindness, courtesy, humility, unselfishness, good temper, gentleness and sincerity. - *UCB Word for Today*

## **National Nest Box Week – 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February**

Where can family-minded birds raise their young these days? As our gardens and parklands become smaller and tidier, too many natural nest sites – such as holes in trees, old buildings and unkempt hedgerows – are rapidly disappearing

No wonder that our sparrows, greenfinches and swifts are in precipitous decline, and that one in four of our UK bird species are now under serious threat.

This makes it more important than ever to care for our remaining birds. By feeding, providing water and putting up nest boxes we can give them a safe space to raise their chicks.

The National Nest Box Week initiative encourages bird conservation across the UK, and it's easy to get involved, whether you're a teacher, part of a local wildlife group, or just wanting to boost the bird numbers in your own garden.

Visit: <https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/birds/national-nest-box-week-how-to-help-birds-in-your-garden>

## **WCC concerned for clean energy**

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has written to the World Bank to request a meeting. It wants to “discuss potential strategies for working together to accelerate the transition for clean energy and reduce fossil-fuel dependence in developing economies.”

The WCC points out that “Faith communities can serve as partners and advocates for these efforts, working at grassroots levels to promote awareness and resilience.”

For our younger readers ...

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

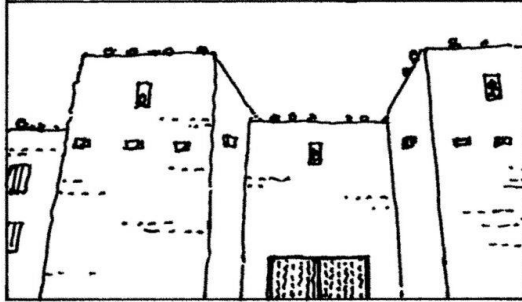
It can be read in the Bible in Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

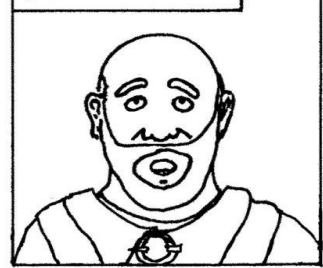
The people in Jericho locked the town gates.



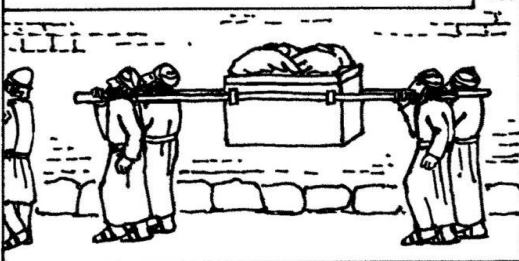
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua what to do.



On the first day, the priests carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets, and walked round Jericho once.



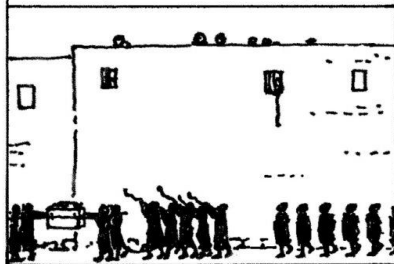
The army followed not saying a word.



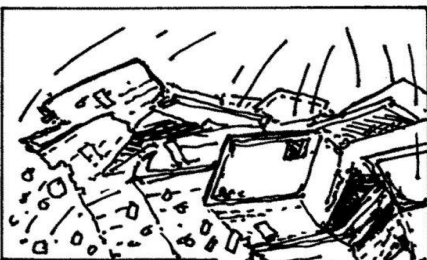
They did this for 6 days.



On the 7th day they walked round 7 times.

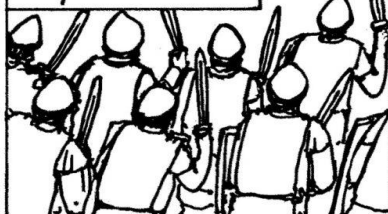


The army gave a victory shout!



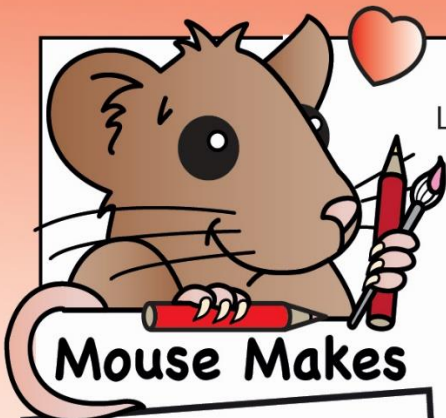
The walls of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into the town and captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.





# Mouse Makes

"Love is

\_\_\_\_\_.  
**love** is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 It does not, \_\_\_\_\_  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_  
 it is not \_\_\_\_\_.  
 it does not \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ others, it is not self -

\_\_\_\_\_ it is not easily  
 \_\_\_\_\_ it keeps no record of

**Love** delights in  
 \_\_\_\_\_ it always

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never \_\_\_\_\_;  
 His \_\_\_\_\_ never come to an end;  
 they are new every \_\_\_\_\_.

Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand...  
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how \_\_\_\_\_  
 and how \_\_\_\_\_  
 and how \_\_\_\_\_  
 that **love** is.  
 Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.  
 whoever \_\_\_\_\_  
 in **love** \_\_\_\_\_  
 in God, and God \_\_\_\_\_  
 in them.  
 1 John 4:16

Give \_\_\_\_\_  
 to the Lord, for He is \_\_\_\_\_  
 his steadfast **love**  
 endures

Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES  
 GOD **LOVE** ME?

**God sent me a saviour:**

He sent His one and only  
 Son into the world so  
 that we might have  
 eternal life through Him.  
 1 John 4:9

**God gave me His spirit:**

He has given you the  
 Holy Spirit to fill our hearts  
 with His **love**.  
 Romans 5:5

**God called me His child:**

See what great **love** the  
 Father has for us that He  
 would call us His children.  
 1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:  
**LOVE** the Lord your God with  
 all your **heart**, all your **soul**  
 and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

**LOVE** your neighbour the  
 same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

P T Y D E B P O P T E L T  
 E R D L N M A Y R F D G R A  
 A U G O D J T H O P E F U L  
 C S K V U U I K T S F L T O  
 E T P E R S E V E R E S H Y  
 K I N D E T N B C S N L F A  
 M N I Y S L T W T S D M U L  
 I G R A C I O U S E S K L I  
 H U M B L E S E L F L E S S

GOD • **LOVE**  
 PATIENT • KIND  
 GRACIOUS • PEACE  
 JUST • TRUTHFUL  
 TRUSTING • LOYAL  
 HOPEFUL  
 PERSEVERES  
 ENDURES  
 HUMBLE  
 SELFLESS  
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS

## Crossword

### Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

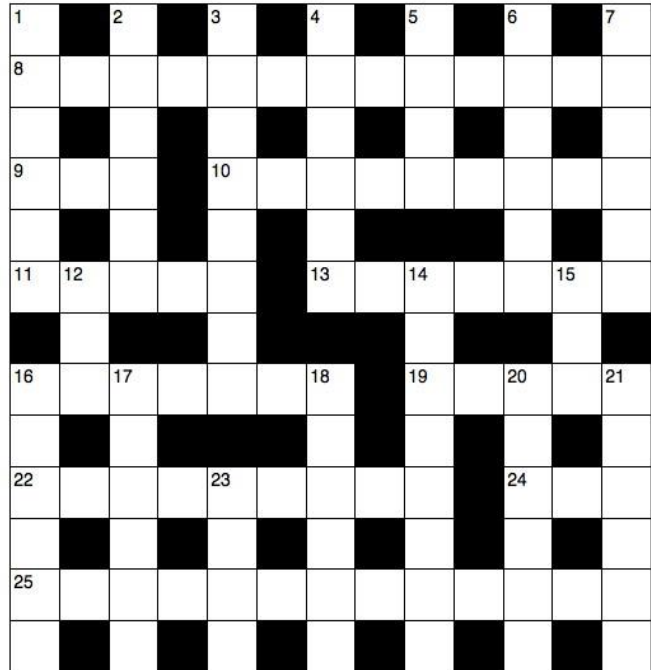
13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)



### Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



**Sudoku**

	5		9			7	2	3
2		4	3	8			1	
	3		5				6	
		6			9			
5		3	2		4	6		1
			6			5		
	4				8		3	
	2			6	3	8		9
3	8	9			5		4	

		1		6			8	
8			5				7	2
		9	2	4		3		
	5							
		3	7	1	5	2		
							5	
		8		7	9	5		
2	9				6			8
	3			2		7		

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Easy

Medium



***Observations on Love...***

Marriage is more than finding the right person; it is being the right person. - Anon

Salt is like love; it can heal, purify preserve and enrich, but it's useless if it's not sprinkled around. The truth is that all of life is tasteless without love. - UCB  
*Word for Today*

***Those notices which didn't come out quite right...***

Notice in health food shop window: Closed due to illness.

Spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.

In a Laundromat: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

This coming Sunday our special service will be gin at 11:00am.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

Jean will be leading a weight-management series Wednesday nights. She's used the programme herself and has been growing like crazy!

Volunteers are needed to spit up food for distribution.

This evening at 7:00pm there will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.



*...are you late with your 'Vicar's Letter' again, dear?*

**News from the United Reformed Church**  
**items from the January edition of the Synod News**



**Stepwise – Faith Filled Worship**

**An online group will be starting after Easter in 2025.**

For those who have completed the Faith Filled Life stream.

Please email [bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk) to find out more or to register an interest.

**URC Youth Assembly 2025**

**URC Youth Assembly, 7 – 9 March 2025.**

Details on the [poster](#). Wessex Synod will fund places at the Early Bird Price for bookings received before 26 January 2025, and help with transport.

[Further information about Youth Assembly.](#)

Book your place by emailing [bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk)

**Evangelism in the URC**

Take a look at the new page on the URC Website all about Evangelism.

Link: [Evangelism in the URC](#)

**Le Weekend – 2-4 May 2025**

A weekend away in Luneray, France with friends from Wessex Synod and United Protestant Church of France

2-4 May 2025

Theme: The Word

Prayer, Food, Sharing, Friendship

Please email Helen Everard on [helen.everard158@gmail.com](mailto:helen.everard158@gmail.com) to register by 28th February

No French speaking needed!

**Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar February**

February	2	Parkstone; Weymouth: Hope and Radipole (signing their covenant with the Methodists)
	9	Caversham Park, Reading; Mere; Elstead
	16	Hythe, Cornerstone; Maidenhead
	23	Meeting of Synod on 27 <sup>th</sup> ; Bournemouth: Immanuel, Southbourne

## February Eco prayer

On the border between winter and spring  
 May the Living God be praised  
 In the uncertainty of seasons amid climate change  
 We turn to God, whose world we inhabit,  
 To pray for animals and plants,  
 Abundance of life, caught in difficulties of our making  
 Have mercy, Lord.  
 Yet still, in the cold  
 When the promise of growth is still far away  
 Or a day when the sun warms the bare  
 branches of trees  
 May the Living God be praised  
 Thank you, Lord, for the time of waiting  
 Sleep time for plants and animals  
 Thank you for the pause before growth  
 When snowdrops show that  
 Abundant growth is arriving in secret  
 Until blooms coat the earth  
 With joy  
 May the Living God be praised!  
 Amen



### Solutions

#### ACROSS:

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

#### DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.

1	5	8	9	4	6	7	2	3
2	6	4	3	8	7	9	1	5
9	3	7	5	1	2	4	6	8
4	1	6	8	5	9	3	7	2
5	9	3	2	7	4	6	8	1
8	7	2	6	3	1	5	9	4
6	4	5	1	9	8	2	3	7
7	2	1	4	6	3	8	5	9
3	8	9	7	2	5	1	4	6

3	2	1	9	6	7	4	8	5
8	4	6	5	3	1	9	7	2
5	7	9	2	4	8	3	1	6
7	5	4	6	9	2	8	3	1
6	8	3	7	1	5	2	9	4
9	1	2	4	8	3	6	5	7
4	6	8	1	7	9	5	2	3
2	9	7	3	5	6	1	4	8
1	3	5	8	2	4	7	6	9



## Lectionary Bible Readings for February 2025

February 2	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
February 9	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
February 16	Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
February 23	Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

### **Important - Sensitive issues**

**As the Messenger is included in the Church Website, it is important that all the content is suitable for public exposure. When composing an article, if there is anything at all that you consider should be removed before publishing on the website, please inform the editor, Carolyn Barton.**

**The articles contained in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Petersfield and Liss URC leadership.**

The deadline for the **March Messenger** is 9<sup>th</sup> February. Please send articles to  
 Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail  
 carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

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Sunday Services	Mornings at 10.30 am Services will be held at College Street	
Secretary	Mrs Carol Tubbs 39 Rotherbank Farm Lane Liss Forest GU33 7BJ Tel 01730 893489 Mobile 07766 412160.	
Treasurer	Mr Jim Cleverly, 4 Crundles, Petersfield GU31 4PJ Tel 01730 300558	

### ***Petersfield United Reformed Church Mission Statement***

*“As a congregation worshipping God: we seek to reach out with the love of Jesus; to worship God in our daily lives; to draw others into the knowledge and love of Christ; and to make disciples”*