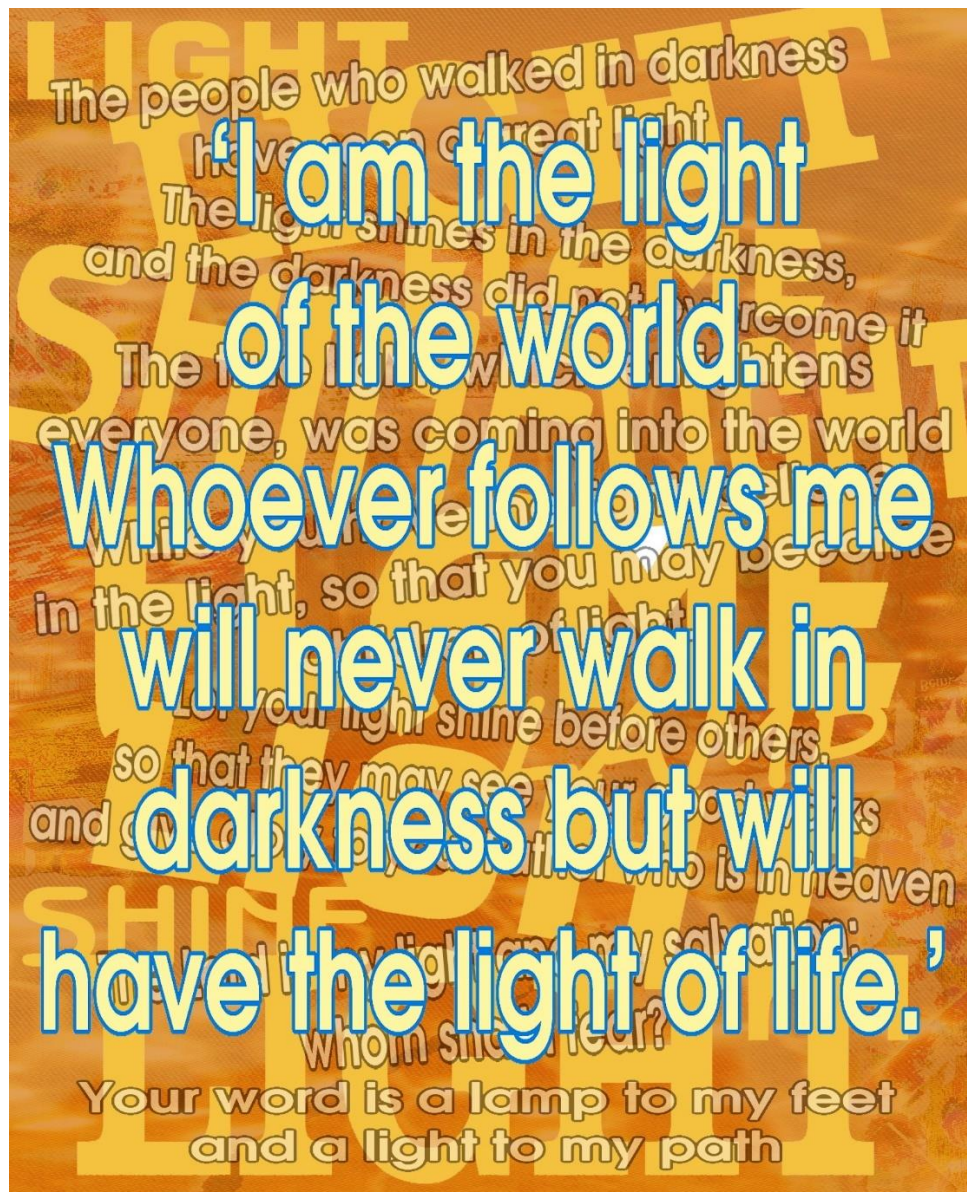


THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



February 2023 No. 715

From the Minister ..



A brand-new year is upon us, this is the first edition of the Messenger to come out in 2023 and what a year we have ahead of us...

It's fair to say that for us as a church, 2022 was difficult. We lost some very dear brothers and sisters, and we continue to uphold their families in our prayers as significant anniversaries come about. 2023, so far, has had much more of a positive start and we were delighted recently to ordain Isaac Oru as an Elder and to welcome back, Jo Oru, Peter Jolly and Anne Glenn into roles on the church leadership team. We have also been encouraged by the response to our Hope Explored course and we have had some really good conversation with both Christians and those searching.

Any year comes with both challenges and opportunities. This is the year in which we are due to start significant works on our church sanctuary. These works are scheduled to begin just after Easter and already have thrown things at us which we were not quite expecting (thank you asbestos...) I am confident that there will be more unexpected joys (challenges) to come our way but that with the refurbishment team keeping a close eye on things, that these will be overcome and that towards the end of this year, we will celebrate the joyous re-opening of our beautiful sanctuary and seize the opportunities that this presents us with. We really hope that this project will help people to come and see what we are about here in Petersfield and it is my vision to see the community using our building more frequently so that they see this as 'their church'. If we can offer warmth, hospitality and friendship to the community, we are shining our light into a world of darkness and we hope that this light will be infectious and cause people to want some of the hope that we have because of our faith in Jesus.

One challenge this is going to present to us is about how we worship together. Whilst our CFC is brilliant, it is a little bit more compact than the sanctuary itself. We also obviously have less ability to run separate groups such as our JFC during

this time and we need to think carefully as a church family about how and why we do things during this time so that all can be included in worship. We will be using the church meeting in March to consider some of these questions so please do get your thinking caps on.

We have a real opportunity this year to take the good news out into our community and to offer them the invitation to come and see once the works to our building are complete. There are going to be significant challenges ahead and we thank Tim Abbott, Wendy Cassar and Brian King for all they are doing in leading us through these challenges, but with any challenge comes an opportunity to consider how and why we are doing something and to possibly try new things as well! Keep praying brothers and sisters and lets embrace what this year brings as a family of faith.

Every blessing,

Your brother in Christ,

Josh.



For Candlemas, 2nd February

Dear Lord,

Here we are in February – month of cold days, winter days, but days that promise hope and signs of Spring. Snowdrops and lengthening light; echoes of the hope and light that Jesus brought to Simeon and Anna all those years ago in the Temple.

Thank you, Lord, that you always bring light, you always bring hope and peace and joy when we put our trust in Jesus, our Saviour. Jesus, Lord of all our days and seasons.

In his name we thank you, as we look to his Light.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,

When you read this, I will have been Church Secretary for 10 years! Little did I think that I would still be in post all this time later. And what an honour and a privilege it has been. (It's ok this is not a resignation message even though I say "Sack the sec" quite frequently!)

The last month has been an emotional time for me as my darling Mum died on January 4th. For those who have been privy to the ups and downs with my Mum will know that she really has been the bounce back kid over the last 4 or 5 years. There have been many times when I have said goodbye thinking it would be the last time I would see her only to find her hale and hearty the next day! This time was different, and I want to share a couple of things that happened very recently. Mum had the most vivid dreams about my Dad, who died 12 years ago. She was convinced that he had visited her in person and had come to take her out. I had to remind her that he had died a long time ago. Just a week or so before she died, she told me that she had been at one of the events in the care home and a man who looked just like Dad was sitting next to her. It has really made me wonder about what was going on. I have been so lucky to have my Mum for 71 years – she was 98 last September- and to have been able to share so much with her.

One last thing I want to share is that on my way to church on the Sunday after Mum died, I was feeling a bit fragile and knowing how emotional I get I was praying that I could be strong and not get too upset. It was a miserable, rainy morning but suddenly the clouds parted, and the sun shone straight into the car and into my eyes! It was the only sun I saw that day. If that wasn't an answer to prayer, then I don't know what is! (and I didn't cry at church!)

Thank you, as always, to my lovely church family. You are all very special to me.

God bless you all,
Carol

Date for your diaries: -

- Jan 31st – Tuesday – Church meeting (please note the change of date from 24th)

Message from our Church and Community Worker...

This beginning of the year is an excellent opportunity to seek God's blessings and forgiveness. With the start of the year under way, we know God has given us all a fresh start! Make good use of it. May you give thanks to the Lord for all good things and seek his blessings through difficult times in the coming year.



But here are some photos over the Christmas period you may not have seen.



Our Forest Church children making Advent wreaths from paper plates and salt dough at St Paul's Liss.



A wonderful trip to Connie and Les Alpaca farm for a nativity walk on the 3rd December.



With Baby Jesus in the hay.....



We at Petersfield URC had a visit from Father Christmas and Liss Band on the 8th of December with a BBQ and craft for all. Over £300.00 raised for the sanctuary fund.



Kindness was the word of the week for the Forest Church Kids, out in Chapel Common -more fruits of the spirit for this year to learn about.



Little Fishes had a wonderful time on the last week before Christmas, with the amazing Carol reading how the pirates found the true meaning of Christmas. And the super team put on a fabulous feast to finish the morning off.



Looking forward to another wonderful year.

Love Jo

Newsletter from Rangiora

Alan

Dear family and friends.

This year has been one of moving into more leisure as I finished my halftime position with the Hurunui churches in mid-January but have still carried on as Interim Moderator and as a member of the Ministry Settlement Board. Both those roles carry on into next year.

In July I was approached by Alan Judge, Executive Officer for the Southern Presbytery, to see whether I might lead a team to do a review of the Presbytery. I agreed and am in the thick of that at present. The review is scheduled to be finished before May next year. It mainly involves emails and phone calls, and the occasional Zoom meeting. Although I might have wished to travel to Dunedin for some in-person meetings, that has been put on hold as you will realise from Sue's news.

After my heart surgery last year, I have kept good health, apart from catching Covid at the end of our visit to the UK in October. I do find I sleep much longer than before and get tired more easily when working outside, but that may be simply age!

We enjoyed our visits down to our caravan at Bannockburn Domain Motor Camp, and other holidays that Sue will describe. The biggie was a trip back to the UK from 3rd October to 4th November. After staying for a couple of days with Sue's cousin, Diane, near Preston, we had stays in Southport, Lothersdale (Yorkshire Dales), Chesterfield, Macclesfield, Ulverston, Stockton-on-Tees, and then back to Diane's. At the beginning of our time in the UK we enjoyed catching up with old friends in Southport, and also taking a Sunday service at Ainsdale.

Diane flew back to NZ with us and when we arrived back, we all tested positive for Covid. Sue and I were immediately supplied antivirals. While Diane and I recovered quickly, Sue did not feel well and as a result her trips around the country with Diane were cancelled.

Sue will describe her own health issues, but since mid-November I have been keeping close to home and supporting her to the best of my ability. We are looking forward to Melvin and boys and our friends Alan and Gloria Russell joining us for Christmas, after I take the service (with Sue playing) at St Albans Union Church.

Apart from continued involvement with Rangiora Rotary and Budgeting Services North Canterbury, I spend a lot of time walking our dog Pepper with Sue (that seems to have settled my knee down, especially after a cortisone injection in January), going to movies at our very good local cinema, reading, gardening,

watching TV programmes (especially the police and hospital/ambulance ones!), and doing the newspaper Sudoku, Code-Cracker, and cryptic crosswords.

Sue

2022. We received this year's news from a family member headed 'The year of Ups and Downs'. A very apt title as mine has been a little like that with the added sense of being in a game of ten pin bowls and all my bowls have been knocked down and I'm out. Some years are like that. It can be a real challenge to find the solid base of one's faith, hope, and a sense of any future or even purpose. So as not to be so cryptic I will make mention now and get on with the blessings. It was meant to be brief. Perhaps I should have done a timeline!

Physically very unwell for most of this year. Even closing my business a little earlier than I intended didn't help. Cataract surgery in both eyes in July and great difficulty with my vision since then. The only positive thing I can say about that is that I don't have cataracts anymore and I wait to see the surgeon who is so busy with new patients that he can't see a previous one to check all is well. I am in the process of getting some spectacles that hopefully I can see out of.

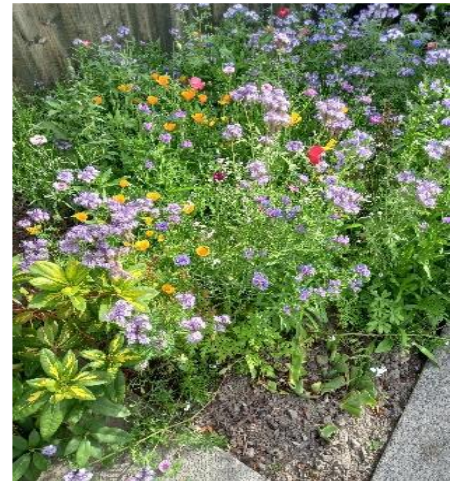
In September I needed a tooth removed as there was an infection in the root canal... well if you haven't had dry socket, I wouldn't wish it on anyone. I could have chopped my head off. The pain was more than intense.

The holiday in the UK was not enjoyable and I still say to Alan that I am looking for the diamonds amongst the ashes. I was quite unwell the whole time. We both came back with Covid. He bounced back. I didn't. However, the biggie is that my bone marrow is no longer working as it should. Hasn't been for years and I have been on chemo but stable. No diagnosis so far but I am back with my haematologist oncologist who is doing his best and I am being fast tracked (hopefully) for a bone marrow biopsy before New Year. Serious anaemia, night sweats, etc, etc. Lost all energy by about midday. So lots of fun. Alan is being great and has continued honing his cooking skills. Unfortunately, I have lost most of my sense of taste.

We are thrilled to have a large garden and he is enjoying getting out in that, although not on hot days (for us) like today. It was a blessing we didn't move to our intended retirement home – lock up and leave. Would have been more like locked in (with lockdown) and don't leave and I couldn't have looked out to the flowers and blossom.

Three trips away, apart from to the caravan in Bannockburn. Picton – enjoyable when one is well and can sleep through the night sounds of the ferry terminal. Great hotel though. Hokitika – brilliant hotel with great views and great restaurant. Again, too unwell to really enjoy it. Then Hanmer Springs hotel for a few nights. Very enjoyable and made the forest walk and a trip to the pools. Unfortunately, we won't be able to go to our caravan in Bannockburn until I am less unwell.

Our garden is magnificent. Lots of blossom, roses, etc and is a joy to look out of the windows. This is a new area of garden where I decided to throw a packet of wildflowers at the beginning of the year before planting shrubs etc. They were beautiful. It is now planted out with roses, rhododendrons, purple flag iris, and lilies.



Many blessings to all who read this.

With our love, Alan and Sue



With Valentine's Day in mind...how do you define love?

A group of 4-to-8-year-olds was once asked: 'What does love mean?' The answers they gave were surprising for their depth of insight....

- "When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So, my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8
- "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4
- "Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6
- "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4
- "If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." Nikka - age 6 (We need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

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

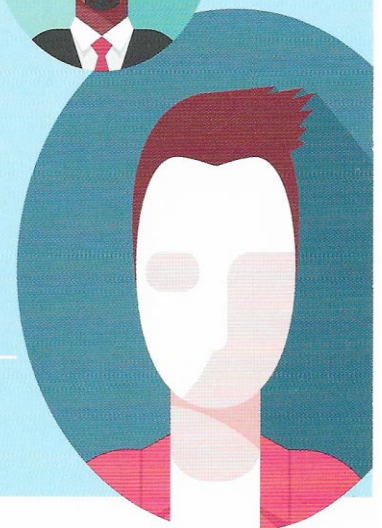
FREE DEBT & BENEFIT ADVICE

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 Information



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 \(pactfoodbank.org.uk\)](http://pactfoodbank.org.uk)



Open every Wednesday from 2.30pm till 3pm. You can meet us, enjoy a cuppa and take away your food bags. Can't get to St. Paul's? Then a Wednesday delivery can be arranged if a request is

made by lunchtime on Monday. Text or call Nigel on 07598 949379 or Sarah on 07741 455041.

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

Food donation points are the St. Mary's Church porch, Station Road and the Triangle centre reception (mornings), or bring donations to St. Paul'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 – 12 noon

For more information contact: easthampshirerail.co.uk/freeshop-shop

Or call Lucy on **07988043870**

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 14th. 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

Date	Duty Elders	AV
February 5	Wendy Cassar	David Darling
February 12	Peter Jolly	Keith Evans
February 19	Isaac Oru & Keith Evans	David Oru
February 26	Mike P-H	Carolyn Barton

Welcomers' Rota

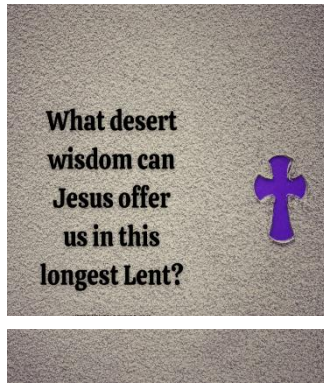
Date	Welcomers
February 5	Val Torrance
February 12	Brian King
February 19	Robin Hart
February 26	Doreen Lewis

- 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.

Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar – February 2023

Please note Services are held at College Street, Petersfield unless otherwise stated.

Wednesday	1	2.30 pm	Home Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	2	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	5	10.30 am	Andrew Simons	
Monday	6	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4-5 pm	Forest Church Liss	St Paul's Liss
Tuesday	7	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	9	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC
Friday	10	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	CFC
Sunday	12	10.30 am	Minister	
Tuesday	14	2 pm	Drop in Tea	CFC
		7.30	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Wednesday	15	2.30 pm	Home Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	16	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	19	10.30 am	Minister	
Monday	20	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4-5 pm	Forest Church Liss	St Paul's Liss
Tuesday	21	9.30	Little Fishes	CFC
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	23	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7.30 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
Sunday	26	10.30 am	Minister	
Monday	27	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4 – 5 pm	Forest Church Liss	St Paul's Liss
Tuesday	28	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC



What the temptations mean for us

Immediately after His baptism in the River Jordan, Jesus faced and resisted three powerful temptations during 40 days in the wilderness of Judea. This time of testing and temptation was His preparation for the work God had sent Him to do on earth. It's the principle behind the season of Lent, which begins on 22nd February. Although the temptations were personal to Jesus, many of us will recognise their relevance in our own lives.

The first was simple. 'You're hungry. You can do miracles. Well, turn these hot stones at Your feet into loaves of bread'. It sounds quite plausible, but in fact it's an invitation to put one's own needs first. Temptation rejected.

Then came the second: 'throw yourself off a pinnacle of the Temple. You know that God will send His angels to catch you before you hit the ground'. Again, it's plausible (there was even a verse from the Bible to back it up). But this would be to substitute one spectacular publicity stunt for the hard slog of travel, preaching, healing and touching individual lives. Temptation rejected.

The third was outrageous. 'Fall down and worship corrupt and evil power, and You will have infinite worldly power and success'. In other words, the divine Son of God should deny His Father and worship the devil, to glean success without going to the Cross. For the third time, temptation resisted.

I know these temptations were tests of the Messiah Jesus, but can't we see in them temptations that come to all of us from time to time? Look after number one, and all will be well. Take the short cut to success and avoid all the hard slog. Compromise your integrity, in order to fulfill your ambitions. Or choose the hard way: walk the narrow path of honesty, commitment, and truth. That's really the Lenten choice.

by Canon David Winter

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 so much for your ongoing kindness to Ukraine Christian Partnership. We are so grateful for all your donations and prayers. Please continue to pray for peace and the relief of suffering in Ukraine.

We would like to give a special thanks to Connie's handicraft group, both those who create the lovely goods for sale and those who purchase them. Further kind donations meant a tremendous total of £1215 was raised during 2022.

We have seen in the news the terrible damage being done by the Russians to the Ukrainian infrastructure. Daily long power cuts are being felt across the whole country, not just war-torn areas. Thanks to a very generous donor we have been able to provide generators for the Akli, Aklihegy and Gyula churches as well as two generators for the church and communities we have been supporting in Kherson.

November was relatively peaceful, Russian withdrawal from Kherson city was a blessing, despite Russian destruction of critical infrastructure and looting. However, life continues to be tough and dangerous, just in different ways to the occupation period. There is little or no electricity, limited water & gas supplies, and Russian artillery and missiles strike from the opposite side of the Dnipro River (where a few of our beneficiaries live). Below are just a few stories about the families your kind donations are helping:

Svetlana is a mum with a 12-year-old son with special needs. He requires constant care, nappies & medication. She has no family other than an elderly stepfather to help her. Receiving her monthly little videos is so moving. Quotes from her recent reports:

"The city is under severe fire. Yesterday there was a hit right next to us, our neighbour got killed. Today they're shooting again."

"No light and water in the city for 11 days already. I found a shop with internet connectivity; they helped me to cash the money you sent. Thank you so much!"

"Today we got a tiny flow of water in the house – so I washed our clothes by hand. I'm trying to buy food that won't go off without a fridge. God bless you."

Yana lives in a village still under Russian occupation. She has four young children and also looks after her sick father and two grandmothers. She sold everything she could, from TV set and computer to even her potted plants and underwear, in order to buy food. In November, her sick father was thrown into prison by the Russians. We are sending her money to buy food for her children. She is also helping us by taking food & hygiene products to the local hospital for 2 of our other beneficiaries.

Luba and her husband, in their 50s, had to flee their war-torn village. They are receiving from us £15 every 10 days to help them buy food and medicines.

Words from Luba:

"War is a terrible thing. Now for 8 months we've been moving from place to place, never a corner of our own. It's scary and hurtful. We went to see our village in October – but we can't live there: it's still being bombed. No water, gas or electricity. Very cold and dangerous. Soldiers lived in our house and took everything: boiler, washing machine, fridges, even our gas oven and sofas. Took our car. Painted our windows black. Devastation. We just mended the roof – and it got hit again. Kitchen got a direct hit. But guess what: my flowers have survived!!"

While the horror of this war can make us despair, your prayers and donations are continuing to help many, many individuals at this very difficult time. Thank you so much.

David Darling

PS If anybody would like to donate to mission work, please pass cash or cheque (payable to Ukraine Christian Partnership) to David Darling, Carol Tubbs or Jim Cleverly. Online transfers are also possible. See Ukraine Christian Partnership | UK Charity | Community Support (ukraineccp.org) for details. All donations can be gift aided.



The Christian Aid collection over the Christmas period amounted to £603.70 which includes Gift Aid.

I would like to thank everyone for their generosity during these challenging times.

Carolyn Barton



The World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer this year has been prepared by women in Taiwan

and will be held on Friday 3rd March 2033 at 2 pm in St Peter's Church.

All are welcome, there will be refreshments after the service.

Congratulations to Val Hart, who was recently awarded the B.E.M in the New Year's Honours List for all the work she does for so many local causes.



The key to a happy life

Your mental health is the biggest single predictor of your personal happiness. So, suffering from depression or anxiety disorders can devastate your life.

Finding love is also a vital ingredient for happiness. "People need to be needed, and to be in meaningful relationships", says a recent study by the London School of Economics. It goes on: "Happiness is hugely affected by the ethos of a society, which affects everyone in it. For example, happiness is higher in societies where people trust each other. Freedom is also a crucial determinant of happiness."

The report also found that a boost in income, or more education, did not significantly affect our overall well-being. Having good mental health and someone to love were far more important.



PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

FOREST CHURCH

WEEKLY

**For families of primary school aged children.
Every Monday (term time) between 4-5pm,
St Paul's United Reformed Church, Hill Brow Road,
Liss**

For more information, please speak to Jo Hopkins or
email - communityworker@petersfieldurc.com



The Language of Love

Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply offering flowers and a card?

Jesus says: *'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another'* (John 13:34). How can we express love like Jesus in our everyday relationships to our partner, children, neighbours, or work colleagues?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, *'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'* (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? How often do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before somebody's finished speaking? Listening takes time; don't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in His world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of His day. For us today, a warm handshake may be of value. Of course, it should always be an *appropriate* touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of *grace*, by offering comfort, giving encouragement, or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of *truth*, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation, or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: *'speaking the truth in love'*.

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?

Eco corner - information and updates from the Eco Group

We offer a few tips on possibilities for more than kerbside recycling, for refilling and reusing in Petersfield....to be good stewards of God's beautiful creation!

Medicine blister packs accepted at Love Lane community centre for recycling, office open weekdays 0900 -12.30hrs, **OR** can be left in the same recycling crate in church vestibule adjacent to Petersfield Infant School items.

Plastic bag recycling available at some supermarkets including Waitrose and Tesco's Petersfield.

Soft plastic packaging can be returned to the Causeway Tesco store, the majority of which can then be recycled (80% in a trial), e.g. fruit and veg packaging, salad bags, crisp packets.

Tetrapak Cartons and paper containers (such as Pringles tubes etc.) can be recycled at the bank site at Tesco Petersfield, The Causeway, GU31 4JR

See the adjacent **Petersfield infant school recycling poster**, but if it is more convenient to you, there is a crate in the church vestibule for these items which David Barton then kindly takes to the school.

Liss junior school, if you live in Liss or are passing you might like to know that 9am -3pm during term time, Monday to Friday, reception will accept the items below. You can also now leave these items in the bag for **Liss junior school** in the church vestibule, to be kindly taken to the school by Tony Phillips who lives near the school.

Liss JS:- Digestive and other biscuit wrappers; cracker and cake wrappers; crisp packets; oral care products – toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes; Pringle tubes, **all clean and tied in a bag.**

Supermarkets, free of single use plastic.

Refill and Replenish, 15 the High Street, Petersfield, Tuesdays to Saturdays 9am – 5 pm

Juniper, 16 Lavant Street, Petersfield, Mondays to Saturdays, 9am - 5pm Sell food stuffs, handwash, floor cleaner, other cleaning products and other items.

1. Bring your clean containers (Tupperware, bags, jars etc)
2. Weigh your containers.
3. Fill your containers.
4. Reweigh your containers.
5. Pay.

Have you heard of **Petersfield Climate Action Network**? They come up with new ideas and information on how to reduce our negative impact on the environment, the latest include having an energy efficiency survey of your home, costing the improvements suggested against the timeframe of benefit gained. If you want to know more or just be added to their newsletter they can be found at the following website:- www.petersfieldcan.org

Have you seen The Petersfield Tree Trail? It is written and photographed by Robin Hart, find out more at [Petersfield Tree Trail | Petersfield Society](#)

Fiona Darling, on behalf of the Eco group (Hannah Thomas, David Barton, Val Hart and David Darling)



Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs 27th February to 12th March. It comes with a sombre reminder: climate change means that soon some of our favourite foods, such as bananas, cocoa and coffee could be harder to grow. And if that is combined with deeply unfair trade, then communities growing these crops will be pushed to the brink. This makes Fairtrade all the more vital – for all of us.

You can help three ways during this Fortnight.

First, why not join an online Big Fairtrade Get Together? Hear Fairtrade farmers and other experts explain what needs to change, for a sustainable future. Secondly, let your friends know of any Fairtrade event in your area, from a coffee morning to a quiz night. Thirdly, buy Fairtrade whenever you can, from flowers to coffee, clothes to teas, plus lots else.

For more information, visit <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk>



Recycling at Petersfield Infant School

We welcome the following items which help to raise valuable funds for our school

used batteries

empty toothpaste tubes, used toothbrushes & toothbrush heads

empty crisp packets (not tubes)

used pens used stamps

red, green or blue plastic milk bottle tops

unwanted spectacles (without the cases)

household cleaning wipes packaging

tinted fabric conditioner bottles and caps

dishwasher and laundry capsules or tablets plastic packaging

plastic air freshener packaging,

air fresheners and cartridges

any brand of flexible plastic cheese pouches

plastic nets from mini cheese packets

any brand of individual plastic cheese wrappers

any brand of sliced cheese protective plastic film

All of these items help raise much needed funds for our school with the exception of the used stamps which raise money for Canine Partners

and the spectacles, which go towards the Lions Club of Petersfield 'Sight For Life' initiative

Simply drop your recycling at the Front Door on St Peters Road and we will do the rest!

THANK YOU!

For our younger readers ...

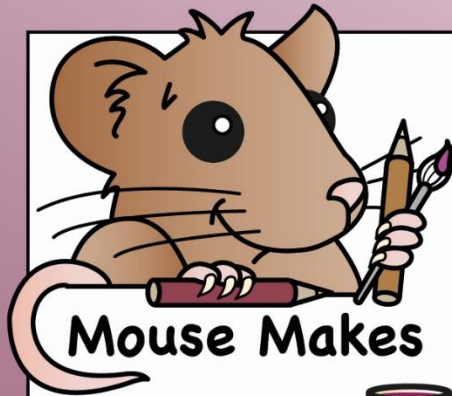
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 18 verses 21-35

Jewish teachers used to say you only had to forgive people three times before getting revenge, so Peter asked Jesus..





What was the special meal
Jesus was preparing to eat?

Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take,
bless and break?

Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus give
thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say
this represented?

His _____
Matthew 26:27-28



What did Jesus say
this represented?

His _____
Matthew 26:26

Jesus instructed his disciples to continue
to break bread and share the cup "in

of me."

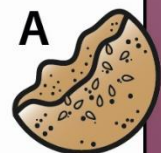
1 Corinthians 11:24-25



SUPPER
LAMB • LORD
DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
EVENING
ROOM • JAR
WATER • TWELVE
JESUS • CHRIST
NIGHT • TOOK
THANKS
BLESSING
BROKE • GIVEN
COVENANT
DRINK • EAT
FORGIVENESS
SINS • HOLY
COMMUNION
EUCCHARIST

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

Find the words from the questions too!



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)

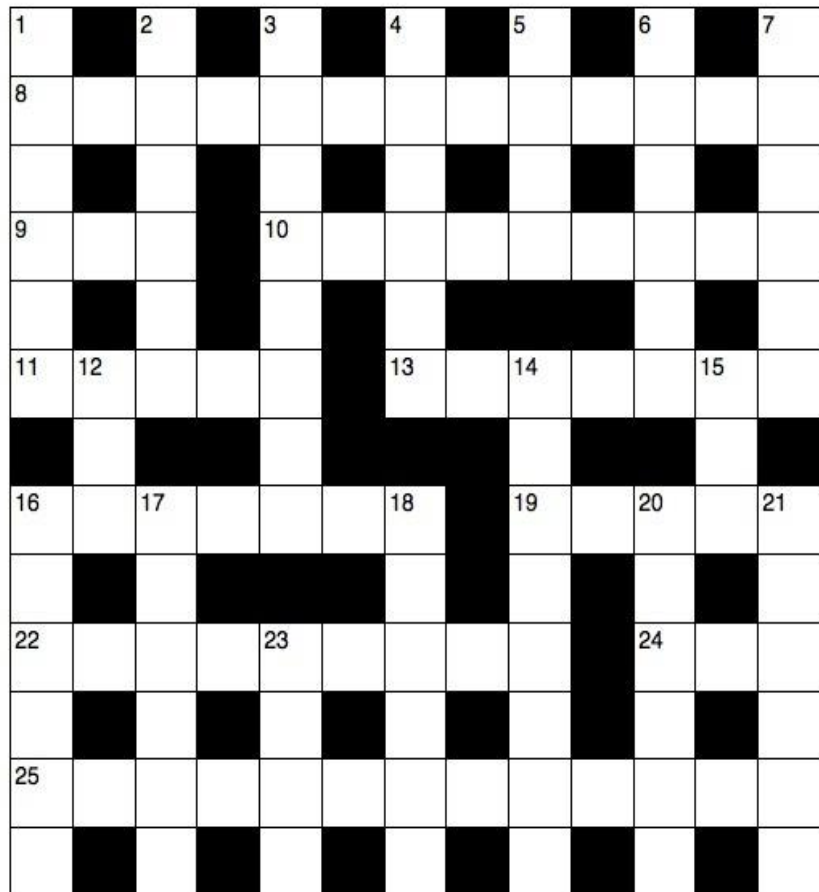
13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

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)

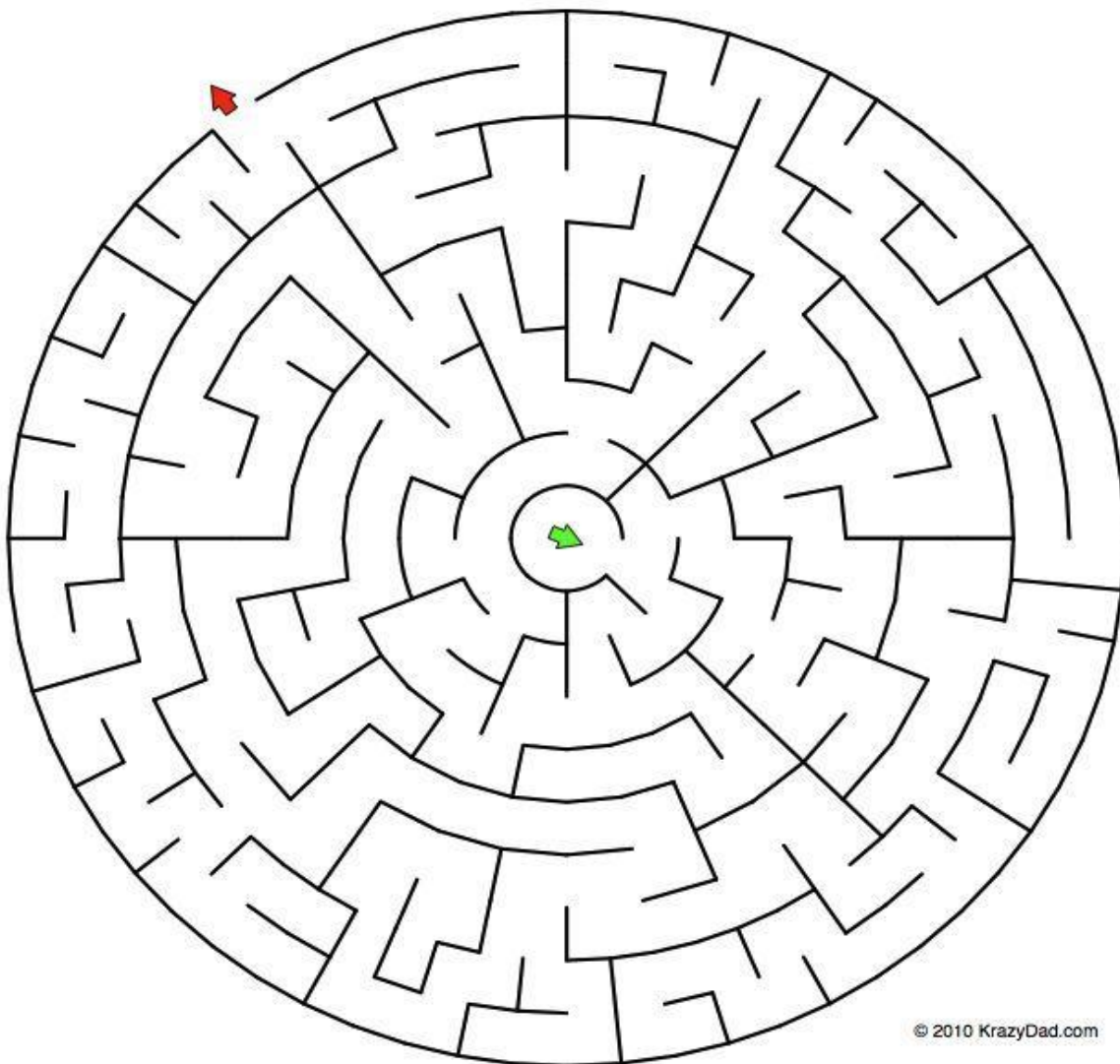
17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

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

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

© 2014 KrazyDad.com

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

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

Easy

Medium



Judgement?

This true story concerns the visit of a visiting preacher to a little village chapel... 'He was a few minutes into his sermon when, without warning, about twenty square feet of thick and decayed Victorian plaster fell from high on one wall and crashed into a group of empty pews below. As the dense fog of dust began to settle, and it became clear no one was injured, the minister prepared to resume his sermon. Then he paused, and looked heavenward and in a slightly pained voice, asked: "Was it something I said?"'

Answer to prayer

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. So, after a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask anymore.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital, and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. The little boy stood still for a moment, and then cautiously observed: "It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

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



Message from the Moderator

Dear friends,

Many of you will already be aware from the email to ministers and churches just before Christmas, that I will be leaving my post as Wessex Synod Moderator at the end of March 2023. I have been called to serve the North Western Synod as their Moderator, for the next three years, which will take me to retirement.

Following an unsettled time in the North West, it has been agreed that they would benefit from a Moderator serving them on a transitional basis. My experience here, along with offering them some support whilst I was General Assembly Moderator provides a good foundation for helping the Synod move forward.

Whilst there is a degree of excitement at taking on a new challenge, I will be very sad to leave Wessex behind. The churches, the people, the staff team and the beautiful area have meant that this has been a good place to be. It has been a privilege to spend twelve years of my ministry here. It's not always been plain sailing, but I hope that, like me, you will have enjoyed this stage of the journey. You will see elsewhere in this newsletter that there are plans for an event to mark my move, and I hope that I will be able to say goodbye in person to many people both there, and at other events in the next couple of months. I will certainly appreciate the opportunity to thank so many of you for the support and friendship that you have given me.

Please pray for John and myself as we prepare to move to Manchester - though the exact destination is as yet unknown. Pray too for the Synod Executive as they plan for a period without a Moderator, and also start the work towards a future appointment. The timescale for this is not yet fixed, so there will be a period where various responsibilities will need to be shared out amongst other staff and volunteers. Times of change can be disturbing, but also bring new opportunities - and we believe in a God who works for good in all things. I am reminded of the response which is commonly used in our partner church in Zambia:

God is good - all the time; All the time - God is good.

Moderator's Farewell Service – save the date

There will be a Farewell Service for Clare Downing on Saturday 1st April at 3pm at London Street, Basingstoke. Followed by tea and cake.

All are welcome, however we would be grateful if you could let Deborah (office@urcwessex.org.uk) know if you will be attending so we have an idea of numbers for catering purposes.

New date for URC anniversary service

15 April 2023

We're delighted to announce that the new date is Saturday 15 April 2023. In an ideal world, we would have opted for a longer gap after Easter, but we hope that as many members and friends of the URC will be able to join us for our delayed anniversary celebrations.

The Open Church House event at 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT, will also take place on April 15 from 10am-12 noon.

Tickets

If you have a ticket and are able to come to the event on April 15, please do nothing - your ticket is still valid. Please bring it/them on the day. If you would like more tickets, please visit <https://bit.ly/urc50> and amend your order.

If you are no longer able to attend, please <https://bit.ly/urc50> and select Cancel Order. This will free up your tickets for others. Or email 50@urc.org.uk and we can cancel the order for you.

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar

February	5	Ringwood: Trinity United Church; Warsash; Oxford: Wheatley
	12	Godalming: United Church; Lymington
	19	Portsmouth: Milton: Christ Church; Marlow: Christ Church
	26	Chandler's Ford: Valley Park: St. Francis; Oxford: Cumnor



Lectionary Bible Readings for February

February 5	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20
February 12	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37
February 19	Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
February 26	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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 **Messenger** is **Sunday 12 February**. Please send articles to Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

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

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

Church Contact Details

Church	Petersfield : College Street, Petersfield GU31 4AG 01730 266475	Liss : Hillbrow Road, Liss GU33 7PX
Minister	Rev Joshua Thomas Tel 07734 254983 minister@petersfieldurc.com	
Church Office	Church Centre Manager Mrs Esme Kelly Office Hours 9am-12noon Tuesdays to Fridays	
Church & Community Worker	Mrs Jo Hopkins 01730 266475 communityworker@petersfieldurc.com	
Telephone	Church Family Centre 01730 266475	
Website	<u>www.petersfieldurc.com</u>	
E-mail	churchcentremanager@petersfieldurc.com	
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”.