

THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with
boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim
your risen life and fill us
with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father



Paul Judson



April 2025
No. 737

From the Minister ..

It's been a busy start to 2025! My time at London Street, Basingstoke came to an end in December and some of my new responsibilities, filling the additional 25% of my scoping are starting to take shape.



I will be taking on the role of Candidating and Ordinand Secretary from Rev'd Mary Thomas when she retires in 2026 and have started to shadow her in this role. This has involved trips to Dorset and Oxford in recent weeks to talk with people taking God's call on their lives seriously. My role is to talk them through the process of applying to train for ministry all the way through until they start their training and during that period they will spend at college as well. It's a real blessing and joy to walk this journey with people and I'm looking forward to doing so.

I also headed out to Guernsey at the start of March. Synod has recognised that for a very long time the churches on the Channel Islands have had little, regular support from an ordained minister. My role will be to visit on four weekends this year (May, July and November) to offer support in any way I can and lead worship on a Sunday morning over there. It is a very different worship leading experience, but one that I enjoyed very much.

Closer to home we have been journeying though Lent together and I have been really pleased with the way our Lent course has been going. The course itself has been really engaging and challenged all of us participating to spend time reflecting on many different aspects of God's wonderful creation and the situations we find ourselves in each and every day.

As Holy Week and Easter draws ever closer it feels appropriate to let you know where and how we can worship together. On Maundy Thursday we will be hosted by Petersfield Methodist Church and will share a simple supper together at 6pm in their hall, this feels hugely symbolic as we gather around tables to remember that supper shared by friends on the night Jesus was betrayed. When supper is over, there will be the chance to head into their church sanctuary together for some reflections of Gethsemane. I do hope that many of you will be able to join us for this reflective, meaningful time of worshipping together.

On Good Friday, once again, we will be joining in with the PACT organised walk of witness and service in the square. The walk begins from Petersfield Methodist church at 9.30am and the service will commence at 10am. There will be refreshments including hot cross buns in St Peter's after the service. It's always wonderful to worship together with other Christians in the town and this year our very own Carolyn oversees proceedings as PACT Chair for the year, please do come along and support her as we reflect together on the tremendous sacrifice our Saviour made for us on the cross. On Easter Sunday, we will gather at College Street at 10.30am to celebrate the miracle of the resurrection! The service will include Holy Communion and there may even be an Easter egg hunt for the children when they go out to Children's Church!

Easter is the most important moment in the church calendar. Without it, our faith would be meaningless. The song 'Cornerstone' sums it up wonderfully as it says, 'My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name.' So, this Easter, why not invite family and friends to come along to one of our services? You never know, they might hear what we are all about and want to take up the offer of a transformed, new life with Christ as their cornerstone.

Blessings to you all as the busyness and fun of 2025 continues!

Your brother in Christ,

Josh.



Joseph's tomb

Pontius Pilate: "Joseph, I really don't understand you. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've just spent a fortune on that new tomb for you and your family - and now you want to suddenly give it to this man Jesus?"

Joseph: "Well it's just for the weekend."



Wessex Synod

120 Alma Road, Southampton, SO14 6UW

Synod Moderator: The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins

Moderator's PA: Mrs Deborah Walker

3 March 2025

A Message for Lent 2025

Dear friends,

As we enter this Lenten season, we find ourselves in a world filled with challenges. The ongoing humanitarian crises in Gaza and Ukraine, the increasingly visible effects of climate change, and the divisive political rhetoric that surrounds us can leave us feeling overwhelmed and powerless. Yet it is precisely in such times that the meaning of Lent becomes most powerful. When Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, he faced not just external temptations but profound questions about his identity and purpose. His forty days of struggle weren't about proving his willpower - they were about clarifying who he was called to be in a broken world.

Perhaps our greatest temptation today is not chocolate, social media, or other small indulgences we might give up for Lent. Perhaps our greatest temptation is to turn away from the difficult truths about ourselves and our world, to sleepwalk through life rather than to engage with it fully and courageously.

When we look away from the suffering in Gaza or Ukraine, when we ignore the realities of climate change, when we dismiss those whose politics differ from ours, we're not just avoiding uncomfortable topics, we're avoiding the deeper work God calls us to do: the work of becoming more fully ourselves and more fully present in God's world.

Fortunately, there is good news: the same Spirit that Luke tells us led Jesus into the wilderness remains with us today. The same Spirit that the writer of Genesis tells us hovered over the waters of creation continues to move through the chaos of our lives and our world, bringing forth new possibilities, new understanding, and new life.

This Lent is a good time to ask ourselves what are we running from today? What truth are we afraid to face? Where might the Spirit be leading us to grow? As you reflect, remember that we don't face our wilderness alone. We journey together as Christ's body, supporting one another with compassion and hope; and we journey with the Spirit, who knows that our struggles are not about proving ourselves good or bad, but about discovering who we are truly called to be.

May this Lenten season be for each of us a time of honest reflection and renewed commitment. May we find the courage to face difficult truths about ourselves and our world. And may we emerge from these forty days more fully alive, more deeply connected, and more ready to be bearers of God's love and justice in a world that so desperately needs them.

With prayers for a blessed Lent,



Michael Hopkins
Wessex Synod Moderator



Dates for your diaries: -

- March 25th - Church meeting
- April 1st - last Little Fishes. Restarts on April 22nd.
- April 8th -Easter Craft morning for children
- April 8th - Women's Fellowship 7.30pm
- Maundy Thursday April 17th – we are invited to join the Methodists at their church for simple meal at 6 pm. There will then be a reflective service starting at 7.30pm
- Good Friday, 18th – we will join the PACT Service in the Square – there will be no service at the URC
- Easter Sunday, 20th – will be a Communion service in our church and the children will be partaking in an Easter egg hunt

Message from our Church and Community Worker...

Our 1st and 2nd Board games afternoon went down very well, and so do the pastries. Thank you for all that have been coming, and we hope lots more of you will join us this month Thursday 24th.



The sign-up sheet is now on the notice board for the Living Library for next month, Saturday the 10th May. Please pop yourself down if you're joining us, just for the catering. Many Thanks.

Our Easter craft morning is all ready to go, so please tell any young families you know to join us.

See poster.



Easter crafts -

Tuesday 8th April 10am-12pm



PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Join us for a morning of Easter
crafts, stories, an Easter Egg hunt
and loads of fun!

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



20th April - Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man *did* rise?

At the end of St Luke's gospel, we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24:4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So, did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the disciples nursed Him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie.

Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present-day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.'

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.



Quotes of the month

How amazing it is that we have so few tears these days when there is so much to weep about! - *Isaac Ababio*

Wars to end wars are an illusion. Wars, more than any other form of human activity, create the conditions which breed more war. - *John Foster Dulles*

The New Testament knows nothing of free-lance Christianity. It is the corporate witness of the redeemed fellowship that is used by the Spirit of God. - *Geoffrey King*

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

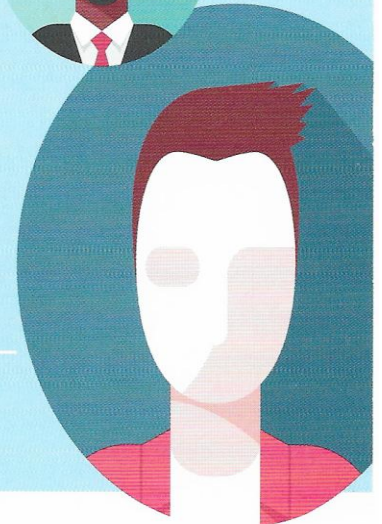


www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

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with your finances?

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Registered Address: c/o Three Counties Church,
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Registered Charity No. 1134908

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

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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 \(pactfoodbank.org.uk\)](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

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 April will be on the 8th. 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 – April 2025

Date	Duty Elders	AV
April 6	Anne Glenn	David Darling
April 13	Jo Oru	Keith Evans
April 20 Easter Sunday	Isaac Oru & Jo Oru	Roy Knight
April 27	Peter Jolly	Carolyn Barton

Welcomers' Rota

Date	Welcomers
April 6	Grace Fountain
April 13	Val Hart
April 20	Carol Tubbs
April 27	Janet Adams

- 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.

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

Tuesday	1	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	3	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home group	84 Moggs Mead
		7.70 pm	Lent Course	CFC
Sunday	6	10.30 am	Mary Fair	
Tuesday	8	10am -12 pm	Easter Crafts	CFC
		2 -4 pm	Drop-in Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	10	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
Friday	11	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	Sanctuary
Sunday	13	10.30 am	Minister -Palm Sunday	
Tuesday	15	2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	17	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
		6 pm 7.30 pm	Simple Meal Maundy Service	PMC
Good Friday	18	9.30 am	Walk of Witness	Leave from PMC
		10 am	Good Friday Service in the Square	
Easter Sunday	20	10.30 am	Easter Service with Communion	
			Children's Easter Egg Hunt	CFC
Monday	21	3-45-4.45 pm	Forest Church	
Tuesday	22	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
Thursday	24	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Friday	25	10.30 am	Friday Reflection	Sanctuary
Sunday	27	10.30 am	Minister -Café Church	

Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar –(Continued)

Monday	28	1pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		3.45– 4.45pm	Forest Church	
Tuesday	29	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC



Board Game



Every 4th Thursday of the month
2-4pm - Free to attend!



February 27th
March 27th
April 24th
May 22nd

for more information email
communityworker@petersfieldurc.com
tel 01730 266475

Petersfield URC, College Street, GU31 4AG



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 as always for your ongoing support of Ukraine Christian Partnership (UCP). We and the people we support in Ukraine are most appreciative of your donations and prayers. Thank you, Connie's handicraft group, for your very kind donation of £130.

At time of writing, there are talks about a ceasefire, although sadly the war meanwhile continues. Please pray that peace will triumph over evil. Please could you also continue praying for Pastor Sergey and his church and community in Chornobaivka, Kherson. We have recently funded drone detectors for volunteers who are delivering food and medicines to elderly and housebound folk who live in the most dangerous parts of Kherson city, where Russian attacks on civilians and civilian areas are sadly a frequent occurrence (e.g. [Inside the Ukrainian family homes destroyed by Russian bomb strike in Kherson - video Dailymotion](https://nationalpost.com/video/b58396f0-00ed-11f0-ae7d-8a3e7ef079e3/damage-in-the-centre-of-kherson-as-local-authorities-say-russia-attacked-the-city) ; <https://nationalpost.com/video/b58396f0-00ed-11f0-ae7d-8a3e7ef079e3/damage-in-the-centre-of-kherson-as-local-authorities-say-russia-attacked-the-city>).

On a more positive note, we have just funded a seeds project for villagers in Transcarpathia. This was a very successful project the last two years and this year we are providing 350 families in Akli, Aklihegy, Gyula and Ujakli with about 20 different types of vegetable seeds. This will enable them to grow more of their own food. We pray that this year's harvest is as good as last year's. Last year, the village of Gyula was even able to donate over one ton of vegetables (grown from those seeds) to a local orphanage!

David Darling, Ukraine Christian Partnership (www.ukrainecp.org)



Volunteer delivering aid in a heavily hit area of Kherson – now equipped with a UCP drone detector to warn him when to take cover



Burnt out ambulance following a Russian drone attack on hospital oncology centre, Kherson.



Would your church like to join us this year?

UNLOCK – Urban Christian Charity Walk – London (Kennington, Camberwell, North Brixton, Stockwell and Battersea)Saturday 12th April

Unlock is a non-denominational Christian charity founded in 1972, supporting urban churches of any denomination to cope with the opportunities and challenges in their areas. They especially work to enable Bible engagement in more 'text-shy' cultures. As well as helping local Christians reach and engage with their communities, they provide training and publish a variety of Bible study packs.

The London Urban Sponsored Walk

This year's walk is the 42nd annual London walk, all of which have been supported by St Mary Magdalen members. This year we are hoping once again to involve the rest of the PACT churches.

Each year the walk covers a different area of the capital, and includes brief visits to a variety of churches which put on small exhibitions of their local outreach work and provide refreshments for the walkers. The work of the churches in some of the more deprived areas can be a real eye-opener!

This year the circular walk is around Kennington, Camberwell, North Brixton, Stockwell and Battersea on **Saturday 12th April**. It is about 7½ miles but walkers are free to shorten this and/or partly use public transport. **It is suitable for all ages and abilities, and a great day out for families (but not unaccompanied children.)** There is a detailed route map and an optional quiz. Ideally we like to travel up together by train, and it is most fun to walk in small groups, as walkers are not "herded" round! Usually there are around 400 people walking, some clockwise, some anticlockwise, so there is a very friendly atmosphere on the streets when we meet fellow Unlock walkers!

Sponsorship

The main aim of the walk is to raise funds for the Christian mission work of the Unlock charity in inner cities. There are sponsorship forms for individual use among friends, neighbours and colleagues, and also opportunities at each church on the walk to donate cash to that church and/or to Unlock generally.

Church workers we have met on previous walks were immensely grateful just that we took the trouble to visit them and take an interest in their work. We have been inspired by their amazing responses to situations, so dramatically different from our own. Mission support is more than just financial!

Further information:

please email jan@sheet.church



Exciting News!!!



**Save the date – Saturday 10th May
10.00am 'til 1.30pm**

**Plant sale, cake sale, children's activities
Teas and coffees
Soup and stuff for lunch!**

More information to follow but please SAVE THE DATE!!



For our younger readers ...

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 22:1-13, Mt 26:14-19, Mk 14:10-16


It was just before Passover, when Jews celebrate God rescuing them from Egypt. Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem..

The Chief Priests were plotting



How can we get rid of Jesus?
He always has crowds around him.

Jesus' disciple Judas came to them...



I could help you.

We'd be happy to pay you

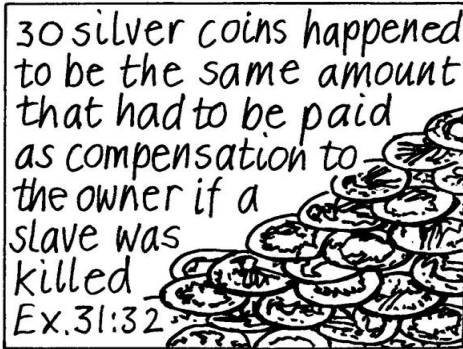



How much?

30 silver coins



30 silver coins happened to be the same amount that had to be paid as compensation to the owner if a slave was killed
Ex.31:32

I'll let you know when Jesus is alone.

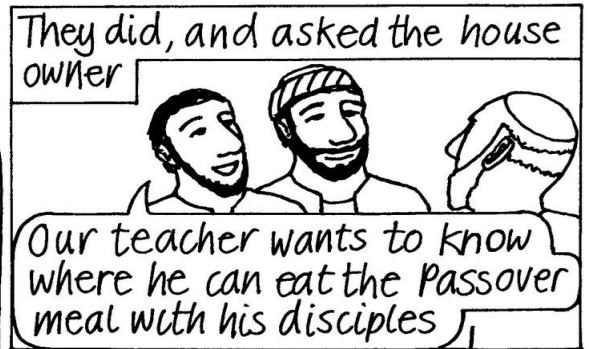
Meanwhile, Peter and John asked Jesus...



Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal?

Go into the city and follow the man carrying a water jar to his home

They did, and asked the house owner



Our teacher wants to know where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples

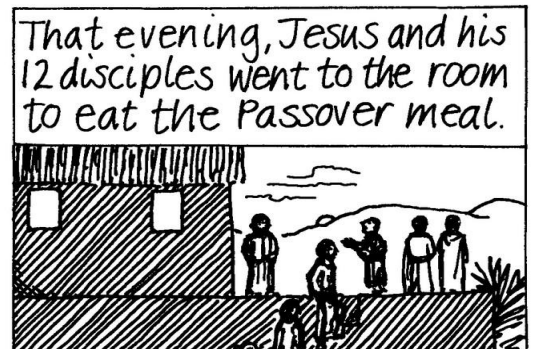
The room is upstairs on the roof, ready to use



Peter and John got the meal ready



That evening, Jesus and his 12 disciples went to the room to eat the Passover meal.



On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
 Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
 and showed us the resurrection to
 come by His raising to new life!

Mouse Makes

Jesus is risen!
 The angel said:
 "Jesus ...is not here, for He
 has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here
 Jesus said:
 "Where two or three
 come together
 in my name I am
 there with them."
Matthew 18:20

Jesus will come again!
 Jesus said:
 "I will come back
 and take you to
 myself so that you
 will be where I am."
John 14:3

READ the story of
 the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
 and **21:1-14**

JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
 LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
 RESURRECTION
 PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS

MESSIAH • REDEEMER
 CHRIST • SON OF GOD
 HOSANNA • PRAISE
 GO TELL • EASTER

Crossword

Across

1 Relating to the whole universe (6)

4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)

8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)

9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)

10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)

11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)

12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)

17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)

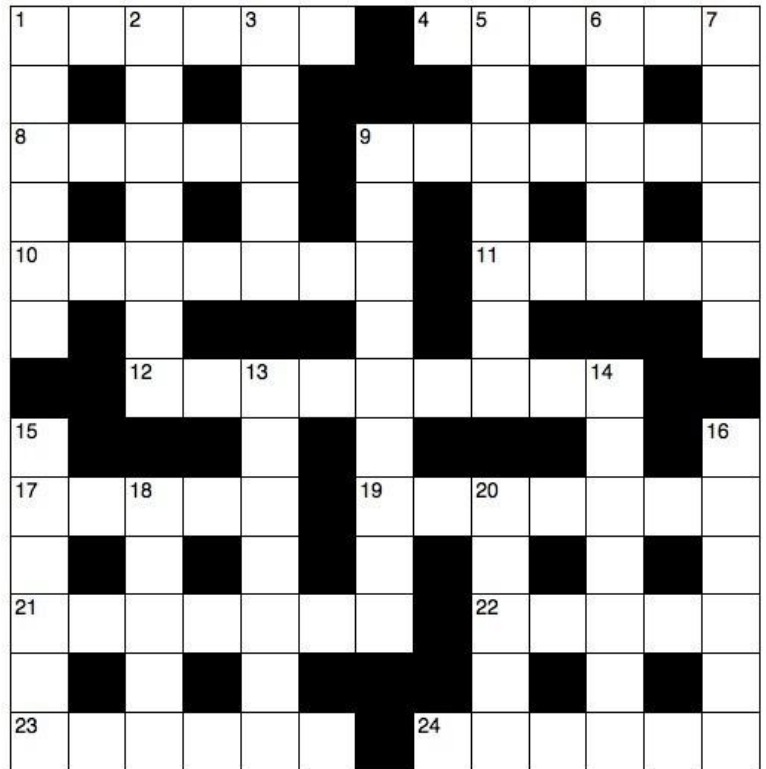
19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)

21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)

22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)

23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)

24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)



Down

1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)

2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)

3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)

5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)

6 11 Across is certainly this (5)

7 He reps (anag.) (6)

9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)

13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)

14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)

15 The human mind or soul (6)

16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)

18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)

20 Bared (anag.) (5)



10 Easter one-liners

What do you need if your chocolate eggs mysteriously disappear? *An eggsplanation*

What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear? *14-carrot gold*

What is the Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music? *Hip hop*

What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt? *Hopscotch*

What do you call a bunny with fleas? *Bugs Bunny*

What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards? *A receding hare-line*

How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group? *Just look for the gray hares.*

Why do people paint eggs for Easter? It's easier than trying to wallpaper them!

What do rabbits say before they eat? "Lettuce pray."

Where does Christmas come before Easter? The dictionary.



Suduko

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Easy

				5	7		3	
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Medium



What can I eat for Easter?

Can't eat beef.....mad cow.

Can't eat chicken..... bird flu.

Can't eat eggs..... Salmonella.

Can't eat pork.....fears that bird flu will infect pigs.

Can't eat fish..... heavy metals in the waters.

Can't eat fruits and veggies..... insecticides and herbicides.

Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, rice.....nasty carbs.

Hmmmmmmmm! I believe that leaves.....chocolate.

Mr Bones

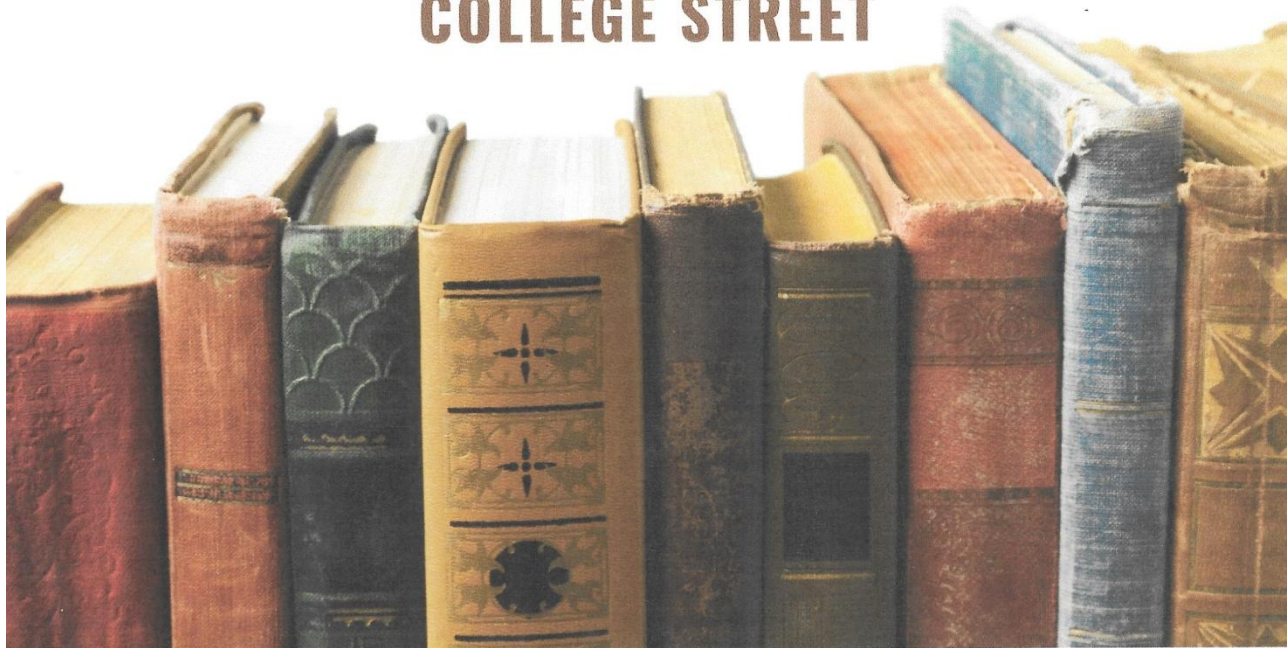
The orthopedic surgeon I work for was moving to a new office, and we, his staff, were helping transport many of the items. I sat the display skeleton in the front of my car, his boney arm across the back of my seat. I hadn't considered the drive across town. At one traffic light, the stares of the people in the car beside me became obvious, and I looked across and called, "I'm delivering him to my doctor's office."

The other driver leaned out of his window. "I hate to tell you, lady," he said, "but I think it's too late!"

WELCOME TO THE LIVING
LIBRARY PART 2
WHERE WE WILL BE SHARING MORE OF
OUR LIFE STORIES WITH YOU.

You're invited to listen to different members of the congregations life stories, and learn who was a nurse or missionary find out their fantastic past.

**SATURDAY 10TH MAY
2PM TO 4PM
AT PETERSFIELD URC
COLLEGE STREET**



Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory In Focus series

The General Assembly has recommended that URC members and groups widen/deepen their understanding of some of the fundamental issues as to why the conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory seems so intractable.

The Interfaith Enabling Group together with Commitment for Life are hosting a series of online events, continuing with:

30 April - EXPLORING APARTHEID & THE OCCUPATION with Charlotte Marshall, Director, Sabeel Kairos UK

18 June - ANTISEMITISM with Nathan Eddy, Co-Director, Council of Christians and Jews

More details available here:

<https://urc.org.uk/your-church/church-local-and-global/commitment-for-life/israel-and-the-occupied-palestinian-territory/>

For more information and a link to the webinars please contact commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk.

Rejoice and Sing Live – Saturday 3rd May

A hymn-filled, songful celebration of the URC's hymn book, *Rejoice and Sing*, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary.

Join the URC and Reform magazine at Coventry Central Hall from 12 noon on Saturday 3 May. As well as lots of hymn singing from 2pm, there will be talks, a panel discussion with those involved with the creation of *Rejoice and Sing*, an exhibition, the URC Bookshop, talks from David Thompson and Stephen Orchard, contributions from Dominic Grant, Anne Sardeson, Steve Tomkins, David Williams, Roo Stewart and many more. A scratch choir is also being created for the event.

What's your favourite hymn?

Reform magazine wants to know what your favourite hymn is and why. Email reform@urc.org.uk with the title of your favourite hymn (and tune if needed), the reason why you like it, along with your name and the name of the church you attend if you're happy to share it. These will be used to help select the hymns for the event and will be featured in *Reform* magazine too.

Tickets are free and are available from www.bit.ly/reform-live. The café at the hall will be open for lunch, which can be pre-ordered.

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar

April	6	Cheap Street Church, Sherborne; Twyford (Bucks)
	13	Pear Tree Green, Southampton; Windsor; Trinity Church, Lower Earley, Reading
	20	Bournemouth: Richmond Hill St Andrew's; Wheatley, Oxford
	27	Southampton: Avenue St Andrew's; Womersley

April Eco Prayer

God of new life

As we celebrate your death and resurrection in Jesus Christ our Lord

Amid the beauties and blessings of springtime in this part of the world

We remember that you bring new life to places which had lost hope

That out of small seeds you bring rich harvests

So we pray for all who farm and grow food

And those who work with them in harmony with creation and with You

Adapting wherever they may to the realities of climate change

Finding new ways to feed families

And bring hope to communities

May we too use our efforts to act with those

Who help the poorest

And bring life where there was none

Through your Spirit

Amen





Lectionary Bible Readings for April 2025

April 6	Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; - John 12:1-8
April 13	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
April 20	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 - John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12
April 27	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31

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 **May Messenger** is Sunday April 13th. Please send articles to Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

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

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

Church Contact Details

Church	College Street, Petersfield GU31 4AG 01730 266475
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”