

THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Church in the community Matt 5:14-16, Acts 2:44-47, Phil 2:3-5



PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

May 2025
No. 738

Happy 1700th Birthday, Nicene Creed!

This month, 1700 years ago, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the Bithynian city of Nicaea. It began in May 325 and went on until the end of July 325.

The Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine, and he had an urgent job for the Christian bishops to do. He wanted them to spell out as exactly as they could the core beliefs of the Christian Church, especially with regard to the person of Christ.

Constantine had good reason to do this: a man called Arius of Alexandria was spreading the idea that Jesus Christ was not divine but instead was a created being. Such a belief, if accepted, would have changed the very heart of Christianity.

After three months of hard work, the bishops at Nicaea had prayerfully and carefully written down as exactly as they could the core beliefs of Christianity. It became known as the Nicene Creed, and it has been the bedrock of orthodox Christianity ever since.

The Nicene Creed is unique in that it is the only Christian statement of faith that is accepted as authoritative by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and major Protestant Churches.

It runs:

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.



Message from our Church and Community Worker...

In April leading up to Holy week, we had a super morning with Little Fishes families and old families returning with their children now at school. It was so lovely to catch up with the families, share the Easter story, craft and Easter hunt with all who came. And a big thank you to David, Karen and Kim in the kitchen from Carol and me.





We also had an evening craft session with some of the ladies from Church. Making cards, baskets and other Easter craft with cake and a cuppa.

This month I am looking forward to the 10th May. Not only a plant and cake sale in the morning, but Part 2 of the living library at 2pm all welcome to learn more about our wonderful congregation.

At the next of the month Josh his family and I are off the Wessex summer camp, pray the weather is dry...

Love Jo



Holy Smoke! We need Fire Marshals

I'm delighted (and slightly relieved) to announce that I have successfully completed my fire marshal training! After bravely enduring over two hours of online learning—armed only with a cup of tea and a determined spirit—I have emerged as our first officially trained fire marshal. I even passed the final test, proving that I know the difference between a fire extinguisher and a teapot! But I can't do this alone—we need a few more willing volunteers to join me in keeping our church safe.

Fire safety is a vital part of our church community, ensuring that everyone who worships, works, or visits our building is protected in the event of an emergency. Fire marshals play a crucial role in this, as they are trained to prevent fire hazards, assist with evacuations, and respond quickly in case of an emergency. Their knowledge and preparation can make all the difference in keeping our congregation safe. Having a dedicated team of fire marshals in place helps us meet safety regulations and provides reassurance that we are well-prepared should the need ever arise.

We are currently looking for around ten volunteers to step forward and become trained fire marshals for our church. The training is straightforward, delivered online, and takes just a couple of hours to complete, finishing with a short knowledge test. Upon successful completion, volunteers receive a Certificate of Achievement. This is a great opportunity to serve the church in a practical and essential way. If you feel called to help in this important role, please get in touch with myself or drop a note in to the church office. Your willingness to serve could make a real difference in ensuring the safety of our church family.

Mike



Gift Day Appeal

For those that have been attended regularly at recent Church Meetings what follows will come as little surprise, but the time has now arrived for everyone to face up to the realities of the Church's financial position.

The renovation of the sanctuary, to which we all committed with such enthusiasm, has, together with fitting-out, cost a little more than we had initially hoped, and whilst we as a Church fully accepted that it would drain a significant proportion of our then capital reserves (and indeed Synod funding dictated that we should use our own money first), we still remain some £30,000 short of what we needed, and which has been covered by a temporary Synod loan. That in itself would not be too bad if we had not also failed to balance our books last year on our regular income and expenditure (partly due to a reduction in lettings) leaving us also to fund a deficit of well over £10,000. On top of this, urgent repairs are now needed to the parapet wall of the Church Family Centre (CFC). We've received several estimates, ranging from £2,000 to £12,000. The variation reflects the possibility that once initial work begins, more extensive issues could be uncovered, which would require additional repairs.

Finance and General Purposes Committee have held the view that prudent financial policy dictates that we should also, long-term, seek to re-build our reserves to meet future unknown contingencies, an approach endorsed by the Elders, but that is for the future.

We all know that household budgets have come under greater pressure, particularly in the last few weeks, and no time is the right time to make a call on our congregation to make greater sacrifices, but you will realise that we need at least £50,000 as a matter of some urgency. The Elders have decided therefore that we must make this call to the congregation, and a Gift Day appeal will be launched on Sunday 18th May.

Throughout history, the church, both here in Petersfield and globally, has been able to continue in its mission to see God's Kingdom established here on Earth, because of the generosity of its membership. Luke 21:1-4 reminds us of the value of giving what we can.

'As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," He said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others.

All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

What we are not asking you to do is to give more than you can afford and to risk putting yourself at harm because of this. However, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 reminds us of the importance of generosity and how it should be at the heart of our faith – God has blessed our community with this amazing resource. Our building is able to serve so many people throughout the week, we see the very youngest coming in and hearing that they are loved, and we are able to support those in their later years who may be struggling for whatever reason, also showing God's love in very real and practical ways. I'm going to end with those words written by Paul to the Corinthians along with the petition to give what you are able on Sunday 18th May (or anytime really...) to see this vitally important work continue to thrive and flourish. Thank you.

'Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.'

The Finance and General Purposes Team and Josh.



**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!

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

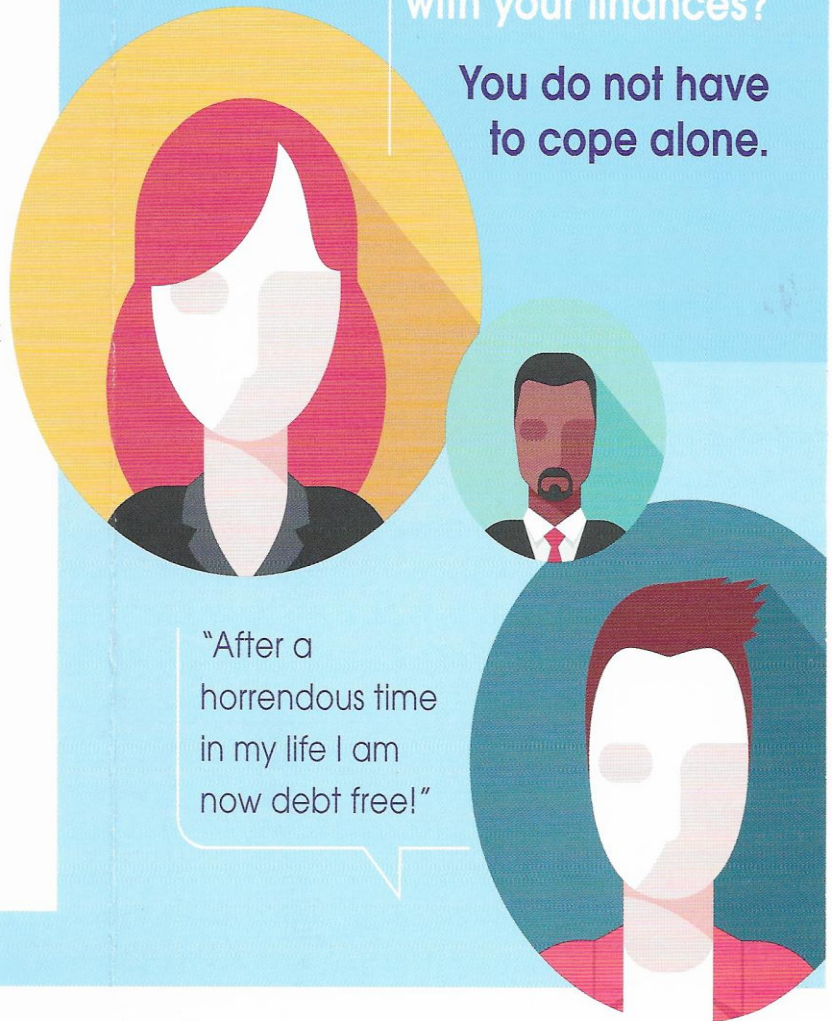


www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

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with your finances?

You do not have
to cope alone.



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horrendous time
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Surrey GU27 1LD

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Registered in England No. 7136786
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 May will be on the 13th. 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

- **Connie's Handicraft Group** will be meeting on Tuesday 27th May 2-4pm, one week later than usual, just for this month.



Rotas – May 2025

Date	Duty Elders	AV
4 May	Wendy Cassar	Roy Knight
11 May	Julie West	Keith Evans
18 May	Mary Fair & Peter Jolly	Jonathan Oru
25 May	David Barton	Carolyn Barton

Welcomers' Rota

Date	Welcomers
4 May	Catherine Adams
11 May	Kay Penicotte-Henrie
18 May	Sue Bone
25 May	Di Lugger

- 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.

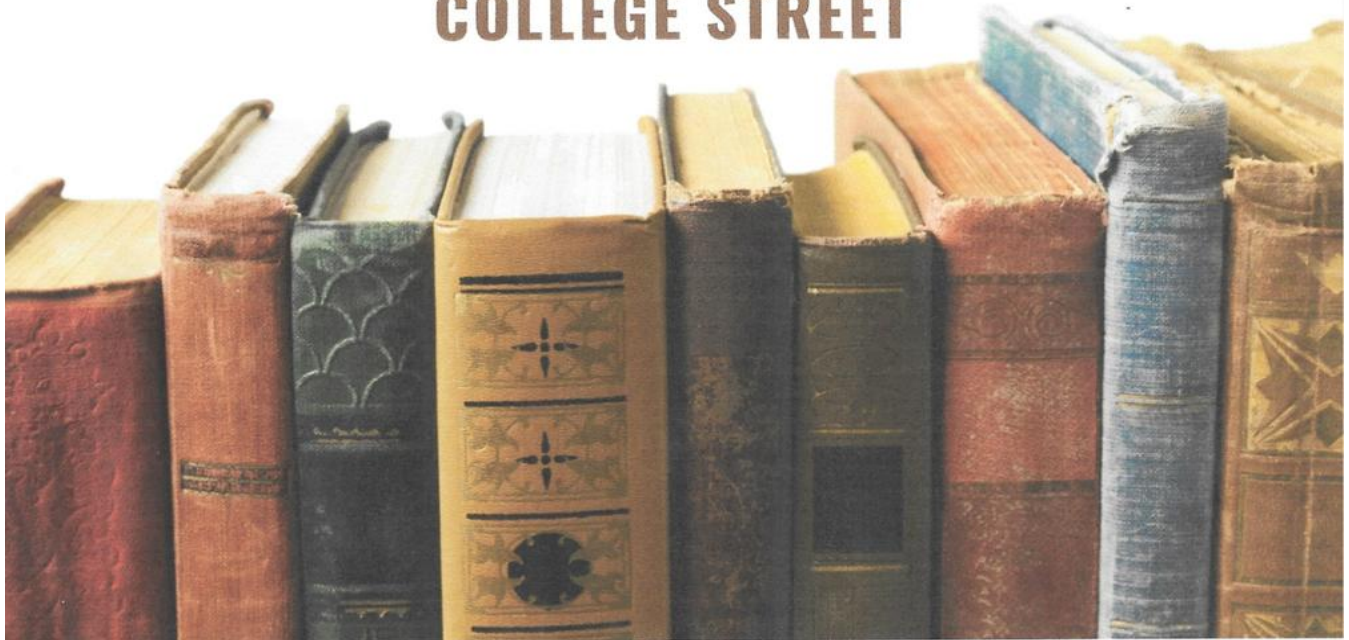
May 2025 Petersfield and Liss Church Calendar -
Please note Services are held at College Street, Petersfield.

Thursday	1	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home group	84 Moggs Mead
Sunday	4	10.30 am	Andrew Simons	
Monday	5	3.45- 4.45 pm	Forest Church	
Tuesday	6	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	8	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Friday	9	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	Sanctuary
Sunday	11	10.30 am	Minister	
Monday	12	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		4 – 5 pm	Forest Church	
Tuesday	13	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2-4 pm	Drop-in Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	15	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
Sunday	18	10.30 am	Communion - Minister	
Monday	19	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		4-5 pm	Forest Church	
Tuesday	20	9.30 pm	Little Fishes	CFC
Thursday	22	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Friday	23	10.30 am	Friday Reflection	Sanctuary
Sunday	25	10.30 am	Café Church -Minister	
Tuesday	27	2-4 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
		7.30 pm	Church Meeting	Sanctuary
Thursday	29	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary

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**



Barnabas – a very likeable disciple

This month we remember St Barnabas, whose real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he was better known by his nickname which means '*Son of Encouragement*' (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

Barnabas was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we known as somebody who is generous to those in need around us?

Barnabas later *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul's conversion and knowing his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he '*saw the evidence of the grace of God*' (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people's lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be greatly undervalued, but it is crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God's people and beyond the church; alongside strengthening people to move beyond their own comfort zones to help those in need?

Let's be prepared to ask the following questions: '*Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?*' and '*How can we be encouragers to others?*'

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

Pysanka – Making Ukrainian Easter Eggs at the Ukraine Hub

At the monthly PACT Ukraine Hub, which we run once a month at the URC, we give Ukrainians living locally the opportunity to come together to meet each other, have a chat and enjoy some refreshments. There are toys and activities for the children, which Julie West kindly takes care of. Iva, one of the local Ukrainians, often runs sessions to help other Ukrainians navigate the practicalities of living in the UK. Iva also runs craft activities and at the April meeting she kindly showed the Ukrainians and local Brits how to make traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs using real eggs (with contents blown out), hot wax and dyes. It is an absorbing and fascinating process and the end result is beautiful. [Pysanka: History and Meaning of Ukrainian Easter Eggs](#)



No prize for guessing whether it was David or Fiona who made this egg!

David Darling

Ukraine Christian Partnership (www.ukrainecp.org)



Christian Aid Week – 11th to 17th May

For more than 75 years, Christian Aid has been working with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

This annual week invites Christians in the UK to help fundraise for the work by holding community events and taking on individual challenges. It has been called 'seven days of fundraising fun – your way'.

This year you might like to consider taking on the '70k in May Challenge'. It is simple to do: just travel 70k during the month of May, in whatever way you want. Invite your friends and family to sponsor you or even complete the challenge with you. More info at:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

Even if you are unable to donate this year, please pray. Here are a couple of ideas taken from the Christian Aid Week Devotional, Abounding Hope:

- **Lord, you love justice and righteousness. As we quench our thirst for you in prayer, refresh our commitment to doing your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.**
- **Gracious God, the earth lies polluted. We have failed to care for your world. Forgive us. Give us the strength to raise our voices and challenge the powerful. May we work together for the healing of creation, Amen.**
- **Jesus, you love us beyond measure. Help us to grow into your likeness, showing love to one another. Bless those facing an uncertain future. Open our eyes to the challenges our global neighbours face each day. Amen.**

**Forest
Church**
Kids



PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



We meet Monday afternoons 3.45-4.45pm
Forest Church, where young families meet with God. Come and have fun and learn about
the creator of nature within nature!!
For more information and to find out where we will be meeting, email
communityworker@petersfieldurc.com
or phone 01730 266475

For our younger readers ...

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in John chapter 5 verses 1-18

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a festival, and he visited the pool of Bethesda. People said that an angel sometimes made the water ripple.

Sick people waited for the water to ripple, because they thought that the first person in would be healed.



Jesus went up to a man who had been sick for 38 years.



Do you want to be healed?

I've got no-one to put me in the pool, so I can never get in first.



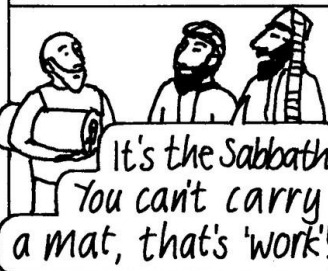
Pick up your mat and walk!



He was healed! The man picked up his mat and walked around. But it was the Sabbath.

God had given the Law that the Sabbath day was a rest day (Ex 20: 8-11)... but to make sure it was kept, the Jewish leaders had made up rules, and then more rules so that anything that even might be work was banned.

The Jewish leaders saw the healed man.



It's the Sabbath! You can't carry a mat, that's 'work'!

The man who healed me told me to carry it.



Which man?

I don't know.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple.



You are healed now, but don't sin any more, or something worse might happen to you.

Now the man knew who Jesus was ...



he went straight back to the Jewish leaders to tell them.

and they went to Jesus



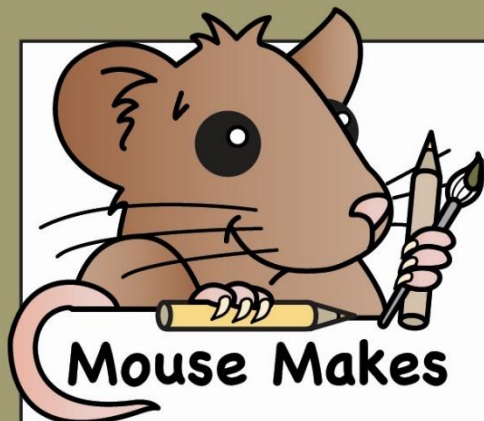
You were working on the Sabbath!

My father, God, doesn't stop working on the Sabbath so I keep on working as well.

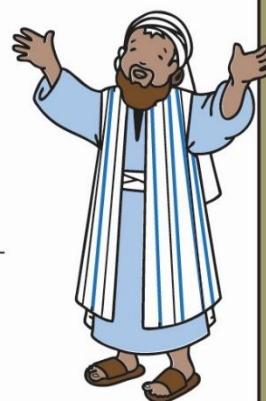
Not only does he disobey our Sabbath rules, but he says he is equal to God!



We definitely have to kill him.



MIRACLES OF PETER



At which temple gate did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10

Who were the man and wife who lied to God?

 and

Acts 5:1-11

People carried the sick into the streets so that when Peter came by at least his

 might fall on them.
Acts 5:12-16

How long had Aeneas been paralysed for?

----- years
Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid? in the -----

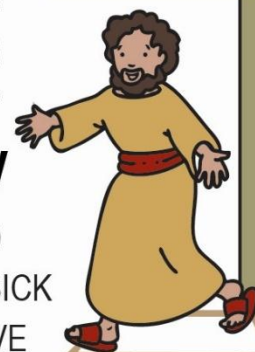
Acts 9:36-42



"And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly."
Acts 6:7

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

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and Peter was able to perform many miracles in Jesus' name.
See the book of ACTS



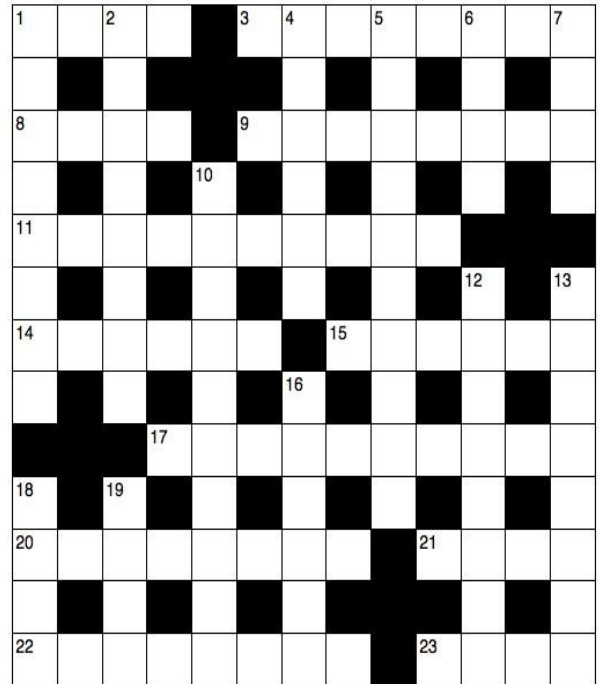
PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
 CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
 AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE

Find the words from the questions too!

Crossword

Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
 15 Ministers of religion (6)
 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
 23 '[Jesus] said to them, "— here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)



Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
 7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
 16 'About midnight the sailors were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

Sudoku

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

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Easy

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

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Medium

Race For Life

I have decided to take on The Race for Life on Sunday 29th June in Portsmouth. For those who may not know what this event is, it is a 5k race which you can run, jog or walk, raising money for cancer charity. People will often run the race in memory of someone who has been affected by cancer. I would appreciate any donations for this worthy cause.

Blessings

Jo Oru



Thy Kingdom Come celebrates 10 years

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC), to be held this year 29th May to 8th June, is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray, from Ascension to Pentecost, for more people to come to know Jesus.

“This year we're very excited to be celebrating the 10th year of Thy Kingdom Come!” says a spokesman.

Since it began in May 2016, TKC has grown from a dream from the Anglican archbishops into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer.

TKC is now held in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions. The aim everywhere is the same: that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

“Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God’s Spirit might work in the lives of five people who have not responded with their ‘Yes’ to God’s call.”

Whether you have joined in ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ before now or not, you are warmly invited to take part & join in for this 10th anniversary of worldwide prayer.

And for this 10th year, the focus will be on the Lord’s Prayer itself. As the TKC website explains:

“The 'Our Father' prayer transcends the ages - uniting people across different denominations, generations and nations and we believe now more than ever, we need to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' - over our homes, communities, nations and our world.” More info at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global>

Carolyn Barton

Real responses to school science exam questions:



- Genetics explains why you look like your father, and if you don't, why you should.
- The cause of perfume disappearing is evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of the things people forget to put the top on.
- Water vapor gets together in a cloud. When it is big enough to be called a drop, it does.
- Mushrooms always grow in damp places, which is why they look like umbrellas.
- Momentum is something you give a person when they go away.
- A monsoon is a French gentleman.
- The word 'trousers' is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.
- To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.
- When planets run around and around in circles, we say they are orbiting. When people do it, we say they are crazy.
- For asphyxiation, apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.
- Thunder is a rich source of loudness.



...and the theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...

Artificial Opponents?

Wordles and Quordles and Octordles too,
Who can be bored with so much to do?
Puzzles online, and less now in print
Is it surprising that I'm starting to squint?

Crosswords and lost words in a grid you must find
Sudoku, Kakuro for the numerate mind,
Backgammon or chess, if that is your sport
And card games of every conceivable sort!

Deep in my cupboard is a box full of games
And a beautiful chess set, abandoned – a shame!
But do you remember (long ago as it seems),
When we played games with people, and not these machines?

By Nigel Beeton



Board Game

C, A, F, E,

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



News from the United Reformed Church
items from the April edition of the Synod News



Dates in 2025

Church Treasurers' Networking Zoom – changed to **Saturday 14 June 2025**.

Elders' Conference – Saturday 28 June 2025 at Sarum College.

Church Secretaries' Networking Zoom – Saturday 20 September 2025.

Diary date 2026 – *new*

Lay Preachers' Gathering – Saturday 21 March 2026 at Sarum College.

Elders' conference – Saturday 25 July 2026 at Sarum College

Youth Camp, 11 to 13 July 2025 – *bookings now open*

For young people in school years 7 – 13 (ages 11 – 17 years old). At [GB Outdoor Centre](#).

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 for May 2025

May	4	Le Weekend; Wareham
	11	Trinity, Abingdon; Drayton United Church
	18	Normandy, Guildford; Trinity, Charminster
	25	Guernsey; Marsh Gibbon

A Prayer by Christian Aid

Creator God,

You created a world of community,
richness, and love.

But human greed has brought
separation, destruction, and injustice.

So, we pray for the opportunities and
boldness to act together with others, to
break down the barriers of our selfish
desires.

We pray our collective actions will be
driven by wisdom and love, so that we
your church will be agents for justice,
as we seek a world fruitful for all of
creation.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Lectionary Bible Readings for May 2025

May 4	Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
May 11	Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
May 18	Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
May 25	Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

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 **June Messenger** is May 11th. Please send articles to
 Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail
 carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Baby. 3, Stimulus. 8, Liar. 9, Forsaken. 11, Episcopacy. 14, Eagles. 15, Clergy. 17, Strengthen. 20, Holiness. 21, Obed. 22, Bethesda. 23, Stay.

DOWN: 1, Believer. 2, Beatings. 4, Troops. 5, Musicology. 6, Like. 7, Sent. 10, Acceptance. 12, Prohibit. 13, Dying day. 16, Sensed. 18, Ahab. 19, Blot.

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

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

Church Contact Details

Church	Petersfield: 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”