

THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13



PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



February 2024 No. 725

From the Minister ..

Friends, in this first edition of The Messenger of the year, let me take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I wonder what 2024 has in store for us.



Whatever is ahead, I hope and pray that we will find many opportunities to meet, laugh together, eat together and spend time getting to know one another that little bit more.

As part of ministry in the United Reformed Church, we are required every other month to have what is called 'Pastoral Supervision'. Basically, what this entails is reflecting on an element of what we do with someone who is a trained accompanier and think about what we might do differently or how we might try something new. Last time around, I was reflecting with my supervisor about how I was feeling this element of fellowship had been affected by Covid and that the ripples of this were still being felt today.

I realised that it has seldom been the case that we have invited people for dinner over the past couple of years, something we tried to do regularly before the pandemic. This isn't a unique phenomenon, my supervisor mentioned that so many churches across our country are struggling to pick up where we left off in this way of engagement, it is also true that many other organisations have suffered decline because people became used to not getting out and socialising in the way we once did.

We are told right at the very start of the Bible in Genesis 1 that mankind was not built to be on their own, so why is it that we've become so good at it? I for one, having reflected on this, can see how things have changed and I miss the opportunity to deepen relationships over a meal or a coffee. I often talk about church as being like a family, I firmly believe that regardless of age, gender or whatever else, we are united in our family bonds which are based on the foundation of our faith in Jesus Christ. In 2024, I hope that we can re-establish these bonds.

When we first arrived at the church, we trialled something I'd done previously in another church called dinner for six.

Whoever wanted to would sign up on a list and they'd be matched up with five others to have dinner together. Someone would host and do a main course, someone else would bring a desert, starter, drinks etc. In 2024, would you be keen to do something like this? How about coming and joining with us on a Thursday morning in the sanctuary for our short time of prayer together? We meet at 10am and spend time praying for our church, the world around us and anything else that might be on our hearts, we will be offering tea, coffee, and cake after this and yet another opportunity to come together in fellowship.

We have so many things in common, far more than the things that divide us, and I'd really like for us as a church family to work on how we relate to one another, really getting to know each other so that we can support and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you have any ideas of anything else we might do to grow in this area, please do let me know.

I hope and pray that 2024 is a year for deepened relationships within this family and that this will be a blessing to us as we try to authentically live out our calling as disciples, reaching out into our community that needs, desperately, to feel the benefits of belonging.

Every blessing,

Your brother in Christ,

Josh.



Don't forget those nestboxes!

On 14th February the annual National Nestbox Week begins.

Now an established part of the ornithological calendar, it aims to encourage people to help out the birds in their gardens each Spring. Everyone is invited to put up more nestboxes in their local area, and a very helpful website gives full instructions on how to do this. More details at: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>

Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,

Having spoken to Carolyn about being late with submitting my snippets this month (groan- what again!) she said many of the articles which she had already received were about new beginnings and that decided me! I am going to take this opportunity of saying a few thank yous to you folk who make Petersfield and Liss URC what it is.

2023 saw huge changes in how we worshipped and so I thank:

- all those who set up the CFC and cleared away after every service.
- those who still managed to serve coffee and tea after the services so that we were able to continue fellowship with a lovely cuppa.
- everyone who helped sort and move things out of the sanctuary and sheds to enable work to start.
- everyone who continued to sort during the build! And to those that then brought the things back from Liss and helped set up the sanctuary ready for worship
- everyone that helped unpack the chairs and set them up.
- Brian King and Peter Crane who have spent hours working on the beautiful screen between the sanctuary and the vestibule (made by Robin Hart – for those that don't know) cleaning and polishing it – I don't know about you but I think the new layout shows it off better than ever before
- everyone who has led worship and taken part in any of our services.
- all our musicians who have enhanced our worship with wonderful music.
- the steering committee who have overseen this amazing build and brought it in on time and budget (almost!!!)
- all of you who have contributed with money, prayers and love.

I know I will have forgotten an area of help and if so, it wasn't intentional. I do thank you all from the bottom of my heart and look forward to 2024 and what it brings.

Don't forget that Revd Michael Hopkins is being inducted as the Wessex Synod Moderator **Saturday March 23rd** at London Street URC, Basingstoke - Josh's other church. The service will be at 3.00pm. Jo and I will be going over and if anyone would like to join us, please let me know asap.

In March 2013 I wrote my first Secretary's Snippets and this is part of it

“I am really enjoying my new role as Church Secretary of Petersfield and am slowly learning everything that needs doing. Please forgive me if I forget anything!”

Nothing changes!!!

God bless you all,
Carol



Women's Fellowship

On the second Tuesday of the month a small group of ladies from our fellowship meet, have a cuppa, chat and put the world to rights - a hard task I know! Through this group strong friendships and support for each other have grown. We would love it if any other ladies would like to join us. We meet in the CFC at 7.30pm. The next fellowship time is Tuesday February 13th which happens to be Shrove Tuesday - you never know there might even be pancakes!

Carol



Message from our Church and Community Worker...

Enduring the Storm

[Proverbs 10:23-25NIV](#)

²³ A fool finds pleasure in wicked schemes,
but a person of understanding delights in wisdom.

²⁴ What the wicked dread will overtake them;
what the righteous desire will be granted.

²⁵ When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone,
but the righteous stand firm forever.



We all go through trials in life. They may be health trials, relationship trials, financial trials, or emotional trials, but all our hardships and difficulties end up being spiritual trials as well.

Where is God when it hurts? Why does God allow us to face the struggles and storms of life?

Scripture never promises that we will be able to go through life without encountering storms and setbacks. There is no promise that life will be easy, or simple, or smooth sailing.

Nevertheless, God promises to be with us always. Through the storms of life, he will be our anchor. And the best way to test the strength of an anchor is to endure a storm.

Jesus taught that whoever follows his teaching is “like a wise man who built his house on the rock” ([Matthew 7:24-27](#)): when a heavy storm came, the house did not fall; it was built on a solid foundation.

Similarly, Proverbs calls us to build our lives on wisdom and righteousness—that is, having a right relationship with God. When we do that, we will be securely anchored and able to endure the storms of life.

With God as our foundation, we can stand firm, trusting that our destiny is safe in his hands.

Mighty God, guide and protect me through the storms of life. Help me to trust you in the midst of trials and lead me to live in right relationship with you. Amen.

Taken from Today Devotional

Jo Hopkins



Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God. Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God. Every moment, thank God. - Anon



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14th February - Ash Wednesday. a good time to admit you are sorry.

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus).
(Luke 5.32)

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’ (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.



If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it. - *Anon*

PRAY FOR JUSTICE TOUR



Join us as we pray for the work of International Justice Mission as they seek to see an end to slavery and violence around the world.

Where? St Mary Magdalene Church, Sheet GU32 2AQ

When? 4pm on Sunday 11th February



• **PACT Prayer Weekend 17th -18th February 2024 8am-8pm**

• Praying for the Body of Christ in our TOWN.

• Praying for OUR COMMUNITY.

• 2 Chronicles 7 v 14

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

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

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

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

To-morrow is St Valentine's day

All in the morning betime

And I a maid at your window

To be your Valentine.

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

The rose is red, the violet's blue

The honey's sweet, and so are you.

Thou are my love and I am thine

I drew thee to my Valentine.



Romance, love, marriage and all that stuff –

the way children see it....

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

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

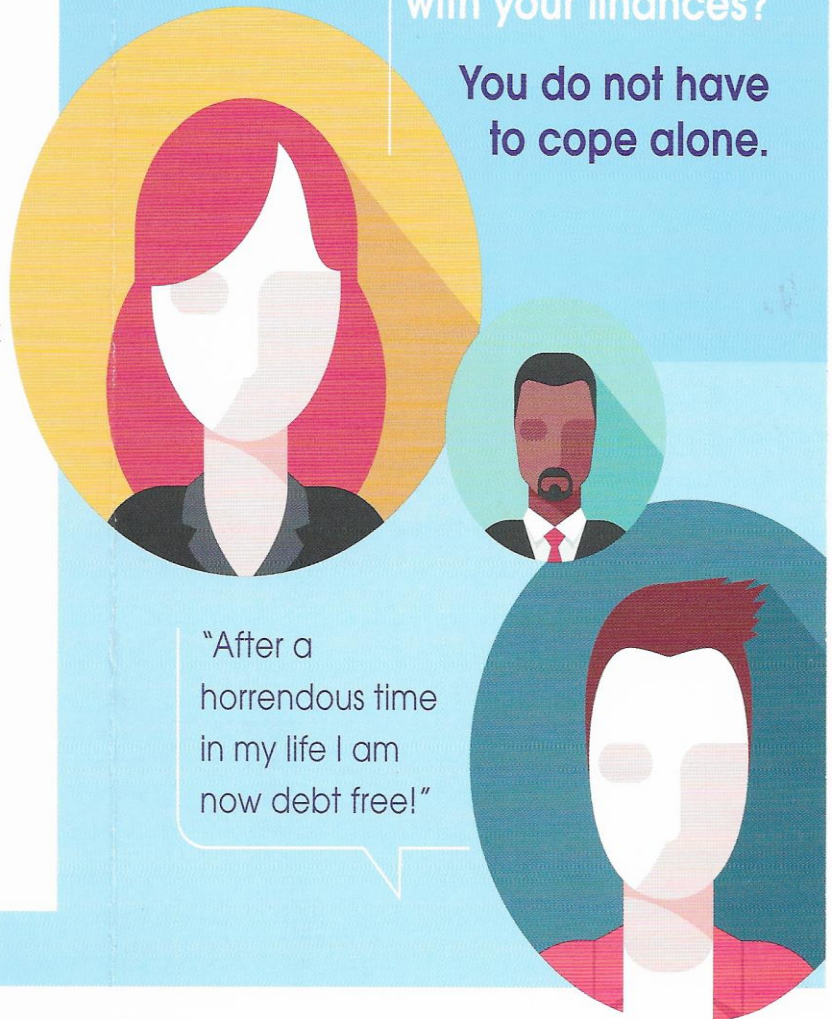


www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

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9.30 am – 11.30 am

Food Bank Updates

Our opening times are: -

Stock and Donations: Mondays and

Wednesdays: 9.30 am – 11.30 am

Distribution: Tuesdays and Fridays:

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 – 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 February 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



Rotas – February 24

Date	Duty Elders	AV
February 4	Carol Tubbs	Roy Knight
February 11	Peter Jolly	Keith Evans
February 18	Mike P-H & Tim Abbott	Jonathan Oru
February 25	Wendy Cassar	Carolyn Barton

Welcomers' Rota

Date	Welcomers
February 4	Val Torrance
February 11	Brian King
February 18	Peter Jolly
February 25	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 and Liss Church Calendar – February 2024

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

Thursday	1	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	1, Crundles
		7.30 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	4	10.30 am	Esme Kelly	
Monday	5	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4-5 pm	Forest Church Liss	St Paul's Liss
Tuesday	6	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	8	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
Sunday	11	10.30 am	Minister	
Tuesday	13	2-4 pm	Drop-in Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	15	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	1, Crundles
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	18	10.30 am	Rev. David Bedford	
Monday	19	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4-5 pm	Forest Church Liss	St Paul's Liss
Tuesday	20	9.30 pm	Little Fishes	CFC
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	22	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
Sunday	25	10.30 am	Minister	
Monday	26	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4-5 pm	Forest Church Liss	CFC

Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar – February 2024 (Continued)

Tuesday	27	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
Thursday	29	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7.30 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way

Petersfield Post Faith Comment

Publication Date: 11 January 2024

New beginnings

The New Year always reminds me of new beginnings or a fresh start. Do you do New Years resolutions? If so, do you accomplish each resolution by the end of the year or do you give up halfway through the year? Are you hard on yourself when you didn't accomplish all that you planned to do that year?

I'm grateful for new beginnings because it speaks of a fresh start or a new start. Depending on what came before, a fresh, new start might be just what we need. The year 2023 seems to have been filled with so much sad news – new wars breaking out, other wars continuing, people living in fear of what tomorrow holds for them, due to the high cost of living. Maybe, some of us might have had a disappointing year or 2023 might just not have been a good year.

I take comfort in the Word of God, the Bible, where it says in Lamentations 3 verse 22 to 23, because of His (God's) great love for us, we are not consumed, whatever comes our way, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Every morning we can have a fresh start, no matter what came before, because His mercies never end. Great is His faithfulness.

Have a Happy, Blessed 2024!

Esmé Kelly

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.



Thank you very much indeed for your ongoing kindness to Ukraine Christian Partnership. We are most grateful for all your donations and prayers. We would like to give a special thanks to Connie's handicraft group for further kind donations (£270) which meant the terrific total of £945 was raised during 2023.

Pastor Sergey and his church have continued their amazing service to the community despite such difficult times. At the end of November, an artillery and rocket attack killed 3 people (including a member of the congregation) in their village, Chornobaivka, and more than 60 homes were damaged. The church (with UCP support) made emergency repairs to over 10 of the worst damaged. If you would like to view a video of some of this work, use this link <https://youtu.be/vhSGYwJwMU0> . The 'regular' house rebuilding work has also carried on despite the less-than-ideal conditions <https://youtu.be/4BegSs28Jac> . People are just so grateful for the help being given.

While we were happily celebrating Christmas, the same was not true for Pastor Sergey's village. As people were walking to church, rockets landed right across the road from the church. Pastor Sergey prayed with those who had come but had to send them home because of the danger. Service cancelled. The week between Christmas and New Year was particularly bad for shelling in the area, which is coming from across the other side of the Dnipro River.

At a 'normal' Sunday service, people turn their mobile phones off - not to avoid them ringing, but to stop the Russians locating any groups of people.

It does not matter whether you are at church or not, it sadly makes no difference to the Russians.

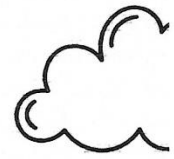
Please could you pray for Pastor Sergey and his congregation. Please pray they may be protected during this terrible time and that they would know God's comfort and strength. The peace that passes all understanding. Thank you.

David Darling

Ukraine Christian Partnership (www.ukraine-cp.org)

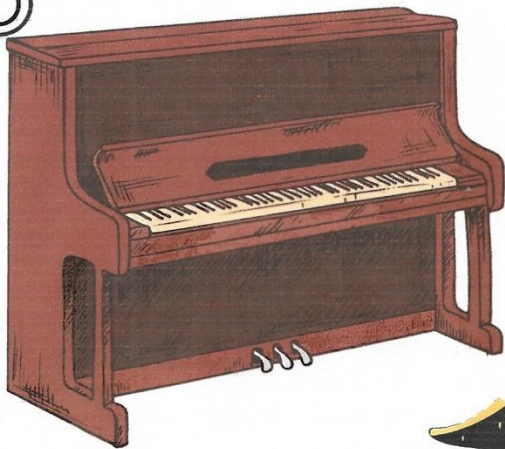
Emergency repairs to houses in Chornobaivka following Russian artillery & rocket attack:



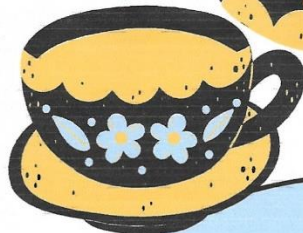


Afternoon

TEA WITH MIKE ON PIANO



2-4PM



**Saturday 20th
April**

**AT Petersfield
and Liss URC
College street**





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!

What's so special about Jesus?

The gospels record that people were astounded by many of the things that Jesus said. Even His enemies, intent on trapping Him, admitted: "No one ever spoke the way this man does." (John 7:46) Furthermore, "the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law." (Matthew 7:28-9)

For in Jesus, we find something without precedent in the span of human literature. While urging humility on others and while giving the impression of the ultimately humble person, Jesus' teaching and claims are basically *egocentric and completely focussed on Himself*. In ordinary life, that would get a person labelled as crazy or as a megalomaniac!

Just think of the few astounding claims Jesus made about Himself. "I am the Resurrection and the Life." (Jn 11:25) "I am the Bread of Life." (Jn 6:35) "I am the Light of the World." (Jn 8:12) "I am the Good Shepherd." (Jn 10:7,9) "...whoever lives and believes in Me will never die." (Jn 11:26) And – most staggering of all - "anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father." (Jn 14:9)

CS Lewis comments on the inescapableness of Jesus' uniqueness: "There is no half-way house, and there is no parallel in other religions."

That Jesus cannot be ranked among a pantheon of religious leaders or prophets becomes further obvious when one reflects further on His claim of being at both the beginning and at the end of Creation and of History. He said: "I am the First and the Last" (Rev 1:17), as well as : "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Mt 28:18).

Clearly the disciples accepted this, as John begins his gospel with these words: "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word was with God and the Word was God... Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made....The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.... and in Him all things hold together." (Col 1:16,17)

When we look at what Jesus goes on to say about the end of history, we are even more startled, as when He said of any person who follows Him: "I will raise him up at the last day." (Jn 6:40)

This was the local carpenter, remember! And when we note that throughout the Bible final judgement is a function reserved to God alone, it is astounding to register that Jesus says of Himself: “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son authority to judge because He is the Son of Man.” (Jn 5:26—27)

Yes, between Creation and the end of History stands Jesus. That also means, of course, and we note it with comfort, because everything in between is His also.

During this Lent, why not spend some time just quietly thinking about these claims of Jesus?



Prayer for February 2024

Father,

In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death.

In his name,
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

For our younger readers ...

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2


Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.

The next day...




Why are you beating up one of your own people?

Are you going to kill me like you killed that Egyptian?



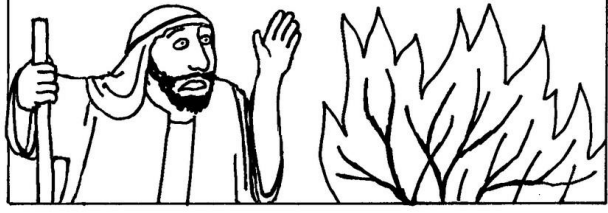
Moses had to run away from Egypt.



He went to Midian, got married and looked after his father-in-law's sheep.



One day, on Sinai Mountain, he saw a burning bush that didn't burn up. Now God had got Moses' attention, He said..



You will go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people leave Egypt.



No! I'd rather not do that!




It's not a choice. Your brother Aaron can help you



Aaron and Moses met up and went to see Pharaoh




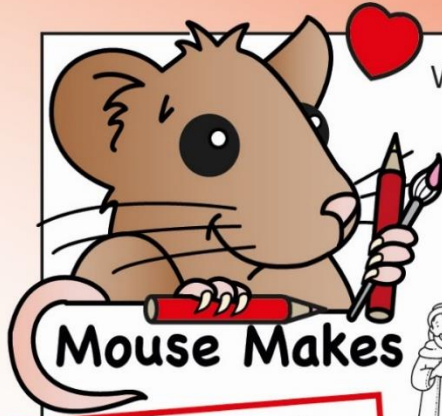
Our God says you must let all his people leave Egypt.



No!

Your God means nothing to me. I will never change my mind. Your people can never leave!





Mouse Makes

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?
_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

_____ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

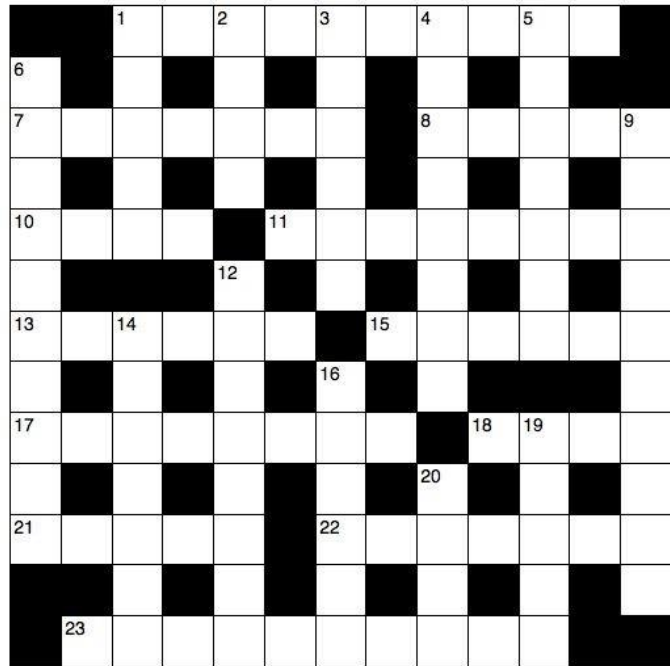
King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E	E	Z	R	E	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	R	ABRAHAM
S	V	Q	S	L	R	Z	J	I	B	O	A	D	A	M	ADAM • AQUILA
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	O	J	R	A	O	Q	N	O	BOAZ • ELKANAH
U	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	A	A	Z	P	R	N	S	ELIZABETH
T	H	A	Q	N	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	EVE • HANNAH
H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	I	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	B	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A		PRISCILLA
															RACHEL
															REBEKAH • RUTH
															SARAH
															ZECHARIAH

Crossword

Across

- 1 Success or wealth
(Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites
(Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after
weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called
Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that ‘he walked with God’
(Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)



Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul’s ‘fellow worker’, to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God’s foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 ‘The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever’
(2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ’ (Luke 1:46–
47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, identified and interpreted
by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 ‘On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it’
(Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

Sudoku

Easy

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

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Medium

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

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Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands...

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged.

"You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth." The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve. "What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded. "Counting your ribs," said Eve.

Do what we can to help...

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her: "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers."

"Thank you," she said. "But really, I can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen...."

News from the United Reformed Church
Items from the January edition of the Synod News



2024 Synod Meetings – Save the Dates

The dates for 2024 will be as follows:

Tuesday	20th	February	(online in the evening)
Wednesday	24th	April	NEW DATE: (online in the evening)
Saturday	12th	October	(in person, all day, United Church Winchester)

Dates in 2024

- **Lay Preachers' Gathering**, Saturday 2 March 2024 at Sarum College.
- **Church Treasurers' networking zoom**, Sat 11 May, 10am – 11.30am
- **Elders' Conference**, Saturday 22 June 2024 at Sarum College.
- **Ministers' Spring School**, 10-13 June 2024 at Sarum College.
- **Ministers' Gathering**, Wednesday 25 September 2024 at Sarum College with optional overnight stay the night before (Tuesday 24 September 2024).
- Keep your eyes open for more DSO dates in 2024, to be publicised in due course

Synod Big Day Out 2024 – bookings now open!

Following the success of the last Synod Big Day out at Hollycombe Steam in the country, we have booked the site again for our exclusive use on Saturday 4 May 2024, 10am – 5pm.

There will be more steam rides open this year and additional programme activities provided by Wessex Synod.

We invite all churches, church user groups and community groups with links to URCs and LEPs in Wessex Synod to come and enjoy a day of fellowship, fun and worship.

Ticket prices are the same as in 2022: £8 per adult, £5 per child - for up to 10 rides on the attractions.

New this year are tickets for unlimited rides on the attractions:

Adult £10.50 Child £7.50

A free ticket can be booked for an accompanying carer.

Hollycombe's fabulous new café will be open this time and there will be other food and refreshment outlets. You are welcome to bring your own picnic.

We have listened to feedback and so this time the layout for the Synod activities will be more central and accessible for all. Synod activities include a large marquee with worship, stories and entertainment, as well as a marketplace with crafts, Synod Youth Executive, and church connections, forest church and a nature walk.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar

February	4	Thatcham; South Hayling
	11	Westborough; United Church Ferndown
	18	Rowlands Castle; United Church of Egham
	25	United Church Dorchester; Isaac Watts Memorial

Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins. 8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti. 13, Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navigate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22, Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

DOWN: 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome.

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

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



Lectionary Bible Readings for February 2024

February 4	Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
February 11	2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
February 18	Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
February 25	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

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

Church Contact Details

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Minister	Rev Joshua Thomas Tel 07734 254983 minister@petersfieldurc.com	
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Sunday Services	Mornings at 10.30 am Services will be held at College Street	
Secretary	Mrs Carol Tubbs 39 Rotherbank Farm Lane Liss Forest GU33 7BJ Tel 01730 893489 Mobile 07766 412160.	
Treasurer	Mr Jim Cleverly, 4 Crundles, Petersfield GU31 4PJ Tel 01730 300558	

Petersfield United Reformed Church Mission Statement

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