

# THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



PETERSFIELD AND LISS  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



December 2022 No. 714

## From the Minister ...

And here we are again my friends, December is upon us, and all the usual craziness of Advent and Christmas is beginning to unfold around us. All too soon, it will be another new year with all the promise that this holds for us as a church family.



2022 has been a year of extremes for us as a church and indeed for us as human beings. It has marked the 300 years of non-conformist worship happening here in Petersfield and we have had many occasions to sit back and reflect on our history as well as where God is calling us in the future. Back in February, we had the opportunity to thank God for this journey with a special Sunday morning service which was led jointly by myself and Rev'd Peter Norris; this was a wonderful occasion and paved the way for lots of eating, drinking, and reminiscing together throughout the rest of the year.

Unfortunately, February also saw the beginning of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As a fellowship, this has hit so many of us incredibly hard, we have such a longstanding connection to Ukraine and its people and so many of our congregation have developed personal relationships with host families and those they have been called by God to serve over a very long period. In amongst the celebrations of this year, it is important to reflect on the sinful ways to which mankind often turn. We continue to pray with so many around our world for a peaceful resolution to this conflict to happen as soon as possible.

This year has also seen the celebration of 50 years of the United Reformed Church. Back in 1972 agreement between the Presbyterian church and the Congregational church were made and a special unifying service was held in Methodist Central Hall in the October of that year. We had hoped to mark this date with a service to be held at the same venue, however, despite many years' worth of planning, a train strike on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October meant travel for so many would have been impossible resulting in the postponement of this service. It will be held at some stage in 2023, but what a shame to not be able to celebrate that date as had been hoped!

Thankfully, the Synod efforts went ahead and many from our church family, were able to join in the Big Day out up at Hollycombe Steam in the Country in mid-May.

This was a fantastic day out and saw around 700 people come together to celebrate and worship together, we were glad to be key in the organisation of this day being one of the most local church congregations and we even managed to drag Liss Band along for a really fun day out!

As we round off the year, it is great to have so many events in the diary to really celebrate the birth of Christ together. I want to particularly point out the event on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. This will be an opportunity to invite friends and family along for an enjoyable evening (hopefully in our magically decorated church garden)! Liss band will be providing the music for a good old carol singing session, there will also be hot drinks and food available to purchase (all profits to the building project), craft activities, a nativity themed escape room and even a visit from Father Christmas himself. We have a real opportunity to invite people along to events like this enabling them to see that as Christians (most of us) are actually quite normal! We hope too, to be able to introduce them to some of the hope we have because of the gift we were given in the form of a baby born in the squaller of a borrowed stable.

There will be cards on that evening and at all our other Christmas events inviting people to our Hope Explored – evangelism course held in January. As Esmé said in church a few weeks ago, please really think and pray about who you could be inviting along to this course. Our commission is to tell everyone the good news and Christmas provides us a really good opportunity to do just this through easy to invite to events and services.

The world at times, feels pretty bleak, but we have a reason to hope, and that reason is our faith in Jesus Christ. Let's remember that as we go into this season and let's share that good news with our community.

Every blessing,

Your brother in Christ,

Josh.

# You are invited to join us this Christmas...

Saturday 3rd December - 2pm

We meet up at Broadlands Meadows Farm, Town Lane, Sheet,  
for a special Forest Church Christmas event.

Sunday 4th December - 10.30am

Our gift service to support the valuable work of Two Saints in Portsmouth

Thursday 8th December - 6pm

Liss band lead us in carol singing in the garden, burgers, hot dogs and hot  
chocolate will be on sale in our magically decorated garden.  
There may even be a visit from Mr Claus himself!

Sunday 11th December - 10.30am and 6pm

Liss band lead our morning service and we meet for a reflective,  
candlelit communion service in the evening



PETERSFIELD AND LISS  
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[www.petersfieldurc.com](http://www.petersfieldurc.com)

Sunday 18th December - 9.30am and 10.30am

A quiet, contemplative communion service at our Liss site followed by worship  
led by our children and families at Petersfield.

Christmas Eve - 4pm

Our carols by candlelight, christingle service up at our Liss site

Christmas Day - 10am

A short family service celebrating the birth of Christ



PETERSFIELD AND LISS  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Petersfield United Reformed Church - College Street, Petersfield, GU31 4AG

Liss United Reformed Church (St Paul's) - Hill Brow Road, Liss, GU33 7PX

# Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

What an exciting month December is looking to be! (and I am sure January will be too!)

I thought it would be useful to have some ideas of what we can bring to the Gift service where we will be joined by Claire and Donna from Two Saints.

Claire says:

- Small gift vouchers like Greggs / Tesco's etc
- Smellies - deodorant, shower gels, perfumes etc
- Chocolates
- Socks and pants
- Activity gifts like arts and crafts
- Board games

It is always useful to have the gifts loosely wrapped so that the contents can be easily seen and distributed to the right people.

We are so lucky to have Liss Band joining us for 2 occasions in December. The first is our opportunity to invite people into our church community and show them how friendly we are! This is on Thursday Dec 8th when our garden will be transformed into a magical place! Music, food and possibly a visit from Mr Claus himself! Do come along and invite others too.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all that you do to make Petersfield and Liss a wonderful church family. There are so many jobs that get done unnoticed by the majority but lead to the smooth running of the church. I pray that you all have a wonderful Festive season and come refreshed into 2023.

God bless you all,  
Carol

## Dates for your diaries

- Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – Forest Church at Les's alpaca farm
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – Gift Service led by Josh. Gifts to be donated to Two Saints
- Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Garden Carols led by a few members of Liss Band with food and hot chocolate
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – Liss Band

- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> evening candlelit communion service at Petersfield in the CFC
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – 9.30 short communion service at Liss
- December 18<sup>th</sup> -10.30 JFC service at Petersfield
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 4.00 – Christingle and Carol service at Liss
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – 10.00 Christmas Day service at Petersfield
- Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> – Hope Explored

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### **Message from our Church and Community Worker...**

With the lead up to Christmas in full swing, it's easy to forget how much has happened over the year. Some of us will remember the push backs, others the hi-lights.



For me it was a blessing to come back to work with the support and love of all, and I thank you so much for that. It was so lovely to be embraced by the Little Fishes' families again and by the end of the 1st few sessions I did feel I hadn't been away.

Unfortunately, like most of us, the beginning of the year was a roller coaster of emotions. Losing Joy Hanna, my chemo buddy and friend, was a bitter pill. But we all draw strength from Joy's unwavering faith and love of the Lord.

February- I was heavy in training on zoom for Care for the Family which I passed in March, as was the start of work on the children and youth friendly award, and Forest Church was at Petersfield Lake too. April was great fun with the Easter craft morning making Easter gardens and an Easter egg hunt; just wish I could bottle the laughter of that morning. And prayer time was finally off zoom.

May- Josh, and I were part of the team at Hollycombe - two long days but a wonderful event, so grateful the weather was kind. And that I had Esme and Julie West on the Forest Church team on the day. Great fun was had by all. But still in May we can't say the same for the weather for JFC stomp/ Forest Church QE park walk, but we did manage a BBQ in the garage.

June- we were at The Avenue in Petersfield for the Jubilee Fete giving out invites and jam tarts to our Family Fun Day on the 25<sup>th</sup>, where we certainly had a tea party with Alice; another wonderful day that we shared with community and our very own Mad Hatter and White Rabbit.

July- another busy month with the preparation for August Holiday at Home which was a three-day hooley for guests and all the wonderful helpers. We did enjoy all the craft, pampering, amazing food, and entertainment.

All the groups were back in September and the launch of Forest Church started, unfortunately the parenting course was cancelled due to lack of numbers which we will try again next year with. But we did finish the month with a fabulous Harvest service and shared lunch plus forest walk. And a very successful fund raiser Beetle drive evening for the sanctuary project.

In October we were presented with children's and youth friendly awards at Synod in Woking. And November was a full packed month of meeting and preparations for our Lord's birthday in December.

This year has not always gone to plan, but with the church's weekly and monthly groups in the diary, always keeping us busy, with Connie's Craft, Drop inTea, Friday Fellowship, and our fabulous Home Groups/ Ladies' Bible Studies. This year has been a delightful year of friendship and love.

It's been hard losing so many good friends, but I take away support and strength, love and kindness from you you all, my chosen family.

Love

**Jo Hopkins**



## **Quick Quotes**

It is a sign that our love is far from perfect when our doubts, fears and apprehensions of God are many. Let Heaven and Earth stand amazed at His love. He sent His Word to invite sinners to partake of this great salvation. Let them take the comfort of the happy change wrought in them, while they give Him the glory. – *Matthew Henry*

For every step you take towards God, God takes two steps toward you; and if you come to God walking, God comes to you running. – *James Martin*



# Are You Alone For Christmas?

**Petersfield Area Churches Together (PACT)**

## **2022 Christmas Tea**

**If you live alone (or alone with dependants for whom you are the sole carer) and are on your own for Christmas; then PACT would like to invite you to a Christmas Tea with company, entertainment, food, and gifts.**

**Time: Christmas Day from 14:30 til 16:30**

**Transport can be provided**

**Please complete an application form**

**and return it to Winton**

**House (or email**

**[chair@pact.org.uk](mailto:chair@pact.org.uk))**

**(Applications forms are available [here](#), please ask for one, or alternatively email [chair@pact.org.uk](mailto:chair@pact.org.uk) )**

## Christmas Card



For the last few years, I have produced a church Christmas card where everyone has the opportunity to send a Christmas greeting to everyone at Petersfield and Liss URC. If you would like to include a greeting for this year's card, please send it to me by **Sunday 4**

**December**. All the messages will then be collated into a card that will be distributed to everyone from **11 December** onwards.

Mary Evans

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## The story behind the hymn: Good King Wenceslas

Each year at Christmas we sing about good King Wenceslas looking on the Feast of Stephen... ever wonder who on earth he was? Here are three of the five verses...



Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel  
When the poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel...

Bring me flesh and bring me wine; bring me pine logs hither;  
Thou and I will see him dine when we bear them thither.  
Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together,  
Through the rude winds' wild lament, and the bitter weather...

In his master's steps he trod where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.  
Therefore Christian men, be sure wealth or rank possessing,  
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourself find blessing.

This carol was 900 years in the making... and started with a brutal murder in Bohemia.

For Wenceslas was a real person, the Duke of Bohemia, who lived in the early 10th century. He seems to have been a rare ruler, in that he was just and had compassion for the poor. His goodness made him enemies, and when he was only 22, he was assassinated on the steps of a church in Prague in 935.

But that was not the end of Wenceslas. Deeply mourned by the common people, he was soon considered a martyr and a saint. A cult of Wenceslas grew up in Bohemia, influencing the High Middle Ages idea of the rex Justus – or ‘righteous king’ - that is, a monarch whose power stems mainly from his great piety.

The story of Wenceslas came to England sometime before 1853, when Queen Victoria’s envoy to Stockholm sent some rare books to a friend, John Mason Neale, Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead. Here Neale found the story of Wenceslas in an ancient poem by Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda. Neale published his translation as a carol in 1853. He made the ‘Duke’ into a ‘King’, as a later Pope had conferred the regal title on Wenceslas.

The carol tells the poignant story of a young king and his page braving harsh winter weather in order to bring food, wine and fuel to a poor peasant on the Feast of St Stephen (26 December). The journey is terrible, and the page only gets through by following in the king’s footprints, step by step, through deep snow. There are themes here of following Christ, through suffering, to do good to the poor.

If the story is ancient, so is the melody that Neale chose for his carol - it goes back to Finland in 1582.

Good King Wenceslas... today, a millennium after his brutal murder, he is still remembered in Prague, where a statue of him stands tall in the middle of Wenceslas Square. His goodness is not forgotten.



**I'd like to thank everyone for your support for the Messenger and to wish you all a Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**Carolyn**

# Community Matters

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE  
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

## Frontline Petersfield Debt Advice

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

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

Email:  
petersfield@frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

Website:  
www.frontlinepetersfield.org.uk

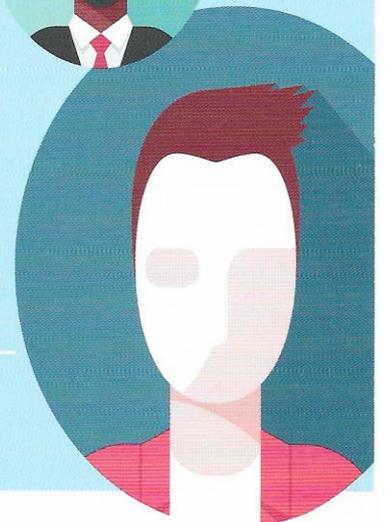


[www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk](http://www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk)

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with your finances?

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to cope alone.



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in my life I am  
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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](http://pactfoodbank.org.uk)  
([pactfoodbank.org.uk](http://pactfoodbank.org.uk))**



We will be open every Wednesday from 2.00pm-3.30pm. This is when you can meet us, have a cuppa and take away your food bags. Delivery will be arranged for those on foot.

In addition, the Ring and Drop system will continue ring **01730 00659/300921** or **text 07570792525** before Monday Lunchtime for a Wednesday morning delivery.

Remember the Liss foodbank is for surrounding villages as well as Liss. It can be accessed without a referral.

Please continue to drop off donations in St Mary's Rectory porch 111 Station road or bring them to the store on a Wednesday afternoon.

### **Free Shop Petersfield**

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

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

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

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

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

**Friday & Saturday 10 am – 12 noon**

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

Or call Lucy on **07988043870**

*Back again this year, St Mary's popular ...*

# **Festive** **POP-UP** **Breakfast**

**Saturday 3 December**  
**9am - Last orders 11am**  
**Liss Village Hall**

***A menu for everyone***

- *bacon butties*
- *sausage baps*
- *mini maple pancakes*
- *home-made bread and conserves*
- *tea, coffee, hot chocolate*
- *home-made cake stall*

***Plus Christmas tombola***

**Proceeds in aid of Liss Community Association  
as they develop their warm winter welcome  
space at the Triangle**

***Come, eat and give generously!***

## Petersfield and Liss United Reformed Church

### Update on regular weekday activities

Please note the following updates.



- **Drop in Tea** – Drop-In Tea for will be on the 13 December and 10 January. 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

- **Women's Fellowship**- There will be no Women's Fellowship in January.

### Rotas –December 22/January 23

Date	Duty Elders	AV
December 4	Wendy Cassar	David Darling
December 11	Mary Fair	Keith Evans
December 18	Julie Penjovic	David Oru
December 25	Carol Tubbs	Roy Knight
January 1	TBC	David Darling
January 8	TBC	Keith Evans
January 15	TBC	Roy Knight
January 22	TBC	Carolyn Barton
January 29	TBC	Jonathan Oru

### Welcomers' Rota

Date	Welcomers
December 4	Elizabeth Phillips
December 11	Di Luggar
December 18	Tony Phillips
December 25	David Barton
January 1	Tim Abbott
January 8	Jean Collins
January 15	Robin Hart
January 22	Tony Phillips
January 29	Steven Glenn

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

## Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar –December 2022

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

Thursday	1	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7.30 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Saturday	3	9.30 am	PACT Hub	CFC
		2 pm	Forest Church	Meadows Farm Sheet
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Minister – Gift Service</b>	
Monday	5	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4-5pm	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
		6 pm	Carols in the Garden	
Friday	9	10.30	Friday Fellowship	CFC
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Liss Band</b>	
		<b>6 pm</b>	<b>Minister -Candlelit Communion Service</b>	
Monday	12	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4-5 pm	Forest Church Liss	St Paul's Liss
Tuesday	13	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2 pm	Drop – in -Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	15	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7.30pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9.30</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>St Paul's Liss</b>
		<b>10.30</b>	<b>Service led by Junior Church</b>	
Tuesday	20	2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Wednesday	21	2.30 pm	Home Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	22	6pm	PACT Carol singing	PMC
		7 pm	PACT Carol Service	Square
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>Candlelit Carols</b>	<b>St Paul's Liss</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Minister -Christmas Day</b>	
Thursday	29	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary

## Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar –January 2023

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Ron Wing</b>	
Tuesday	3	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	5	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Minister</b>	
Monday	9	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4 – 5 pm	Forest Church Liss	St Paul's Liss
Tuesday	10	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2 pm	Drop-in-Tea	CFC
Thursday	12	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7 pm	<b>Hope Explored</b>	CFC
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Communion – Minister</b>	
Monday	16	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4-5	Forest church Liss	St Paul's Liss
Tuesday	17	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	19	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7 pm	<b>Hope Explored</b>	CFC
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Minister</b>	
Monday	23	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4-5 pm	Forest Church Liss	St Paul's Liss
Tuesday	24	9.30	Little Fishes	CFC
Thursday	26	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7 pm	<b>Hope Explored</b>	CFC
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>Esme Kelly</b>	
Monday	30	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC
		4-5 pm	Forest Church Liss	St Paul's Liss
Tuesday	31	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC

- There are no Home Groups in January owing to the Hope Explored Meetings
- Church Meeting to be confirmed



## January 2023

I'm going to start this year as I left off from last year. With LOVE and HOPE at the centre. If you remember, we did T4U boxes in November. One week at Church we watched a short video with children receiving their boxes, titled LOVE in a box. These small acts of love and care made the biggest of difference to these beautiful children's lives, it gave them HOPE.

We, as children of Christ, are to bring out the God- flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? Here's another way to put it. You're here to be light, bringing out God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. Remember whatever we do make sure it's from God... In between Christmas and New Year, I am going to be still, and wait on the lord. Pray to hear his voice, to be renewed to be able go out and do his will. Recharge your batteries, getting your saltiness back being close with God, means you're ready to colour God's wonderful world with Gods love, in the small acts of LOVE and light to bring HOPE to our community and around the world.

I hope you have rested with the Lord and know your purpose. We start the New Year with HOPE EXPLORED. Have you invited anyone yet??

3 sessions starting 12<sup>th</sup> January with Esme, Keith, and Ron.

Jo x

## HOPE EXPLORED

Hope explored is a three-session series about the person and work of Jesus, and the hope that can be found in him. It is intended to be an introduction to the gospel for those who would not consider themselves to be followers of Jesus.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God promised to send a Saviour who would be called “Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). Through the work of Jesus that promise was fulfilled. Hope Explored shows how the events of Jesus’ time on earth in the past can change our future and transform our present.

Each session explores an aspect of Jesus’ work: his life, his death, and his resurrection. Each session also explores one of the great longings we have in life: for hope, for peace and for purpose. Through teaching and studies from Luke’s Gospel, Jesus is seen to be the fulfilment of God’s promise through Isaiah, and the fulfilment of our greatest needs.



By exploring Jesus’ life in Session 1, we see that Jesus is the Mighty God, who fulfils our longing for hope. By exploring Jesus’ death in Session 2, we see that Jesus is the Prince of Peace, who makes it possible for us to have peace with God and one another. By exploring Jesus’ resurrection in Session 3, we see that Jesus is the Everlasting Father, whose defeat of death gives life the purpose we’re looking for. And having explored these things, we are left with a question: will you have Jesus as your Wonderful Counsellor?

*The article above is from the Hope Explored Leader’s Handbook*

We will be hosting the three-session series on Thursdays, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023, from 7pm. Each session will include a meal. By now, God has been working on the hearts and minds of those people we would like to invite and have been praying for.

Invitations will be handed out in the first week of December. If you can help either by serving the meal, helping in the kitchen or sit at the table and chat, please speak with Keith Evans or to me.

Our troubled world needs the hope and peace that is found in Christ. And only in Christ can we get the answer to one of life's philosophical questions, why am I here? Together, we can bring hope and peace to our family and friends who need it.

***“The people walking in darkness, have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:2,6).***

Esmé



### Prayer

Lord, hear me as I seek to pray:  
Take these jumbled words I say  
And hear me as I seek to pray.

Troubles weigh me down each day:  
Banish all my fears away,  
Lord, hear me as I seek to pray.

Your word shines through like sunshine's ray  
Burning clouds of doubt away:  
Lord, hear me as I seek to pray.

I'm prone to sin, Lord, come what may,  
Forgive me please again today:  
Lord, hear me as I seek to pray

From your paths I often stray:  
Keep me on the narrow way  
Lord, hear me as I seek to pray,

Before you Lord these prayers I lay,  
That by your grace at peace I stay  
Lord, hear me as I seek to pray.

Amen

# Mission News

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

## UKRAINE MISSION UPDATE

Thank you so much for your continued kindness to Ukraine Christian Partnership. We are so grateful for all your donations and prayers. Thank you to Connie's handicraft group for a further £100 donation; that is an amazing £920 this year.

We continue to help our brothers and sisters in the villages we usually visit, this month providing rebuilding help to four families in Gyula whose properties were sadly attacked by an arsonist throwing Molotov cocktails. Thankfully there were no injuries, but much fire damage. The arsonist was arrested.

Our main focus recently has been helping people in Kherson, southern Ukraine. Kherson has very been much in the news. We had had a foretaste of Kherson city's liberation the week before when we had a truly amazing video call with the pastor of a nearby village who we support. For the first time (thanks to Russian military withdrawal) he was able to freely show us around his church, both inside and outside; including the tail end of an embedded rocket in the ground, which thankfully missed the church. Although his first language is Russian, he is no lover of Putin's Russia and what occupation brought. He was joyfully looking forward to his Ukrainian liberators arriving. We pray for him and his congregation as they continue, with your kind donations, to support those who need help most. Before withdrawing, the Russian occupiers evacuated tens of thousands of the Ukrainian population. All evacuees were taken to a particular city in Russia, whether they wanted to go there or not. One person we had been supporting was on his way to stay with his mother in Moscow, but the Russian authorities intercepted him and took him to this other city instead. Children were taken separately to 'retreats' in Russia, parted from their parents, but with no plans to return them. To reunite with their children, parents must travel to this 'closed' area, effectively a one way ticket.

One of our supported family orphanages also evacuated at this time because of the imminent danger to life. They were travelling to ....., close to their relatives. As they left Kherson, they were stopped, put on a bus, and their car seized.

They were sent to Anapa in Russia, put into holiday accommodation, and given some food. They didn't have adequate clothes for the colder climate they ended up in – or much money. The main carer turned to us, feeling desperate. Our help, your prayers (thank you prayer chain – and God!) and internet money transfer allowed them to buy food, a few clothes for the children and public transport tickets to ultimately travel to their intended destination. As the carer said:

*“Thank you! Really! I don't feel scared anymore –thanks to you, I feel that I'm not alone”*

*“I don't know what we would have done, if not for your help”*

*“We arrived safely! For one month, we can stay in a church house, for free. We're still not allowed back to Kherson –but I hope during this month things will settle, and the Lord will lead us out somehow”*

While we thank God that our prayers were answered, in that Kherson was not destroyed in a bloody battle during its recapture, the Russians still inflicted much damage during their retreat. Critical infrastructure was destroyed and currently (mid-November) there is no electricity and only limited water and gas supplies. People gather round communal wood-fired stoves to keep warm. The pastor also confirmed the looting which went on. In his village, military trucks drove through garden fences and the soldiers then proceeded to empty the house, taking everything they fancied, whether it was nailed down or not.

At time of writing, the Russians have withdrawn from Kherson to the other bank of the Dnipro river. Whether this is a prelude to a lasting peace for Kherson (we pray) or a prelude to a bombardment nobody but the Russians know. Today, the Kherson airport area was hit by Russian artillery. While the majority of people we support live on the Kherson side of the river, there are a few on the other side. We pray for the population as a whole, but say a special prayer for those still under Russian occupation, including the missing and imprisoned.

While sometimes we can feel helpless, your prayers and donations are helping many, many individuals at a very difficult time. As one of the volunteer helpers in Kherson told us: “All our beneficiaries thank you for your help. They are saying that without it they simply would not have survived.”

### **David Darling**

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

## Eco corner - information and updates from the Eco Group

We offer a few tips on possibilities for more than kerbside recycling, for refilling and reusing in Petersfield....to be good stewards of God's beautiful creation! Plastic bag recycling available at some supermarkets including Waitrose and Tesco's Petersfield.

Please see the **Petersfield infant school recycling poster**, but if it is more convenient to you, there is a crate in the church vestibule for these items which David Barton then kindly takes to the school. **Newsflash** - they no longer accept crisp packets, but Liss junior school may still do, see below.

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

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

**Stop Press:** - Carol can now collect blister packs again as the recycling of these has restarted.

**The Petersfield Household Waste recycling Centre**, 4-6 Bedford Road, will take items that the kerbside collection won't and this can be checked at [Petersfield | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk). No-one wants to take a part carload to the tip. An opportunity for collaboration with folk who live nearby?

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

Sells food stuffs, handwash, floor cleaner, other cleaning products and other items. (Value for money varies greatly, rolled oats for making porridge recommended for competitive value and brown Basmati rice reasonable).

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

**Juniper** - sustainable goods and refillery, 33 Lavant Street, Petersfield, Mon-Sat 9am-5pm Similar method of use as Refill and Replenish, different range. Also sell homemade sourdough bread once a week.

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



## **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!**

## **The man who married Mary**

The traditional Nativity scene on our Christmas cards has Mary with the Holy Babe. Around her are the shepherds and Magi. We may also see stable animals, angels and a star! While Joseph is often included, his presence seems to be of minor importance.

After all, we praise God for Jesus with our familiar Christmas carols, mentioning angels, shepherds, Wise Men and Mary but the name of Joseph is absent! Why is Joseph given a low profile? For he is a man to be remembered.

Joseph was a resident of Nazareth. He worked as a carpenter and his skills would have included making furniture, repairing buildings and crafting agricultural tools. Although Joseph had an honourable profession, he would not have been a man of great wealth.

The gospel writers Matthew and Luke give Joseph a few brief mentions. After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary go to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate the Baby to God. Afterwards, they flee into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod and much later return to Nazareth. 12 years later, Mary and Joseph go with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Here they lose Jesus, only to find Him in the Temple talking with religious leaders!

Apart from these verses, the New Testament is silent about the rest of Joseph's life. However, we do know that Joseph was father to other children by Mary. His four sons are named, and they had at least two daughters. (See Matthew 13:55)

And we also know that Joseph was someone who quietly and humbly took on the awesome role in caring for the early life of the Son of God. Joseph would have taught Jesus many things – not just the skills of a labourer, but the lore of the countryside which was evident in our Lord's teaching. Jesus grew up within a loving family and described God as 'Father', knowing also the good fatherly qualities of Joseph.

In the Christmas story, Joseph is placed into a situation that brought him misunderstanding and suspicion. But Joseph remained faithful in the knowledge that as long as God had spoken, the opinion of others mattered little. Before Jesus began His ministry, it is believed that Joseph died. It is likely Jesus took on many of His father's responsibilities before He left home.

In the eyes of the world, Joseph was a nobody. He was not a man of valour, fame and fortune. But he was the one who had parental responsibility for the greatest person who has ever lived!

It is sad that we often equate ordinariness with ineffectiveness. Down the ages, God has used many ordinary people to accomplish great things. God continues to use ordinary people. Like Joseph, we need to know that doing God's will is the most important thing in life. May we, this Christmas, respond to God's call to us and please Him in all that we do.



### The story of mince pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

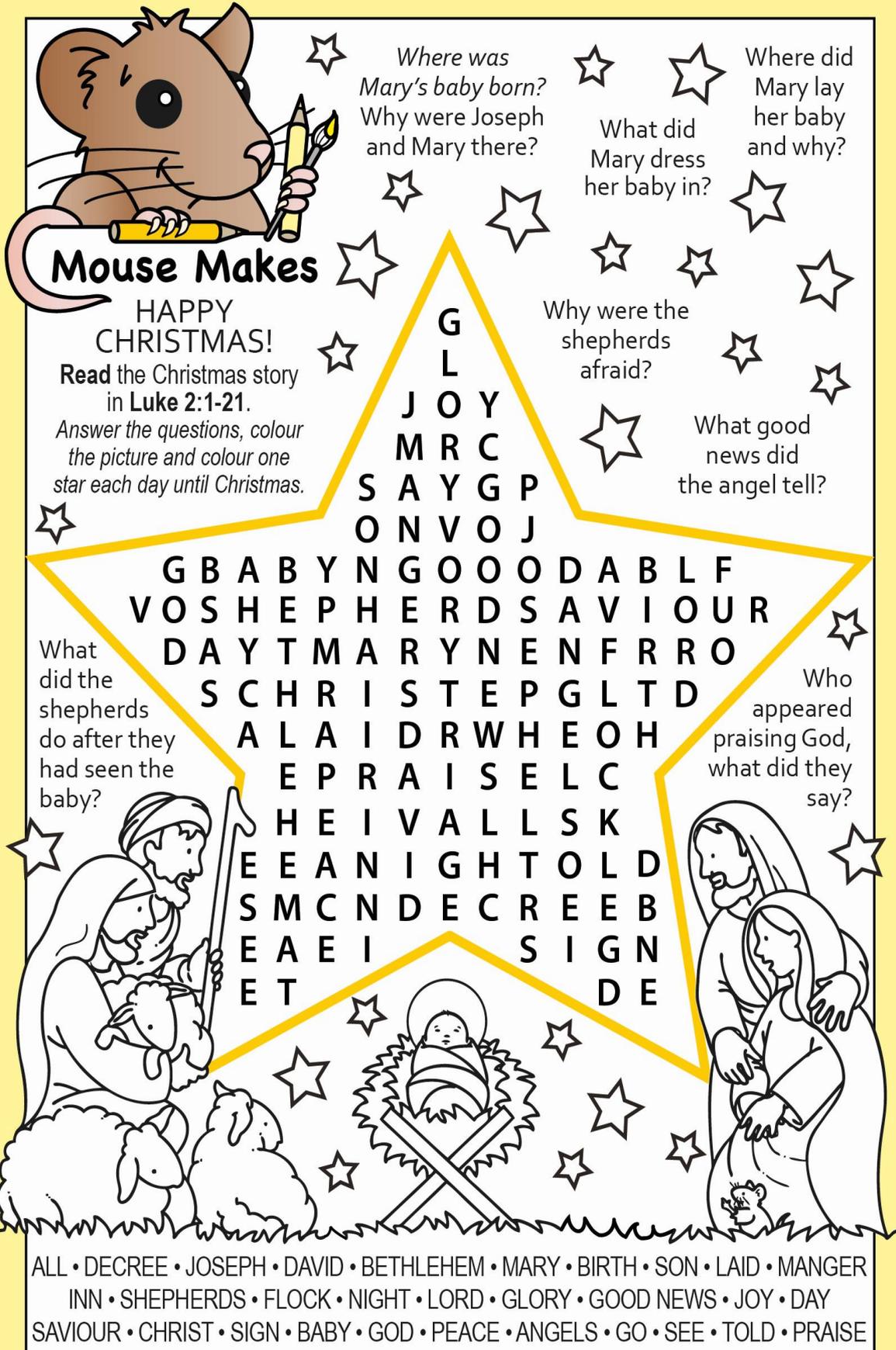


### Santa

- I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.
- What do you call Santa's helpers? – Subordinate Clauses.
- A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The little girl stared at him, open-mouthed with horror. *"Didn't you get my email?!"*

For our younger readers ...



**Mouse Makes**  
**HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**  
 Read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-21**.  
 Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

**Where was Mary's baby born?  
 Why were Joseph and Mary there?**

**Where did Mary lay her baby and why?  
 What did Mary dress her baby in?**

**Why were the shepherds afraid?  
 What good news did the angel tell?**

**What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?**

**Who appeared praising God, what did they say?**

**JOY MRC SAY GP ONVOJ**

**GBABYNGOODABLF  
 VOSHEPHERDSAVIOUR  
 DAYTMARYNENFRRO  
 SCHRISTEPGLTD  
 ALAIDRWHEOH  
 EPRAISELC  
 HEIVALLSK  
 EEANIGHTOLD  
 SMCNDECREEB  
 EAEI SIGN  
 ET DE**

ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER  
 INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY  
 SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

## Crossword

### Across

1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)

3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)

9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)

10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)

11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)

12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)

14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)

17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)

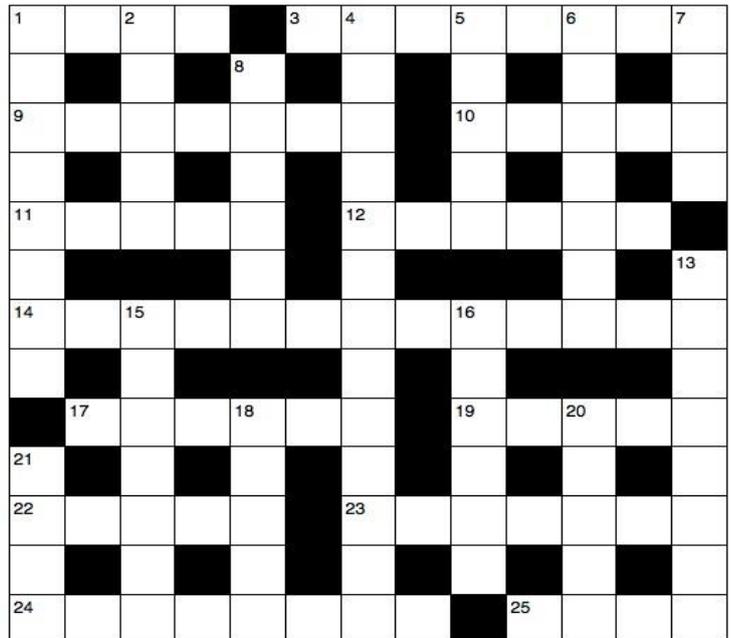
19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)

22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)

23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)

24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)

25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have —?' (Job 22:15) (4)



### Down

1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)

2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)

4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)

5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)

6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)

7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)

8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)

13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)

15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)

16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)

18 'Then he said to Thomas, "— out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)

20 'God has said, "— will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)

21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

Solutions on page 30



## Sudoku

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

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Easy

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

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Medium



## The Holy Family

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"

One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"

Another child ventured: "Verge?"

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"

He replied hesitantly: "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."



## News from the United Reformed Church items from the November edition of the Synod News

### Celebration Event -New Date

~~Saturday 26 November 2022 at London Street URC, Basingstoke.~~

**Saturday 22 April 2023, 10am – 4pm. High Cross Church, Camberley.**

Unfortunately, this event has been postponed until April next year due to feedback we received from churches who said it clashed with their Christmas fayres.

We are keen that the day will attract as many people as possible, to come together to celebrate and explore, so we are convinced that this is the right decision.

We hope you will put the date in your diary and we thank you for your understanding.

### URC Youth Assembly 2023 – bookings now open

**27 – 29 January 2023 at Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas, Staffordshire.**

**Love is ...** A weekend of fun, friendship and fellowship.

Wessex Synod will cover the cost of the Early Bird price. **Book your place before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023** at [www.urch.org.uk/urcya](http://www.urch.org.uk/urcya)

### REMINDER

### 2023 Synod Meetings – Save the Dates

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	on Zoom	6.30pm to 7.30pm	15 min break	7.45pm to 9.00pm
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	on Zoom	6.30pm to 7.30pm	15 min break	7.45pm to 9.00pm
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	In Person all day	Richmond Hill St Andrew's, Bournemouth		

## Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar December and January

December	4	Oxford: Collinwood Road; Mere; Basingstoke: Christ Church Chineham
	11	United Church Winchester; Oxford: Marston
	18	Reading: Tilehurst; Waterside, Emsworth
	25	The Moderator and Synod Staff; Christchurch: Somerford; Bishop's Waltham United Free Church
January	1	Longham; Abingdon: Peachcroft Christian Centre
	8	Wimborne; Thame: Christchurch
	15	Swanage; Bordon: St Mark's; United Church Winchester
	22	Abingdon: Trinity Church; Weymouth: Radipole
	29	Meeting of Synod; Bournemouth: Richmond Hill St Andrew's; Woodley: Christ Church

## Solutions

**ACROSS:** 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod. **DOWN:** 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.

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

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



## Lectionary Bible Readings for December

4	Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
11	Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
18	Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
25	Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

## Lectionary Bible Readings for January

1	Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23
8	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
15	Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
22	Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23
29	Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

### 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 **February** Messenger is **Sunday 15 January**. Please send articles to Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail [carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com](mailto:carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com)

## Church Contact Details

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Church Office	Administrator Mrs Esme Kelly Office Hours 9am-12noon Tuesdays to Fridays	
Church & Community Worker	Mrs Jo Hopkins 01730 266475 <a href="mailto:communityworker@petersfieldurc.com">communityworker@petersfieldurc.com</a>	
Telephone	Church Family Centre 01730 266475	
Website	<a href="http://www.petersfieldurc.com">www.petersfieldurc.com</a>	
E-mail	<a href="mailto:churchcentremanager@petersfieldurc.com">churchcentremanager@petersfieldurc.com</a>	
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”*