

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Pentecost -Acts 2







From the Minister ..

Pentecost 2024

The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter Day and brings the Easter season to an end. It is a major feast of the



Church's year when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations. It is, for all intents and purposes, the birthday of the church as we know it today.

With this in mind, it certainly seems an apt time to celebrate God's goodness to each one of us together on this day. I'm absolutely delighted to report that we have six brothers and sisters in Christ coming into Church Membership at our Pentecost celebrations this year on Sunday 19th May. The Elders and I are really keen to ensure that there is a celebratory mood throughout the day and we will be holding a bring and share lunch after the service to carry on the fellowship with one another following this joy filled service. However! This won't be just any bring and share lunch...

Acts 2:5-12; 'Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"'

The church is an international entity, it is meant for all people in all places and with this in mind, our proposal is to swap the sausage rolls and quiche for spanakopita and quesadilla's!

We are encouraging you all to bring something to share with an international feel to it so we can eat together, try new things, and truly celebrate the fact that God's love is for absolutely everyone in every corner of our world.

Get thinking and there may even be prizes available to the most unusual and delicious offerings on the day!

Please continue to pray for those coming into membership on the day; Wendy Holdsworth, Moaci Miranda, Katy Lace, Mel Matthews, Adrian Milmer and Karen Beaumont. If you'd like to talk to me about church membership in the future, I'd love to have that conversation! Every blessing,

Your brother in Christ,

Josh.



Quotes for May

Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things; after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things. - A Gordon

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. - John Wesley

Stars may be seen from the bottom of a deep well, when they cannot be discerned from the top of a mountain. So are many things learned in adversity which the prosperous man dreams not of. - CH Spurgeon



Hello everyone,

I don't know about you, but I thought the Easter services were very special this year. I want to thank Josh for all his careful, and prayerful, preparation. I also want to say thank you to Val Hart for providing and preparing the beautiful, yet simple, flowers in the sanctuary and to Peter Crane for the wonderful display of roses in the vestibule. Dee would have approved for sure Peter. Also thanks to Jo H for ably assisting Val.

Now I am going to be very selfish over the next bit of my snippets! Many years ago, I said to my lovely husband, Andy, that I would love to sing with a big band. I had forgotten all about that really, but he hadn't! We have been huge fans of Liss Band for many years and, unbeknownst to me, Andy spoke to Mike and between them they came up with a plan for my 70th birthday present. A concert at church with me singing with the band as well as the band performing on their own. I was blown away when I found out, as you can imagine!

Now it has taken a while to bring this to fruition (I'm 72 now!!!!) but at last we have a date. Saturday June 22nd at 7 pm. There will be wine and cheese in the interval.

All we ask is for a donation to the sanctuary project and every penny will go to the church.

I am so excited and it would be lovely to see lots of you at the evening!

God bless you all, Carol

Dates for your diaries: -

Saturday 4th May – Big Day Out at Hollycombe
Sunday 19th May – Pentecost service with new folk being brought into membership and followed by a bring and share lunch. See elsewhere for details.

Tuesday 28th May - Annual Church meeting

Message from our Church and Community Worker...

Well another month has whizzed pasted at a super-fast pace, we had a wonderful time over the Easter period spending time with the other Churches in town and all



worshipping together. Followed by a wet half term break for the children. But once back Forest Church kids visited Les and Connie's farm and had a great time seeing new life in the form of baby sheep and taking pictures using Wessex instant cameras and watching the babies play.





JFC enjoyed David Barton joining in with Junior Family Church, with the lesson God heals.



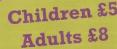
On the 20th April we all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon with Mike on the piano and had our fill with tea and cake. A big thank you to Mike and all their who made cakes and helped the refreshments. A great afternoon on fellowship.



Please remember it's not too late to book your Hollycombe tickets we have done our Church group booking but you can book via the QR code on the poster or by going to urcwessex.org.uk and pay on line. If anyone has problems, see Jo or Esme.









FOREST CHURCH

STORY

STORY

STORY

Were you at the Wessex Synod Big Day Out in 2022?

Big Day Out '24 will be **Bigger and Better**

with many more rides and additional programme activities provided by the Wessex Synod.

Open to all church groups, user groups, and community links













PACT NEWS

THY KINGDOM COME - 9th to 19th May 2024

This year more than a million Christians worldwide will be joining in long distance prayer between Ascension Day to Pentecost ($9^{th} - 19^{th}$ May).

What started in 2016 with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York inviting the CofE to pray, has grown into an annual international and ecumenical call to 11 days of specific prayer that more people will come to know Jesus.

According to the organisers of Kingdom Come, the movement is now in nearly 90% of countries worldwide and spread among 85 different denominations and traditions.

Kingdom Come explains that it encourages: "Every person, household and church to pray that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

"Specifically, we again invite each Christian to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people whom they know, who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call."

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, you are invited to take part this year. Archbishop Justin Welby says: "In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."

There is a free App which people can download on to their phones with prayers and readings. See https://www.thykingdomcome.global



Stop Press

PACT OUT has had to be cancelled, due to a variety of circumstances.

A Facilitator for the Christmas Day Lunch is still needed.

A Coordinator for the Faith Comment is needed as John Studd is standing down.

Please contact Carolyn Barton for details.

The Truth of the Ascension

'While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: 'Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

The Ascension gives us a job to do: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:18,19). God's way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

'Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.' (Teresa of Avila).

Community Matters

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

Frontline Petersfield Debt Advice

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

Telephone:

07919 998442 (24hrs)

Email:

petersfield@frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

Website:

www.frontlinepetersfield.org.uk



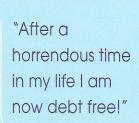


www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

FREE DEBT & BENEFIT ADVICE

Are you struggling with your finances?

You do not have to cope alone.





Frontline Debt Advice (UK)

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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)



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 May will be on the 7th. 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. **Please note that this is a week earlier than usual.**

Julie, Keith and Mary



Rotas - May 2024

Date	Duty Elders	AV
5 May	Mike P-H	David Darling
12 May	Wendy Cassar	Keith Evans
19 May	Mary Fair & Isaac Oru	Jonathan Oru
26 May	Anne Glenn	Carolyn Barton

Welcomers' Rota

Date	Welcomers
5 May	Ron Wing
12 May	Kay Penicotte-Henri
19 May	Sue Bone
26 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.

Petersfield and Liss Church Calendar – May 2024 Please note Services are held at College Street, Petersfield.

Thursday	2	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary		
		2.30 pm	Home group	1, Crundles		
Saturday	4	10am-5pm	Big Day Out	Hollycombe		
Sunday	5	10.30 am	Peter	Jolly		
Tuesday	7	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC		
		2-4 pm	Drop-in Tea	CFC		
		7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC		
Thursday	9	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary		
		7.30pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse		
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way		
Friday	10	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	Sanctuary		
Sunday	12	10.30 am	Minister & Rv	d Matt Rigden		
Monday	13	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary		
		4 – 5 pm	Forest Church Liss	St Paul's Liss		
Tuesday	14	9. 30 am	Little Fishes	CFC		
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC		
Thursday	16	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary		
		2.30	Home Group	1 Crundles		
Sunday	19	10.30 am	Pentecost Minister			
			Bring and S	hare Lunch		
Monday	20	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	CFC		
		4-5 pm	Forest Church Liss	St Paul's Liss		
Tuesday	21	9.30 pm	Little Fishes	CFC		
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC		
Thursday	23	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary		
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse		
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way		
Friday	24	10.30 am	Friday Reflection	Sanctuary		
Sunday	26	10.30 am	Esme	Kelly		
Tuesday	28	7.30 pm	Church Meeting	CFC		
Thursday	30	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary		

Prayer for May 2024

Dear Lord,



May, the loveliest of months – and this year, as we welcome the blossom and the beauty of late Spring, we also welcome Your Holy Spirit afresh, as we celebrate Pentecost.

May we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit, as Your people did on that first Day of Pentecost. May we be filled and empowered and emboldened to witness to Your goodness and love.

May we be transformed by Him and reflect Your transforming grace to the broken world in which we live. May people who meet us ask, "What does this mean?" May they turn to You and hear You speaking in ways they can understand.

Without Your Holy Spirit we can do nothing. With Him living in us, we can do all things.

Come Holy Spirit, come to us, we pray,

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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

We do hope that many of you were at church on Sunday April 14 when we were able to link up with Pastor Sergey and his church in Chornobaivka, Kherson and with Holy Trinity Church, Claygate, Surrey. Pastor Sergey and his flock are an inspiration to us all. We pray God will continue to protect and support them during this very difficult time.

With funding from Ukraine Christian Partnership (UCP), Pastor Sergey's church provides food and medical support to needy villagers. Pastor Sergey and his team are also continuing to repair war-damaged houses. For homes damaged beyond repair, pre-fabricated temporary houses, 'prefabs', funded by another charity are supplied. UCP provides funding for ground preparation work, clearing away rubble and making the bases/foundations. Practical Christianity in this time of need.

Thank you for all your support, in prayer and in finances, which makes the above all possible. We are very grateful for £115 from Connie's Handicraft Group. The Free Radicals Lent Service in St Peter's Church, Petersfield, which a good few of you attended, raised the magnificent sum of £3128.50 (including gift aid).

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 (ukrainecp.org) for details. All donations can be gift aided.





Help from the church with basic food supplies





Pastor Sergey hands over keys of a new prefab to a grateful couple (their own home had been destroyed)



12-18 May 2024

Christian Aid Week



Poverty pushed Aline to the brink of survival.

Aline felt the full force of extreme poverty when an early marriage ended in abuse and violence.

Separated from her six children, she was forced to sleep on the streets of Burundi. No home. No healthcare. No security.

But Aline was determined to push back against the inhumanity of poverty, driven by hope, faith and the love of her children. She transformed her life with a little help from Christian Aid.

Will you help someone push back against poverty this Christian Aid Week?

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



Hearing

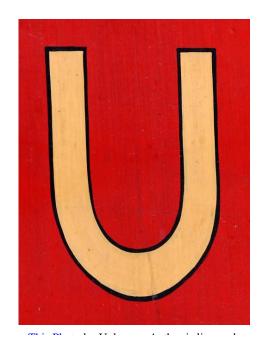
A man went into a church and asked the vicar to pray for his hearing. Touched by his faith, the vicar agreed. "Kneel here," he began in a loud voice. The man knelt, and the vicar placed a hand on each ear and bellowed a prayer. "I hope that will help," he finally shouted.

"Well, I won't know for a while," the man replied. "It isn't until next month".

Happy

Never miss an opportunity to make others happy, even if you have to leave them alone in order to do it.

The U in JesUs



Before U were thought of or time had begun, God even stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true You can't spell out JesUs and not include U

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name, For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died. It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew, and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Now go into the world and tell them it's true That the love I have shown is not just for U."

So many great people are spelled with a U, Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do, He'd like them to know, But it all starts with U.

Eco corner - information and updates.

hird Sun of the Month 21 April, 2024 19 May, 2024

FREE EVENT

The Avenue **Pavilion**

PETERSFIELD

21 Jul, 2024 Playing Fields, Petersfield

18 Aug, 2024 15 Sept, 2024

8.00-12 noon **GU31 4JQ**

> free-cycle pitches FREE!!

16 June, 2024



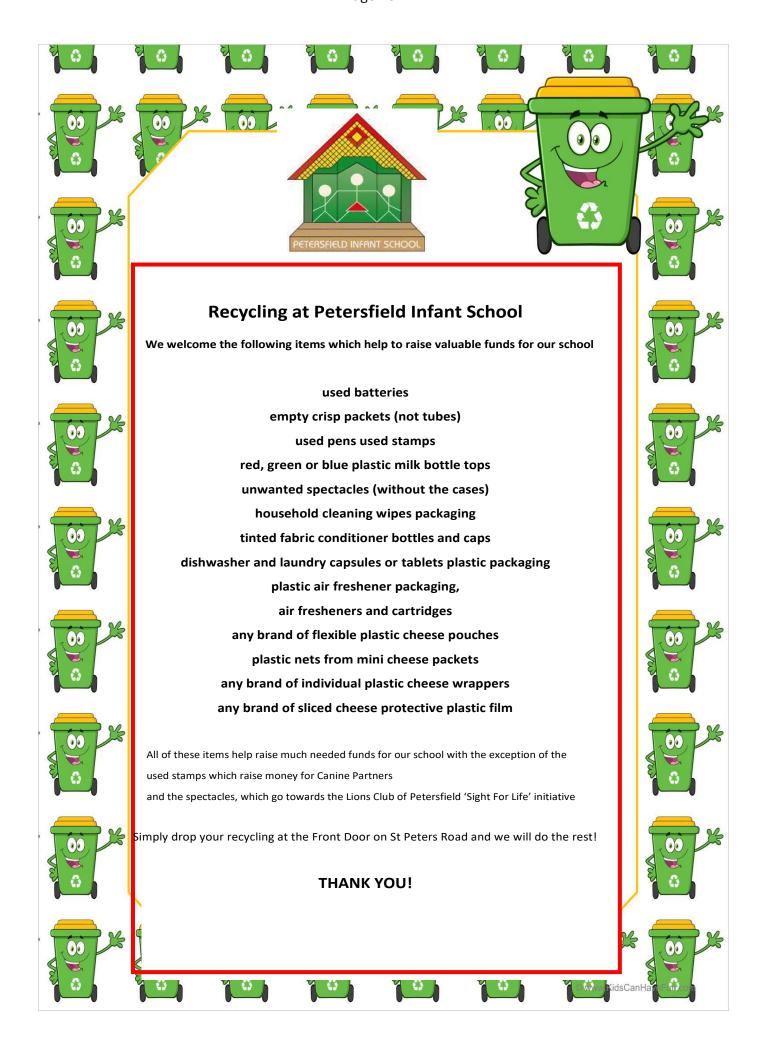
REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE











For our younger readers ...



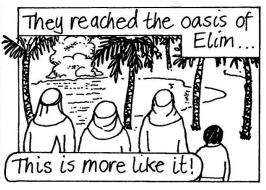
It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapters 15:22 to 19:2

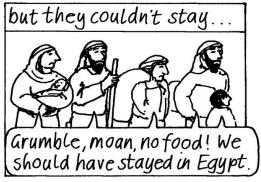
A short story from the Bible

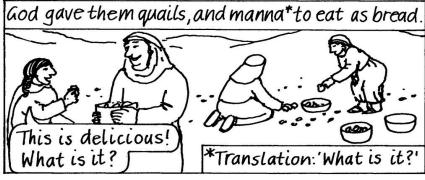
God had rescued the Hebrews from Egypt, and was leading them to their new land. But after 3 days....

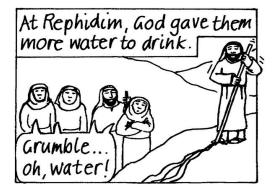








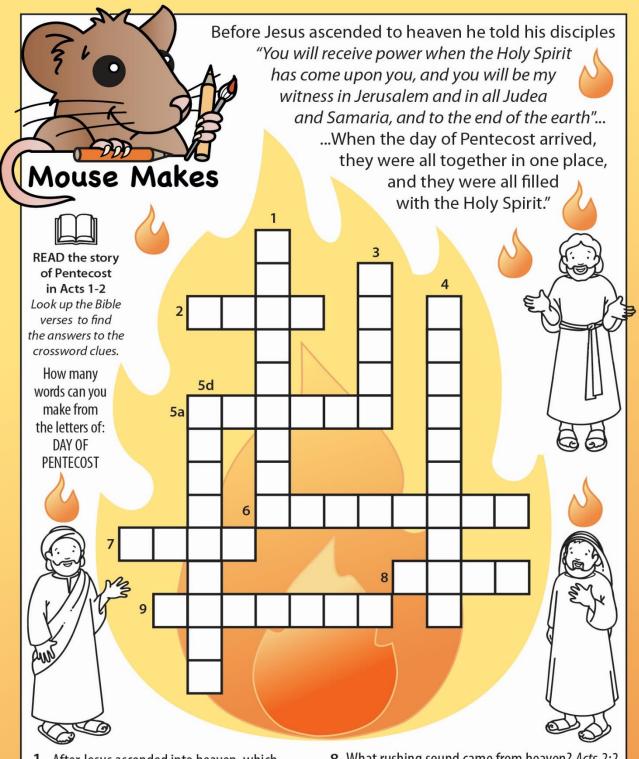












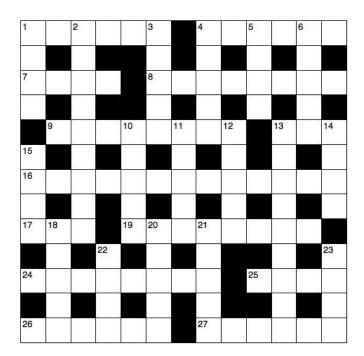
- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? Acts 1:12
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? Acts 1:14
- **6** Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- **5d** Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*

- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? Acts 2:2
- **2** What appeared? Tongues of ...? Acts 2:3
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? Acts 2:4
- **9** What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*
- **3** Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? Acts 2:16

Crossword

Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down,
- together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)



- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
 - 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)

- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — to all people" (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)



Suduko

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Easy

Medium

Children's exam papers

The following real-life answers to various exam papers explain why teachers need long holidays...

What is a nitrate?

Cheaper than a day rate.

What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?

He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for bicycles.

What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common? Unusual names.

News from the United Reformed Church items from the April edition of the Synod News _2024 Synod Meetings



Children's Camp – bookings now closed

28 – 31 May 2024 at Oakwood Activity Centre. For children in school years 4 – 7, (ages 7 - 12). Early bird bookings before 28 April 2024 – cost £70 per child.

<u>Further information</u> on the Synod Website.

Youth Camp – bookings now open

12 – 14 July 2024 at Gordon Brown Outdoor Centre. For young people in school years 7 - 13 (ages 11 - 17). Joint Brochure with further information.

Reminders

Moderator's photo/drawing request

Our incoming Moderator, Michael Hopkins, would like to have a small range of notelets/greetings cards printed with images reflecting Wessex.

Everyone in the Synod is invited to send in photos or artwork that they think is suitable, and as many as possible will be used. Michael is not particularly looking for photos or drawings of church buildings, but anything that conveys an idea of Wessex.

Some parameters:

- You can interpret Wessex however that speaks to you.
- Everything submitted must be original, and by submitting you grant permission to the Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church to use any material submitted for stationery and/or publicity in perpetuity.
- No photos of identifiable people please, to avoid safeguarding or data privacy difficulties. Unidentifiable people in the background are fine.
- Everything must be electronic, so if you draw, paint, etc. please scan it and send in an electronic file.
- Please use wetransfer.com or equivalent for large file sizes.

Send to: office@urcwessex.org.uk

Deadline: Monday 13 May

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar

May	5	St Martin's West Moors; Petersfield and Liss
	12	Tilehurst, Reading; Immanuel Southbourne, Bournemouth Braishfield, Romsey
	19	Woking; Bitterne, Southampton
	26	Godalming United Church; Cumnor, Oxford; Skinner Street, Poole

Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Debtor. 4, Shaken. 7, Ache. 8, Leavened. 9, Overcome. 13, Etc. 16, Troublemaking. 17, Par. 19, Ignatius. 24, Treasure. 25, Mene. 26, Astray. 27, Dinner.

DOWN: 1, Deaf. 2, Behaviour. 3, Relic. 4, Swarm. 5, Aged. 6, Elect. 10, Rabbi. 11, Ocean. 12, Exalt. 13, Epicurean. 14, Cage. 15, Step. 18, Acres. 20, Gaudy. 21, An end. 22, Fair. 23, Fear.

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8	4	1	5	3	6	7	9	2

Lectionary Bible Readings for May 2024



May 5	Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
May 12	Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-
	53
May 19	Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-
	53
May 26	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans
	8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

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

Church Contact Details

Church	Petersfield: College Street, Petersfield GU31 4AG	Liss: Hillbrow Road, Liss GU33 7PX			
	01730 266475				
Minister	Rev Joshu	a Thomas			
	Tel 07734	4 254983			
	<u>minister@pete</u>	ersfieldurc.com			
Church Office	Church Cent	re Manager			
	Mrs Esr	ne Kelly			
	Office Hours 9am-12no	on Tuesdays to Fridays			
Church &	Mrs Jo I	Hopkins			
Community	01730 2	266475			
Worker	communityworker@	petersfieldurc.com			
Telephone	Church Far	nily Centre			
	01730 2	266475			
Website	<u>www.peters</u>	<u>fieldurc.com</u>			
E-mail	churchcentremanage	r@petersfieldurc.com			
Sunday	Mornings a	t 10.30 am			
Services	Services will be held at College Street				
Secretary	Mrs Care	ol Tubbs			
	39 Rotherbar	nk Farm Lane			
	Liss F	orest			
	GU33	3 7BJ			
	Tel 01730	0 893489			
	Mobile 077	66 412160.			
Treasurer	Mr Jim (• •			
	4 Crui	·			
	Petersfield				
	Tel 01730	0 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"

Printed at Petersfield United Reformed Church Office