

# THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



PETERSFIELD AND LISS  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

March 2025 No. 736

## From the Minister ..

Spring has always been one of my favourite seasons, as the days start to draw out a little, there are suddenly little signs of new, fresh life all around us. It has been lovely over the past few weeks to see a little more sunshine and it certainly helps me to feel more positive about the state of the world even if the media does its best to portray the opposite...



Christmas barely seems 5 minutes ago but we find ourselves gearing up for Lent and next month, Easter. I'm delighted this year to be running a lent course based on the film 'The Theory of Everything'. The film, if you've not seen it, is a biopic based on the life and achievements of Professor Stephen Hawking and the course gives us a great opportunity to explore a wide range of topics ranging from Science and Religion and whether the two can mix, to the themes of suffering later in Hawking's lifetime and how we can see this in the light of the suffering endured by Jesus on His journey to The Cross. There are more details in the form of a poster later in this edition of The Messenger but Keith, Esmé, Jo and I hope to welcome as many people as are able, to join us on a Thursday evening for 5 weeks starting on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Of course, lent is typically a season for reflection and at times it can feel quite sombre. This is, I think, right and proper. We remember Jesus' time in the wilderness, and it gives us a great opportunity to take stock of what is important in our lives, perhaps, removing some of the unnecessary distractions which can cause us to lose focus on the simple things that perhaps, matter the most.

But we must not lose sight of what we know comes next... Just as spring is starting to show its first signs all around us, giving us hope for the brighter weather and better times ahead, we know that Jesus' time in the wilderness came to an end. In Jesus' death and resurrection, we find hope that this life is not all that there is. There are small shoots of God's Kingdom all around us, we see these early signs of what is to come next through the kindness of friend and stranger, through the person in Tesco buying extra to give to the foodbank, through the smile we give the person on the bus or in the street who may not have had any human contact for days. We are called to emulate Christ in our world and when we do that to the best of our abilities, we see those small shoots breaking through offering hope and joy to a world that needs to feel these things when otherwise, things may feel hopeless.

Every blessing,

Your brother in Christ,

Josh.



### **Lent reflection**

Those that take Christ for their King must lay their all under His feet. 'Hosanna' signifies, "Save now, we beseech thee! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!" But of how little value is the applause of the people. The changing multitude joins the cry of the day, whether it be 'Hosanna' or 'Crucify Him'. Multitudes often seem to approve the gospel, but few become consistent disciples. - *Matthew Henry*



*A Lent course based around the film*  
**THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING**

*the*  
**MYSTERY**  
*of*  
**EVERYTHING**

Join us on Thursday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March  
and 3rd April for this engaging and thought  
provoking course.

7.30-9pm in the Church Sanctuary

For more information contact Josh -  
[minister@petersfieldurc.com](mailto:minister@petersfieldurc.com)

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



Well, we are well into the new year, and last month love was definitely in the air. We had a wonderful evening for our Little Fishes mums, nannies and carers, making Valentine craft and cards for the ones they love. A good number and lots of laughter was had. Thank you, Hannah for all your help.



Our old Forest Church group meet in the half term at Queen Elizabeth Country Park, to learn about Noah's ark and think about all the different animals that joined Noah and his family. So lovely to be out with them again.



## Exploring 'Emotions' at Café Church in January









PETERSFIELD AND LISS

# Board Game

**C, A, F, E,**



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



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

for more information email  
[communityworker@petersfieldurc.com](mailto:communityworker@petersfieldurc.com)  
tel 01730 266475

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Petersfield URC, College Street, GU31 4AG





# 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

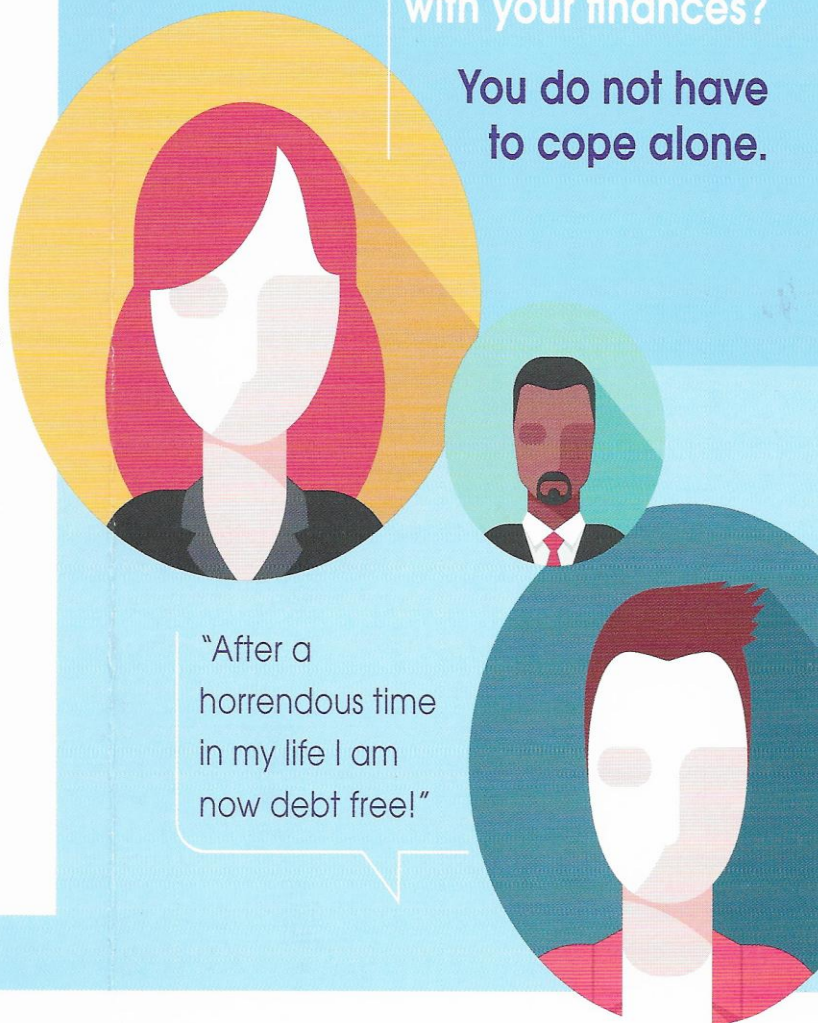


[www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk](http://www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk)

## FREE DEBT & BENEFIT ADVICE

Are you struggling  
with your finances?

You do not have  
to cope alone.



"After a  
horrendous time  
in my life I am  
now debt free!"

### Frontline Debt Advice (UK)

Registered Address: c/o Three Counties Church,  
Haslemere Locality Office, Lion Green, Haslemere,  
Surrey GU27 1LD

A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered in England No. 7136786

Registered Charity No. 1134908

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

FRONTLINE® is the registered trade mark of  
Frontline Debt Advice (UK)



## Food Bank Updates



Our opening times are: - Page 10

**Stock and Donations: Mondays and  
Wednesdays: 9.30 am – 11.30 am**  
**Distribution: Tuesdays and Fridays:  
9.30 am – 11.30 am**

**At Petersfield Methodist Church**

For more information please check our website: [Petersfield Food Bank  
\(pactfoodbank.org.uk\)](http://pactfoodbank.org.uk)



Open every Wednesday from 2pm till 3.30pm at St Mary's. You can meet us, enjoy a cuppa and take away your food bags. Delivery can be arranged for those on foot. Can't get to St. Mary's? Then a

Wednesday delivery can be arranged if a request is made by lunchtime on Monday. Ring 01730 00659/300921 or text 07570792525

The Liss Foodbank is for surrounding villages as well as Liss. It can be accessed for your short-term need without a referral.

Please continue to drop off donations in St. Mary's Rectory porch, 111 Station Road, or bring donations to St. Mary's on a Wednesday afternoon.

### Free Shop Petersfield

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

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

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

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

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

**Friday & Saturday 10 am – 11.30 am**

For more information contact: [easthampshirerail.co.uk/freeshop-shop](http://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 March will be on the 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 – March 2025**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Duty Elders</b>	<b>AV</b>
March 2	Julie West	David Darling
March 9	David Barton	Keith Evans
March 16	Tim Abbot & Wendy Cassar	Jonathan Oru
March 23	Peter Jolly	Carolyn Barton
March 30	Tony Phillips	Roy Knight

**Welcomers' Rota**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Welcomers</b>
March 2	Tom Pejnovic
March 9	Graham Fountain
March 16	Wendy Cassar
March 23	Anne Glenn
March 30 *	Steven Glenn

**\*Please note that the clocks go forward this week**

- 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.



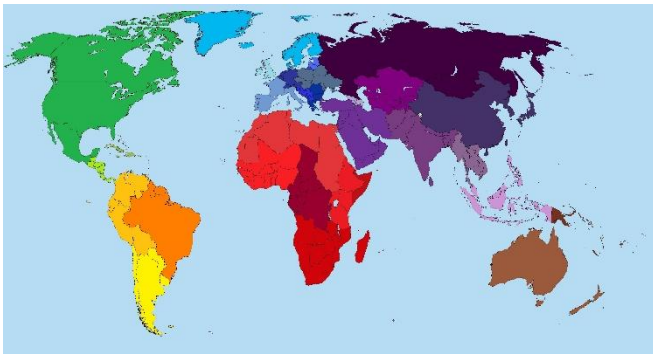
**March 2025 Petersfield and Liss Church Calendar -**

Please note Services are held at College Street, Petersfield.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>'Good News For Everyone'</b>	
Monday	3	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		3.45–4.45 m	Forest Church	
Tuesday	4	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	6	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home group	84 Moggs Mead
		<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Lent Course</b>	<b>CFC</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2 pm</b>	<b>World Day of Prayer</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Minister</b>	
Monday	10	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		3.45-4.45pm	Forest Church	
Tuesday	11	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2-4 pm	Drop-in Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	13	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Lent Course</b>	<b>CFC</b>
Friday	14	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	Sanctuary
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Minister</b>	
Monday	17	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		3.45 –4.45 pm	Forest Church	
Tuesday	18	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	20	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
		<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Lent Course</b>	<b>CFC</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Minister</b>	
Monday	24	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		3.45-4.45 pm	Forest Church	
Tuesday	25	9.30 pm	Little Fishes	CFC
Thursday	27	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Lent Course</b>	<b>CFC</b>

## Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar –(Continued)

Friday	28	10.30 am	Friday Reflection	Sanctuary
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Minister</b>	
Monday	31	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		3.45-4.45 pm	Forest Church	



### World Day of Prayer

The 2025 World Day of Prayer service is being held here at the URC on Friday 7th March at 2 pm. This year it has been prepared by Christian women in the Cook Islands. As we take part in this service, we are part of a wonderful wave of prayer which encircles the globe, praying with, and for, the Cook Islands and its people.

Refreshments will be served after the service.



### Quick Quotes

If you your lips would keep from slips, five things observe with care: to whom you speak, of whom you speak, and how, and when, and where! – *William E Norris*

Give me, good Lord, a humble, lowly, quiet, peaceable, patient, charitable, kind, tender and pitiful mind; with all my works and all my words and all my thoughts to have a taste of the holy blessed spirit. - *Sir Thomas More*

The best mathematical equation I've ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given -  
*Anon*



## Looking to give back in 2025?


Consider joining our incredible team of volunteers offering non-judgmental support to local families during the critical early years of parenting.

Our next volunteer training course starts in March.



-  Thursdays - starting 6 March 2025 for 5 weeks
-  9.30am - 2.30pm
-  Petersfield

Get in touch to find out more:

-  01730 233755
-  [office@homestart-butser.org.uk](mailto:office@homestart-butser.org.uk)
-  [homestart-butser.org.uk](http://homestart-butser.org.uk)



# 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  
CHRISTIAN  
PARTNERSHIP

## UKRAINE MISSION UPDATE

We are happy to report that the Christmas cards which you kindly wrote arrived safely in Transcarpathia and Chornobaivka, Kherson. The church congregations were very pleased to receive them and they send us their greetings and thanks. The following came from Pastor Sergey:

*"Thank you so much for your prayers and the help you have been giving us for a long time, as well as for the little messages from your brothers and sisters in your churches. We are thanking you in some way, it is incredible, at the service during the shelling we handed out your greetings, people were very happy and grateful."*

Pastor Sergey's Chornobaivka church continues its great work supporting the local community. While house rebuilding work is limited due to winter weather, the weekly top-up food parcels and essential medical supplies continue throughout the year. They are particularly welcome at this difficult time.

Thank you as always for your ongoing donations, including a very welcome £115 from Connie's Handicraft Group, as well as your prayers. Please could you continue to pray that Pastor Sergey's flock may be protected and that they would know God's comfort and strength. Thank you.

David Darling, Ukraine Christian Partnership

PS If anybody would like to donate to this mission work, the following link provides details of how donations can be made: [How Can You Help? | Ukraine Christian Partnership | UK Charity](#) (scroll right down). Alternatively, cash or cheques (payable to Ukraine Christian Partnership) may be handed to David Darling, Carol Tubbs or Jim Cleverly. All donations can be gift aided.

Our Christmas cards are handed out in Pastor Sergey's church, Chornobaivka, Kherson. Handing out the cards is Pasha, the member of the house rebuilding team whose house was destroyed by a Russian missile recently (see last month's Messenger).

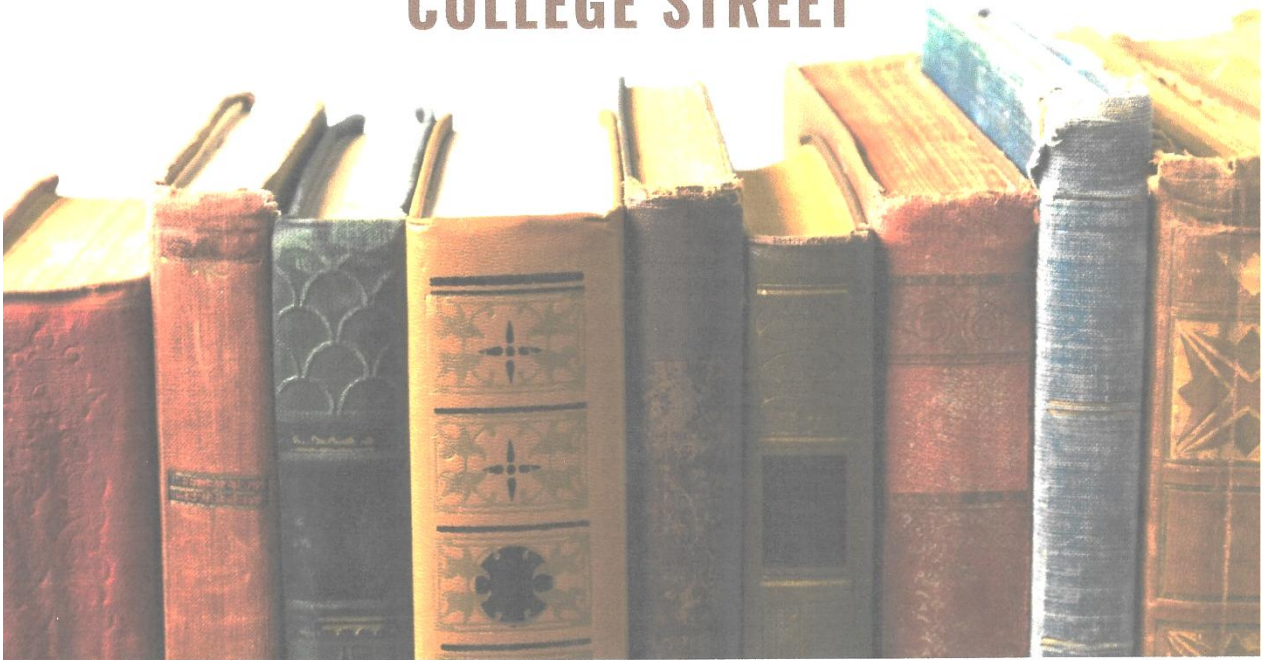




WELCOME TO THE LIVING  
LIBRARY PART 2  
WHERE WE WILL BE SHARING MORE OF  
OUR LIFE STORIES WITH YOU.

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

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





## 30<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday & Mother Church



The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

## Sharing a few Eco thoughts .....

This is the **pyramid** or **hierarchy of waste**. The greatest effect is brought about by actions at top of the pyramid, e.g. preventing use or production of a piece of plastic at all is better than using it and then recycling it or disposing of it.

Much of this would apply to carbon dioxide production, e.g. the upper 3 apply to hydrocarbon fuel usage, which we may be able to prevent by walking, cycling or reduce by car sharing.



**URC CFC** - The built-in sink soap dispensers in the ladies lavatories are both working, so we no longer need to use a single use plastic soap dispenser. This is an example of prevention of single use of plastic and minimisation/reduction of rate of plastic usage.

**BEYOND KERBSIDE RECYCLING**, to help us in our attempts to be good stewards of God's beautiful creation!

See the adjacent [Petersfield infant school recycling poster](#), but if it is more convenient to you, there is a crate in the CFC for these items which David Barton then kindly takes to the school

**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 bag for Liss junior school in the CFC, to be kindly taken to the school by Tony Phillips 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.**

**Medicine blister packs** are now accepted at **Boots the Chemists High street Petersfield.**

**Boots the chemist** also has a recycling scheme for empty beauty, health, wellness and dental products, from any brand, that can't be recycled at home, the link for which follows.

<https://www.boots.com/shopping/boots-recycling-scheme/how-to-recycle-at-boots>

**Plastic bag recycling** available at some supermarkets including Waitrose and Tesco's Petersfield.

**Soft plastic packaging** can be returned to the **Causeway Tesco store**, the majority of which can then be recycled (80% in a trial), e.g. fruit and veg packaging, salad bags, crisp packets.

**Tetrapak Cartons** and paper containers (such as Pringles tubes etc.) can be recycled at the bank site at Tesco Petersfield, The Causeway, GU31 4JR

**Cleaning, loo paper, and tissue products that pledge to reduce ocean microplastics as you buy, and /or plant trees to offset your carbon footprint.**

Check them for yourself:-

[hello@ocean-saver.com](mailto:hello@ocean-saver.com)

[hello@serioustissues.com](mailto:hello@serioustissues.com)

**Fiona Darling, on behalf of the Eco group**



**Forest  
Church**  
**Kids**



**PETERSFIELD AND LISS**  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



**We meet Monday afternoons 3.45-4.45pm**  
**Forest Church, where young families meet with God. Come and have fun and learn about**  
**the creator of nature within nature!!**

**For more information and to find out where we will be meeting, email**  
**[communityworker@petersfieldurc.com](mailto:communityworker@petersfieldurc.com)**  
**or phone 01730 266475**

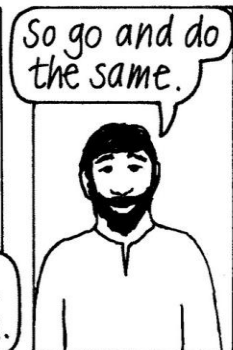
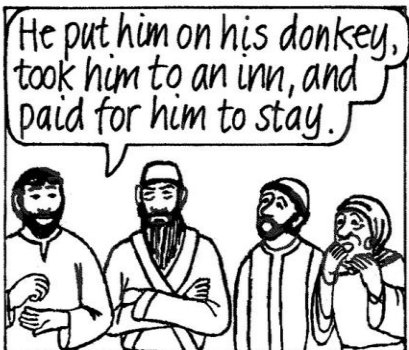
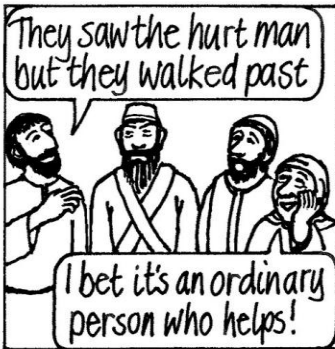
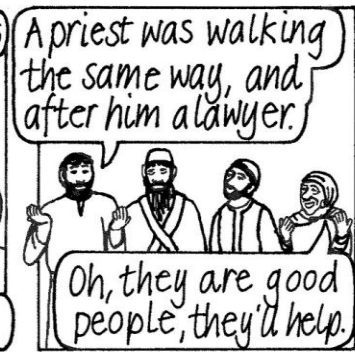
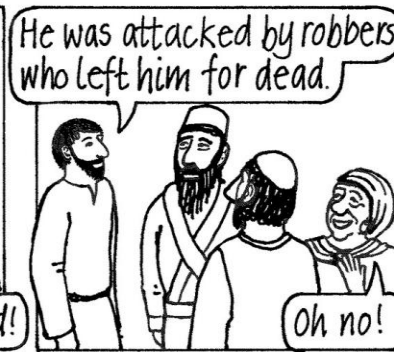
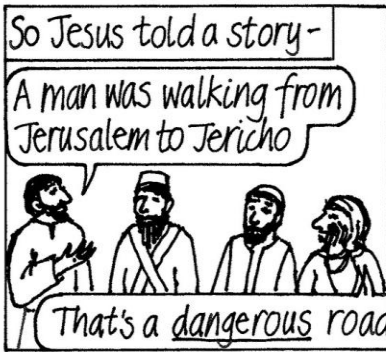
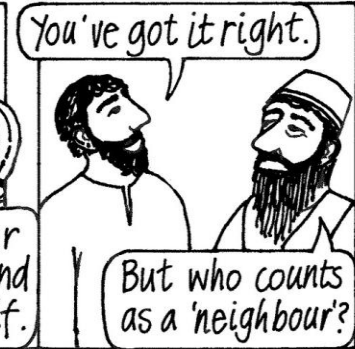
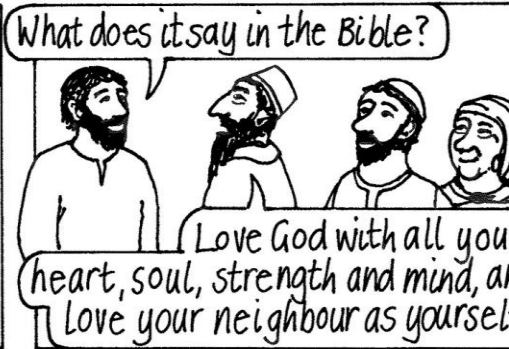
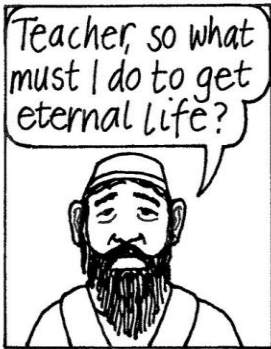
For our younger readers ...

# Bible Bite

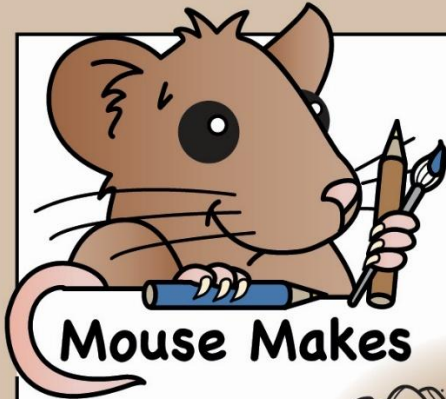
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the Law of Moses wanted to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.







THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

-----  
 Luke 4:1



For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

-----  
 Luke 4:2




Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

-----  
 Luke 4:8

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

-----  
 Luke 4:3

  
**READ**  
 the story in  
**Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

-----  
 Luke 4:12



What happened after the temptation of Jesus? see Luke 4:14-15

- JESUS • LED
- WILDERNESS
- DESERT
- TEMPTATIONS
- DAYS • DEVIL
- HUNGRY • SON
- STONE • ROCK
- KINGDOMS
- WORLD • GLORY
- WRITTEN
- SCRIPTURE
- WORSHIP • ONLY
- SERVE • LORD
- JERUSALEM
- HIGH • TEMPLE
- THROW • DOWN
- JUMP • ANGELS
- HANDS • HOLD
- LIFT • FOOT

R W O R S H I P H A N D S D  
 L I F T W P A H D J U M P A  
 E L O R D K I O E D O S E Y  
 D D O A N G E L S E K T M S  
 F E H U N G R Y E B R O C K  
 O R E J E S U S R Y O N L Y  
 R N S S C R I P T U R E U H  
 T E M P T A T I O N S G T S  
 Y S T D S J E R U S A L E M  
 B S H O E H K I N G D O M S  
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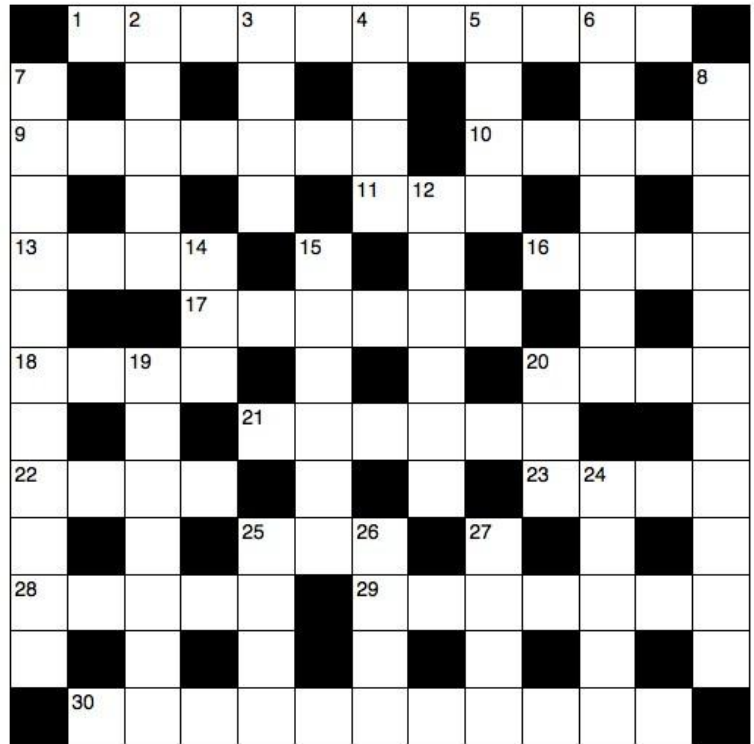
Find the words from the questions too!



## Crossword

### Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)



### Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)

- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)



## Lost in translation

*Are you travelling this Spring? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...*

*Danish airline:* We take your bags and send them in all directions.

*Heathrow:* No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

*Japanese taxi:* Safety first: please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.

*Kenyan maternity ward:* No children allowed.

*Beijing shop:* Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

*Swedish furrier:* Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

## Sudoku

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

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Easy

Medium

### Beware of these contagious diseases in church

*Frontophobia:* A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door, and so collapses in the nearest back seat.

*Sermonic Throat:* A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to effect a complete cure.

*Double Auricular Clearance:* A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and leave the other without any absorption thereof. Condition is acute during Bible reading and sermon.

*Accelerated Vocal Response:* A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ.

*Retarded Vocal Response:* A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing slower than the organ.



## **Bearing fruit takes time**

The nine fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. We don't strive for the fruits of the Spirit, rather we plant ourselves in good soil, allow ourselves to be fed by the Holy Spirit, keep taking in nourishment, turn to face the light of Christ and these fruits will develop and grow in our lives.

Can you tell whether a tree is an apple tree or a pear tree? Not easily when they are in blossom, but very easily when they bear fruit. Bearing fruit takes time and a lot of planting, preparation, nurture and growth.

March is the time of year when gardeners begin to plant seeds ready for summer, but patience is needed – the seeds will take a while to germinate, and the gardener needs to write the names of seeds on labels and not forget which are fruit, flowers and vegetables. The seeds need to be in the dark, or the light, or the warmth or the cool, depending at what stage of life they are at.

So too, is God with us. God writes our names on His heart; God knows what fruit we can bring forth. God nurtures us and gives us light to grow. But first, we need to be planted and that can be scary.

Maybe you are feeling in a cold dark place this March, maybe it feels as if you've been buried, maybe you've got a weight above you and you can't see the way out. Just think that maybe you've been buried because you've been planted.

With patience there will be warmth and light, be like a seed, trust God, and begin to grow out of the darkness towards God's marvellous light. We won't see fruit immediately; we have to be nourished and mature and ripen. Patience will be given to us, fruit of the seed of the Holy Spirit.

## March Eco Prayer

God of each yesterday and  
of every tomorrow,  
of transitions that  
pivot us between your now and your not yet,  
stand strong beside us in the moment.  
Help us so in turn to stand firm,  
to hold solid ground  
In this month of spring promises and uncertain  
storms  
We are conscious of change  
And wonder if it is change for the better.  
We pray be with those who plant and grow our food  
Those most affected by the warming world.  
We pray for actions and research  
Which helps all to care for creation  
And for small acts of love  
Which have big consequences.  
In moments of shaky uncertainty  
when all seems tumultuous, stand firm.  
As your world turned upside down,  
on the cross, so companion us  
through all uncertainties.  
And so may we remain strong in resurrection hope  
and stable in undying love.  
Amen



(adapted from a prayer by Rev Ruth Harvey from the Iona community)

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



## Greenbelt 2025

The **online application form to volunteer with the URC team at Greenbelt festival 2025** is now available to complete by visiting the URC Greenbelt webpage here: <https://urc.org.uk/greenbelt/volunteer-registration>

The festival takes place on Thursday 21 – Sunday 24 August 2025, at Boughton House, near Kettering. If you would like more information about the festival itself, head over to <https://www.greenbelt.org.uk>

Please feel free to share this information with colleagues, friends and family who may be interested in getting involved. You may even be tempted to volunteer yourself?

**The closing date for volunteer applications is 24 April 2025.**

If you are interested in joining the Youth venue team at Greenbelt (which is a different team to the URC venue) please contact the [Children and Youth work](#) team directly.

Greenbelt's theme for this year (and the theme we have adopted) is:

### **Hope in the making**

Hope is a practice. It's something we make together, in the fields. Hope has been in the making at Greenbelt for more than a half-century, and it's our theme for this year's festival. We choose to roll up our sleeves, open our hearts and be reminded that, together, we can be the change we want to see in the world. We'd love you to join us.

Find out more about Greenbelt's theme here: [Hope in the Making - Greenbelt](#)

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

**Samara Andrews – Volunteer Coordinator for URC at Greenbelt**

[samara.andrews@urc.org.uk](mailto:samara.andrews@urc.org.uk)

## *Stepwise – Faith Filled Worship*

**An online group will be starting after Easter.**

**Thursday evenings, 7pm – 9pm. First session on 8 May 2025.**

Please email [bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk) to find out more or to register an interest.



## Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar March 2025

March	2	Reading: St Andrew's; Robert Barthram as he retires; Gosport United Reformed Church, St Columba
	9	Verwood; St Paul's, Bracknell; Thatcham
	16	Hungerford; Bishop's Waltham United Free Church
	23	Meeting of Synod on 29 <sup>th</sup> ; Bitterne Park; Guildford, Portsmouth Road
	30	Christchurch: Somerford and Burton Greem; Park, Reading

## Solutions

**ACROSS:** 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

**DOWN:** 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

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

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



## Lectionary Bible Readings for March 2025

March 2	Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)
March 9	Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
March 16	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)
March 23	Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
March 30	Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### **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 **April Messenger** is Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Please send articles to Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail [carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com](mailto:carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.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”*