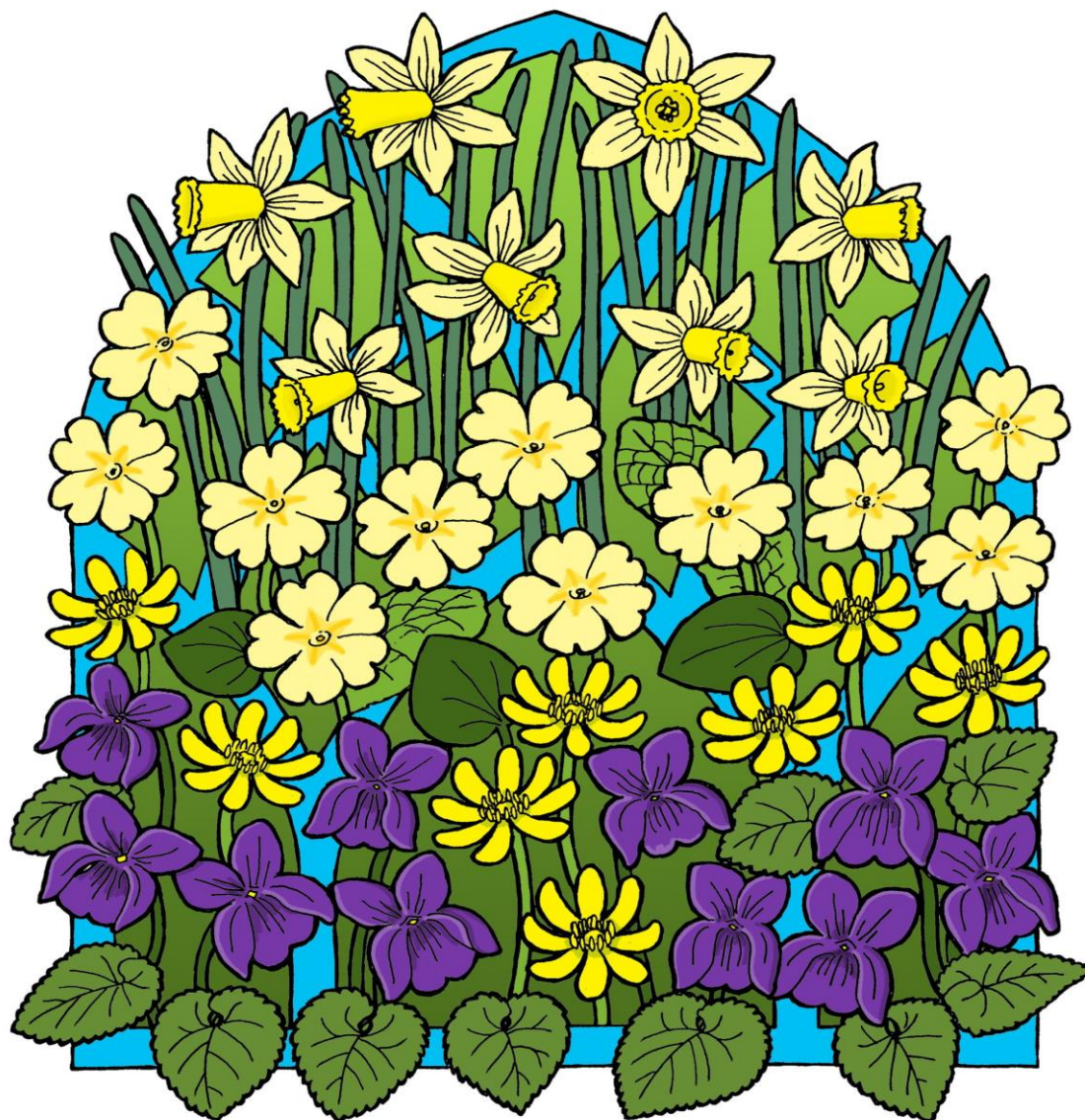


THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come! Song of
Songs 2:12



PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



March 2022 No. 706

From the Minister ...

A hymn we haven't sung for a long time is in my mind as I sit down and write this month's thought for The Messenger – when I needed a neighbour were you there, were you there?



This modern hymn by Sydney Carter challenges us to care for our neighbours, regardless of their creed (belief or religion), colour, sexuality, financial position, etc, etc. It reminds us of Jesus' words in Matthew 25: 44-45 about feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick and visiting those in prison.

I have no doubt that you will all be aware of the increasing costs of living here in Great Britain. Things are tough now and will become even more so in April when the cap on energy bills increases. Thousands of people across our land will find themselves really struggling to heat their homes, to be able to eat and to provide for those who are reliant on them. This is a scary moment in the history of our country. As you may know, we have now been hosting the Liss Food Bank at our site on Hill Brow Road for around a year. Things up there started really very slowly, we would be delivering around 5 or 6 packages to those in the local area and nobody was venturing up the hill to come and see us and choose things that might be helpful to them as a family (such as toiletries, animal food etc that isn't in a standard package). However, in the past few weeks this has changed drastically. At the time of writing in Mid-February, we just last week, found ourselves supporting 17 families and individuals, 8 of whom, travelled up to the store at the church. Now, this might not sound huge, but when you take into consideration the size of Liss and the fact that Petersfield, Liphook and Bordon also have their own food bank provision, you can start to get a sense of just what a significant number 17 is.

In this day and age, we should not have people relying on food banks to be able to feed their children, but this is the reality of where we are, and the situation is bleak. As Christians we are called to pray and act for justice, please be praying for our food banks both in Liss and in Petersfield as well, they are doing an incredible thing and supporting individuals and families who might otherwise go hungry. Please, if you can, get in touch with those running them and find out what items they are lacking, and if you are in a position to be able to donate, please do consider it. We can also write to our MP to ask the Government to really think about what they can do to protect those most vulnerable at this time. These are trying times, but prayer is powerful and so to, are the actions of God's children.

I am delighted that we can do our small part for the food bank in Liss by offering them a space to operate out of, I'm also delighted that members of this church are serving the Petersfield food bank tirelessly to ensure this can all run as smoothly as it does. But please, please, look out for your neighbour in the coming weeks and months. Things are really tough for so many people and as Christian people who find their hope in Jesus Christ, we have a responsibility to pray for and to act for justice so we might see glimmers of Christ's Kingdom being established here on the Earth.

I wish you every blessing in the month ahead,

Your brother in Christ,

Josh.

Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,

After what seems to have been another difficult few months things seem to be looking up. Outside there are snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils beginning to emerge from the cold winter months and the days are getting longer too. However, there are so many things happening in our world that are worrying, scary and upsetting. At the moment the situation on the Ukrainian borders is uppermost on the news headlines and very close to my heart. The trustees of Ukraine Christian Partnership have been thinking about the summer and whether it is possible to run a summer mission. The last one was in 2019 and we know that the villagers would like us to return if at all possible. The mission will never be the same as it was for many reasons – Brexit and Covid to mention but two- but what is God's plan for these villages that we have supported for 20 years? Hopefully, things will be clearer when I write for the April Messenger. Closer to home things are slowly getting easier with restrictions being lifted but, of course, we know that the virus is still there. Some of you may still be very reluctant to come to church or join in any activities. We miss you and if we can help in anyway, please let me know. Others may be thinking that we should be in full flow of a year of celebration for our anniversary of 300 years of reformed worship in Petersfield. We have been wary of organising anything too soon with the possibility of having to cancel again. However please be assured that plans are underway for a variety of events during the year and we will let you know of each in good time. A few dates for your diaries are listed below!

God bless you all,

Carol

Dates for your diaries –

Tuesday March 15th at 7.30pm – Church Meeting in the CFC

Sunday March 13th at 2.30 pm– Forest Church at Petersfield Lake

Saturday and Sunday April 2nd and 3rd – Spring cleaning weekend at Petersfield!

Tuesday April 12th, 9.30-11.30 – Easter craft and worship for young people



Thursday April 14th at 7.30 pm– Joint Maundy Thursday service at the Methodist Church

Friday April 15th – Walk of Witness from the Methodist Church followed by Good Friday service at College Street at 11.00 am.

Easter Sunday 17th, 10.30 am joint service with the Methodists at College Street

Saturday May 7th – URC Big Day Out at Hollycombe

Sunday May 15th Stomp Around the Lake for Christian Aid + Forest Church

Friday May 20th and Saturday 21st – Anniversary Celebrations at Liss and Petersfield (postponed from January)

Saturday June 25th – Church Family Fun Day



A Message from our Church and Community Worker...



We've just come into the session of Lent, and it always makes me reflect on what Jesus gave up for each one of us. The longer I'm a Christian the more emotional I feel this time of year, the more I want to spend time with God. Ash Wednesday is traditionally a day of fasting, it helps us to remember that nothing is more important than God. We do not need to broadcast to all, but it should be a heartfelt act to show how much we value our relationship with him. How much we want transformation and seek an intimate closeness with the Father, to take up the cross and follow him. As you start this special time with God and develop your relationship with him, pray for the Holy Spirit to be with you to guide and support you to grow and to have the most amazing time with the Lord your God. Happy Lent everyone.

Love

Jo Hopkins

Lent

This month sees the start of Lent, the 40-day season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: *‘when you fast.’* (Matthew 6:17).

The spiritual discipline of fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, refraining from TV, alcohol or social media, and identifying the things that get in the way of our focus on God. What are the benefits of fasting?

- the act of giving something up expresses my desire to put God first in my life.
- it shows me the things that I depend on rather than God, so that I can surrender *‘my idols’* to Him.
- it encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God. It gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom resulting in a more intimate relationship with Christ: *‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.’* (Matthew 5:6).

Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness and repentance, and a transformed life along with heart that is more attentive and dependent on God.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines, eg: joining a study group, *‘random acts of kindness’*, giving more time to prayer and Bible study or solitude, and reading a Lent book. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

“Jesus takes it for granted that His disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

Some scenes from our 300th Anniversary Service



A packed church
ready to celebrate and...

sing praises to the Lord





A trip down memory lane



No Petersfield and Liss
URC celebration can take
place without cake!

1st March - SHROVE TUESDAY, Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

2nd March - ASH WEDNESDAY, mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done.

As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.



ASH WEDNESDAY, a good time to admit you are sorry

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

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

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

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

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

PACT EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

World Day of Prayer

**Prepared this year by women from England, Wales and
Northern Ireland**

**Friday 4th March at 10am
St Laurence Church**

**All are Welcome
Refreshments after the service**



St Laurence Lent Activity

With Lent starting on Wednesday 2nd March CAFOD has launched a new campaign called 'Walk Against Hunger'. To this end the Justice and Peace (from St Laurence) group invite you to join us for a weekly Thursday evening walk around the Heath lake during Lent. We aim to meet every Thursday at 5:30pm outside the Plump Duck café. The first walk will take place on Thursday 3rd March starting at 5.30pm, the final walk will be on the 7th April. For every lap of the lake (about 1 kilometre) we are suggesting a contribution of £1.

You can find more information about the initiative on the CAFOD website at <https://cafod.org.uk/>.

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

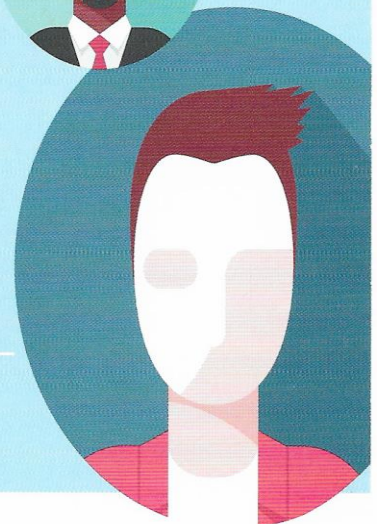
FREE DEBT & BENEFIT ADVICE

Are you struggling
with your finances?

You do not have
to cope alone.



"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

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Food Bank Updates



Distribution move to the Petersfield Methodist Church

Having one base in which to sort and distribute food has reduced the need for food packs to be transported across town, saving time, money, reducing the risk of damage to packs, also reducing the carbon footprint.

In 2021 848 food packs were issued, helping 1340 adults and 750 children.

While the Food Bank is unable to predict the impact rising food, fuel and utility bills will have, nor the forthcoming rise in National Insurance contributions, it is in a strong position to deal with any increase in demand.

In January 66 food packs were issued

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

In January 2022 the Free shop had over 600 people visit to collect much needed food, toiletries, and school uniforms.

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

Or call Lucy on 07988043870

The Faith Comment in the Petersfield Post on 16th February

Keep the faith

This story is adapted from the gospel of Mark 4 v 35-41.

‘Let’s get to the other side’, the Teacher said to his followers. They’ve ministered, healed, and listened to people in the nearby villages, and it was time to go to the other side to share the good news.

The Teacher decided to go below deck and sleep, while they sailed to the other side. While he was asleep, a ferocious storm broke out. This storm was so strong that the seasoned fishermen on board the ship feared for their lives. What was so frightening about this storm was that it appeared suddenly.

How many suddenlies in your life appeared that caused you to fear? Suddenly, you hear about the death of a loved one. How will I go on without them, you asked? Suddenly, you lose your job. How will I keep my house? Or suddenly, your marriage fails, and all your hopes and dreams for the future are dashed. What will you do?

The disciples went down, woke the Teacher and said, ‘Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?’

The Teacher went up and spoke to the storm, ‘Be still’ and it was calm. He turns to his shocked followers. They cannot believe what they’ve just witnessed, that even the wind and the waves obey him. Yet, the Teacher asks, ‘Where is your faith?’

He said what? ‘Where is your faith?’ Why would the Teacher say this? Maybe He said it because his Word says, he will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5) in our sudden disaster, and he will turn every bad experience into good for those who love him (Romans 8:28). As the Teacher said to Peter once, I pray that your faith may not fail you.

God Bless,

Esmé Kelly

Update on regular weekday activities

Please note the following updates.



- **Drop in Tea** - Julie, Keith and Mary

Drop-In Tea for March will be on Tuesday 8 March.

This is an opportunity for anyone to come to the CFC for a chat and a cuppa and even some cake! Call in any time between 2 and 4pm.

Come when you can - go when you must!

We look forward to seeing you then.

Julie, Keith and Mary



Rotas – February 2022

Date	Duty Elders	AV
March 6	John Lewis	Norbert Szekely
March 13	Wendy Cassar	Keith Evans
March 20	Keith Evans & Ron Wing	John Lewis
March 27 th *	Val Torrance	Carolyn Barton

***Please note that the Clocks go forward on 27th March**

Welcomers' Rota

Date	Welcomers
March 6	Alan Jones
March 13	Graham Fountain
March 20	Wendy Cassar
March 27*	Anne Glenn

Please arrive 30mins before start of the service.

If date does not suit you please adjust with another person as a swap.

Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar – March 2022

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

Tuesday	1	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Wednesday	2	2.30 pm	Home Fellowship Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	3	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Zoom
		8 pm	Home Fellowship Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	6	10.30 am	Mary Fair	
Monday	7	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Study	CFC
Tuesday	8	9.30 am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC
		2 pm- 4 pm	Drop in Tea	CFC
		7.30pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	10	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Zoom
		7.30 pm	Home Fellowship Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
Sunday	13	10.30 am	The Minister	
Monday	14	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Study	CFC
Tuesday	15	9.30 am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
		7.30pm	Church Meeting	CFC
Wednesday	16	2.30 pm	Home Fellowship Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	17	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Zoom
		8 pm	Home Fellowship Group	12 Geddes Way
Friday	18	10.30am	Friday Fellowship	CFC
Sunday		10.30 am	The Minister	
Monday	21	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Study	CFC
Tuesday	22	9.30 am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC
Thursday	24	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Zoom
		7.30	Home Fellowship Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
Sunday	27	10.30 am	The Minister	
Monday	28	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Study	CFC
Tuesday	29	9.30am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC
Thursday	31	10am	Prayer Meeting	Zoom

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 editors so that they can be included



Christian Aid was founded 75 years ago, by real people like you, uniting together at the end of World War Two – determined to live out Jesus’ teaching to love their neighbour, by offering love and care to those in need.

Instead of focusing only on rebuilding their own lives, they raised an incredible amount of money to help refugees right across Europe. But that was only the beginning.

Over the following decades this became the inspiration for a movement of people bringing about real change right across the world – empowering communities to break the cycle of poverty and look forward to a more hopeful future.

This Lent and Easter we want to celebrate those achievements with you and your church because they are your achievements.

Celebrating 75 years of real change

Let’s celebrate our 75th anniversary together and rejoice in what we have achieved so far. To remind us of what we are capable of as we face one of our greatest challenges of all, the climate crisis.

We’d love for you and your church to play your part during Lent and Easter.





You are Invited to:
A Simple Lunch

**At the Petersfield
United Reformed Church**

**Saturday 12 March
12 noon to 1.30pm**

*Home Made Soup
Bread and Cheese
Coffee/Tea*

All donations to Christian Aid

Offers of help to make soup and /or waiting on tables will also be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Carolyn Barton on carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com



Less calories

A minister took his young daughter to the grocery store with him. In addition to the healthful items on the carefully prepared shopping list, they returned with a box of sugar-laden biscuits. The minister noticed the glare of his wife and quickly said, "It's okay, this box of biscuits has one-third fewer calories than usual."

"And why is that?" she asked.

"Because we ate a third of them on the way home," he replied.

27th March: Mothering Sunday, 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Why God made mums

These were the answers given by some seven- year-olds...

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows all the passwords we use online.
2. Mostly to clean the house, I think.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. I've heard it was some amazing experiment on men that got out of hand.
3. God made my mum just the same like He made me. He just used bigger parts.

What does your mum do in her spare time?

1. She takes my brother to football and my sister to violin lessons.
2. To hear her tell it, it's like she pays bills all day long.
3. I think that must happen during the night, because then she just lies there and sleeps.

For our younger readers ...

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...

I want my share of what I'll inherit from you now!



So the father divided his property between his sons.

The younger son took his money and went to another country.



Then his money ran out and there was a famine.



The only job he could get was feeding pigs.

He was so hungry he would have eaten their food.



Then he came to his senses -

I'll go to my father, say sorry, and ask him for a job as a workman!



He set off for home.

His father saw him coming, ran to him and hugged him.



Father, I am so sorry. I am not good enough to be your son..



But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.

The older son came back from work and heard the noise.




Your brother has returned and your father is having a feast

The older son was so angry he wouldn't go into the house..



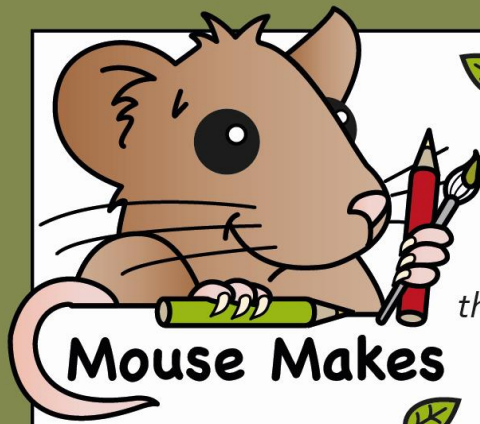
so his father came out to see him

For years I've slaved for you and you've given me nothing. He returns after wasting your money and you give him a feast!



My son, all I have is yours, but we should celebrate because he was lost and now he has been found.





GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

"No good tree does not produce bad fruit,
nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each
tree is known by its own fruit..."

...Good people bring good things out of the good
they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil
things out of the evil they stored in their hearts.
People speak the things that are in their hearts."

- Luke 6: 43-45

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your
impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that
grows good fruit.



READ
Luke
6: 27-45

How did Jesus
say we should
treat others?

Look up
Luke 6:31

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

_____ to everyone
who asks you
Luke 6:30

_____ for those who
are cruel to you
Luke 6:28

_____ those who
curse you
Luke 6:28

Do _____ to those that
hate you
Luke 6:27

_____ and you will be
forgiven
Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.

GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

Crossword

Across

1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)

4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)

8 ““They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)

9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)

10 Jewish (7)

11 Dirge (anag.) (5)

12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)

17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)

19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)

21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)

22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)

23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)

24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

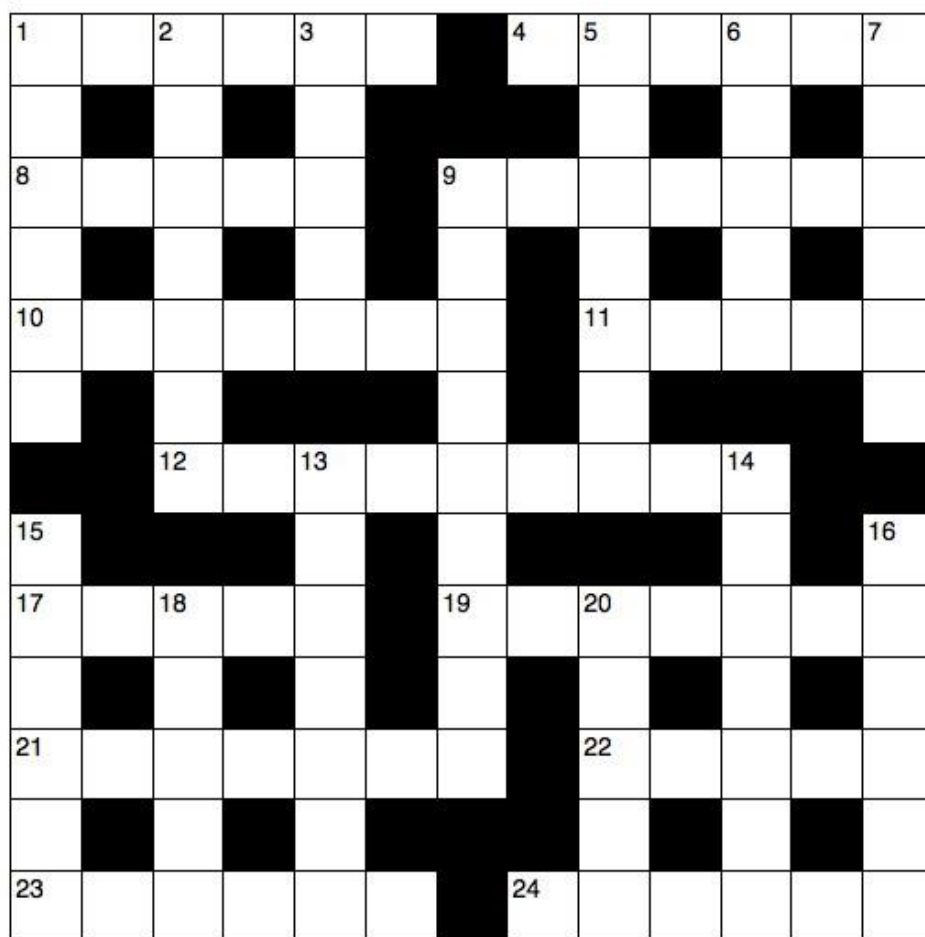
1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)

2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)

3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)

5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)

6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)



7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60)

9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)

13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)

14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)

15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)

16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)

18 Donkeys (5)

20 Raked (anag.) (5)

Answers on page 27



Sudoku

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

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Easy

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



Daily prayer

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.

The Computer Swallowed Grandad!

The computer swallowed Grandad!
Yes! Honestly! It's true!
He pressed Control and Enter -
And disappeared from view!

It devoured him completely
The thought just makes me squirm!
He must have caught a virus
Or been swallowed by a worm!

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even searched the internet
But nothing did I find.

I went to Mr Google
My searches to refine
His reply was in the negative,
'Nothing found' was Google's line.

So, if inside your inbox
My Grandad you should see -
Please copy, scan, and paste him
And send him back to me!

By Nigel Beeton



Hereafter

The minister came to see me the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am - in the bedroom, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement - I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"

News from the United Reformed Church

items from the February edition of the Synod News



GEAR Events- Lent Series on Zoom

GEAR are hosting a lent series that is open to any individuals and churches who wish to join us. Each week there will be worship, Bible Study, discussion and prayer as we will unpack the aims of GEAR.

Weds 2 March - Growing Close to Jesus, led by Sally Willett

Weds 9 March - Enthusiastic about the Bible, led by Andy Twilley

Weds 16 March - Alive in the power of the Spirit, led by Paul Stokes

Weds 23 March - Reaching out with the good news, led by Ashley Evans

All from 7.30-9pm on Zoom. Contact Matt Stone for the Zoom details:

matt.stone@cantab.net.

The sessions (excluding discussion) will be recorded and made available the next day in case churches wish to use them.

Synod Big Day Out -7th May

URC Wessex Synod - Big Day Out

Date: 7th May 2022

Time: 11am till 5pm

Venue: Hollycombe Steam Fair and Museum near Liss

(Wessex Synod will have sole use of the whole site)

Theme: Jubilee: 50th anniversary of the URC

Hope Together – The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend is only 4 months away now, so we hope you’ve started putting your plans into action. Sunday 6 February marked the 70th anniversary of the Queen’s accession to the throne. Our [new anthem ‘Rise Up and Serve’](#) written by songwriters Graham Kendrick, Mal Pope and the contemporary worship band Rend Collective has now been released!

We are Inviting local choirs to enter the competition to sing the anthem, with winners taking part in a YouTube video featuring choirs from around the Commonwealth.

If you know a choir leader who would be interested, get them to check out the song. [Listen and Download Lyrics](#)

Let’s help you plan

Download the free [Street Party Planner](#) we’ve put together to help local

groups to organise local celebrations now. theplatinumjubilee.com has a guide on what to do when and some great party games ideas.

Decorate and give away

We've [partnered with CPO](#) to give you an option of **ready-made bunting, banners, mugs and other Platinum Jubilee resources**. You can also plan to give away copies of [Our Faithful Queen](#) and *The Girl Who Grew Up To Be Queen* – the new books which are out soon.

Rise up and serve

Christian service is at the centre of our drive. **We would like you to invite your church, schools and community to join in the [70 Acts of Service](#)**. We also have *On Her Majesty's Service* youth resources for schools, young people, children and uniformed organisations to get excited about. Find them on theplatinumjubilee.com [in the Learn section](#).

From the Hope Together Team

Further information available at:

<https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Group/Group.aspx?ID=371167>

Good News for Listed Buildings

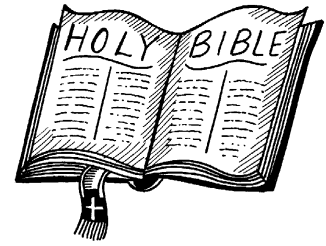
Good news to those of you who are custodians of our Listed Chapels and Churches.

It has been announced that the Government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has been extended for another three years until 31 March 2025. This is the scheme that gives a grant to cover the cost of VAT on repairs, alterations etc. to listed places of worship. Eligible criteria and the Application Form for the scheme continue to be found here: <http://www.lpwscheme.org.uk/>.

The continuation of this scheme will come as welcome news to those of you planning to undertake works after March 2021 when the scheme was due to end.

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar March

March	6	Meeting of Synod · St Martin's, West Moors
	13	Oxford: Summertown · Bracknell · Christchurch: Walkford (Closing – March Thanksgiving Service tbc)
	20	Fordingbridge · United Church of Egham
	27	Bournemouth: East Cliff · Warsash



Lectionary Bible Readings for March

6	Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
13	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 <i>or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)</i>
20	Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
27	Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Important - Sensitive issues

As the Messenger is included in the Church Website, it is important that all the content is suitable for public exposure. When composing an article, if there is anything at all that you consider should be removed before publishing on the website, please inform the editor, Carolyn Barton.

The articles contained in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Petersfield and Liss URC leadership.

The deadline for the **April Messenger** is **Sunday 13 March 2022**. Please send articles to Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

Answers

ACROSS: 1, Awaken. 4, Quench. 8, Hit me. 9, Sadness. 10, Semitic. 11, Ridge. 12, Testimony. 17, Psalm. 19, Indulge. 21, Deserve. 22, Ariel. 23, Rose as. 24, Beggar.

DOWN: 1, Aghast. 2, Attempt. 3, Eject. 5, Undergo. 6, No end. 7, Hasten. 9, Sacrifice. 13, Samaria. 14, Yelling. 15, Spider. 16, Dealer. 18, Asses. 20, Drake.

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Easy

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Medium

Church Contact Details

Church	Petersfield : College Street, Petersfield GU31 4AG 01730 266475	Liss : Hillbrow Road, Liss GU33 7PX
Minister	Rev Joshua Thomas Tel 07734 254983 minister@petersfieldurc.com	
Church Office	Administrator Mrs Esme Kelly Office Hours 9am-12noon Tuesdays to Fridays	
Church & Community Worker	Mrs Jo Hopkins 01730 266475 communityworker@petersfieldurc.com	
Telephone	Church Family Centre 01730 266475	
Website	<u>www.petersfieldurc.com</u>	
E-mail	<u>admin@petersfieldurc.com</u>	
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”