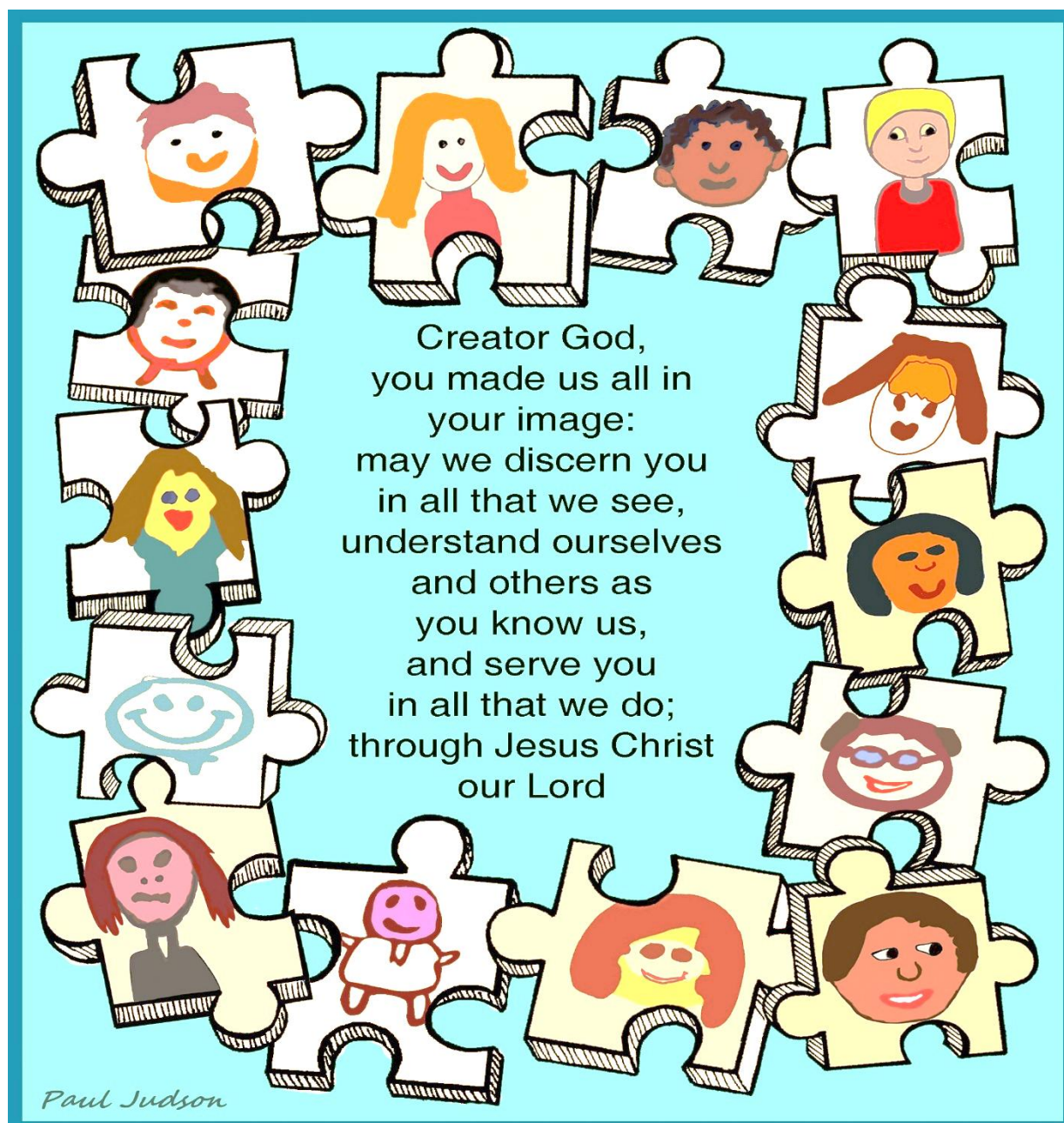


THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

July 2025 No. 740

From the Minister ...

I need to start this month's message by expressing just how grateful I am to our church family for their incredible generosity during May's fundraising initiatives. Not only did the plant and cake sale go without a hitch and raised a fantastic amount of money (special thanks to Adrian Milmer, Carol Tubbs, Jo Hopkins and Robin Hart for his tomato plants!), but people also turned out a week later for our gift service and were so incredibly generous with their gifts which will in turn continue to help us in our mission to serve God's people here in Petersfield and Liss. Thank you all so much.



The past month has been full on to say the least...

Back at the end of May, Hannah, Jo and I were amongst the leadership team for this year's Wessex Synod, Children's Camp. The theme of this year's camp was 'All are welcome' and we spent time exploring what this meant to us and our churches throughout the week. We had a total of thirteen children who were in some way affiliated to our church, attending the event making us one of the larger groups out of a total of sixty children. It was so wonderful to see these young children engaging with each other, making new friendships and worshipping together. I remember as a young person events like this shaping my faith, realising I wasn't the only one who went along to church, there were so many others like me. Such a formational and special time for those who attended. I led worship alongside Rev'd Andy Hall from Broadstone URC and we focused on how Jesus welcomed those he met including; Zaccheaus, Nicodemus, Mary and Martha and the man who had been lame since birth.

And then, just a week or so later I was delighted that our church was able to host a very special evening for those slightly older young people from our town. Dom DeBoo is the new youth worker up at St Mary Magdelene in Sheet. In a previous job of his they had set up an initiative for young people that had gone from strength to strength, and he was keen for this to be replicated in Petersfield and the surrounding area. The event was entitled Making Waves and young people from our church, St Mary's, Hope Church and The Kings Arms were in attendance. They gathered in the hall for some games and refreshments (hot dogs and cake expertly prepared by Jo Oru – thanks Jo!)

The young people then went through into the sanctuary which was cleared of some of the chairs and had beanbags in their place (testimony to the adaptability of that space) where they spent some time getting to know one another with some games before being able to worship together singing songs led by a band of mostly young people (with me providing some assistance...) and hearing testimony from Dom before engaging in some creative prayer activities and some more worship.

Once again, it was times like this that helped me as a young person growing up in a church where I was mostly the only one of my age. It was wonderful that Benjamin played drums and felt so enthused that he did so again on the following Sunday.

Please do carry on praying for our children and young people, as you know exam season is nearly over and many of them will be about to start the school holidays before returning to school or transitioning to whatever life has in store for them next.

I'm so encouraged by the variety of styles of worship we are able to offer in our space and looking forward to seeing what God wants us to have a go at next!

Blessings,

Josh.



Sunday 17 August

I will be taking the service on 17th August and would like to make this a worship of songs, hymns and readings.

I would like to be an interactive service and if anyone has a favourite song, hymn reading or prayer please can you let me know in advance. If you would like to explain your choice, if it has certain meaning to you I would love to know. You are welcome to share your view, or I can read out on your behalf.

This service is part of communion and so will only be a short part of the service.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings

Jo, Isaac and family

Dates for your diaries

- Holiday at Home 5th (Full) 12 and 19th Aug 10-3pm
- Board Game afternoon 24th July and 28th Aug



Message from our Church and Community Worker...

At Forest Church we have finished our topic of new life / and how we are made new by God grace. We visited the Health and Broadlands Meadows farm. What a lot of fun we had with our 8 families at the Farm. Thank you, Les and Connie.



Forest Church will finish for the summer on 21st July and will be back 8th September.

Wessex Camp as always was great fun, 60 children from the synod came and they did everything from kiwi fly to mountain boarding, Forest church to a campfire. I love that the young people can see there are so many Christians their own age locally to them and strong connections have been made. For the team it's a joy and lots of hard work. I only go for 2 days, but the rest of them are all full timers. Hats off to you all. I look forward to next year.

I had a zoom outside worship session in June, it was lovely seeing so many people interested in a form of Forest Church or worshipping in God's world. And a few ideas to take away.

Love Jo

HOME-GROUP – 84, MOGGS MEAD

In anticipating the visit to Petersfield on 2nd Dec. of J.John -the inspiring evangelist, our Home-Group will be using the set of J.John's DVDs – Just 10 – as a basis for a study on the 10 Commandments. The first of the DVDs is entitled 'Find Contentment'. We shall be watching this on Thurs. 7th August at 2.30pm. Our time together will also include as usual - prayer, social time, discussion and refreshments. You are most welcome to join us.

The J.John course is for 10 sessions, and these will be spread over the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the months from August until December. Our final session, on 18th Dec. will be entitled 'Live by Priorities'.

If you need any more information, please either email me – mafair@btinternet.com or 'phone – 01730 267991.

MARY FAIR

Quotes

- Many of us cannot reach the mission fields on our feet, but we can reach them on our knees. - T J Bach
- Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will upon God, or bending His will to ours, but the prescribed way of subordinating our will to His. - John R W Stott.

Community Matters

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

Frontline Petersfield Debt Advice

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

Telephone:
07919 998442 (24hrs)

Email:
petersfield@frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

Website:
www.frontlinepetersfield.org.uk



www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

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Food Bank Updates

Our opening times are: -

**Stock and Donations: Mondays and Wednesdays:
9.30 am – 11.30 am**

Distribution: Tuesdays and Fridays:

9.30 am – 11.30 am

At Petersfield Methodist Church

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



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

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

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

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

Free Shop Petersfield

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

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

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

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

Opening times: Wednesday 1.30 pm – 3 pm

Friday & Saturday 10 am – 11.30 am

For more information contact: easthampshirerail.co.uk/freeshop-shop

Or call Lucy on **07988043870**

Safeguarding at Petersfield and Liss URC

What is safeguarding here at Petersfield and Liss URC?

The essence of safeguarding in any organisation is ensuring that everyone feels safe. This is not a role for one person, it is the responsibility of everyone using the church to make this a reality.

My role as Safeguarding coordinator is to follow all the policies and procedures that have been put in place by Wessex Synod.

We have many members of the church who have received safeguarding training; including Jo Hopkins who assists me in this role, all the elders and anyone who works in the junior church.

The key to safeguarding being successful is good communication.

If your lock breaks on your front door you phone or email a locksmith and leave the job in their capable hands.

If you feel unsafe or think someone else is unsafe at church your responsibility is to phone or email the safeguarding coordinator and they will follow procedures to make sure this is followed up.

Our safeguarding policy is on the church website and there is a safeguarding poster in the church centre with contact details on there. A simple way to contact someone is to phone the church office and your call will be dealt with promptly.

We are lucky that our church is used throughout the week for many organisations. We want everyone to feel safe and welcome. Please help us to continue to make this happen by communicating any concerns.

Proverbs 11:14 — The New King James Version (NKJV)

14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall;

But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

by Kay Henrie- Safeguarding coordinator

Petersfield and Liss United Reformed Church

Update on regular weekday activities

Please note the following updates.



- **Drop in Tea** – Drop-In Tea for July will be on the 8th.

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 – July/August 2025

Date	Duty Elders	AV
July 6	Isaac Oru	Roy Knight
July 13	David Barton	Keith Evans
July 20	Mary Fair & David Barton	Jonathan Oru
July 27	Wendy Cassar	David Darling
August 3	Julie West	David Darling
August 10	Jo Oru	Keith Evans
August 17	Tim Abbott & Anne Glenn	Jonathan Oru
August 24	Carol Tubbs	Carolyn Barton
August 31	Tony Phillips	Roy Knight

Welcomers' Rota

Date	Welcomers
July 6	Isaac Oru
July 13	Peter Jolly
July 20	Wendy Holdsworth
July 26	Tim Abbott
August 3	Doreen Lewis
August 10	Carol Tubbs
August 17	Sue Bone
August 24	Val Torrance
August 27	Graham Fountain

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

Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar – July 2025

Please note Services are held at College Street, Petersfield.

Tuesday	1	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	3	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	6	10.30 am	Mary Fair	
Monday	7	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		3.45-4.45pm	Forest Church	
Tuesday	8	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2pm – 4 pm	Drop – in Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	10	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
Friday	11	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	Sanctuary
Sunday	13	10.30 am	Minister	
Monday	14	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		3.45-4.45 pm	Forest Church	
Tuesday	15	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	17	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84, Moggs Mead
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
Sunday	20	10.30 am	Minister -Communion	
Monday	21	3.45-4.45pm	Forest Church	
Tuesday	22	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30 pm	Church Meeting	Sanctuary
Thursday	24	10.30 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Friday	25	10 am	Friday Reflection	Sanctuary
Sunday	27	10.30 am	Minister -Café Church	
Thursday	31	10.30 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary

Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar – August 2025

Please note Services are held at College Street, Petersfield.

Sunday	3	10.30 am	Esme Kelly	
Tuesday	5		Holiday at Home	CFC
Thursday	7	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
Friday	8	10.30 am	Friday Reflection	Sanctuary
Sunday	10	10. 30 am	Minister	
Tuesday	12		Holiday at Home	CFC
Thursday	14	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
Sunday*	17	10.30 am	Jo Oru & Mary Fair– Communion	
Tuesday	19		Holiday at Home	CFC
Thursday	21	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
Sunday	24	10.30 am	Minister – Café Church	
Thursday	28	10.30 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
Friday	29	10.30 am	Friday Reflection	Sanctuary
Sunday	31	10.30 am	Minister	

Preaching hazards

Showing your new parish that you are a forceful preacher may not always be a good idea, as the Revd Sydney Smith found out when he first arrived at All Saints Church in Foston in 1806. “When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation.”

Getting ready

Two children watched their grandmother reading her Bible. “Why does she do that?” whispered one. “I expect she’s studying for her final exams,” came the reply.

Hampshire and The Islands Historic Churches Trust

Ride and Stride



Saturday 13th September 2025 is the day when cyclists and walkers and even horse riders and car drivers will be setting out on journeys to visit as many churches as they think fit in a time allowance all in aid of raising funds for this Trust. This is an event that takes place throughout the country but is divided up into county organisations. The Trust supports church maintenance projects with grants and does give 50% of the money raised by sponsorship to the nominated church of the participants. You may wish to be active in one or more ways, if so, speak to me to find out how to involve yourself in this event. Your support is so appreciated by the Trust who operates for those churches in need of financial help. So please join the team to participate or even help to welcome participants at our Family Centre and/or sponsor any of us who will be either a *Rider* or *Strider*.

Robin Hart

PACT



Next Women's Brunch!

We're excited to invite you to our
next Women's Brunch on
Saturday 5 July 2025, from 10am to 12pm
back at the

**Herne Farm Leisure Centre,
Crundles, Petersfield.**

We're especially delighted to
welcome our guest speaker,
Rev. Canon Sarah Chapman
and her theme will be:
'The Five Love Languages
- How to feel and reflect Love'

It always helps us to have an idea of numbers, so
please confirm attendance if you can to:
women@sheet.church

Recycling



As Petersfield Infant School is no longer able to accept recycling, we have been asked to share a list of alternative recycling opportunities for those waste streams

- Plastic milk bottle tops - Recycle with milk bottles in your home recycling collection. just leave the bottle tops on the rinsed bottles and place in your black recycling bin
- Batteries - These can be recycled in numerous shops including electrical stores. Robert Dyas. WH Smith and Tesco
- Spectacles - Recycle in-store at all local opticians. Petersfield Lions Club also offer collections at the following locations: Winton House. Swan Surgery and the Community Centre
- Stamps - Nationwide Building Society. 2 Chapel St. Petersfield GU32 3JD. collected for the Salvation Army
- Dishwasher pods and laundry packaging - Plastic wrapping can be recycled with flexible plastic at collection points in local supermarkets including Tesco and Aldi. At Aldi Havant you can recycle dishwasher tablet and washing capsule tubs. Flexible packaging for laundry washing capsules and pods. wipes. and Lenor tumble dryer sheets can be recycled via Terracycle at Rookery Farm Yard. Ramsdean. GU321RU
- Yoghurt pots - Aldi Havant and Portsmouth Road Car Park GU1 4XB
- Pringle tubes - Tetrapak bin at Tesco Car Park. The Causeway
- Crisp packets - Flexible plastic collection points at local supermarkets inc. Tesco and Aldi
- Cheese wrappers - Flexible plastic collection points at local supermarkets
- Toothpaste tubes - Recycle with Health. Beauty & Wellness items at Boots stores

This list is based on items previously recycled through Petersfield Infant School

We have a recycling directory for Petersfield on our website which includes items not listed here: www.petersfieldcan.org/projects/petersfield-recycling-directory

Other websites offering useful recycling information:

www.recyclenow.com

www.terracycle.com/en-GB/collection-programs

The Way to Share



The old man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink. He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his

wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering. Obviously, they were thinking, 'That poor couple, all they can afford is one meal between them.'

As the man began to eat his fries, a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said they were just fine, they always shared everything. People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.

Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said, 'No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything.'

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked, 'What is it you are waiting for?' She answered, 'The TEETH!'

(First included in the July/August 2009 Messenger from an RAF Newsletter, courtesy of **Peter Crane**.)

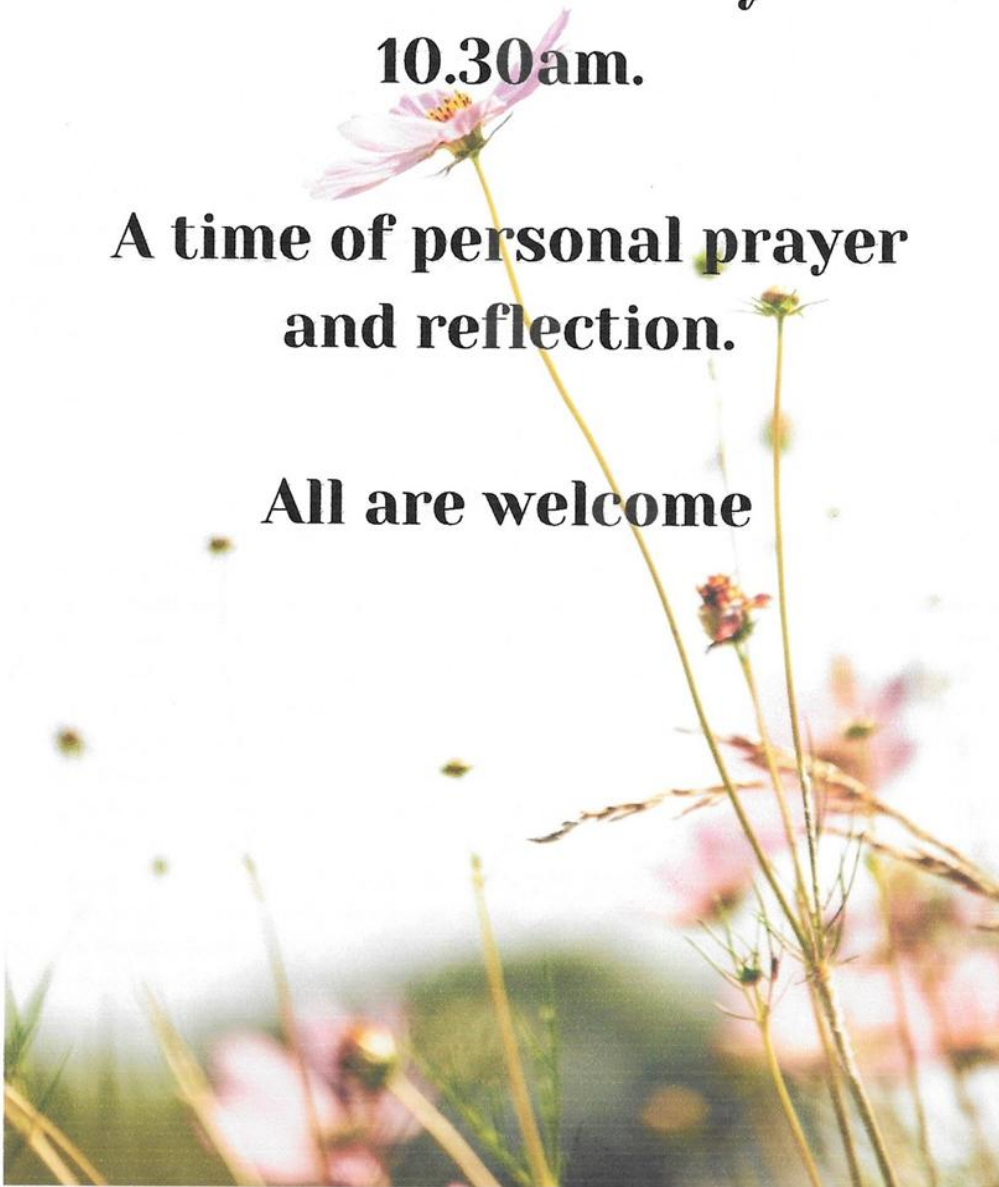
Friday reflection

**Every 4th Friday of the
month.**

**In the sanctuary
10.30am.**

**A time of personal prayer
and reflection.**

All are welcome



Reflecting Faith: Saying 'Hello'

How do you say 'hello' to the people you meet? We don't use the same words, gestures and tone to each person, nor on each occasion.

When we meet a very senior person in our workplace; we tend to be deferential and formal. By the time we have worked together for some months, we will still hold them in high regard and with respect, but we are probably more relaxed in their presence.

As for members of our close family, there's a time for huge hugs and explosions of laughter, such as at the arrivals desk of the airport, but such a greeting is probably not so appropriate when we meet them in a formal restaurant for lunch.

So it is on a Sunday morning, when we meet with the members of our church in the setting of a church service.

By meeting together for worship, we have come deliberately into a consciousness of God's presence. It's not that He hasn't been with us on the way there, but this is a specific and intentional thing.

So, when the person leading the service says 'hello' at the start of the service, they are not just welcoming you as an individual but rather acknowledging that we are meeting together in the presence of God, to worship Him.

This is special. This is amazing. This is huge.

When you next go to a church service take note of the leader's opening words and your expected response to them. What is your acceptance to that wonderful invitation?

The Revd Dr Jo White



WORD FOR TODAY

I don't know about you, but I'm a great one for a To-Do list, mind you, it can remain on my work surface, with the odd tick appearing now and then for ages!

A recent WFT was titled "Consult God on your daily To-Do list.

'To come up with a daily To-Do list that keeps your peace and joy intact, consult God. When you take on too much, you set yourself up for failure. Life doesn't run smoothly, no matter how badly you want it to. So build in time for interruptions, traffic jams, lost keys and slow-moving people etc. Make yourself finish one task before beginning another.

Before Jesus picked his disciples, fed the multitude and calmed the storm, He took time to be alone with God in his prayers. The great thing about prayer is that you can do it anywhere, in a traffic jam, in a supermarket, on your lunch break, or when your eyes first open in the morning.

Since God delights in each step of your life, begin to involve Him more.

The Word For Today is free, please help yourself to a copy, if you haven't already.

Sue Bone

Church Notices that didn't quite 'make it'...

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

Churchyard maintenance is becoming increasingly difficult, so it will be appreciated if parishioners cut the grass around their own graves.

For our younger readers

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Ruth chapters 1 and 2

When famine came to Bethlehem, Elimelech took his family to the nearby country of Moab. The two sons married local girls.

But Elimelech and his sons died, leaving Naomi, Orpah and Ruth as widows.



Naomi told her daughters-in-law she was returning to Bethlehem.



Go back to your parents' homes.

The girls cried, and Orpah left, but Ruth stayed.



I will stay with you. Your people and your God will be mine.



So Naomi and Ruth went back to Bethlehem.

Call me 'Mara' not 'Naomi' * because God has made my life bitter.



* 'Naomi' means 'Pleasant' 'Mara' means 'Bitter'

It was the start of the barley harvest. Poor people were allowed to glean - to pick up the ears of grain that had been dropped. Ruth went out to glean.



She picked a field, asked if she could glean, then worked hard



The field's owner, Boaz, arrived.

Who's that girl?



That's Ruth, who came from Moab with Naomi.



Boaz told Ruth she was welcome to work in his fields.

He told her to join his workers at lunch-time, and made sure she had more than enough to eat.



Ruth worked hard and took home a huge bag of grain.

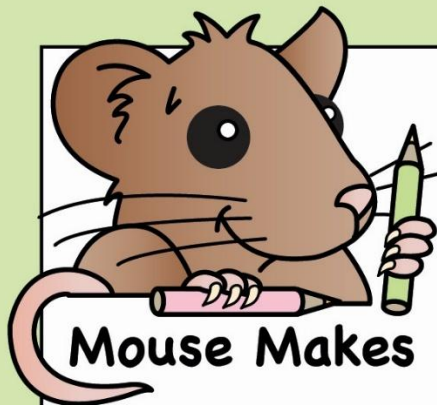
I worked in Boaz's field.



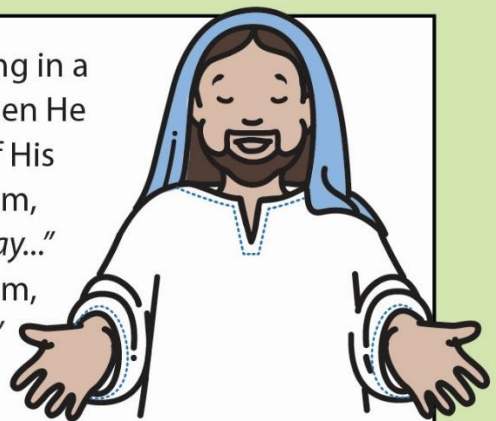
He is a near relative!

Ruth worked all through the barley and wheat harvests in Boaz's fields.





"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, *"Lord, teach us to pray..."* And He said to them, *"When you pray, say..."*"



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

but _____
us from _____.

For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen



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



Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:
LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you use in your church?



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4



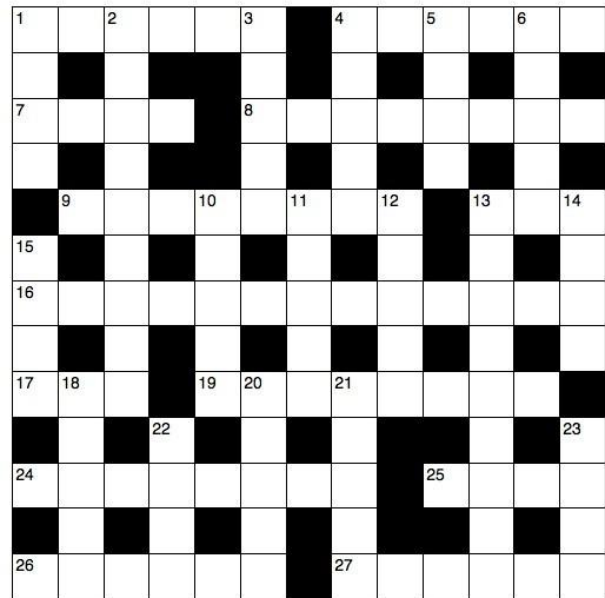
Colour in



Crossword

Across

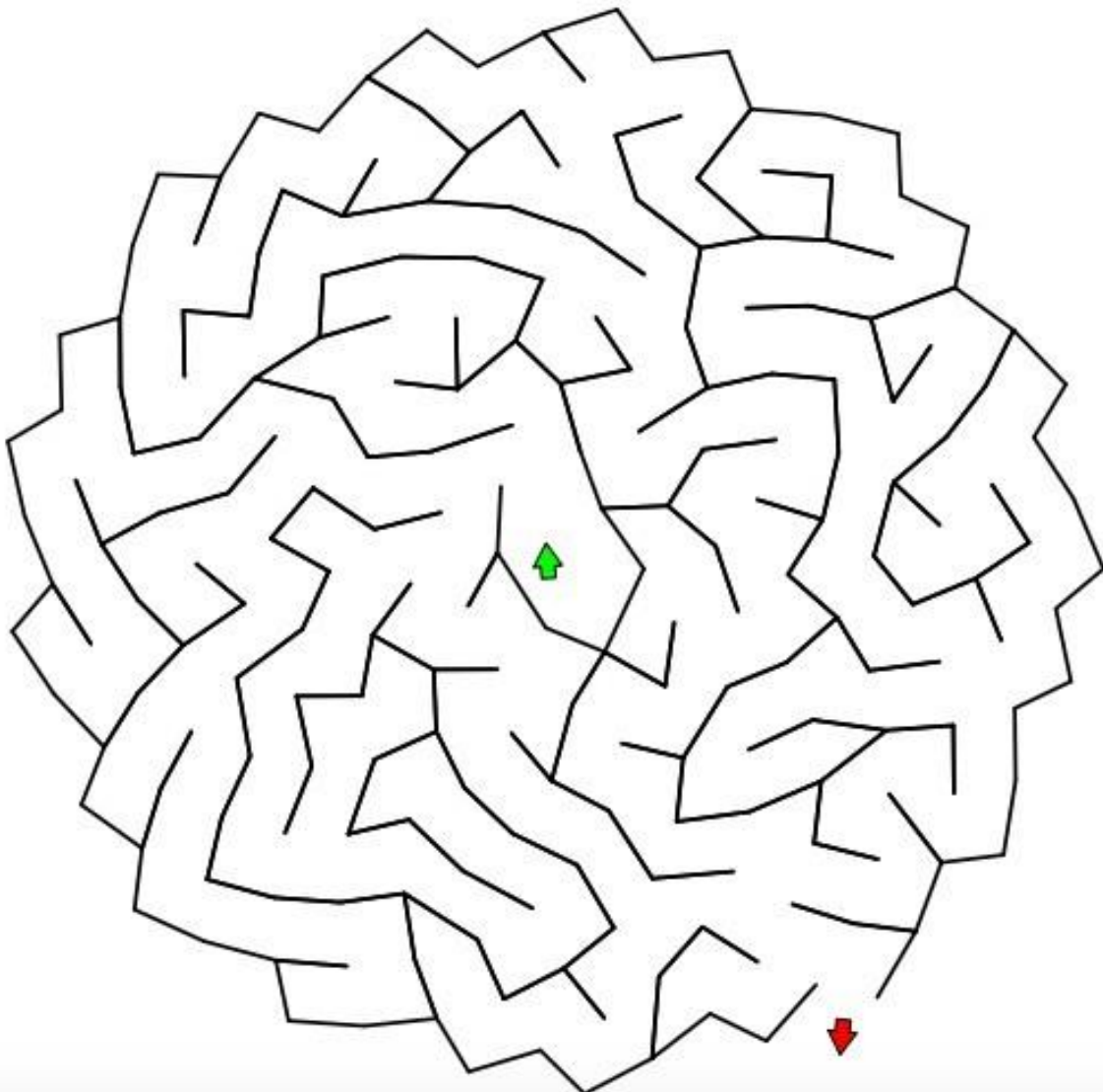
- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)



Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)

- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
- 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me"" (Mark 14:20) (4)
- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)



Sudoku

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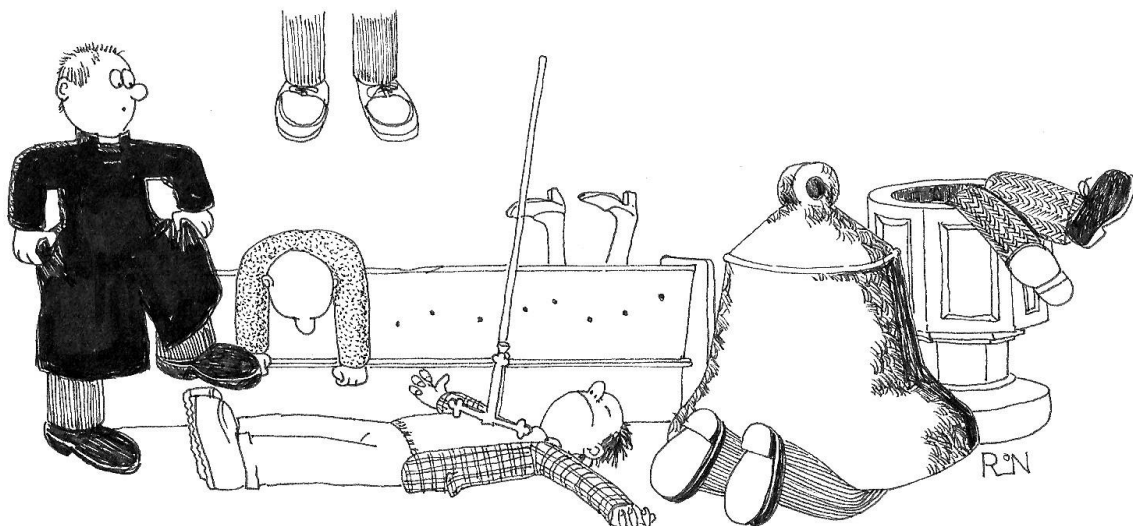
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Murder

Do you see a lot of murders? On TV, that is. According to the star of Gavin and Tracey, James Corden, television these days has become pretty much “wall-to-wall” murder.

Corden believes that audiences deserve more programmes that feature love and kindness, instead. He says: “If there was an alien species that came to Earth, they would assume that all of us know multiple murderers, and that we’re involved or implicated in murder somewhere.”

So, what is there about a murder mystery that still so attracts us?

‘Midsomer Sunday’

It was a normal Sunday Morning in Midsomer Parish Church



Mary Magdalene

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene. What can we learn from Mary's story?

We don't have to be defined by our past:

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed, and she became a follower of Jesus. Her

life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

Make Jesus the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

Jesus uses the weakest people for His purposes:

Mary is a great example of Paul's words: *'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'* (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously. We shouldn't be quick to dismiss the things that don't agree with our expectations, as Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we allow Him, He can do it through us!

Solutions crossword

ACROSS:

1, Riches. 4, Abner's. 7, Soul. 8, Damascus. 9, Statutes. 13, Add. 16, Craftsmanship. 17, Old. 19, Redeemer. 24, Walls are. 25, Wise. 26, Target. 27, Thief.

DOWN:

1, Rest. 2, Courtyard. 3, Sadhu. 4, Arm he. 5, Nose. 6, Round. 10, Tutor. 11, Timid. 12, Sense. 13, Ashbelite. 14, Dips. 15, Echo. 18, Lhasa. 20, Exact. 21, Erect. 22, Flog. 23, Mede.

News from the United Reformed Church
items from the June 2025 edition of the Synod News



Youth Camp, 11 to 13 July 2025

For young people in school years 7 – 13 (ages 11 – 17 years old). At [GB Outdoor Centre](#)

Dates in 2025

Church Secretaries' Networking Zoom – Saturday 20 September 2025.

Diary date 2026 – *new*

Lay Preachers' Gathering – Saturday 21 March 2026 at Sarum College.

Elders' conference – Saturday 25 July 2026 at Sarum College

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar July & August 2025

July	6	General Assembly on 4-7 July; Ryde, Isle of Wight
	13	Fleet; Christ Church Chineham; Skinner Street, Poole
	20	Buckland, Portsmouth; Broad Chalke, Salisbury
	27	Bridport United Church; Christchurch Thame
August	3	Faringdon United Church; Swanage; Fareham
	10	Salisbury; High Cross Church, Camberley
	17	Bournemouth International Church; Westborough
	24	Tadley; Grange, Reading
	31	Blandford Forum; St Francis, Banbury; South Hayling

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

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

July Eco Prayer

Loving God

We pray for our General Assembly taking place this month

And for all who attend, vote and take part

We thank you for the moving of Your Spirit through the meeting

Which has prompted resolutions in support of climate action.

We pray for all our churches and members who are working to make resolutions a reality

And all who seek ways to sustain changes made and to deepen commitment

For in all these things, we seek to put Your Kingdom first

And to walk your way with Jesus, in the Spirit's power.

AMEN

August – A Christian Aid prayer

Good God of creation, we sing praise to you.

But even as we raise our voices we know we have faltered and failed.

Walking on paths that turned our hearts inward,

Too often our leaves have withered our branches are barren.

We have failed to be pruned, and the axe is now poised.

Poised to cut down the excesses that crucify all creation,

the systems that impoverish all people, the privileges that diminish our faith.

But even now it is not too late.

For in the face of judgement comes the offer of grace

and the hope that deadwood can spring to life.

Where we have failed to bear good fruit and share your abundance for the earth

GOD HAVE MERCY

When our actions and intentions have been as chaff for the winds of heaven

GOD HAVE MERCY

Forgive us. Restore us.

Inspire us now to delight in your purposes, to embrace your possibilities,

to inhabit your promises, to flourish as fruit for the world you so love

and bring healing for all the nations.

AMEN

Lectionary Bible Readings for July/ August 2025



July 6	2 Kings 5:1-14 and Psalm 30; Isaiah 66:10-14 and Psalm 66:1-9 Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 13	Amos 7:7-17 and Psalm 82; Deuteronomy 30:9-14 and Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
July 20	Amos 8:1-12 and Psalm 52; Genesis 18:1-10a and Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
July 27	Hosea 1:2-10 and Psalm 85; Genesis 18:20-32 and Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13
August 3	Hosea 11:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23 and Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21
August 10	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 and Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23; Genesis 15:1-6 and Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
August 17	Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Jeremiah 23:23-29 and Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
August 24	Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Psalm 71:1-6; Isaiah 58:9b-14 and Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
August 31	Jeremiah 2:4-13 and Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Proverbs 25:6-7 and Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

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 **September** Messenger is **Sunday 17th August**. Please send articles to Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

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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