

THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Taste and see that the Lord is good.
The Lord's words are sweeter to me than honey.
Ps 34:8, Ps 119:103



PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

September 2026 No. 750

From the Minister ..

Finding God in the Ordinary



Very often friends make the joke about my vocation that I must only work one day a week, I laugh along and think – if only! The truth is that faith is not just something we just practise on Sundays. It is woven into the ordinary moments of our lives: in the conversations we have, the work we do, the people we meet, and even in the quiet moments when nothing much seems to happen. I often say to people on pastoral visits that my favourite aspect of the role of minister is sitting and chatting over a coffee about the ups, the downs and the ordinariness of everyday life. Yes, sometimes visits can be tricky because you are called into a moment of distress or crisis, sometimes they can be exciting because you are talking about a wedding or baptism. But quite often, they are just a useful ‘checking in’ kind of opportunity and one I’m pleased to be able to offer.

We can sometimes imagine that we need to experience something extraordinary in order to feel close to God. Yet Scripture often points us towards something much simpler. God is present with us in the everyday details of life, even when we do not immediately recognise Him.

September brings plenty of ordinary moments. There are journeys to make, meals to prepare, jobs to complete, and people to care for. These things may not seem particularly spiritual, but they can all become opportunities to live out our faith.

A smile to someone who is having a difficult day, taking time to listen to a friend, helping someone without expecting anything in return, or simply being patient when life is frustrating can all reflect God's love.

Jesus taught His followers to love God and to love their neighbours. That calling does not only apply to dramatic moments. More often, it is expressed through the small choices we make each day.

Perhaps this is one of the challenges of faith: learning to notice God not only in the extraordinary, but also in the ordinary. A quiet prayer before beginning the day, gratitude for a meal, encouragement from a friend, or the beauty of creation can remind us that God is never far away.

As we go about our daily lives this September, may we become more aware of God's presence. May our faith be seen not simply in what we say, but in how we treat others, how we respond to difficulties, and how generously we share kindness.

If you'd value an 'ordinary visit' over a coffee, please do shout, I'm only too pleased to be able to find some space for such moments because God is present in the ordinary. The question is not whether He is there, but whether we are taking the time to notice.

Josh.



Dear friends,

Some of you will have followed the business of the Synod and the General Assembly more closely than others. I am writing to let you know that the General Assembly has agreed the change of name from Wessex Synod to Wessex and Islands Synod.

This change will take effect from **1 January 2027**. Until then, please continue to use the present name: Wessex Synod. The agreed name is simply **Wessex and Islands**. There is no “the”, no “its”, no ampersand, and no other variation. This will help us use the name consistently as we prepare for the change.

This is a modest change, but it is not an unimportant one. It does not alter Synod boundaries. It does not change the status of any church, area, island, or part of the Synod. It does not require constitutional, financial, legal, or organisational restructuring. It is simply a clearer and more truthful way of naming the Synod we already are.

Our Synod includes mainland communities across southern England, but also island communities, including the Channel Islands, the Isle of Wight, Portsea Island, and Hayling Island. Many of our churches and communities are also shaped by coastal and island life. The new name recognises that breadth more clearly.

In Christian tradition, names matter. They are not only labels. They can express recognition, belonging, and care. To name something well is to pay attention to what it is. In that spirit, Wessex and Islands is intended to say something simple and important: island communities are not at the edge of our common life, but part of who we are together.

The Synod Executive has agreed an implementation plan. Please do not begin making changes locally at this stage. There is no need to alter noticeboards, stationery, websites, email signatures, printed materials, or local documents yet. Further information will follow, including guidance about timing and practical steps, and a new logo will be made available in due course.

In particular, please do not create logos, please stick to the official logo when it is made available.

For now, I simply ask you to receive this as a small but significant act of recognition. We remain one Synod, held together in Christ, sharing in fellowship, responsibility, and mission across mainland, coastal, and island contexts.

With thanks for all that you continue to share in the life of the Synod,

Michael Hopkins



Synod Moderator



&



PACT IN PRAYER

SAVE THE DATE 6 - 13 September 2026

You are invited to sign up to pray for 1 hour a day during this week whether in the participating churches or at home

Non-stop prayer in every nation on earth!

From 6 - 13 September 2026 we are
inviting the global Church to pray non-stop
In every nation on earth in the

Global Week of Prayer

We sense God's invitation to unite together
to lift up the name of Jesus

There is a sign-up sheet in the Church Family Centre

Message from our Church and Community Worker...



Holiday at home was a huge success, with over 40 guests booked on to 1, 2 or 3 days. Keith taught 3 groups over the 3 days how to paint with watercolours. Mary did 3 different amazing crafts. Claire and Mo both showcased their skills with more craft. And the ladies Mary Adams, Mya, Mary Fair, Doreen, Lisbey and Julie West pampered and massaged all the guests. We had the Men's shed join us for the 1st time, which went down very well.

A big thank you to Sue Perry and our Josh Thomas for both cooking up a storm in the kitchen.

A thank you to all our drivers for getting all the guests here on time. And our afternoon entertainment, The Petersfield Ranger Jacob Gibson, sharing a super talk about the Heath. Josh our very own quiz master, and Archie Mac a wonderful local singer. Hope to see you all there next year.





Faith Comment

Publication Date: 13th August

Author: Esmé Kelly

Church: Petersfield & Liss United Reformed Church

UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL

I am no gardener. I have no green fingers. Plants and flowers die in my hands. I even managed to kill a cactus once. I thought at least those kinds of plants are safe in my hands, but I was so wrong! In my lounge I have a bouquet of flowers, but they are artificial flowers. These ones are very safe with me.

I was looking at it once. It has different types of flowers and plants in this bouquet. While I was looking at this bouquet, what came to mind was the different shapes of each plant and flower, the different colours, yet together they make this amazing, beautiful bouquet.

This made me think of people and especially the Church. How each one of us are different. We look differently, have different shapes and skin colours and we dress differently. Each one of us bring our different gifts and talents. Yet together we make a beautiful picture, just as a bouquet of flowers does.

If we can be united and work together as one, imagine what we can do with each of our talents and gifts. Imagine what we can accomplished together for the good of all. There's a verse in the Bible, in Psalms 133 verse 1, where it says that it is good and pleasant when we all live together in unity. In a world where it seems division reigns, would it not be wonderful to use our differences to bring us together instead of tearing us apart? The flowers and plants in the bouquet are still their own individual self but together they truly stand out. They bring so much joy to others who look at it.

What can we not bring to others and accomplished in our society, when we stand together and work together with all of our differences!

Jesus calls us where we are:

‘Jesus saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. ‘Follow me,’ He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.’ (Matthew 9:9).

It was just an ordinary day at Matthew’s tax booth, when Jesus called him. He simply got up and followed! Despite Matthew’s past, his occupation and what people thought of him, Jesus still called him. Are we ready to follow when Jesus calls us into a relationship with Himself?

Jesus comes to where we are:

‘While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ (10,11).

Jesus went to Matthew’s home and ate with tax collectors and sinners, demonstrating that He meets people where they are, despite their sin and shame. The Pharisees avoided sinners, because they believed only the perfect could have access to God. When God is at work in the lives of those we don’t expect, allow Jesus to open our hearts to embrace what He is doing.

Jesus comforts us where we are:

‘On hearing this, Jesus said, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill.’ (12).

Jesus came to save sinners and to give hope to the hopeless. The Pharisees were so committed to keeping the law, that they had forgotten God’s heart of compassion. However, Jesus reminded them that they were witnessing God’s love in action.

In what ways can we express compassion towards others, especially those outside the community of faith?

Community Matters

A colorful poster for Frontline Debt Advice Petersfield. The background is light blue. At the top, the text 'FREE DEBT & BENEFIT ADVICE' is written in large, bold, dark blue letters. Below this, there are several stylized circular icons of diverse people. A large white speech bubble with a black outline is tilted diagonally across the center. Inside the speech bubble, the text 'Drop-In' is written in large, bold, black letters, followed by 'Every Wednesday : 10.30 – 12.30' and 'No appointment necessary'. To the right of the speech bubble, there is a list of services: 'Repossessions', 'Welfare Benefits', and 'Benefit Appeals'. At the bottom left, the 'Frontline Debt Advice Petersfield' logo is displayed. At the bottom right, contact information is provided, including a phone number, email address, website, and physical address. The overall design is clean and modern, with a focus on providing clear information about the services offered.

FREE DEBT & BENEFIT ADVICE

Are you struggling with your finances?
You don't have to be alone.

Drop-In
Every Wednesday : 10.30 – 12.30
No appointment necessary

- Repossessions
- Welfare Benefits
- Benefit Appeals

FREE Debt Advice
Contact us for an appointment.

☎ **07919 998 442**
✉ petersfield@frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk
💻 www.frontlinepetersfield.org.uk

c/o Life Church Centre,
1 London House,
Chapel Street,
Petersfield.
GU32 3DR

Frontline
Debt Advice
Petersfield

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: -

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)



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: Tuesday 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm

Wednesday 1.30 pm – 3 pm

Friday & Saturday 10 am – 11.30 am

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



YOU'RE INVITED

Art in the Afternoon

Petersfield & Liss United Reformed Church, College Street

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

3:00pm Local artist Andy Tubbs demonstrates and talks about how he uses technology to create stunning artwork like the piece above

4-6:00pm Afternoon refreshments to indulge in, plus a sale of local artists' work

Ideal for bespoke Christmas presents

All welcome — bring family and friends to our Church fundraiser!

Free entry, donations welcome • College Street, Petersfield



Petersfield and Liss United Reformed Church

Update on regular weekday activities



Please note the following updates.

- **Drop in Tea** – Drop-In Tea for September 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 – September 2026

Date	Duty Elders	AV
September 6	Mary Fair	David Darling
September 13	Julie West	Keith Evans
September 20	Tim Abbott & Anne Glenn	Roy Knight
September 27	Wendy Holdsworth	Carolyn Barton

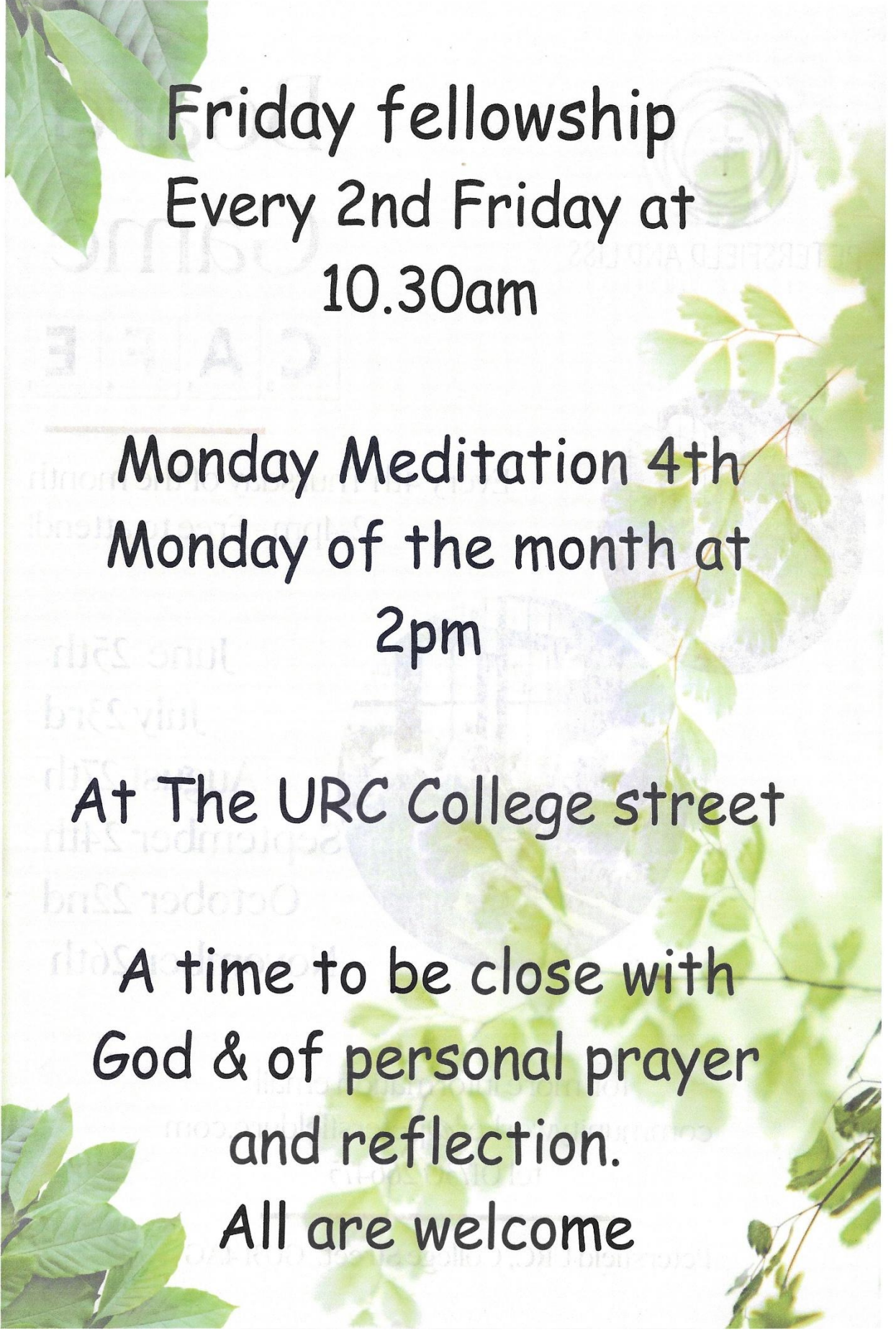
Welcomers' Rota

Date	Welcomers
September 6	Val Hart
September 13	Robin Hart
September 20	Janet Adams
September 27	Catherine Adams

- 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.

September 2026 Petersfield and Liss Church Calendar -
Please note Services are held at College Street, Petersfield.

Tuesday	1	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	3	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home group	84 Moggs Mead
Sunday	6	10.30 am	Andrew Simons	
Monday	7	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	8	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2-4 pm	Drop-in Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	10	From 8 am	PACT in Prayer	
		7pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Friday	11	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	Sanctuary
Saturday	12	10am – 6pm	Ride and Stride	
Sunday	13	10.30 am	Minister	
Monday	14	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	15	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	17	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
Sunday	20	10.30 am	Minister -Communion	
Monday	21	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	22	9.30 pm	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30 pm	Church Meeting - TBC	
Thursday	24	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2 – 4 pm	Games Afternoon	CFC
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	27	10.30 am	Minister -Café Church	
Monday	28	1pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		2 pm	Monday Meditations	Sanctuary
Tuesday	29	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC



Friday fellowship
Every 2nd Friday at
10.30am

Monday Meditation 4th
Monday of the month at
2pm

At The URC College street

A time to be close with
God & of personal prayer
and reflection.
All are welcome

Mission News

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



Ukraine Mission Update

We are pleased to say that our visit to the villages in Transcarpathia, Ukraine went well. We bring you greetings from the ministers, Zoltán and István, and the villagers. It was a very special time for us. Thank you so much for all your prayers and the donations of cards, toiletries, money and last, but certainly not least, the much-loved teddy bears. A big thank you to the teddy bear knitters!





David Darling
Ukraine Christian Partnership (www.ukrainecp.org)



Hampshire and The Islands Historic Churches Trust
Ride and Stride

Saturday 12th September 2026 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 to our Family Centre and/or sponsor any of us who will be either a *Rider or Strider*.

Robin Hart



Thank You

I would like to thank you for all the support you gave me with cards, kind words, prayers and the lovely flowers I received from church. It is so nice that people care in difficult times.

Love from
Janet Clemmy & Family

What God won't ask

God won't ask what kind of car you drove,
He'll ask how many people you drove who
didn't have transportation.



God won't ask how big your house was, He'll ask how many people you
welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, He'll ask how many you
helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary was, He'll ask if you compromised your
character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was, He'll ask if you performed your job to the
best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had, He'll ask how many people to whom
you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your
neighbours.



Loving Father

Most loving Father, may we who seek to dwell in your house be governed
wholly by your laws. In adversity and in prosperity, in life and in death, may you
reveal to us your gracious will, and then give us strength in body and in heart to
obey your commands. We pray that you will make us perfect, because only that
which is perfect truly reflects your glory. And through the Holy Spirit you have
shown us the way of perfection.

A prayer of Erasmus (1469 – 1536), the most renowned scholar of his age

For our younger readers ...

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.



This was allowed (Deut 23:25), but it was the Sabbath.

The Pharisees said to Jesus



Why are your disciples harvesting on the Sabbath? That is against the rules!

But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests*



*1 Sam 21:1-6

And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath*



*Num 28:9

Don't you understand when God says 'Keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness'?*



*Hos 6:6

If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



There was a man with a crippled hand.

The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



Is it right to heal someone on the Sabbath?

If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out.



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath



Hold out your hand.

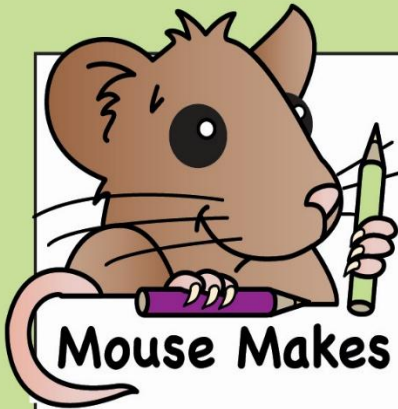


.. and it was healed!

The Pharisees left and made plans.



We will kill him.



THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?

"Go and bear

John 15:16"

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?

Thrown into the

and

How many times does Jesus use the word FRUIT?



READ
John 15:1-17

What does Jesus command?

To _____
one another.
John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to LOVE one another?

John 15:6

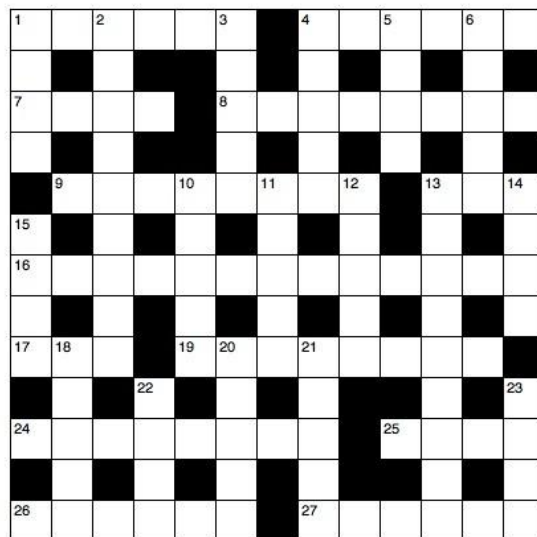
H T H R O W N A W A Y
I R A B I D E W I S B
D U F R U I T F U L U
N E R A J S I A M J R
C V U N F C U T V P N
L J I C W I T H E R S
E O T H O P J E S U S
A Y V W R L C R O N V
N G A R D E N E R E I
O S F J E S I S W S N
E R E M A I N F I R E

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

Crossword

Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8)
- 24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)



Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)

- 11 Do ten(anag.)(5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4)(4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)
- 22 Be distressed(Proverbs24:19)(4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)



Signs found in modern kitchens....

- 1. If a messy kitchen is a happy kitchen, this kitchen is delirious.
- 2. No husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes.
- 3. A husband is someone who takes out the rubbish and gives the impression he just cleaned the whole house.
- 4. If we are what we eat, then I'm easy, fast, and cheap.
- 5. A balanced diet is a biscuit in each hand.
- 6. Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.
- 7. A clean house is a sign of a misspent life.
- 9. Help keep the kitchen clean -- eat out.
- 10. Many people have eaten in this kitchen and gone on to lead normal lives.

Commandment

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour thy father and thy mother', she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

Sudoku

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

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Easy

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

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Medium



Creation

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So, they picked one scientist to go and tell Him so.

The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things by ourselves."

God listened very patiently and then replied: "Very well, how about this? Let's say we have a man-making contest. We're going to do this just like I did, back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You go get your own dirt!"

**News from the United Reformed Church
items from the August edition of the Synod News**



Synod Meeting – Saturday 10th October 2026, Woking URC

Our Synod Meeting will be running differently this year, based on feedback received about recent Synod meetings. To increase engagement and hear a wider range of voices, we will be sitting around tables and there will be more chance for discussion on all the reports and resolutions. This will include the opportunity for young people and children to be present and take part in the meeting. Your Children and Young people's contact will be receiving more details regarding how our Children and Youth can participate in the day.

To assist with the planning we are asking you to let us know *in advance* if you will be attending our Synod Meeting. A formal email will be sent to all Synod Representatives at the beginning of September. However, if you would like to get ahead of the game, you can fill our simple form at this link <https://forms.gle/LzAVU5oCPxnzyN2u5>.

We currently print more copies of the Synod Papers than we need, mainly because we don't know who will be attending the meeting. This year we wish to reduce not only the cost of printing the papers but also reduce the environmental impact. Therefore, we will not be printing copies for all representatives. However, so as not to disadvantage those who require a printed copy, we ask that when you book in advance your attendance at Synod that you please state if you require a printed copy of the papers on the day. There will be a few spare copies available on the day.

2026 General Assembly

Please see the daily round ups from this year's General Assembly:

03 Jul 2026 - General Assembly 2026: day one round-up, 3 July

04 Jul 2026 - General Assembly 2026: day two round-up, 4 July

05 Jul 2026 - General Assembly 2026: day three round-up, 5 July

06 Jul 2026 - General Assembly 2026: day four round-up, 6 July

You can also watch the recorded livestream here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@URCUK/streams>

URC Resources Hub and Helpdesk

We are delighted to announce that the first Church Life Fund shared services, the URC Resources Hub and Helpdesk, are both now available. The Resources Hub is an exciting new venture for the URC which aims to provide local churches with all the practical guidance and support they need to thrive and grow.

We are very excited that we currently have a number of resources available for you, including GDPR policies, HR templates, selected Ministries documents, and Health and Safety guides. We will continue to develop and upload additional content as it becomes available over the coming months.

The Helpdesk is also here to offer personal support whilst you use the Resources Hub. If you have any specific questions about the content on the Hub, the Helpdesk is here to support you in finding what you need to complete the tasks associated with running your local Church.

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar September 2026

September	6	Blackbird Leys, Oxford; Broadstone Mission House 1yr anniversary; Havant and Emsworth
	13	The Spire Church, Farnham
	20	Hungerford; Iford, Bournemouth
	27	Bell Street Church, Shaftesbury; Disability Awareness Sunday; (https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/) Westborough

When you try and do God's work

- We do the works, but God works in us the doing of the works. - St Augustine of Hippo
- He who labours as he prays, lifts up his heart to God with his hands. - St Bernard of Clairvaux
- The real mark of a saint is that he or she makes it easier for others to believe in God. - Anon

Lectionary Bible Readings for September 2026



September 6	Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149; Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
September 13	Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Genesis 50:15-21 and Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
September 20	Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16
September 27	Exodus 17:1-7 and Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 and Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

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 **October Messenger** is September 13th. Please send articles to Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

ACROSS: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

DOWN: 1, Lose. 2, Blamerest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

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

Church Contact Details

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Sunday Services	Mornings at 10.30 am Services will be held at College Street
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Treasurer	Mr Mike Pennicotte-Henrie Fulford Petersfield Road Greatham GU33 6AS Tel 07909 512541

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”