

THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



April 2026
No. 746

From the Minister ..

Easter - a Hope Worth Sharing



Easter stands at the very heart of the Christian faith. It is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ—the moment when death was defeated and hope broke into the world in a new and powerful way. For Christians, Easter is not only a historical event but a living reality that continues to transform our lives today. It reminds us that light overcomes darkness, that forgiveness is possible, and that new beginnings can be found in Christ.

Yet Easter is also more than something we celebrate privately. The message of the resurrection is meant to be shared. Throughout the Gospels we see that when people encountered the risen Jesus, they didn't keep the news to themselves—they told others. The good news was too important to stay silent.

This is why invitation and outreach are so important for the life of our church. Easter is one of the times in the year when many people are more open to stepping through the doors of a church, perhaps for the first time in years, or even for the first time ever. A simple invitation can make all the difference. Many people attend church for the first time because someone they trust personally invited them.

Each of us can play a part in this. Inviting a neighbour, a colleague, a friend from school, or a family member to an Easter service can open the door for them to encounter the hope that Easter proclaims.

Outreach does not always require big programmes or special events—often it begins with ordinary conversations and genuine hospitality – hospitality we saw in such a huge way just a month ago with Keira’s dedication, thank you all for being a part of such a special day and being so welcoming to the many visitors with us on that occasion.

As we think about growing the church and sharing the message of Easter, it is also important to remember the role of faithful financial giving. The work of the church—its worship, ministries, outreach activities, community support, and mission—depends on the generosity of those who believe in its calling. Giving is not simply about maintaining buildings or covering expenses; it is a way of investing in the spread of the gospel and the growth of God’s kingdom.

When we give our time, our invitations, and our financial support, we become active participants in what God is doing through the church. We help create spaces where people can encounter faith, ask questions, and discover the hope of Christ for themselves.

This Easter, may we celebrate with joy—but also with purpose. Let us share the message, extend the invitation, and support the mission of the church so that more people can discover the life-changing hope that Easter brings.

With grateful thanks and Easter blessings,

Josh.

Message from our Church and Community Worker...





What a wonderful celebration, with family and friends. 28 children, and an amazing bring and share lunch. Welcome Keira.



2nd April – Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

3rd April - Good Friday, Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, '*If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself*' (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: '*Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.*' He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: *'this man has done nothing wrong.'* He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, *'remember me when You come into Your kingdom'*, the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; *'Today you will be with Me in paradise.'* Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? *'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God'* (1 Peter 3:18).



Petersfield Area Churches Together

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS



FRIDAY
3rd April 2026

Starts at
Petersfield Methodist
Church at 9.30am



Progresses through
Rams Walk

Followed by Service in
Petersfield Square
(if wet then in St Peter's Church)

Community Matters

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

"After a horrible experience in my debt now do

- 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

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Food Bank Updates

Our opening times are: -

Stock and Donations: Mondays and

Wednesdays: 9.30 am – 11.30 am

Distribution: Tuesdays and Fridays: 9.30 am – 11.30 am

At Petersfield Methodist Church

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



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

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

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

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

Free Shop Petersfield

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

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

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

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

Opening times: 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

SACRED MUSIC
FOR
PASSIONTIDE
THE FREE RADICALS



A short, meditative performance of rich 'a cappella' music
perfect for people of any faith, or none.

Prepare to be moved and uplifted.

Wednesday, 1st April, 2025 at 7:30pm
St. Peter's Church – Petersfield Square

ADMISSION FREE - RETIRING COLLECTION

Petersfield and Liss United Reformed Church

Update on regular weekday activities



Please note the following updates.

- **Drop in Tea** – Drop-In Tea for April will be on the 14th. 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 – April 2026

Date	Duty Elders	AV
April 5 Easter	Carol Tubbs & Wendy Cassar	David Darling
April 12	Anne Glenn	Keith Evans
April 19	David Barton & Mary Fair	Jonathan Oru
April 26	Julie West	Carolyn Barton

Welcomers' Rota

Date	Welcomers
April 5 Easter	Rosemary Skrzypczak
April 12	Val Hart
April 19	Catherine Adams
April 26	Janet 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.

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

Thursday	2	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
		6 pm	Maundy Thursday Service	
Friday	3	10 am	Good Friday Service in the Square	
Sunday	5	10.30 am	Easter Day - Minister	
Tuesday	7	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	9	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Friday	10	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	Sanctuary
Sunday	12	10.30 am	Clare Fryer & Esme Kelly	
Monday	13	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	14	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2-4 pm	Drop-in Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	16	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
Sunday	19	10.30 am	Communion - Minister	
Monday	20	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	21	9.30 pm	Little Fishes	CFC
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	23	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	26	10.30 am	Café Church - Minister	
Monday	27	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		2 pm	Monday Meditations	Sanctuary
Tuesday	28	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
Thursday	30	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2-4 pm	Games Afternoon	CFC

4th April – Easter Eve or Holy Saturday

Easter Eve is the last day of Lent. It is the day between Good Friday and Easter Day and represents the one full day that Jesus was dead. It is a day of quiet reflection and anticipation for Christians worldwide.

In various church traditions it is known as Easter Eve, Holy Saturday, the Great Sabbath, Hallelujah Saturday, Saturday of the Glory, and Black Saturday.

Easter Eve is sometimes incorrectly called Easter Saturday. But Easter Saturday is the Saturday *following* Easter Sunday.

Most churches do not have any services on Easter Eve. In the Catholic Church, the altar remains stripped completely bare. Many Lutheran, Anglican, Methodist, and other churches observe many of the same customs as the Catholic Church; however, their altars may be covered in black instead of being stripped. In the Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, and Methodist traditions, Easter Eve lasts until nightfall, after which the Easter Vigil is celebrated, marking the official start of the Easter season.

What did Jesus do on that one full day in the grave? Christian understanding varies on this.

The Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and most mainline Protestant churches teach that Jesus descended to the realm of the dead on Holy Saturday, to save the righteous souls who died before His crucifixion.

The catechism of the Catholic church calls the descent "the last phase of Jesus' messianic mission," during which He "opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before Him."

Often called "the Harrowing of Hell," the dramatic image of Jesus breaking down the doors of Hades has proved almost irresistible to artists, from the painter Hieronymus Bosch to the poet Dante to countless Eastern Orthodox iconographers.

But some Protestants say there is little scriptural evidence for the detour to hell, and that even Jesus' own words contradict it. For on Good Friday, Jesus told the Good Thief crucified alongside Him that "today you will be with Me in Paradise," according to Luke's Gospel."

"That's the only clue we have as to what Jesus was doing between death and resurrection," John Piper, a prominent evangelical author and pastor from Minnesota, has said. "I don't think the thief went to hell and that hell is called paradise."

The Bible says little about the interlude between Jesus' death and resurrection. Churches that teach He descended to the realm of the dead usually quote 1 Peter 3:18-20. "Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit," Peter writes. "And it was by the Spirit that He went to preach to the spirits in prison."

The descent might not have become a doctrine if not for a fourth-century bishop named Rufinus, who added that Jesus went *ad inferna* - to hell - in his commentary on the Apostles' Creed. The phrase stuck, but it was officially added to the influential creed only centuries later.

Quotes for Easter

There is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as is the gibbet on which Christ hath subjected death and the devil. - *John Calvin*.

The precious Lamb of God gave up His precious fleece for us. - *Christopher Nesse*

When Jesus bowed His head, And dying took our place,
The veil was rent, a way was found to that pure home of grace. - *John Elias*

Christ is now creation's scepter-bearer, as He was once creation's burden-bearer. - *A J Gordon*

Christ is either both Saviour and Lord, or He is neither Saviour nor Lord. - *John R De Witt*

Tomorrow's history has already been written... at the name of Jesus every knee must bow. - *Paul E Kauffman*

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



UKRAINE
CHRISTIAN
PARTNERSHIP

Thank you as always for your ongoing support of Ukraine Christian Partnership (UCP). We are so grateful for your donations and prayers. Thank you, Connie's handcraft

group, for your very kind donation of £115.

Sadly, the war is now in its fifth year and all has gone quiet on peace talks. Please continue to pray for peace. We would also ask you to pray for the continued protection and encouragement of Pastor Sergey and his church in Chornobaivka, Kherson.

UCP carries on with its funding of weekly top-up food parcels to those in need in Kherson. The beneficiaries asked us to pass on their thanks for your support - many say that without it they simply would not have survived. Thank you so much.

David Darling, [Ukraine Christian Partnership](http://www.ukrainecp.org)





Would your church like to join us this year?

UNLOCK – URBAN Christian Charity Walk – London (Kilburn & Hampstead)

Saturday 18th April

Unlock is a non-denominational Christian charity founded in 1972, supporting urban churches of any denomination to cope with the opportunities and challenges in their areas. They especially work to enable Bible engagement in more 'text-shy' cultures. As well as helping local Christians reach and engage with their communities, they provide training and publish a variety of Bible study packs.

The London Urban Sponsored Walk

This year's walk is the 43rd annual London walk, all of which have been supported by St Mary Magdalen members. This year we are hoping once again to involve the rest of the PACT churches.

Each year the walk covers a different area of the capital, and includes brief visits to a variety of churches which put on small exhibitions of their local outreach work and provide refreshments for the walkers. The work of the churches in some of the more deprived areas can be a real eye-opener!

This year the circular walk is around Kilburn and Hampstead on **Saturday 18th April**. It is about 7 miles but walkers are free to shorten this and/or partly use public transport. **It is suitable for all ages and abilities, and a great day out for families (but not unaccompanied children.)** There is a detailed route map and an optional quiz. Ideally we like to travel up together by train, and it is most fun to walk in small groups, as walkers are not "herded" round! Usually there are around 400 people walking, some clockwise, some anticlockwise, so there is a very friendly atmosphere on the streets when we meet fellow Unlock walkers!

Sponsorship

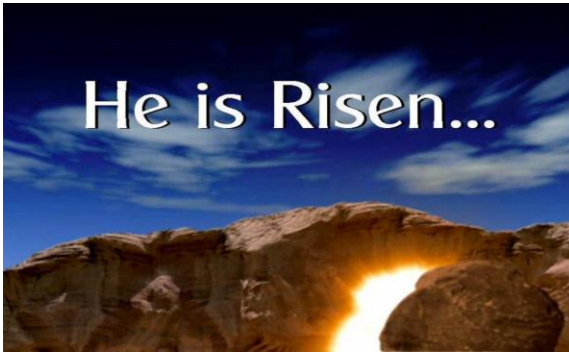
The main aim of the walk is to raise funds for the Christian mission work of the Unlock charity in inner cities.

There are sponsorship forms for individual use among friends, neighbours and colleagues, and also opportunities at each church on the walk to donate cash to that church and/or to Unlock generally.

Church workers we have met on previous walks were immensely grateful just that we took the trouble to visit them and take an interest in their work. We have been inspired by their amazing responses to situations, so dramatically different from our own. Mission support is more than just financial!

Further information:

please email jan@sheet.church



5th April - EASTER, the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover.

The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from *Eostre*, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like *Eos* and *Aurora*, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



For our younger readers ...

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.

I'm most important because I've known him the longest

But I'm the oldest!

I've given up the most to follow him!

There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...

The disciples didn't have a servant, and none of them wanted to do the feet washing...

Jesus took off his outer robe and tied a towel around his waist.

He filled a large bowl with water and started washing the disciples' feet.

Peter couldn't believe what he was seeing!

Are you really going to wash my feet?

You will understand later why I am doing this.

I can't ever let you serve me like this!

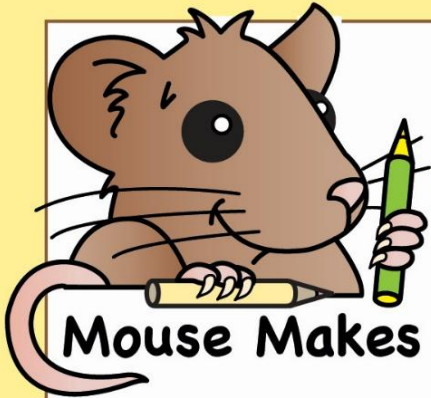
If you don't let me, you will no longer be my disciple

Then wash all of me!

If you've had a bath, then you only need your feet washing!

Once Jesus had washed all their feet, he put his robe back on and sat down.

Do you understand why, your teacher, did this? I am setting you the example of how you are to serve each other. Do it, and God will bless you.



Mouse Makes

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

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE

I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11

I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26

I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32

We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41

I laid his body in my tomb

Read Mark 15:42-47

I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66

We saw the empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10

and spoke to the angel

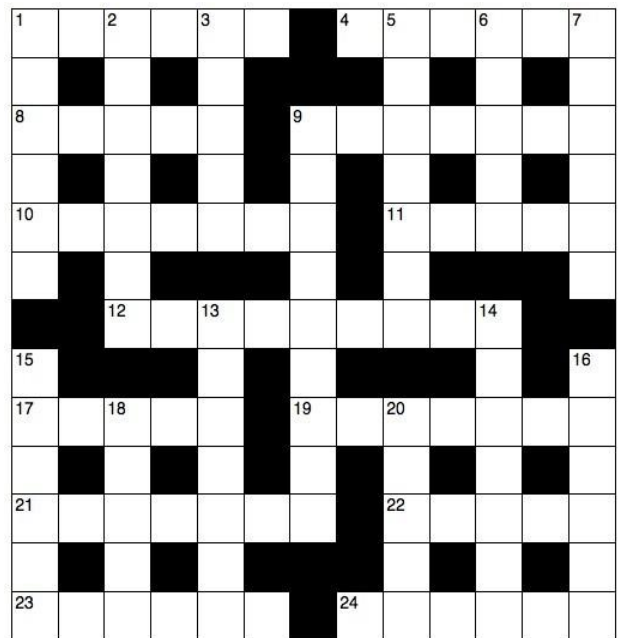
Jesus is alive!
He ate a meal with me!

Read Luke 24:13-35

Crossword

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)



Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Sudoku

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

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Easy

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

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Medium

1st April - Fooling Around

Probably the most famous April Fool's joke of all time was the 1960's BBC TV broadcast feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. A BBC reporter interviewed Italian farmers about their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants in great detail.

Spaghetti plants were filmed being carefully planted and then being harvested. And all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner. It took a while to appreciate that this was Aunty playing games. Whatever next!

The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of this very British tradition. Most attribute it to changes in Britain's calendar in the 1700s, when New Year's Day moved from 25th March to 1st January. Not surprisingly, the change caused a lot of confusion and mistakes around the start of April. Others look even further back, to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the Spring Equinox, 25th March.



This Photo by

When you mix children and religion...

You get some unexpected gems. The following are extracts from religious exam papers...

In the first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark because Noah built an ark. The animals came on in pears.

The Jews are a proud people and throughout history they've had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

The Seventh Commandment is: Thou shalt not admit adultery.

Moses died before he ever reached Canada.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.

It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

The people who followed the Lord were called the twelve decibels.

St Paul cavorted to Christianity down the Damascus Road. There he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.



Diary dates 2026 – *new*

Secretaries' Networking zoom – Saturday 16 May 2026, 10am – 11.30am.

Treasurers' Networking zoom – Saturday 27 June 2026, 10am – 11.30am.

Elders' conference – Saturday 25 July 2026 at Sarum College.

Le Weekend is coming to Basingstoke from 24-26 April 2026

Our annual chance to get together with friends from the United Protestant Church of France, with activities around the theme of Stories of Hope and Joy. We hope to have something for all ages on the Saturday with options for a walk in the countryside or sightseeing in Basingstoke itself, traditional English food to share and a game of skittles to test our reflexes!

Our hosts for Le Weekend are London St Basingstoke URC, who are offering B&B accommodation for our French guests.

Everything is translated so no worries over language.

It is always a joyful weekend as we meet and exchange wise words, laughter and faith connecting us all within the world- wide church of Jesus Christ.

So, whether this is your first ever time meeting French friends or you have been to le Weekend before, do join us for a day or the whole weekend.

Last year, we were joined by several new participants, one of whom said, "I didn't expect everyone to be so friendly." So why not come and find out for yourselves?

URC Children Day Event on the Saturday.

The URC children's day team will be providing a programme especially for children and their families – more details to follow. Watch this space!

Contact Helen Everard helen.everard158@gmail.com for more information!

[Flier available here](#)

Wessex Summer Camps 2026

Children's Camp: 26 – 29 May 2026 – bookings now open

<https://www.urcwessex.org.uk/wsc26/>

Youth Camp: 10 – 13 July 2026

[Further information on the synod website.](#)

Lectionary Bible Readings for April 2026



April 5	Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10
April 12	Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
April 19	Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
April 26	Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

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 **May Messenger** is Sunday 19 May. Please send articles to Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

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

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

Church Contact Details

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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”