

# THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



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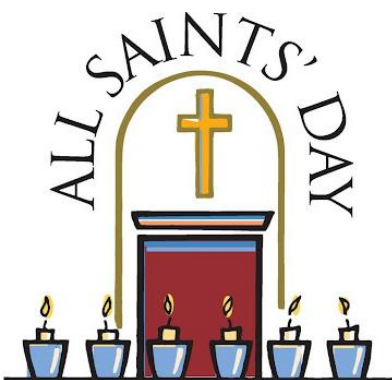
November 2021 No 703

## From the Minister ...

It's fair to say that October was an incredibly busy month... I've conducted a wedding for some friends up in Kent, been to Synod, attended the induction service of a new colleague over in Bordon and believe it or not, all the preparations for Christmas have started already! As I sit here writing this, I can't help but contrast the situation now to where we found ourselves a year ago. We knew a second lockdown was looking likely and at the start of this month we were back online, worshipping from behind a computer screen or listening to a CD. Life is certainly more manic this year, but do you know what? I missed the craziness of this season!



November is traditionally a month of remembrance; I've written about this before. We remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November with fireworks and on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, many church communities celebrate All Saints' Day, it is an opportunity for believers to remember all saints and martyrs, known and unknown, throughout Christian history. A saint is a person who is recognized as having an exceptional degree of holiness, likeness, or closeness to God. However, the use of the term *saint* depends on the context and denomination. In Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Oriental Orthodox and Lutheran doctrine, all of their faithful deceased in Heaven are considered to be saints, not just those whom have been officially canonized by the Roman Catholic tradition.



We thought that after the difficult 18 months we have experienced, that the time felt right to officially remember all those we have lost during the time period whether they lost their lives due to COVID-19 or for any other reason. Therefore, this year we will meet together at 10.30am on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November (All Saints' Day) in our church sanctuary at Petersfield, to remember loved ones who are sadly no longer with us.

This will be a very short and simple service, there will be the opportunity to light candles if this is something that is helpful to you, and we will simply remember and give thanks to God for those saints who have gone on before us. All are very welcome to join us.

It's staggering to think that in just a month's time we will be decorating the church and planning carol services etc, we will be welcoming Petersfield

Methodist Church to join us on Christmas day itself, please do make them feel welcome as I'm sure you will. We continue as leadership teams to meet and talk about how we can best support one another in our Christian mission here in Petersfield and in Liss so please do pray for us as we continue these conversations.

I wish you every blessing in the month ahead.

**Josh.**



## **Caring for Creation**

This month sees the eagerly anticipated COP26 climate conference in Glasgow. As Christians, we need to hold together two key insights, if we are to engage with the challenge of climate change:

***The world is not ours:*** *'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it'* (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! If we understand this, we will rediscover the responsibility of our calling to care for God's world: *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* (Genesis 2:15). This challenges our consumer mindset, that says the resources of the earth are both limitless and exist for our pleasure. As well as caring for the planet, we also need to care for its people, for it's the poorest who will suffer the most from climate change. According to the World Bank, 100 million could fall into poverty by 2030. We cannot properly address the climate crisis until we re-learn our place in God's world!

***We belong to Christ:*** We also belong to the one in whom: *'all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.'* (Colossians 1:16). We can look forward to the climax of history when God will restore the broken world and make everything new. We are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth, as we share in this hope. We are called to love God and neighbour, and care for the planet by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options. However great the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage in it with faith and not with fatalism!



# Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,

As I write this the leaves are changing colour, the sun is shining through them, and the true beauty of God's creation is all around. We are blessed to live in such a beautiful part of the world.

However, none of this is ever mentioned on the news or in the media. All we are hearing at the moment is that Christmas will be ruined due to lack of HGV drivers, containers full of goods piling up at ports, food unable to be brought in from far away countries and so on and so on and so on. I don't often get cross with the news reporting, but this has really riled me. Christmas will not be spoilt. It never could be spoilt because at Christmas we celebrate the most amazing birth ever. We don't need a huge variety of goods or far away foods. It doesn't matter if we need to change menus, or our children or grandchildren can't have the exact toy they have seen advertised. We are so lucky because we can come together in many ways to worship and thank God for the most precious gift ever given.

With that said I can tell you all the arrangements for the advent season at Petersfield and Liss. There is a mixture of different kinds of services and hopefully something for everyone.

Thank you to everyone for your amazing collection of goods at harvest. It was good to be able to welcome Claire and Erika from Two Saints and we will be welcoming them back again for our gift service which will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Claire brought her daughter to the harvest service and she enjoyed herself so much that Claire said she wished she had brought the whole family! Maybe we will see them all on the 5<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to welcoming back Liss Band on December 12<sup>th</sup>. We really missed them last year! JFC will be taking a service at Petersfield on 19<sup>th</sup> and there will be a communion service at Liss earlier that day.

On Christmas Eve we are holding a candlelit carol service at Liss and then we will celebrate Christmas Day at Petersfield. Our friends from the Methodist church will be joining us for this service.

More details of all will be given in the next Messenger.

God bless you all, **Carol**

## **Dates for your diaries**

November 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Church meeting in the CFC

November 20<sup>th</sup> Saturday 7.30pm Tearfund Quiz in the CFC

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

### Hope is found

The other week we started back at Keith and Mary's house group. It was the first time we had all got together in person since the start of the pandemic, we had done zoom but nothing is like being all together, and it was wonderful. I think I have been going for about 6 years, so over the years we have all shared a lot and all know one another well. It always starts with a time of chatter as we come in and Mary makes the tea. Once we've settled, we have 2 hymns. That night was no exception, and to my delight we sang "In Christ alone my hope is found." One of my favourites and the next day it got me thinking of the beautiful words of this hymn.



In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

The 1<sup>st</sup> verse says so much on how we can see Christ, we can put our hope and trust to him, he is our light in the darkness when it is too much for us, but in his strength, we can achieve everything that is good for us and others. He is our cornerstone where we can rest and found sanctuary from the world, he is our comforter. He can make our hearts still and at the same time make us giddy like a small child. He can be your all in all, as his love has no depths no boundaries, and he is the only one who can bring you peace. I don't want to forget the rest of the hymn, but my-word that is incredible it blows my mind and fills me with so much happiness and he wants to do that for each and everyone of us with all our faults and issues. Jesus died so we can have this relationship, please don't waste time trying to do it on your own, lay it all at the foot of the cross. Don't let sin hold you back, have the life God has planned for you, start today. Because "Here in the love of Christ we stand."

**Love Jo Hopkins**

## **A message from Emsworth ...**

**When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is mankind that You are mindful of them, human beings that You care for them? Psalm 8: 3-4**

The historical novel, “The Tale of two Cities” was written in 1859 by Charles Dickens. Part of the very long opening sentence reads: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope , it was the winter of despair.....” I feel the author could well be describing this year. I am sure we all remember the toilet roll saga at the beginning of the pandemic, now replaced with the panic of the petrol pumps. Over the last months I have been inspired by so many selfless acts of kindness shown by just ordinary people to often complete strangers and then thrown into despair at such insensitive and selfish actions of some leaving Supermarket shelves and petrol pumps empty.

I read that dreadful story of a son trying to rush his mother to hospital by car on the M25 as she was obviously in the early stages of a stroke, then being held up by the protesters as she slowly deteriorated by his side. The wonderful story of the late Captain Tom who raised so much money for the NHS by walking in his garden and then receiving a well deserved knighthood from the Queen.

I am writing this while feeling just a little guilty as I have just returned from having my booster vaccination for COVID but deploring the fact that in many countries throughout the world many people remain entirely unvaccinated.

I give thanks that very dedicated scientists have worked tirelessly to find such wonderful vaccines and treatments for this dreadful disease, then despair that there seems an unwillingness to share with those less fortunate.

I came across this quote the other day from Gus Speth, an environmental scientist and former Dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University:

“I used to think that the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation. And we scientists don’t know how to do that.”

In this country when feeling unwell, our first thought is to speak with a doctor and to put our reliance on our National Health Service. In many, many countries of the world that system does not exist. I have just finished a wonderful book I obtained through The Leprosy Mission entitled: "The Night The Angels Came" written by Chrissie Chapman, a State-Registered Nurse and trained Midwife serving as a missionary in the African country of Burundi in the early nineteen nineties. She tells how in that country rather than hard to find and afford doctors, as a first line of help, people turn to Jesus. Every Sunday between 10,000 and 12,000 people would attend the Church attached to the Baby Unit and Mission. Most people would remain outside the tiny African Church in the hot African sun for the three to four hour Service! After the Service those who were sick or blind or deaf or even dying would come forward for prayer and hopefully meet Jesus and be healed. And each week many were indeed healed, many did see again, many did hear again. Not everyone of course but people would return each week in hope. The violence and genocide from neighbouring Rwanda between the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups caused many to flee that country into Burundi. One eighty-four year old man had walked for over five days around nineteen miles across a mountainous area to reach the mission. He tearfully told Chrissie Chapman that his wife and all his five children and their families had been killed and his house had been destroyed. He had been able to escape but with only the clothes on his back. As Chrissie gave him some food he said "Madam missionary, I never realised that Jesus was all I needed, until Jesus was all I had."

We desperately need a spiritual reawakening in this country. I sometimes feel during my more despondent days that some of our National Churches are like a ship's crew rearranging the deck chairs on the *Titanic* after that ship had struck an iceberg. Our God is a holy, relational, knowable God who has suffered but whose name is love and will be so forever despite us. If on-line services have taught us anything there is a very great need outside our Church doors. When we consider the dreadful harm we are causing this wonderful planet that God has made we can only marvel that God is still mindful of us and cares for us.

Love,

**Alan and Cora**



## Harvest Celebrations

After the restrictions in force during our Harvest celebrations last year, it was particularly good to be able to celebrate Harvest this year with a Harvest Supper and a service of thanksgiving in the sanctuary.

A good number of folk enjoyed the Harvest supper on Friday 24 September, with a delicious meal and good company. Many thanks to Val Hart for organising this and for working hard to provide the meal.

On Sunday 26 September we met for the Harvest thanksgiving. As on previous occasions, the church was beautifully decorated, thanks to Val Torrance and her helpers. A large quantity of goods were donated for the work of the Two Saints homeless charity in Portsmouth. Claire and Erika, representatives from this charity joined us and spoke of the effects of the Covid pandemic on their work, and expressed their gratitude for all the gifts from the Harvest donations.



Some of the beautiful decorations



Claire and Erika with members of the congregation and the gifts brought to the Harvest thanksgiving service



## **Prayer for the nation and the world**

Do join us in a time of prayer on Zoom (limited to 40 minutes) 8pm on Thursdays 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November. Zoom details are as below...

Topic: Pandemic Prayer Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77750824898?pwd>

Meeting ID: 777 5082 4898

Passcode: E0JiM5=MzdRWjArVGxGa3FkNTJ5M3VRUIZ5UT09

Thank you!

**Fiona and David Darling**



## **Pandemic Prayer**

Each week the Daily Devotions from the URC are publishing a “pandemic prayer”. This is one written during October.

Living and loving God,  
You see the hidden fears and anxieties of folk  
who are not yet ready to step out  
and you know the eagerness and confidence  
with which others stride forth.

We are such different people  
caught in the same storm  
in very different boats.

Open our hearts to accept one another  
however far apart our desires and needs are at this time.  
And guide those who are mediating across our diversity  
Amen.

**By the Revd Jacky Embrey, Bolton and Salford Missional Partnership**

***Ride and Stride 2021***  
**Hampshire and The**  
**Islands Historic**  
**Churches Trust**



## **Report from the three riders of Petersfield & Liss URC.**

Thank you to all our sponsors and to Val Hart who gave of her time for all of the visiting period on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Val welcomed all the 17 participants to our Church, also to refresh them with drinks and the wonderful cakes made so diligently by her once more.

Acknowledgment to the three commendable entrants from our College Street Church, Doreen Lewis, Eric Skipper, Robin Hart, who cycled all to benefit both HIHCT and our own treasury. The grand donation total of £2100 with an expected £454 added by way of Gift Aid declarations was achieved. Our Church can expect £1050 as well as to any Virgin Giving monies that may be identified.

Doreen, a regular rider, headed south once more for this event. During the ride, she experienced just one malfunction with the bike chain and was able to rectify it herself.

The day was fine with puffy clouds, a gentle breeze and warm sunshine which aided her cycle to Hayling, visiting 16 churches of which just six were manned with a warm welcome and delicious nibbles to keep the sugar levels up. Her lunch stop occurred at the Church in the field St Hubert's at Idsworth. Here was a friendly group of interested Mindfulness Artists. This is an inspiring place to focus your mind on the present and the beauty surrounding one, cleanse the soul, detox and recharge the body. The ride continued to Rowlands Castle and Havant, zigzagging her way across Hayling to the C13<sup>th</sup> Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin. It was here that Doreen was met with the glorious resonance of organ music. Having sat awhile to enjoy the sound assuming it was taped music, ventured further in and observed an organist playing an electric organ which astonished her. This reassured her and maybe other organ purists that the sound was very authentic.

Back along her favourite cycle path, the Hayling Billy to Havant station, only to find that no trains were running. On contacting John Lewis he very kindly cleared his car to accommodate her bike in order to return to Petersfield.

Due to health and holiday reasons Eric failed to make his usual appeal to friends for sponsoring him cycling this year. However he was able to invite one to join him on what he expects will need to be his last sponsored cycle event. Eric started at St Mary's Sheet, where an extensive cleaning was in progress prior to reopening. He then progressed to Liss where very warm welcomes were received at both Churches. Onward to the specially opened old parish Church at Greatham where a tidying operation of the old churchyard was taking place. Thence to Blackmoor Church a location where extensive repairs were demonstrated and explained, supported by the Trust. At Holy Rood Church Empshott, another warm welcome where refreshments were enjoyed from a table in the churchyard with other Ride & Striders. Then continuing along the narrow lanes to Hawkley where a church wedding was in progress, so postponing his visit provided a suitable opportunity to have some lunch at the Inn garden to the sound of wedding bells before returning to visit the now vacant church.

To continue the journey more cycling in narrow and hilly lanes from Hawkley to Steep Church and in due course to the Petersfield Churches. Finishing the cycle ride with the customary lavish welcome at College Street and Val's amazing selection of home baking was to end an interesting though tiring day.

Robin was joined with his cycling pal Philip Wise from Stroud, as so often he does. The four churches in the centre of Petersfield were first visited, prior to departing by way of St Mary's Church in Buriton. Next came cycling to the head waters of the Criddell stream and over the hill to visit the churches of the Upper Meon valley. All Saints at East Meon where you can see the most fascinating Tournai Font from Norman times is one of seven brought to this country by King Stephen's brother Henri de Blois who lived in the nearby Court House. Further down the valley is West Meon Church dedicated to St John the Evangelist designed by George Gilbert Scott at the age of 21, this was his first commission in the 1840s. From this historic church our interest must move to the next valley as we head to the source of the River Itchen by way of the woods of Brockwood Park to visit a Grade 2 listed building with origins in Saxon times at Hinton Ampner. This church still retains some pre-conquest works, which survived the C13<sup>th</sup> rebuilding which preserved the earlier Saxon building. This church stands in the grounds of Hinton Ampner House and has the benefit of the wonderful gardens supported by the National Trust at its gate. Not so far away stands another Grade 2 C12<sup>th</sup> Church of St Simon and St Jude on high ground overlooking the Bramdean Winterbourne valley. This is reached from Hinton Ampner by crossing three flint-strewn fields all recently harvested by way of a path.

The Upper Itchen Benefice care for a small property named *Church in the Woods* sited in a grove of trees on Bramdean Common. It took just five days to build this mission church in 1883. Sheets of corrugated iron secured to a timber frame form the whole construction. It is uncertain what the base was constructed from, but a small flight of steps brings you to the doorway. Above the roof, the church bell hangs in its turret and an iron steeple points skywards, topped with a weather vane. The idea of building this church was to give commoners, charcoal burners and gypsy itinerants who used the common, a place to worship. It is a spot so tranquil set in the dappled light with only the sounds of birds calling to one another. Just the spot to admire Speckled Wood butterfly which was still fluttering around in the dappled sunlight. A woodland track and field edge path, guide the way to the heights of West Tisted early Norman C11<sup>th</sup> Church. A yew tree is growing in this place even older than the church. Next we are beckoned by the 160 ft tall spire of Holy Trinity at Privett which soars high above the trees, visible for miles around in an idyllic high spot of Hampshire. It is an extraordinary experience to find this lavishly decorated Medieval-style church with Italian marble mosaic floors in such a rural location. This was built in 1876-78, and was funded by William Nicholson to the sum of £22,000 - a local benefactor and gin distiller - and designed by Gothic architect Sir Arthur Blomfield, later responsible for the Royal College of Music. Blomfield used the best craftsmen of the day to produce the magnificent stonework, mosaics and stained glass which can be witnessed here.

It is high time we returned home by way of High Cross, Froxfield Green, then down Ashford Hanger to Steep and Sheet and return to our 2008 Family Centre for refreshments so assiduously prepared by Val.

A heartfelt thank you is extended from the three participants for all the very generous donations given for the benefit of this Trust and our Church.



**Robin Hart**

**Robin and his bike outside the Church in the woods**

As a later comment, I received some generous donations from family, neighbours, and friends to contribute a total of £500 before Gift Aid, to be shared between our church and the Trust. **Eric**

*Since the article appeared in the October Messenger about collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, there has been a change of plan ...*

## The Petersfield Christmas Give 2021

As we are not collecting shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse this year, we would love it if you could support a local venture in aid of The Petersfield Food Bank and Homestart Butser. This is run by Joe Tully, who has been doing this for a number of years. There are various collection points in town, but we will also

have collection box in the vestibule.

Thank you,  
Carol

**Donations needed**

# The Petersfield Christmas Give 2021

Can you help Joe (aged 12) and Amelia (aged 10) to bring a smile to children, families and individuals in our community who are facing a tough time this Christmas?

Joe and Amelia are collecting food and gift donations to be distributed between **The Petersfield Food Bank and Homestart Butser**.

A small donation from the following items will spread a little joy through Petersfield and our local community.

**Items we are collecting**

- Sweets
- Chocolates and treats
- Non-perishable items suitable for food hamper
- New toys suitable for boys and girls aged 0-teenager

Donations are being accepted until **Friday 10th December** at Jake's Toys, Ann's Prams (central car park) and Free Shop at the Petersfield train station.

Jake's Toys have kindly set up a donation scheme, whereby they can accept cash for Joe and Amelia to purchase gifts on your behalf for Homestart Butser.

## Thank You

*Joe and Amelia*



Saturday 20th November 2021

Petersfield United Reformed Church

7.30pm

Come along for a fun evening of quizzing to raise much needed funds to support the vital work of Tearfund globally.

***Please see the article on page 18 for information on the work of Tearfund, and particularly how the funds raised during the Big Quiz night will help those who live in desperately difficult conditions in other parts of the world.***

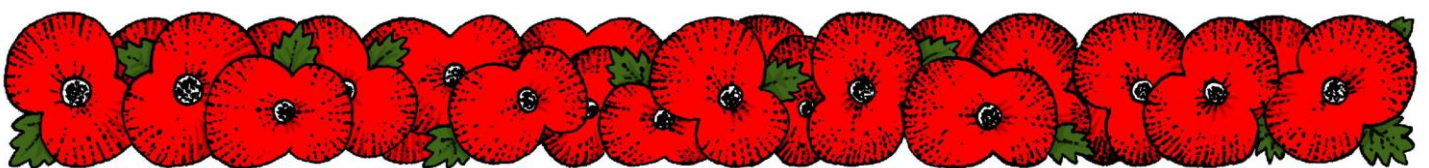
## Lest We Forget

*'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'*

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol for those who have sacrificed their lives in war, especially as we remember those who died in Afghanistan. But why do we remember?

*'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'* (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria fell due to the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let's ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.



*'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'*

## Pact Christmas Cards

Please note that there will be a session to prepare the relevant bundles of Christmas Cards at St Peters Church on Monday 15th November from 9 am to 11.30 am.

**David Barton**



## Church Christmas Card

As in previous years, I am planning to produce a church Christmas card. this is an opportunity to send your Christmas wishes to everyone at church, Please send me your greetings **by 11 December at the latest** and I will incorporate them into a card that will be distributed to everyone in the congregation.

**Mary Evans**



## Update on regular weekday activities

- **The Home Group meeting which has been meeting at 2 High View, will be meeting at Buckmore Farmhouse. Please contact Esme for further details.**
- **The next Drop in tea afternoon will be from 2-4pm on Tuesday 23 November.** Everyone is very welcome to call in for a chat and a cuppa, and maybe a piece of cake!.



## Rotas - November 2021

<b>Date</b>	<b>Duty Elders</b>	<b>AV</b>
November 7	Carol Tubbs & Mike Pennicotte-Henrie	David Darling
November 14	Carolyn Barton & Julie Pejnovic	Norbert Szekely
November 21	Val Torrance & Keith Evans	Keith Evans
November 28	Rosemary Ward & Jo Oru	Carolyn Barton



## Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar – November 2021

Monday	1	10.30 am	<b>All Saints Service</b>	
		1 pm	Ladies' Bible Study	CFC
Tuesday	2	9.30 am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC
		7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Wednesday	3	2 pm	Home Fellowship Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	4	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC & Zoom
		7.30 pm	Home Fellowship Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Pandemic Prayer	Zoom
Saturday	6	8 am	Men's Breakfast	Hurst Barn
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Ron Wing</b>	
Monday	8	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Study	CFC
Tuesday	9	9.30 am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	11	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC & Zoom
		8 pm	Home Fellowship Group	12 Geddes Way
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>The Minister</b>	
Monday	15	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Study	CFC
Tuesday	16	9.30 am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
		7.30 pm	Church meeting	CFC
Wednesday	17	2 pm	Home Fellowship Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	18	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC & Zoom
		7.30 pm	Home Fellowship Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Pandemic Prayer	Zoom
Friday	19	10 am	Friday Fellowship	CFC
Saturday	20	7.30pm	Tear Fund Quiz Night	CFC
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9 am</b>	<b>Breakfast Worship</b>	
		<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>The Minister - Holy Communion</b>	
Monday	22	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Study	CFC
Tuesday	23	9.30 am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC
		2 pm	Drop in Teatime	CFC
Thursday	25	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC & Zoom
		8 pm	Home Fellowship Group	12 Geddes Way
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>The Minister</b>	
Monday	29	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Study	CFC
Tuesday	30	9.30 am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC

# Mission News

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



Tearfund is a Christian charity which partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. We tackle poverty and injustice through sustainable

development, by responding to disasters and challenging injustice. We believe an end to extreme poverty is possible.

Thousands of people needlessly suffer and die every day because of poverty. But that's not God's plan for the world. And God is calling you – all of us – to reach out to people in greatest need. We partner with local churches and organisations who have a crucial role to play in the places worst affected by poverty.

## **Be part of something bigger**

By hosting a **Big Quiz Night** you'll be uniting with thousands of people around the UK who all want to make a difference to the lives of people living in poverty. Every pound you raise will help bring practical help to people like Abigael, empowering them to reach their God-given potential.

## **Abigael and her young family have been brought face-to-face with the terrifying reality of climate change.**

Abigael is a 35-year-old mother of five from Ouarkoye, Burkina Faso. She and her husband are farmers – an occupation that used to provide them with everything they needed.



Now, however, farming only brings them heartbreak. In recent years, the rains have become scarce, meaning Abigael can't grow the food she needs to make an income and feed her young family.

'When it does not rain and you have nothing to eat, what are you going to do?' Abigael tells us. 'How are you going to eat? How are you going to take care of children?'

Around 80 per cent of people in Burkina Faso rely on farming for food and income. Yet because of the changing climate, one in ten are now going hungry and need emergency help.

To make matters worse, one of Abigael's children has a health issue that requires regular treatment. Treatment that they could no longer afford. Abigael had to pull him and some of her other children out of school to save money. 'It scares me,' Abigael shares. 'Climate change is the source of our difficulties.'

A project being run by Tearfund's local partner, working alongside local churches, is offering real solutions to the very real problem of the changing climate.

The project brings community members together into farming cooperatives. These groups are given training in sustainable farming, along with the seeds and tools to grow crops that are more resistant to drought.

Since they joined the project Abigael and her husband have been able to feed their family and pay for their child's treatment. Now, she has less fear about the future. 'Peace is now present,' Abigael says. 'The sadness has left.'

Thousands of other people like Abigael are in desperate need. Projects like this make a real and lasting difference – but they're only possible with the support of people like you. By getting involved in the Big Quiz Night, you'll be empowering others like Abigael to provide for their families in the face of the climate crisis.



***There will be a Quiz night for Tearfund in the CFC on Saturday 16 November at 7.30pm - see poster on page 14. Do come along for an evening of fun and fundraising for Tearfund.***



**B BIBLE SOCIETY**

**Will you help train leaders for the Chinese church?**

The Bible Society is appealing for support to train Chinese pastors, and also equip lay preachers to serve the growing Church in China. As a spokesman explains, "It's so encouraging to hear of a million people in China becoming Christians each year. But explosive growth has meant leaders are stretched to the limit. A single ordained pastor serves on average 6,700 Christians. New believers need wise leaders." If you would like to help please go to [www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/donate](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/donate).

## Wessex Synod Bi-annual meeting Saturday October 9th. 2021

The Biannual Meeting of Synod in October of this year took place on Saturday 9th October at High Cross United Reformed Church in Camberley, Surrey. This was the first “face to face” (masked of course) meeting of Synod for many months. There was the facility for people to join on “zoom”, but not to take part in any practical sense. Unfortunately the meeting was quite poorly attended and an item for discussion was the future nature and frequency of Synod meetings and the amount of paper generated and the overall cost. A resolution was drafted enabling the Synod executive to look in to this problem and report back at a subsequent meeting.

After the Moderator’s welcome an update was given on Ministerial and Church changes. Of particular interest for our Church was the appointment of Kay Blackwell as the Lead Chaplain at the Oxford Academy (Kay was from our Church when she became Minister at Basingstoke and Tadley) , the retirement of James Fells as Lay Preacher (thank you James for all your faithful service) and Iain Robertson who is to be licensed at St Mark’s Shared Church, Bordon.

Opening (and closing) Worship was led by the Children and Youth Development Officers (Ruth White and Philip Ray) These acts of worship for me were highlights of the day not least for the music most ably supplied by our very own Josh and his colleague from Park Church Reading, Stephen Ansa-Addo. We were asked to take a wooden “bendy” man key-ring that we felt drawn to ( they were all exactly the same!) then reflect on who we were and what God was calling us to do? Where God had placed us to serve? And what was our response?

The rest of the morning was taken up with reports with one absolute nonsense of having to convene a

District Council (Those were the days!) meeting to vote on the sale or let of the manse at Hatch Warren! All the same people, all the same voting rights, all of the time!

The most important item was from Ministries and Learning on Ministerial Deployment. The meeting was able to break up into groups for further discussion on this crucial matter. The new convenor of Ministries and Learning;



Wayne Hawkins (Guildford) outlined the consultation process but confirmed that Churches in the North East and North West Pastoral Areas have a much better representation of Ministers than the South East (ours) and South West Areas. There would be no further Ministers until at least 2026.

A difficult topic in the afternoon was a presentation by Stephen Ansa-Addo; the “Legacies of Slavery” together with a draft apology from General Assembly concerning our Church’s role in that legacy.

There was a feeling at Synod that there was a greater schism between local Churches and the Wessex Synod and not just because of the difficulties caused by the pandemic.

A much gloomier financial picture is also emerging with grants and Ministers pension fund enhancements only possible now with the sale of redundant property as a result of Church closures. A tiring day but an optimistic note from our Josh as he outlined the Synod’s “Big Day Out” on 7th May with our very own Liss Band providing some of the musical entertainment.

**Alan Jones**



### **From the editors ...**

November can seem a busy month as there are a number of events to commemorate, The month starts with All Saints Day (see Josh's article on [page 2]), followed by Remembrance Sunday, After that is the Tearfund Big Quiz and finally the beginning of Advent which is, this year, the last Sunday in November. You will have found articles on some of these in this issue as well as reports of previous happenings. We do hope you enjoyed them. With our thanks, as ever, to all our contributors.

**Keith and Mary**



### **Harold**

A little girl attempted the Lord’s Prayer: “Our Father, who does art in heaven, Harold is your name. Amen.”

### **One out of Ten**

A Sunday School class was studying the Ten Commandments. The teacher asked if anyone could recite one from memory. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, “Thou shall not take the covers off thy neighbour’s wife.”



## A fair way to Christmas

To mark the launch of the 2021 Real Advent Calendar, the Meaningful Chocolate Company is offering free delivery to churches and schools if they buy a case of 18 calendars.

The Real Advent Calendar is designed to support outreach work, mission and is a great way to share the Christmas story. Each calendar includes a 24-page Christmas

story activity book, the chocolate is Fairtrade, and it supports charitable causes including a baby clinic in Kenya and Fairtrade farmer community schemes.

Real Advent Calendars cost £4.50 each and is not available in supermarkets. There is a case discount and free delivery if buying at [www.realadvent.co.uk](http://www.realadvent.co.uk)

You can view a video of the Christmas story activity book at <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/christmas/products/real-advent-calendar>



## Books of the Bible

This is a series outlining all the books of the Bible, the word of God, which is central to our Christian faith.

This month we are focusing on ... **1, 2, 3 John and Jude**



- *What type of books are they?* Teaching
- *Who wrote it?* John, the Apostle, and Jude, brother of Jesus and James
- *When were they written?* about 90AD (letters of John), 65AD (Jude)

The first of John's letters is addressed to 'dear children', and explains how God is light, love and life. The second is addressed to 'the chosen lady and her children' and is a warning about false teachers. The third is addressed to Gaius, and commends those who walk in the truth but warns against those who do not. The underlying theme of the letters of John is love.

The letter of Jude again warns of false teachers and reminds Christians of their

duty to fight for God's truth

Although short, all of these letters are applicable to the whole Christian church and carry important teaching which is still relevant today.

## Waiting for the Future

*'The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ... They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.'* (From Isaiah 11)



When pain, conflict, stress, and sorrow flood our lives we can lose sight of God's promise of a different kind of future. Isaiah was living in desperate times. The leaders had made treaties with evil nations because they thought it would bring them security and riches – but disaster loomed. Isaiah knew that his nation was sleepwalking into war and destruction.

God gave Isaiah a picture of hope: the distant future, which is also our future. The wolf will no longer devour the lamb but lie alongside it. A child can plunge their hand into a viper's nest and not fear. There is safety and unity on God's holy mountain: a picture of eternal rest with our Creator.

We are built for heaven, and occasionally we remember that. However comfortable we are right now, evil and pain can render us powerless. Our souls groan along with the Holy Spirit, longing to live with Christ in a renewed and perfect world. Whether we're conscious of it or not, we're all waiting for Christ to return and make this world right.

This week, challenge yourself to take time out each day, amid the pre-Christmas chaos. Pray the final prayer of the Bible: 'Come, Lord Jesus.' Remember the temporary nature of life in this world and Christ's promise to return and bring true peace. If you're despairing, it will be a prayer of comfort for you. If you're comfortable in this life, it may stick in your throat. This Advent, pray it anyway.

## Doctor Livingstone, I presume?

It was 150 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1871, that Welsh journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley located the missing missionary Dr David Livingstone near Lake Tanganyika, in present-day Tanzania. He may or may not have greeted him with the words: “Doctor Livingstone, I presume?”

Stanley’s real name was John Rowlands. He was born in Denbigh to an unmarried 18-year-old who abandoned him. He ended up in a workhouse until he was 15, then went to America, where he changed his name and became an American citizen. When he found Livingstone, he was working for the *New York Herald*.

Known for his strength of will, Stanley also had an African name – Bula Matari – Breaker of Rocks. Much of his life was spent in Central Africa, and his reputation was mixed: he was said by some to be violent toward Africans, but by others to have treated them well. His feats as an explorer were impressive: he played a big part in locating the true source of both the Nile and the Congo, and he helped open up the Congo on behalf of King Leopold of Belgium.

Though not overtly religious, he felt he was engaged in a “sacred task”. He was re-naturalised a British subject in 1892, following his marriage.



God isn't looking for perfect people. He is looking to perfect people.– *John Hileman*

I know not the way God leads me, but well do I know my Guide. -*Martin Luther*

When God intends great mercy for His people, the first thing He does is set them a-praying. -*Matthew Henry*

There are some of your graces which would never be discovered if it were not for your trials. -*C H Spurgeon*



For our younger readers ...

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

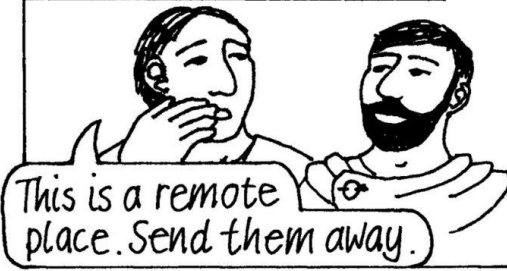
It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 14:13-21, Mk 6:30-44, Lk 9:10-17, Jn 6:1-15

Jesus and his disciples went by boat to a quiet place to have some time alone, but the crowds noticed, and followed them.

Jesus felt sorry for them so he taught and healed them.



It was now late afternoon, so Philip spoke to Jesus



This is a remote place. Send them away.

They can go and buy something to eat.



You give them something to eat.

There are thousands of them! Half a year's wages wouldn't be enough!



So what do you have?

Andrew brought a boy to Jesus.



He has 2 dried fish and 5 small loaves.

Get everyone to sit down in groups.



Jesus blessed the bread and fish and the disciples gave them out.



Everyone ate all they wanted.



Jesus told them to gather up the leftovers.



there were 12 baskets full!

Jesus sent the disciples off in the boat and stayed to dismiss the crowd.



We will make him become our king!

He can get rid of the Romans!

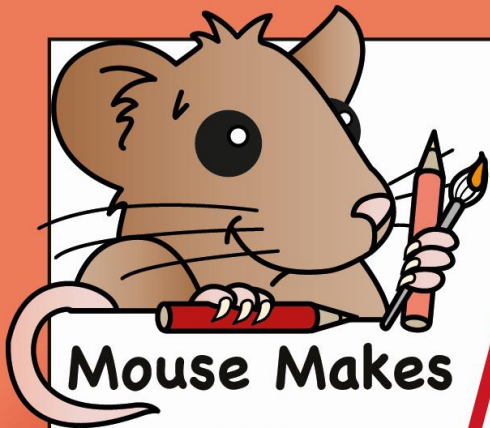


Free food!

But Jesus knew what they planned..



and had already gone.



Mouse Makes



I AM THE

Read John 10:11 and 14



I AM THE

Read John 15:1 and 35



I AM THE

Read John 6: 35,51



AND THE

Read John 11:25



OF THE

Read John 18:12

I AM

Seven times in John's Gospel Jesus calls Himself "I AM" - the same name that God calls Himself when He speaks to Moses in Exodus 3:14 Jesus is telling us who He really is.



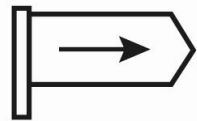
I AM THE

I AM THE

AND THE

AND THE

Read John 14:6



I AM THE

Read John 10:9



I AM THE



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

Look up the Bible references, fill in the missing words then look for them in the word search

## Crossword

### Across

1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)

9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)

10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)

11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)

13 Taverns (4)

16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)

17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)

18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1-2) (4,4)

20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)

21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)

22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)

23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)

25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)

28 Annie (anag.) (5)

29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)

30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

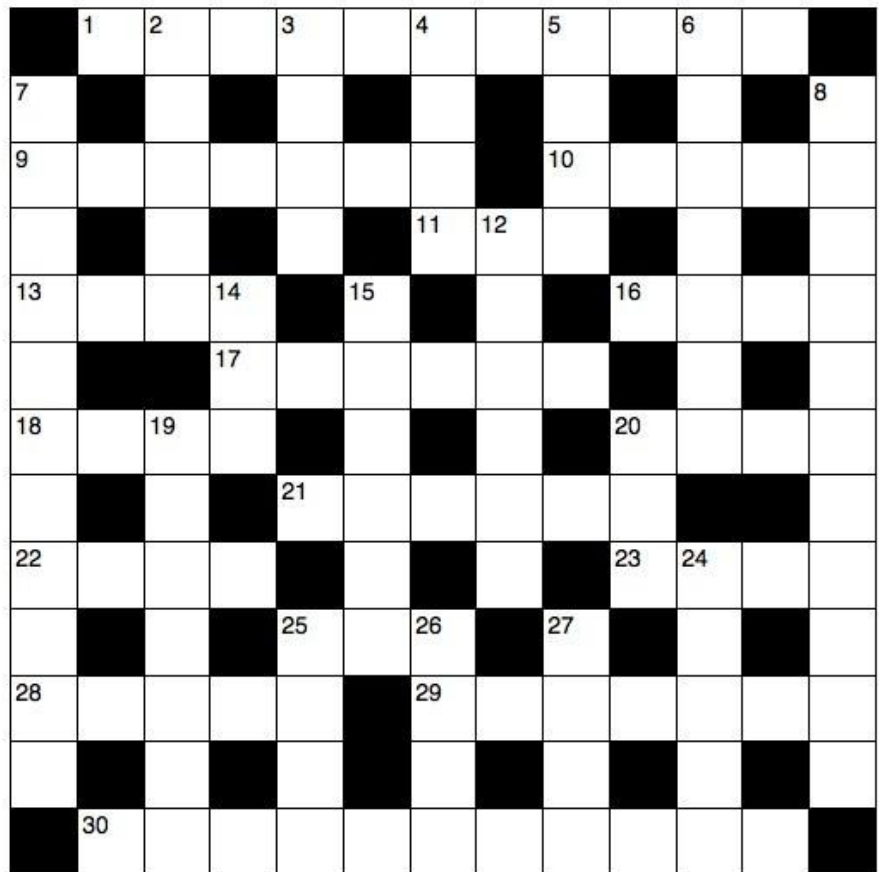
### Down

2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)

3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)

4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)

5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)



- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)  
 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)  
 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)  
 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)  
 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)  
 15 Liverpool dialect (6)  
 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)  
 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)  
 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)  
 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)  
 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)  
 27 See 18 Across

### ***Solution on page 27***



### **Sudoku**

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

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**Easy**

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

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**Medium**

### **Heaven**

An elderly couple died and were received by St Peter through the Pearly Gates into heaven. They found it a wonderful place. The husband said to his wife: "If you hadn't fed us such healthy food all our marriage, we could have reached here years ago."

## News from the United Reformed Church items from the October edition of the Synod Newsletter



### **Praise from the heart – Through Trinity to Advent** - Psalms

resource The latest Psalms resource written by Revd

Duncan Wilson is available on the Synod Website: [Psalms for worship: Through Trinity to Advent 2021](#)

**Good News Story - Community Accessible AED** -In June I was approached by one of our local councillors asking if he could fund a community accessible defibrillator outside High Cross Church, Camberley. Having spoken to a few people and checked locations, we agreed it would be a great project and the ideal location would be outside the café doors so it was accessible to those attending the theatre. The way it works, is if someone dials 999, and a defibrillator would help, the ambulance service direct the caller to the cabinet, and give them the access code. Then the automated external defibrillator (AED) is used as instructed. These publicly accessible defibrillators are easy to use, and the operators talks a caller through the process. As you can see it has been fitted, and is now accessible 24/7. Thanks to Allan for fitting the cabinet, and to Cllrs Richard Brooks, Dan Adams, and Charlotte Morley for funding the equipment. Like the one in the concourse, lets pray it is never needed.  
Revd Mike Thomason Minister at High Cross Church Camberley

### **Pray4URC**

**Thursday evenings at 8.15pm from 28 October** for four weeks on [www.facebook.com/Pray4URC](http://www.facebook.com/Pray4URC)

The GEAR team are hosting a fifth season of short live prayer times in the run up to the meeting of Assembly Executive (the new name for Mission Council) in late November. All are welcome to tune in and pray along with those leading on the Zoom panel. You don't need to be a Facebook user to view these meetings - but if you are, you can interact with the page and add greetings, comment and prayers during the live meeting. This adds to the sense of community as we pray together for our church. The series begins on 28 October when John Bradbury, URC General Secretary will be our guest and we can pray for the Church Life Review he is leading and the group who are working on this together. Later sessions will focus on Walking the Way, Communications and Synod Moderators as well as prayers for the Assembly Executive meeting at High Leigh on 22-24 November. Please prepare to tune in and pray - 28 Oct, 4 Nov, 11 Nov and 18 Nov More info - can be obtained from the GEAR Prayer Secretary, Richard Turnbull - [prayer@gear.org.uk](mailto:prayer@gear.org.uk)

**Sight Loss Friendly Church Tasters** - Every 6 minutes someone in the UK starts to lose their sight. Sight Loss Friendly Church (SLFC), from Torch Trust, the UK Christian sight loss charity, are pleased to announce further dates of our popular Tasters. These 30 minute Zoom sessions offer the opportunity to hear all the benefits of SLFC, meet the SLFC team and ask your questions. Sessions available are:

Tuesday 26 October at 2:00 PM

Wednesday 10 November at 2:00 PM

Tuesday 16 November at 11:00 AM

Wednesday 12 January at 2:00 PM

Monday 24 January at 2:00 PM

To register please visit <https://www.sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk/taster>.

For more information please email [SLFC@torchtrust.org.uk](mailto:SLFC@torchtrust.org.uk)

### **Living Church, exploring God's gift and calling – online event**

First Session: Tuesday 2 November, 2.00 to 3.30 pm

Concluding Session: Wednesday 3 November, 10.00 to 11.30 am (BST)

Further details available at this link: [Living Church](#)

**Lay Preachers' Gathering 2022 – save the date** Saturday 21 May 2022, 10am – 4pm, at Sarum College, Salisbury. Please pop the date into your diary and watch this space for further information in due course

### **Mental Health First Aid training - Become a certified Mental Health First Aider.**

A two-week online course. which includes four live zoom sessions with the trainer. Wessex Synod will cover the cost. Register via the Synod Office, not direct.

Course starting on **Tuesday 9 November**. [Further details](#).

Course starting on **Monday 6 December**. [Further details](#).

**Booking is essential and places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.** Please email [bookings@urcwessex.org.uk](mailto:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk) to receive the link to register on the course.

### **Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar November**

7	Bournemouth: Richmond Hill St Andrew's; Godalming
14	Poole: The Beacon Church, Canford Heath; Twyford (Berks)
21	Bournemouth: Immanuel, Southbourne; Guildford: Portsmouth Road
28	Trinity United Church, Ringwood; Walton-on-Thames



## Lectionary Bible Readings for November

November 7	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
November 14	1 Samuel 1:4-20; 2:1-10; Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8
November 21	2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18); Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37
November 28	Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

### 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 editors, Keith and Mary Evans.

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

The deadline for the **December** Messenger is **Sunday 14 November 2021**. Please send articles to Messenger Editors, Keith & Mary Evans, tel 01730 235922 e-mail [keithnmary@talktalk.net](mailto:keithnmary@talktalk.net)

## Solution to Crossword on page 23

### Answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Charioteers. 9, Immoral. 10, Cairo. 11, SAE. 13, Inns. 16, Firm. 17, Accuse. 18, East. 20, Ogam. 21, Judith. 22, Seba. 23, Msgr. 25, Den. 28, Inane. 29, Entreat. 30, Chrysopraxe.

**DOWN:** 2, Human. 3, Rare. 4, Oils. 5, Ecce. 6, Raising. 7, Citizenship. 8, Commemorate. 12, Assail. 14, Sat. 15, Scouse. 19, Sabbath. 20, Ohm. 24, Seeds. 25, Deny. 26, Nero. 27, Star.



## Church Contact Details

<b>Church</b>	<b>Petersfield : College Street, Petersfield GU31 4AG 01730 266475</b>	<b>Liss : Hillbrow Road, Liss GU33 7PX</b>
Minister	Rev Joshua Thomas Tel 07734 254983 <a href="mailto:minister@petersfieldurc.com">minister@petersfieldurc.com</a>	
Church Office	Administrator Mrs Esme Kelly Office Hours 9am-12noon Tuesdays to Fridays	
Church & Community Worker	Mrs Jo Hopkins 01730 266475 <a href="mailto:communityworker@petersfieldurc.com">communityworker@petersfieldurc.com</a>	
Telephone	Church Family Centre 01730 266475	
Website	<a href="http://www.petersfieldurc.com">www.petersfieldurc.com</a>	
E-mail	<a href="mailto:admin@petersfieldurc.com">admin@petersfieldurc.com</a>	
Sunday Services	Mornings at 10.30 am Services will be held at College Street	
Secretary	Mrs Carol Tubbs 39 Rotherbank Farm Lane Liss Forest GU33 7BJ Tel 01730 893489 Mobile 07766 412160.	
Treasurer	Mr Jim Cleverly, 4 Crundles, Petersfield GU31 4PJ Tel 01730 300558	

### ***Petersfield United Reformed Church Mission Statement***

*“As a congregation worshipping God: we seek to reach out with the love of Jesus; to worship God in our daily lives; to draw others into the knowledge and love of Christ; and to make disciples”*