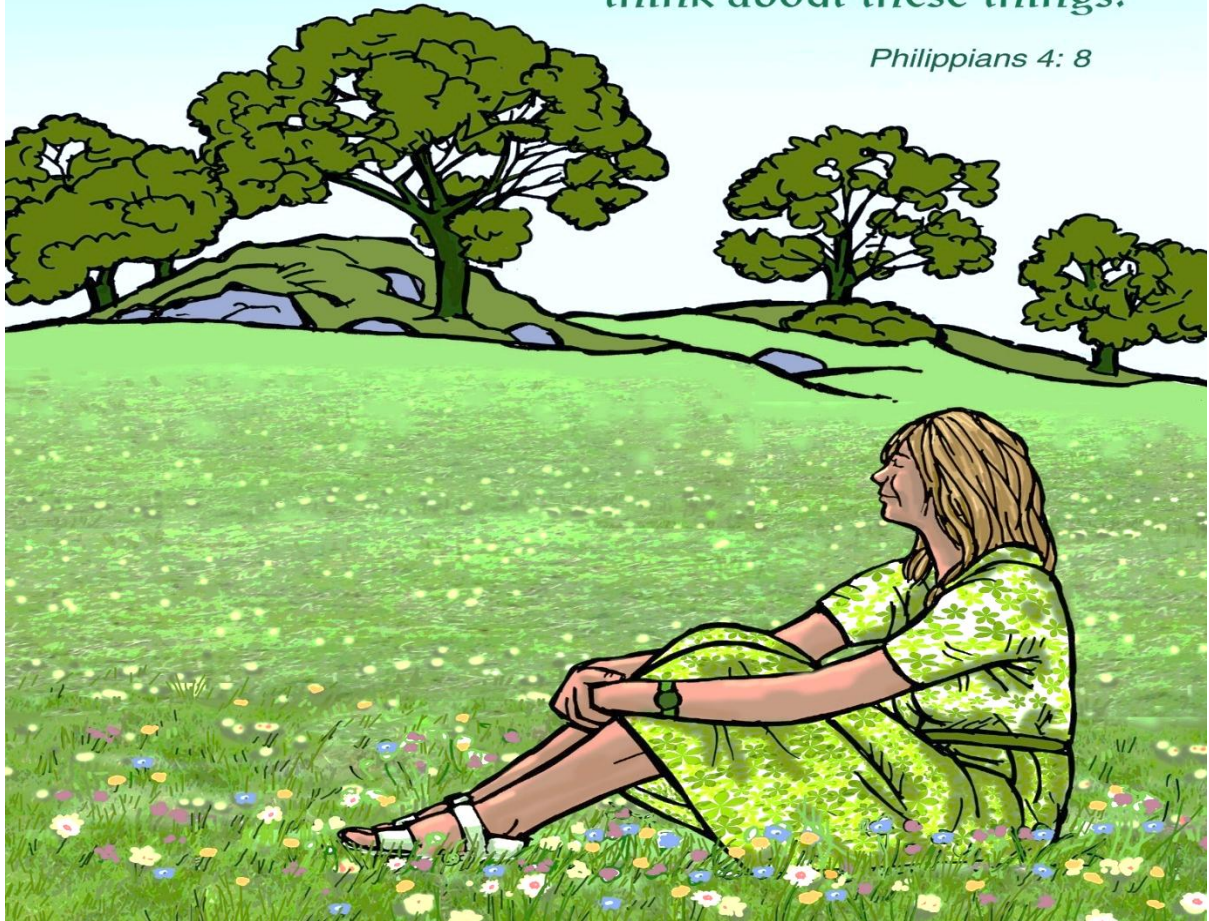


THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Finally, beloved, whatever is true,
whatever is honourable, whatever is just,
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing,
whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Philippians 4: 8



PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

July 2026 No. 748

From the Minister ...

Choosing Love Over Division

Recent scenes of unrest in Southampton and Belfast have once again reminded us how fragile peace can be. Images of anger, confrontation, and violence can leave us feeling saddened, anxious, and perhaps even tempted to draw quick conclusions about those involved. Yet as Christians, we are called to respond differently.



The gospel consistently points us away from division and towards reconciliation. In a world that often seeks to identify enemies, Christ calls us to see neighbours. When tensions rise and communities become fractured, it can be easy to view entire groups of people through the actions of a few individuals. However, this is neither fair nor Christian.

Jesus himself refused to judge people according to stereotypes or social divisions. He spoke with Samaritans when others would not. He welcomed those whom society had rejected. He saw the image of God in every person, regardless of their background, nationality, or circumstances. His example challenges us to look beyond labels and to recognise the dignity and worth of every human being.

Violence, intimidation, and hatred are never the Christian response to disagreement or fear. The Apostle Paul reminds us, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21). Christians are called to be peacemakers, seeking understanding where there is suspicion, dialogue where there is hostility, and compassion where there is suffering.

This does not mean ignoring genuine concerns or pretending that wrongdoing does not exist. Justice matters, and individuals should be held accountable for their actions. But accountability must be directed at those responsible, not at entire communities who share a nationality, ethnicity, religion, or background. When we blame groups for the actions of individuals, we deepen divisions and create new injustices.

At a time when public discourse can become increasingly polarised, the Church has a unique opportunity to offer a different witness.

We can refuse to participate in the language of blame. We can challenge prejudice when we encounter it. We can pray for those affected by unrest, for community leaders, and for all who work to restore peace.

Most importantly, we can demonstrate Christ's love in our everyday relationships. Every act of kindness, every conversation marked by respect, and every effort to understand someone different from ourselves helps to build the kind of community God desires.

In a divided world, may we be known not for anger or fear, but for the love, grace, and peace of Christ.

Every blessing,

Your brother in Christ,

Josh.



Pause for Thought

- Let us make God the beginning and end of our love, for He is the fountain from which all good things flow and into Him alone they flow back. Let Him therefore be the beginning of our love. - *Richard Rolle*
- I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth. - *Isaac Newton*
- Seek in reading and thou shalt find in meditation; knock in prayer and it shall be opened to thee in contemplation. - *St John of the Cross*
- Christians are the only people in the world who have anything to be happy about. - *Billy Graham*

Message from our Church and Community Worker...



June's Nature Walk with the Petersfield Ranger Jacob Gibson was a huge success. The sun shone and Jacob, shared his knowledge with us all. Two hours all about the Heath and pond. We also had information on trees and 'spot the insects' for the young and heart. All had a wonderful time. Many thanks to everyone who came, and to Jacob.



Our next walk is on 20th September, so keep the date free.



Lastly

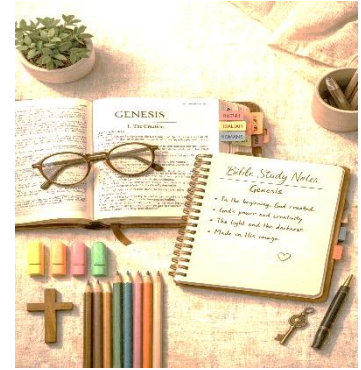
You have a few more weeks to sign up for Holiday at Home, the end date for guests is Sunday 26th July. We have 25 most days and over 30 have signed up for 1, 2 or all 3 days. Please don't miss out, see Jo Hopkins for a form

Love

Jo Hopkins

BIBLE SOCIETY'S BIBLE COURSE

The Bible Society's Bible Course gives an overview of the Bible in just eight sessions - from Genesis to Revelation. The Home Group which meets at 84, Moggs Mead has decided that they will engage with these studies, starting at their first meeting in August which will be Thursday 6th August -2.30pm. Esme's Ladies' Bible Study Group which meets on Mondays has used this Course for their



Bible studies and found it most worthwhile. There is much to learn whether we know a great deal about the Bible or not so much. Therefore the 84, Moggs Mead Home Group invite you to join them as they study the Bible in a new format and enjoy the way that the Bible is applied to our everyday lives. Each session includes a 15-minute video and then there is time for discussion, prayer and a social time together. If you would like to come along then I should be grateful if you would let me know so that I can buy enough biscuits! If you need any more information, please either email me – mafair@btinternet.com or 'phone – 01730 267991.

MARY FAIR



It depends on who you are, as to what you see...

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out...

~ A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there."

~ An objective person walked by and said, "It's logical that someone would fall down there."

~ A mathematician calculated how deep the pit was.

~ A news reporter wanted the exclusive story on the pit.

~ HMRC asked if he was paying taxes on the pit.

~ A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits."

~ A self-pitying person said, "You haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit."

~ A psychologist noted, "Your mother and father are to blame for your being in that pit."

~ A self-esteem therapist said, "Believe in yourself and you can get out of that pit."

~ An optimist said, "Things could be worse."

~ A pessimist claimed, "Things will get worse."

Jesus, seeing the man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit.

What do we really know about Mary Magdalene?

Fake news is not new. Perhaps one old example is the assertion that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. Back in the 6th Century, Pope Gregory is said to have confused her with two other women in the Bible. Medieval Bible scholars also attempted to name an unidentified sinful woman who had washed and anointed the feet of Jesus. As Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the next chapter, they regarded her as the same person! After this, many classical artists painted Mary in various states of undress, perpetuating a falsehood.

So, what do we really know about Mary? The Gospels tell us that she came from Magdala, a town in Galilee, and Jesus healed her by casting out seven evil spirits. After this she followed Jesus, with other women, on His ministry providing resources. Later, Mary watched Jesus die on the cross, and having cared for His needs while He was alive, wanted to care for Him after His death.

It was when Mary went to anoint the body of Jesus at the tomb that the risen Jesus appeared to her. He told Mary to go to His disciples and tell them about His return to Heaven. She was obedient and became the first emissary of the resurrection. In those days, the witness of a woman was worthless. Despite ridicule, Mary had the courage to speak about Jesus in a place of great disbelief. We have to ask, do we have the same courage as Mary? How prepared are we to stand our ground to share Jesus with others in the face of those who mock and scoff at us?

In this snapshot of Mary's life we know she had experienced great distress and suffering. After Jesus healed her, Mary expressed her gratitude by being utterly committed and devoted to Him.

Jesus can give everyone a new start; a new purpose and direction in life. Like Mary, we can thank Him for blessing us, loving us and forgiving us and moving into practical forms of service. Only Jesus can transform our lives so that we can glorify God in all that we do.



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

Community Matters

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

Frontline Petersfield Debt Advice

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

Telephone:
07919 998442 (24hrs)

Email:
petersfield@frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

Website:
www.frontlinepetersfield.org.uk



www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

FREE DEBT & BENEFIT ADVICE

Are you struggling
with your finances?

You do not have
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Licensed by the FCA to provide Debt Adjusting & Counselling No. 694921

FRONTLINE® is the registered trade mark of
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Food Bank Updates



Our opening times are: -

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

Distribution: Tuesdays and Fridays:

9.30 am – 11.30 am

At Petersfield Methodist Church

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



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

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

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

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

[Free Shop Petersfield](#)

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

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

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

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

Opening times: Wednesday 1.30 pm – 3 pm

Friday & Saturday 10 am – 12 noon

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

Petersfield and Liss United Reformed Church

Update on regular weekday activities

Please note the following updates.

- **Drop in Tea** – Drop-In Tea for July will be on the 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 – July/August 2026

Date	Duty Elders	AV
July 5	Julie West	Roy Knight
July 12	Tim Abbott	David Darling
July 19	Carol Tubbs & Wendy Cassar	Jonathan Oru
July 26	Wendy Holdsworth	Carolyn Barton
August 2	Tony Phillips	David Darling
August 9	David Barton	Keith Evans
August 16	Isaac Oru & Tony Phillips	Jonathan Oru
August 23	Anne Glenn	Carolyn Barton
August 30	Wendy Cassar	Roy Knight

Welcomers' Rota

Date	Welcomers
July 5	Isaac Oru
July 12	Wendy Holdsworth
July 19	Peter Jolly
July 26	Tim Abbott
August 2	Doreen Lewis
August 9	Carol Tubbs
August 16	Sue Bone
August 23	Val Torrance
August 30	Graham Fountain

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

Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar – July 2026

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

Thursday	2	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
Sunday	5	10.30 am	Rosemary Ward	
Monday	6	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	7	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	9	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
Friday	10	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	CFC
Sunday	12	10.30 am	Tony Phillips	
Monday	13	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	
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	CFC
		2.30pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	19	10.30 am	Minister -Communion	
Tuesday	21	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	23	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2 – 4 pm	Games Afternoon	CFC
Sunday	26	10.30 am	Minister- Café Church	
Monday	27	2 pm	Monday Meditations	Sanctuary
Tuesday	28	7.30 pm	Church Meeting	Sanctuary
Thursday	30	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way

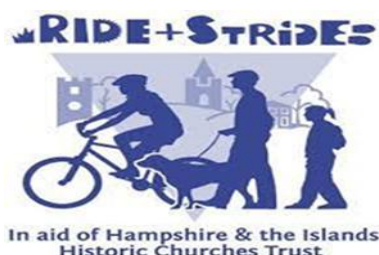
Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar – August 2026

Please note Services are held at College Street, Petersfield.

Sunday	2	10.30 am	Mary Fair	
Tuesday	4	10 – 4 pm	Holiday At Home	CFC
Thursday	6	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
Sunday	9	10.30 am	Minister	
Tuesday	11	10 – 4 pm	Holiday At Home	CFC
Thursday	13	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC
Friday	14	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	CFC
Sunday	16	10.30 am	Minister- Communion	
Tuesday	18	10 -4 pm	Holiday At Home	CFC
Thursday	20	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
Sunday	23	10.30 am	Peter Jolly	
Monday	24	2 pm	Monday Meditations	Sanctuary
Thursday	27	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
Sunday	30	10.30 am	Esme Kelly	

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

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

It is hard to believe but the war in Ukraine has now lasted longer than World War I and sadly there is no sign of imminent peace. We pray that God may raise up peacemakers in positions of authority and that Ukraine may not endure another winter of misery.

On a more cheery note, we are pleased to say Wendy, Tim, Carol, Lyn (Norris), Fiona and David will be making a short visit in early August to the villages we know so well in Transcarpathia. We will be accompanied by a small number of people from the UCP partner church - Holy Trinity, Claygate. We thank God that life, although difficult for villagers, is still peaceful there. Please pray the visit may go smoothly and that it may be a blessing for all concerned.

Thank you for your continued faithful support, in prayer and in finances. This is very much appreciated! Thank you Connie's Handicraft Group for a further £160 donation.

David Darling, [Ukraine Christian Partnership](#)



Sunflowers still bloom in Ukraine



And the storks are welcome summer visitors

World Cup



Many across the world are united in watching the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. However, football is more than just a game; it can illustrate some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. Christians grasp to the prize of eternal life, God's gift to us of relationship with Jesus for now and eternity. However, there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is underserved and not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win the World Cup, training is vital! Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our *godly muscles* we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

The former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*



PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Board Game



Every 4th Thursday of the month
2-4pm - Free to attend!



June 25th

July 23rd

August 27th

September 24th

October 22nd

November 26th

for more information email
communityworker@petersfieldurc.com
tel 01730 266475

Petersfield URC, College Street, GU31 4AG



Prayers

Time Prayer

Father,

We are all so busy. We rush here and there, trying to meet deadlines, trying to fit more and more into our already full days. So often we seem to run out of energy and time. Sometimes we wonder what it's all about.

Help us, Lord to recognise that we *have* time. You have given us every day of our lives. Help us to choose wisely how we use our life time. Help us to spend time with you first; to learn your ways; to encounter the living Jesus in the Bible and in prayer. And everything else will fall into place.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Come reign in me

Oh God, who made the world so fair,
And formed the earth, the sky, the sea;
Who gave us ears, and eyes, and minds,
To hear, to see, to know all love is thee.

Oh God, who in the Lord Jesus,
Gave us a light to light our way;
Let our life's lamp be lit by Him
Whose strength will see us safely through each day.

Oh God, whose Spirit gave us birth,
And holds all life secure, e'en mine;
Take all I am, and all I have,
Bless and redeem them for they both are Thine.

Oh God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, three in one;
Blessed be thy name, come reign in me,
And in me let thy will be done.

By Sam Doubtfire

For our younger readers ...

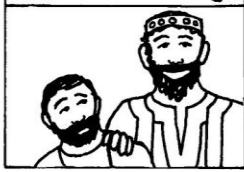
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 24

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel,
but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said
that the next king would not be Saul's son.

Saul didn't know
that God had
chosen David to
be the next king.



David was very successful
as a fighter and very
popular.



Saul became
jealous and angry

David had to go on the run and
hide.



When he
wasn't fighting the Philistines,
Saul tried to catch David.

One day, Saul
and his army
were in En-Gedi.
Saul needed to
pee, so he went
into a sheep
fold built next
to a cave...

David and his men were hiding at the
back of the cave!



God has given you
a chance to kill him!

David crept over and
cut a piece off Saul's
robe.



Saul didn't notice.

Then David felt bad.

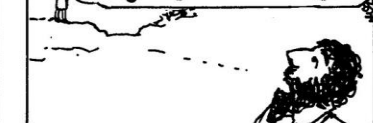


He is
God's chosen
king. Having the
chance to do something
doesn't make it right.

David waited until Saul
was far enough away
then he shouted to him.



Your majesty, I could have
killed you today, but I
knew it was wrong. I want
to prove to you I'm not
trying to harm you.



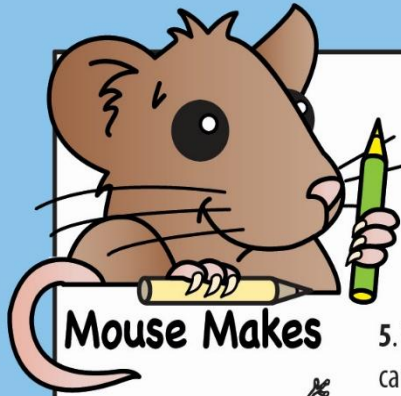
David, you are better than
me. I would have killed you
but you were kind.



Now I know you will be
the next king, but please
look after my family.

David promised, and
Saul and his army
went home.





Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes its nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4

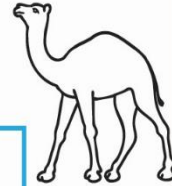


4. What insect can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

5. What plague came out of the River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



7. Which animal was Jesus compared to?
John 1:29



B I B L E

8. What bird did Noah release from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.
In what creature's mouth was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



C R E A T U R E S

9 down.
What lives in holes?
Matthew 8:20



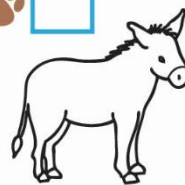
10. What insect would God send to destroy the enemy?
Deut 7:20



12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?
Luke 3:22



13. Which animal did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7



14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13

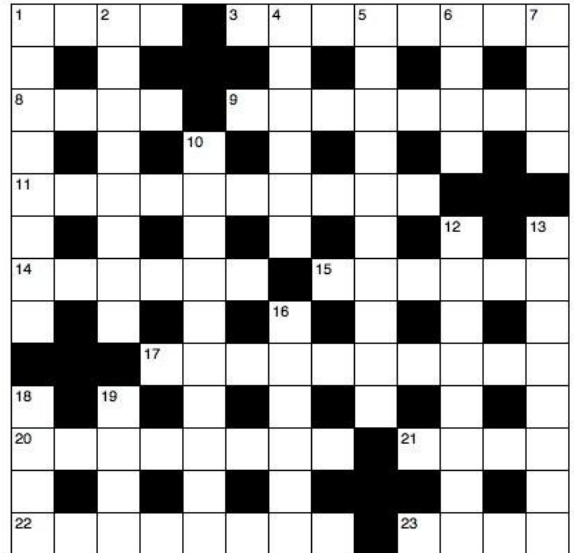


15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30

Crossword



Across

1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)

3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)

8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)

9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)

11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31)(10)

14 In Cain(anag.)(6)

15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)

17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)

20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)

21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom!Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)

22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)

23 'As the — pants for streams of water,so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)

2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)

4 'We three kings of — are' (6)

5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)

6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)

7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)

10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)

12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)

13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)

16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)

18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)

19 Rear(anag.)(4)

Sudoku

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

Easy

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

Medium



Adopted

The teacher's young pupils were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair colour than the other members. One of the children suggested that he was adopted.

A little girl said, "I know all about adoption; I was adopted."

"What does it mean to be adopted?" asked another child.

"It means", said the girl, "that you grew in your mummy's heart instead of her tummy."

Never too old for cricket

"Well, well," said the old gentleman to some boys who were playing cricket. "I wish I could join your game, but I'm too old."

"You CAN join in," said one young player. "Our ball has just gone through that window. You can go and ask for it back."

Ode to Spell Checkers

I have a spelling checker
 I disk covered four my PC.
 It plane lee marks four my revue
 Miss steaks aye can knot see.

Eye ran this poem threw it.
 Your sure real glad two no.
 Its very polished in its weigh,
 My checker tolled me sew.

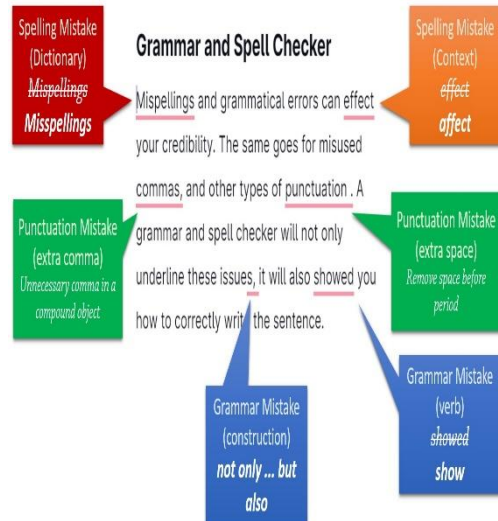
A checker is a blessing.
 It freeze yew lodes of thyme.
 It helps me right awl stiles two reed,
 And aides me when aye rime.

Each frays comes posed up on my screen
 Eye trussed too bee a joule.
 The checker pours o'er every word
 To cheque sum spelling rule.

Bee fore wee rote with checkers
 Hour spelling was inn deck line,
 Butt now when wee dew have a laps,
 Wee are not maid too wine.

And now bee cause my spelling
 Is checked with such grate flare,
 There are know faults in awl this peace,
 Of nun eye am a wear.

To rite with care is quite a feet
 Of witch won should be proud,
 And wee mused dew the best wee can,
 Sew flaws are knot aloud.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed

That's why eye brake in two averse
Cuz Eye dew want too please.
Sow glad eye yam that aye did bye
This soft wear four pea seas.

Grove Booklets



*The boys on the substitutes' bench knew
their only chance of a sing was if one of
the first team was injured*

News from the United Reformed Church items from the May edition of the Synod News



Disability Awareness Sunday 2026

One Body, Many Parts: Churches invited to celebrate
Disability Awareness Sunday 2026

Churches across the UK are being invited to take part in Disability Awareness Sunday 2026, with the release of a free, creative new resource available to download from Christian charity Through the Roof (www.throughtheroof.org). The 2026 theme, 'One Body, Many Parts', draws on 1 Corinthians 12 and celebrates the truth that the Church is not complete without disabled people. The official date is 27 September 2026, though churches are encouraged to take part on any Sunday that works for them.

Seeing things differently

At the heart of the new resource is the vision of Triona Brading, a young autistic Christian, Roofbreaker disability champion with Through the Roof, and ministry trainee. Triona brings insight, joy and imagination to the biblical image of the Body of Christ. She shares her perspective as an autistic Christian in the main video she made for churches to show for Disability Awareness Sunday: "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you. The head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you.' Can you imagine it?"



Body parts going rogue and breaking free of the body, hopping away and trying to live independently of one another!" Her gentle humour opens up a powerful challenge: what does it really mean for the Church to live as one body, where every person — disabled or not — is welcomed, needed and able to play their part?

FREE resource for churches!

The free Disability Awareness Sunday 2026 Resource includes:

- Two short videos
- A ready to use service outline
- Practical ideas for all-age worship and youth activities. The resources are designed to help churches move beyond awareness towards Access, Belonging and Commission: the ABC of Disability Inclusion, and to spark conversations that can lead to lasting change.

Churches can request the free resource now at:

 throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday  Show the video. Pray together. Celebrate every member of Christ's Body.

As churches across the UK – and beyond – join in, Through the Roof hopes Disability Awareness Sunday 2026 will inspire many to say with confidence: we are one body, with many parts – and everyone matters.

For more information please contact:

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Please visit www.throughtheroof.org for information, news and resources.

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar July

July	5	General Assembly; Christchurch, Thame; Verwood; Radipole (final thanksgiving service)
	12	Bridport United Church; Sea Sunday (https://sailors-society.org/support-us/sea-sunday/) Wessex Synod Youth Camp (Bookings open Youth Camp 2026)
	19	Skinner Street, Poole; Church on the Heath, Elvetham Heath
	26	Collinwood Road, Oxford; East Cliff, Bournemouth; Warsash

Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Wife. 3, To battle. 8, Obal. 9, Disciple. 11, Bitterness. 14, Niacin. 15, Attain. 17, Passionate. 20, Tertiary. 21, Meet. 22, Weakness. 23, Deer.

DOWN: 1, Woodbine. 2, Feast day. 4, Orient. 5, Accusation. 6, Type. 7, Eyes. 10, Dedication. 12, Gadarene. 13, Ancestor. 16, Esdras. 18, Stew. 19, Area.

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



Lectionary Bible Readings for July/ August

5 July	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and Psalm 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Zechariah 9:9-12 and Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
12 July	Genesis 25:19-34 and Psalm 119:105-112; Isaiah 55:10-13 and Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
19 July	Genesis 28:10-19a and Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Isaiah 44:6-8 and Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
26 July	Genesis 29:15-28 and Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128; 1 Kings 3:5-12 and Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
2 August	Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 55:1-5 and Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
9 August	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 and Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b; 1 Kings 19:9-18 and Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
16 August	Genesis 45:1-15 and Psalm 133; Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Psalm 67 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
23 August	Exodus 1:8-2:10 and Psalm 124; Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalm 138 Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
30 August	Exodus 3:1-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Jeremiah 15:15-21 and Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Important - Sensitive issues

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

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

The deadline for the **September** Messenger is **Sunday 16th August**. Please send articles to Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

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Petersfield United Reformed Church Mission Statement

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