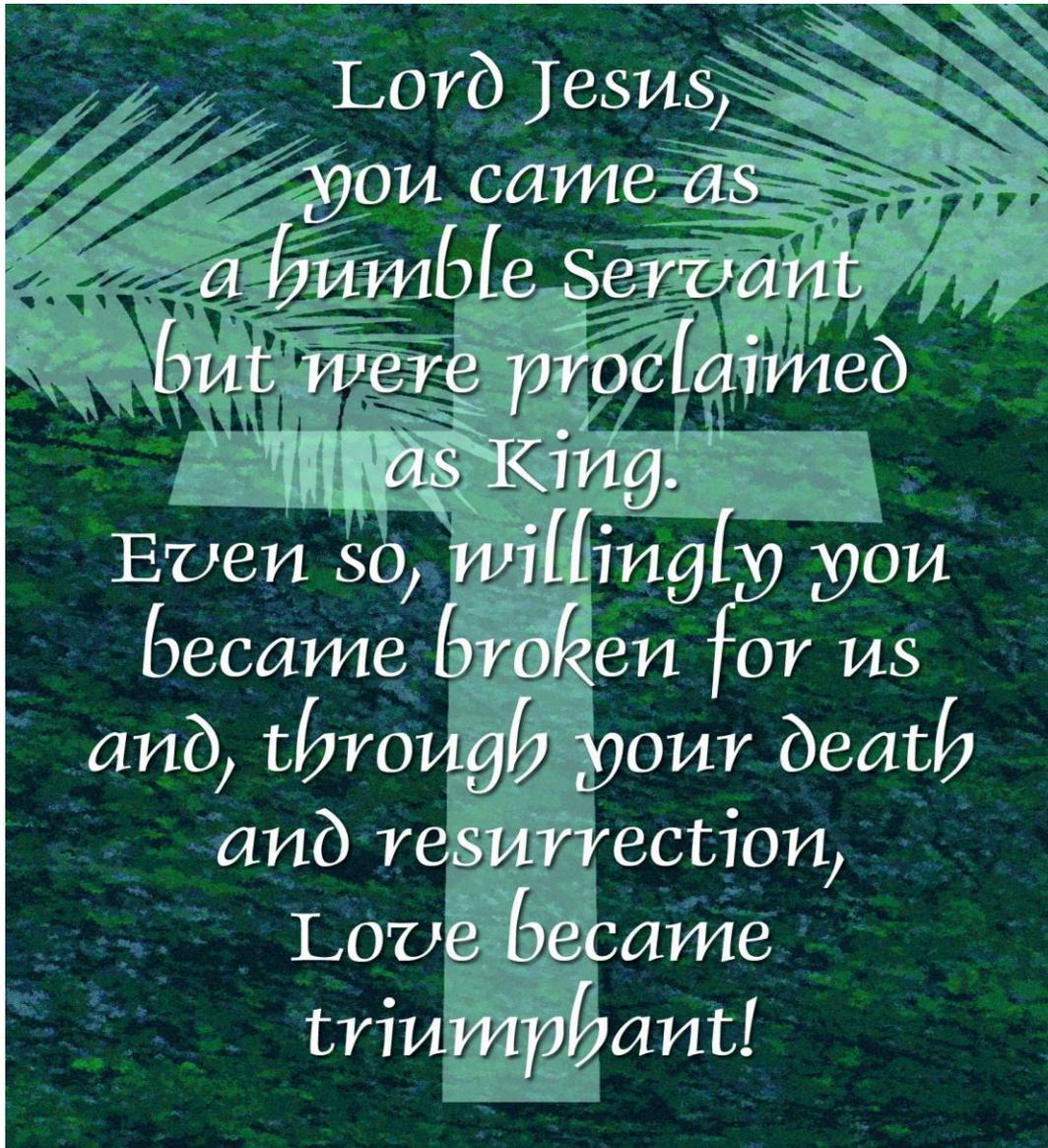


THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



April 2022 No. 707

From the Minister ...

We have been thinking and praying about the situation in Ukraine for several weeks now and I hope and pray that by the time of publication, the conflict will be over, however, at the time of writing that does not seem likely.



I am though, delighted to see the support both financially and practically that our community have been able to offer in this desperate situation. The first count of money raised equalled just over £1600 and means that at least £800 can go to support the work of UCP in the villages on the Hungarian border and Cacaïd as they work with refugees fleeing over the Romanian border. These financial donations will help them to purchase the goods locally that they actually need at the time and will be a valuable lifeline to people who find themselves in desperate need.

I was also pleased that we could do our part to support Operation Hope – a venture organised by Alex Gadsden of The Petersfield Cleaning Company. He was supporting aid in Poland and asking for donations of medication, bedding, food, and some clothing which would be taken out twice weekly to support the efforts out there. On Monday 7th March, I answered a plea from Alex to assist with doing some deliveries of items from his unit on Bedford Road down to an organisation in Gosport who were dealing with the onward travel. I was both amazed and heartened to see the sheer quantity of stuff that had been donated and indeed, those willing to come and make deliveries in a range of vehicles. (Hats off to the man and his caravan which was filled to the brim with donations!).

As you'll know, this initiative was so successful, they had to close the doors to any more donations for the time being as they were completely overwhelmed!

As we travel through Lent towards Easter, it has struck me just how many parallels can be drawn from our lectionary readings with the plight of the Ukrainian people at this time. Last year, you may remember, we followed a series called Worship in the Wilderness by an organisation called Engage Worship. This of course, all happened on Zoom as we were in the middle of a period of lockdown. The series helped us to engage with how we worship God in the wilderness moments of life, in other words, when all is stripped away and we find ourselves lacking strength, faith and motivation, what keeps us going. The Israelites found themselves for many years, living their lives in exile. This is something we are witnessing as millions of Ukrainian nationals, find themselves displaced and in exile from their homeland. If and when they reach our shores, how will we welcome them? It is my hope that they will find a warm welcome and we will be as supportive as we have been in fundraising and donation initiatives. I shared a passage in church a few weeks ago from Leviticus 19, it teaches us that we must treat strangers in our land with dignity, love and respect; 'Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.'

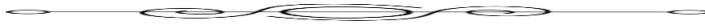
The hymn, 'Brother, Sister, let me serve you', comes to mind, at a time like this and especially verse 2; 'We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.'

Let us not be disheartened and lose hope, Easter is, as you know, a time when the light overcame the darkness.

The Son rose again to give us a new hope and to teach us that no matter how difficult things can be, if we have faith in Him, we have hope for this life and the one to come. Let us serve one another, helping to walk the mile and bear the load as we journey towards the cross and the glorious resurrection we know is to come.

Your brother in Christ,

Josh.



How to have some happiness this April

‘April is the cruellest month,’ wrote TS Eliot at the beginning of his magisterial poem, *The Wasteland*. And it is a good description of what April may bring us, between the war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices.

But apparently, major problems do not mean that we can’t enjoy anything. According to the ‘science of happiness,’ fuelled by advances in brain-scanning technology and a cultural shift towards seeing happiness as a key index in human development, there is a way through the deep gloom that hangs over this month.

Neuroscientists suggest that even while we are dealing with the big problems of life, we can also make room for ‘small, fleeting moments of fulfilment’. These can range from holding the hand of a loved one, to appreciating the daffodils in your garden, to enjoying a cup of tea with a good friend. Such moments of quiet contentment are ‘joyful vignettes’ which can be the bread and butter of our daily human happiness. As one writer has said: “Hold on to the small moments and the bigger picture of gloom doesn’t have to be as overwhelming as it first seems.”

Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,

I write at a time that I feel is the most worrying in my lifetime with the escalation of events in Ukraine. Last month I was talking about the possibility of a summer mission with Ukraine Christian Partnership and yet just a few weeks later we see their whole country in utter turmoil. I am in daily contact with my dear friend, Erika. About 12 years ago she was my interpreter in the school in Gyula, one of the villages supported by UCP. She is now married with a 5 year old. I stayed with her in her hometown, Berehove close to the border of Hungary, after the mission 4 years ago and got to know her town and surrounding area. Erika is a teacher but all the schools closed on the first day of the invasion and she is now helping to run a refugee centre in the school. They are cooking for hundreds of people fleeing to the west either to stay in Ukraine or travel on to Hungary. These teachers and staff from the school are offering the refugees rest, essential items and hot meals. They are working long hours every day – in Erika's words "These days are starting to become a new normal – as sad as it is this is our reality now". I cannot imagine what it must be like to have to leave your comfortable home, job, town and everything that you know and flee to what they hope will be a safer place. I pray that there will be a solution to this awful crisis soon.

Meanwhile at home I am sure we have all been devastated by the news of the death of Alan Jones. I have known Alan since I first joined the church in 1975. We were both junior church teachers together in the early days, we both sang in the church choir – when we had one- we have been on the Ukraine mission together and been to quite a few Synod days together as well. I have been privileged, as we all have, to have been part of the congregation for many of Alan's services where I have learnt so much, enjoyed his gentle humour and been witness to his great faith. I will miss you dearly Alan.

God bless you all,
Carol

Alan's funeral will be on Monday 4th April - 12.15pm at The Oaks and 2pm at Petersfield URC.



Dates for your diaries –

Saturday and Sunday April 2nd and 3rd – Spring cleaning weekend at Petersfield!

Tuesday April 12th, 9.30-11.30 – Easter craft and worship for young people

Thursday April 14th at 7.30 pm– Joint Maundy Thursday service at the Methodist Church

Friday April 15th – walk of witness from the Methodist Church followed by Good Friday service at College Street at 11.00 am.

Easter Sunday 17th, 10.30 am -Easter Sunday Service at the URC

Saturday May 7th – URC Big day Out at Hollycombe

Sunday May 15th Stomp around the Lake for Christian Aid + Forest Church

Friday May 20th - Anniversary celebrations at Liss – cheese and wine followed by an act of worship

Saturday May 21st – Anniversary celebrations at Petersfield – afternoon tea

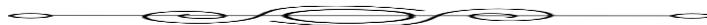
Saturday June 25th – Church Family Fun Day with the theme Alice in Wonderland.



I will be compiling the Annual Report for 2021 over the next few weeks. If you are chair of a committee or run any activity within the church life please could you send in a short report which I can incorporate in the full report.

Many thanks,

Carol



Music and Meditation

" The Free Radicals, Music and Meditation, 7.30pm on 13th April 2022, the Wednesday of Holy week, at St Peter's church, is in aid of our very own Ukraine Christian Partnership. Fiona Darling will be singing and Val Hart reading. Do come to be moved, and to support this excellent cause. Link to the charity including links for giving are as follows [How Can You Help? | Ukraine Christian Partnership | UK Charity \(ukrainecp.org\)](#) "

Fiona Darling

A Message from our Church and Community Worker...

Happy Easter to each and every one of you, may God's blessings shine upon you and may you know his love and purpose for you.



But sometimes it's hard to know if you can't hear God's voice or if the dots don't seem to add up. Jesus knew his purpose, knew his end before most probably he even started his ministry, taking time out to pray and be close with his Father. Jesus would have had an uphill battle too, being tempted by the devil. Make the right people understand the importance of his ministry before he had to die on the cross to fulfil the prophecy and have eternal life in heaven. Only three and a half years to tell people, most who didn't want to listen or understand his teaching. Yet we have our whole lives to learn understand and pass the good news on.

Lots of us will not feel comfortable shouting God's word for all to hear. Some of us will quietly show Gods love by our actions. Some of us will be warriors in prayer. Each one of us having a calling. All these things are great, really good. So do not worry about what others bring to the table, remember God made each and every one of us to be who we are.

Jesus would have brought thousands to the good news; we can bring thousands too. We together are the body of Christ we can, will and do, make a different in people's lives. We may never know who or when we help people find God. But he will open the door when they knock and find a place in their hearts. Have faith, talk to God, and know you can move mountains in his name.

Love

Jo Hopkins



No sunbeams

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his anxious mother, he explained: "This morning they told me that Jesus wants me for a sunbeam. But I want to be a train driver!"

This section would have previously contained **A message from Emsworth...**

We will all greatly miss the regular contributions in the Messenger from Alan Jones. They could be challenging and thought-provoking at times, but Alan's wisdom, humour, love and faith always shone through.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Cora and his family at this time.

The Ukraine mission team also remember with fondness Alan Jones. Alan was his usual cheery, encouraging self on summer missions and provided sterling service as dentist, preacher and community team member. Who can forget Alan jokingly thinking that all his dental patients wanted a kiss from him. Turns out that the Hungarian for '[are you] finished?' sounds remarkably like kiss in English. And little did Alan know that a conversation with a medical student would result in him later playing the euphonium at said student's wedding in Hungary!

David Darling



10th April Palm Sunday

It must have been a dramatic sight on Palm Sunday when Jesus approached Jerusalem to the adulation of the crowds. *'A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"'* (Matthew 21:8,9).

But not everyone in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus; in the very next verse we read, *'the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"'* (10). But by the end of the week, the crowds had turned against Jesus and were demanding His crucifixion. (Matthew 27:22).

Why did they turn against Jesus so quickly? Perhaps they were disappointed because He refused to fulfil their expectations in establishing a new political kingdom. Instead, He came to change our hearts and save us from our sins by His death and resurrection. As He said during that week, *'My kingdom is not of this world.'* (John 18:36). This deeply disappointed those who hoped that He would throw out the hated Roman occupiers.

Where would we have been on that first Palm Sunday? *Among the disciples who welcomed Him or among the sceptical crowds?* It's easy to judge those who condemned Jesus, but would we have acted differently? Can we too be disappointed when Jesus fails to meet our hopes and expectations of Him?

The message of Easter is that God still loves and accepts us, and because of Jesus we can be forgiven.

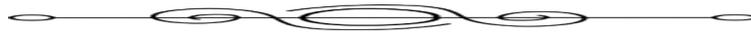
He came for one simple reason: *'For Christ also suffered once for sins...to bring you to God.'* (1 Peter 3:18). May we welcome Jesus afresh into our lives this Eastertime.



Two donkeys

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: “Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don’t even recognise me.”

The other donkey replied: “That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much.”



14th 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.

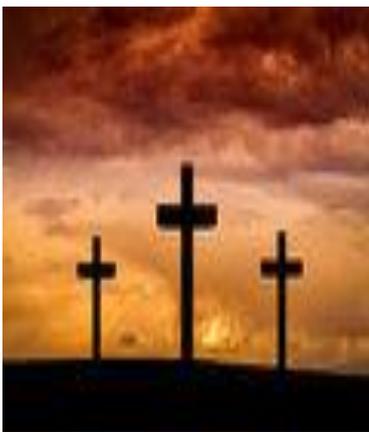
Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord’s Supper, saying, ‘this is my body’ and ‘this is my blood’ as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. 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.

15th 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).

Music and Meditation for Holy Week

Wednesday 13th April

7.30pm

LENT

St

Peter's Church, Petersfield



A short and contemplative time of reflection on the crucifixion, in which The Free Radicals sing a selection of the best choral music written for this season over the past 400 years, from the Renaissance to the present day. The music will be complemented by some short and dramatic poetry readings. Prepare to be moved - and to go home feeling full of optimism! A collection will be taken in aid of the refugees from Ukraine.



An Easter reflection

“When you die, that’s it. Nothing. Out like a light.” That’s what the man in the pub said, and his mates all nodded, though the one whose mother had died the week before wasn’t really quite so certain. Still, it seemed to make sense.

After all, we know what ‘dead’ means: dead leaves, dead batteries, dead fish, dead pets . . . and dead people, to be honest. While we recognise that it’s all too easy to go from alive to dead, we’ve got serious doubts about the possibility of any return journeys.

Which is why Christians have an uphill task at Easter. Jesus was a great man, and people want to remember how He died. Fair enough. But it starts getting complicated when Christians insist that Jesus died - but didn’t stay dead - in fact, that He’s alive now. That ‘return journey’ has happened, they say.

That’s the problem about Easter, Christians persisting in what sounds like a ridiculous belief. If they just dropped the resurrection bit and concentrated on the wonderful teaching of Jesus and His example of generosity, compassion and love then everybody would find Christianity much more believable. Wouldn’t that make sense? And wouldn’t that fill the churches again?

Well it might (or, more likely, it might not). But in any case, the trouble is that it wouldn’t be Christianity at all. The faith of Christians actually depends on the resurrection of Jesus, and always has done, right from the earliest days.

After the crucifixion the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross by some of His friends and put in a rock tomb with a heavy stone rolled across the doorway. Yet the following Sunday, the third day after His death, His followers claimed that they had met Him, seen Him, talked with Him.

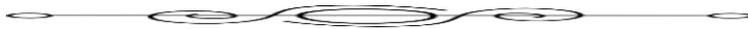
So certain was their belief that nothing could make them recant it. Not ridicule, not torture, not even death itself. They couldn’t deny His resurrection because they were absolutely convinced that it had happened.



Plenty of clever and powerful people at the time had a vested interest in proving them wrong. It shouldn't have been difficult to prove that a dead man had stayed dead, especially when you have at your disposal the resources of the greatest empire in history. Yet they didn't do it, because it couldn't be done.

Still today millions of people all over the world believe that Jesus did in fact rise from the dead. They include brilliant scientists and philosophers as well as plenty of 'ordinary' men and women of all ages. They believe it because they respect the witness of those first Christians, and because in many cases their own lives have been transformed by a relationship with Jesus - a relationship that wouldn't make sense if He were dead!

Christians don't put their faith in a dead hero from the past, but in someone who is alive and *active in their own lives and in the world*. That, in a nutshell, is the real message of Easter.



Notices found in church newsletters - that didn't quite come out right!

- * This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- * Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.
- * Bring & share church supper: Prayer and medication will follow.
- * Don't let worry kill you. Let the Church help!
- * The organist invites anyone who enjoys sinning to volunteer for the choir.
- * At the church meeting last week the rector spoke briefly and delighted the audience.
- * Remember in prayer the many who are sick both of our church and the community.
- * Smile at someone who you find hard to love. Say 'hell' to someone who doesn't much care about you.

Community Matters

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST OFFICE
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

Frontline Petersfield Debt Advice

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

Telephone:
07919 998442 (24hrs)

Email:
petersfield@frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

Website:
www.frontlinepetersfield.org.uk

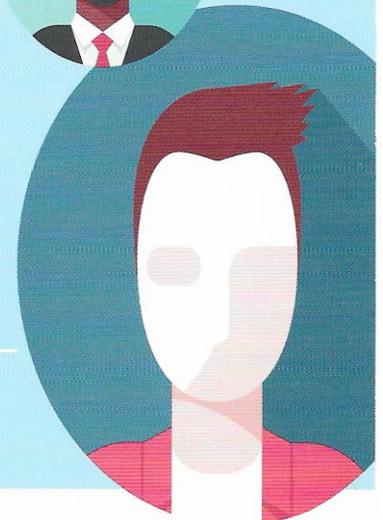


www.frontlinedebtadvice.org.uk

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Food Bank Updates



Distribution move to the Petersfield Methodist Church
Having one base in which to sort and distribute food has reduced the need for food packs to be transported across town, saving time, money, reducing the risk of damage to packs, also reducing the carbon footprint.

Stock and Donations: Mondays and Wednesdays: 10 am – 12 pm
Distribution: Tuesdays and Fridays: 9.30 am – 11.30 am

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

Or call Lucy on **07988043870**

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 Tuesday 12 April. 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
- **Ukraine Table** – We are pleased to announce that the 'Ukraine Table' is now back. There are Easter Cards and small gifts made by the ladies of Connie's Handicraft Group.
Donations received help us all to support the Ukraine Christian Partnership

Rotas – April 2022

Date	Duty Elders	AV
April 3	Jo Oru	David Darling
April 10	Ron Wing	Keith Evans
April 17 Easter	Mary Fair & Mike P-H	John Lewis
April 24	Tim Abbott	Carolyn Barton

Welcomers' Rota

Date	Welcomers
April 3	Grace Fountain
April 10	Val Hart
April 17	Catherine Adams
April 24	Janet Adams

Please arrive 30mins before start of the service.

If date does not suit you please adjust with another person as a swap.

Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar – April 2022

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

Sunday	3	10.30 am	Esme Kelly	
Tuesday	5	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Wednesday	6	2.30 pm	Home Fellowship Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	7	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC & Zoom
		7.30 pm	Home Fellowship Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
Sunday	10	10.30 am	The Minister	
Tuesday	12	9.30 – 11.30	Easter Craft	CFC
		2 pm – 4pm	Drop-in Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Womens' Fellowship	CFC
Wednesday	13	7.30 pm	Music and Meditation	St Peter's Church
Thursday	14	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Zoom
		7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Joint Service	The Methodist Church
Friday	15	9.30 am	PACT Walk of Witness	
		11 am	Good Friday	URC
Sunday	17	10.30 am	The Minister	
Tuesday	19	2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Wednesday	20	2.30 pm	Home Fellowship Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	21	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Zoom
Friday	22	10.30am	Friday Fellowship	CFC
Sunday	24	10.30 am	Ron Wing	
Monday	25	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Study	CFC
Tuesday	26	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
Thursday	28	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Zoom
		8.00 pm	Home Fellowship Group	12 Geddes Way

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

Support For Ukraine

The response to our Ukraine Christian Partnership crisis appeal has been absolutely overwhelming. We are completely bowled over. Thank you so much for your amazing generosity!

We all enjoyed Charlotte's Ukrainian-flagged cupcakes which raised £100 after Sunday service. Thank you, Charlotte! Thank you also to Andy & Carol for £500 from calendar monies, Julie West for £293 from a coffee morning, and Connie's handicraft group for £100. Just amazing efforts. And last, but certainly not least, thank you to the whole congregation for all your very kind individual donations. At time of writing, we are pleased to say that the magnificent sum of £4848 (+gift aid) has been raised by Petersfield & Liss URC!

We have also been very blessed by donations from friends or other contacts of church members. Even in dark times, God is able to bring about good.

Hallelujah!

David Darling

Fundraising Challenge

" One of the young radiographers I work with, has been so moved by the situation in Ukraine, that she decided to do use her skills as a swimmer to raise funds for Ukraine. She is doing it in aid of our "Ukraine Christian Partnership", to help fund the refugee centres that have been set up. For those who would like to help her raise funds, below is the link to use. Also, Kelly has given permission for the link to be shared".

Fiona Darling

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/swim13forukraine>

13 miles in 30 days



**Help Kelly Meaden raise money to support
Ukraine Christian Partnership**
www.justgiving.com

A Prayer For Ukraine

Lord of lords and Prince of Peace, our politicians are predicting the biggest war in Europe since 1945, and we simply cry out to you urgently to write another story in our time. Thwart the dark machinations of evil men. Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to peacemakers seeking an equitable and less violent way. May politicians exercise the wisdom from above, which is peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, and full of mercy [James 3:17].

Father God, King of all nations, we cry out to you now for the people of Ukraine. We ask you to rescue those who are vulnerable from the hands of their enemies that they may live without fear before you all their days [Luke 1:74-75].

Holy Spirit, we pray for the church in Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. Give our many brothers and sisters in that nation courage in this crisis that they may proclaim the good news of your kingdom, bind up broken hearts, and bring comfort to all who mourn. [Isaiah 61:1-2].

You Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. And so we ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. Make a peace that is strong and not weak. De-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in you. And so, we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: *Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; He shall be exalted in the earth.* [Psalm 46:10].
Amen

(Taken and adapted from **24-7 Prayer International**)

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/a-prayer-for-the-crisis-in-ukraine/>

Christian Aid Simple Lunch

I would like to say a huge thank you to all who helped make the day such a success. Your hard efforts and donations raised an amazing sum of: -

£668.36

Carolyn Barton

Christian Aid Week

15-21 May 2022

We're raising our voices to call for climate justice. Together, we can restore Justice to our world.



Hungry to provide

Look out for the 'Quiztian' Aid Quiz on Saturday 21 May
£5 to enter, prizes to be won.



JOIN US IN 2022 FOR

FOREST CHURCH

Sunday May 15th - 2pm

Sunday September 25th - 2pm

Saturday December 3rd - 2pm

For more information and locations, please speak to
Jo Hopkins or email -
communityworker@petersfieldurc.com

A wonderful Forest Church on the Heath last month with lots of new life being found. Tiny bugs and delicate buds discovered by all. Over 14 different bird songs reported to us by Robin Hart and lots of new tree names to remember too. God is amazing and so is the world he has given us. If you want to join us next time, we are meeting at 2pm at top car park at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. For cloud-gazing, a trail walk and den building.



Eco corner - information and updates from the Eco Group

We offer a few tips on possibilities for more than kerbside recycling, for refilling and reusing in Petersfield....to be good stewards of God's beautiful creation!

Please see the **Petersfield infant school recycling poster**, but if it is more convenient to you, there is a crate in the church vestibule for these items which David Barton then kindly takes to the school.

Liss junior school, if you live in Liss or are passing you might like to know that 9am -3pm during term time, Monday to Friday, reception will accept the items below. You can also now leave these items in the crate for **Liss junior school** in the church vestibule, to be kindly taken to the school by one of our members who lives near the school.

Liss JS:- Digestive and other biscuit wrappers; cracker and cake wrappers; crisp packets; oral care products – toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes; pringle tubes, **all clean and tied in a bag.**

Recycling used blister strips from tablets and capsules has closed, so Carol is **NOT** collecting these.

The Petersfield Household Waste recycling Centre, 4-6 Bedford Road, will take items that the kerbside collection won't and this can be checked at [Petersfield | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk). No-one wants to take a part carload to the tip. An opportunity for collaboration with folk who live nearby?

Refill and Replenish, 15 the High Street, Petersfield, Tuesdays to Saturdays 9am – 5 pm

Sells food stuffs, handwash, floor cleaner, other cleaning products and other items. (Value for money varies greatly, rolled oats for making porridge recommended for competitive value and brown Basmati rice reasonable).

1. Bring your clean containers (Tupperware, bags, jars etc)
2. Weigh your containers.
3. Fill your containers.
4. Reweigh your containers.
5. Pay.

Juniper - sustainable goods and refillery, 33 Lavant Street, Petersfield, Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

Similar method of use as Refill and Replenish, different range. Also sell homemade sourdough bread once a week.

Food miles - Do you think of your food miles, that is, how far your food travelled from where it was grown/ produced to where you eat it and what the CO2 cost of that transportation was? Examples of high food mileage products include Argentinian steak or Australian wine (particularly if bottled in Australia) vs much lighter dried pulses, nuts and grains and the lettuce grown in your garden or Emsworth and sold at Petersfield market.

Do you think of how to minimise your food plastic single use wrapping and where possible use a paper bag or a bag or container you took with you, or a biodegradable or recyclable container supplied by the vendor?

Do you walk or cycle to the shops, or if in a car, stop off as part of a multipurpose journey e.g. on the way back from work?

Just food for thought. We all have different situations and possibilities we can look at.

Eco church questionnaire - The Eco Group has started looking at an Eco church questionnaire, wondering whether and when our church might be ready to apply for a Bronze award. The church will be looking at this in our various roles, committees and working on it at church meeting over the coming months and asking ourselves – is there anything we could do, at church and in our own lives, in a way that is better for the environment? The answer will be slightly different for each of us, but every little bit helps in our “environmental and climate emergency”.

Fiona Darling, on behalf of the Eco group (Hannah Thomas, David Barton, Val Hart and David Darling)



Recycling at Petersfield Infant School

We welcome the following items which help to raise valuable funds for our school

used batteries

empty toothpaste tubes, used toothbrushes & toothbrush heads

empty crisp packets (not tubes)

used pens used stamps

red, green or blue plastic milk bottle tops

unwanted spectacles (without the cases)

household cleaning wipes packaging

tinted fabric conditioner bottles and caps

dishwasher and laundry capsules or tablets plastic packaging

plastic air freshener packaging,

air fresheners and cartridges

any brand of flexible plastic cheese pouches

plastic nets from mini cheese packets

any brand of individual plastic cheese wrappers

any brand of sliced cheese protective plastic film

All of these items help raise much needed funds for our school with the exception of the used stamps which raise money for Canine Partners

and the spectacles, which go towards the Lions Club of Petersfield 'Sight For Life' initiative

Simply drop your recycling at the Front Door on St Peters Road and we will do the rest!

THANK YOU!

For our younger readers ...

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mark 16:1-8, John 20:1-18

Jesus' tomb had been sealed with a large stone.
Very early Sunday morning, some of Jesus' friends went to put spices on his body.

How will we move the stone from the entrance?

But when they got there ...

the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty... except for an angel.

Don't be afraid! God raised Jesus to life and he isn't here. Go and tell the disciples.

They fled to tell the others...

but they didn't believe them.

Peter and John ran to the tomb to look.

They saw the tomb was empty and only the cloths that Jesus' body had been wrapped in lying there. So they went back to the others.

Mary Magdalene stayed by the tomb, crying. She didn't understand that Jesus was no longer dead. When she looked in the tomb there were 2 angels.

Why are you crying?

I don't know where his body is!

Someone behind her asked
Who are you looking for?

Have you taken his body?

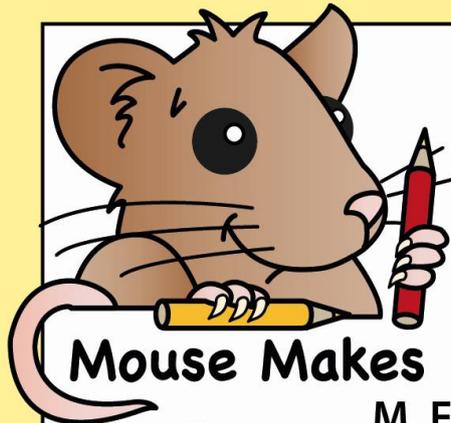
Mary

Then she recognised Jesus!

Teacher!

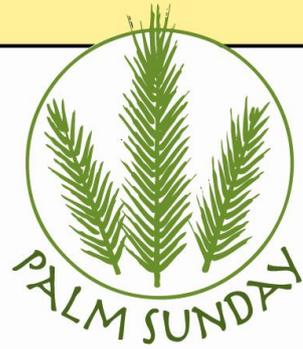
Don't cling on to me. I can't stay now. Go and tell my disciples I am alive.

So Mary went back and told the others the amazing news!



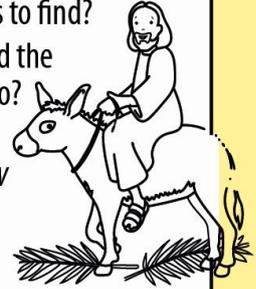
Mouse Makes

HAPPY EASTER!
 Jesus has risen!
 Jesus is with us!
 Jesus will come again!



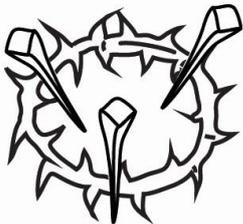
What did Jesus send the disciples to find?
 What did the crowd do?

Read
 Matthew 21:1-11



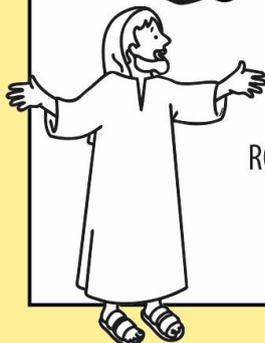
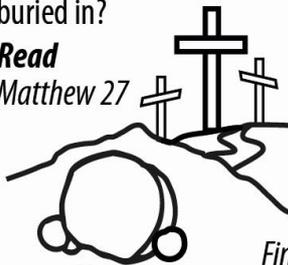
Who betrayed Jesus?
 Who denied Jesus?

Read Matthew 26:17-75

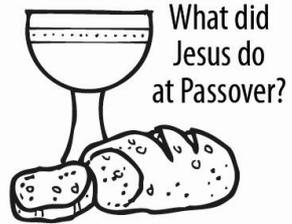


What did the soldiers put on Jesus at his crucifixion?
 What time did Jesus die?
 Whose tomb was Jesus buried in?

Read
 Matthew 27



M E S S I A H W I N E
 E T R E E D O N K E Y
 A Q C H R I S T I T P
 L R G O D H A O S H A
 R O B E A E N V T R S
 A O O B R A N C H E S
 N M J O K V A P O E O
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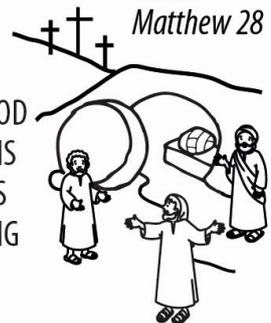
What did Jesus do at Passover?

Read Matthew 26:17-30



On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb?
 What had happened to Jesus?

Read
 Matthew 28



Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:

- DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA
- PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD
- KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS
- ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS
- TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
- MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
- GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT • SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER

Crossword**Across**

1 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4) 3 A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)

9 In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)

10 Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)

11 Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)

12 Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)

14 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)

17 Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)

19 What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5)

22 The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)

23 For nine (anag.) (7)

24 Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)

25 Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)

Down

1 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)

2 Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)

4 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — — , who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)

5 An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)

6 Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)

7 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)

8 One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)

13 Old Testament hymn-singing (8)

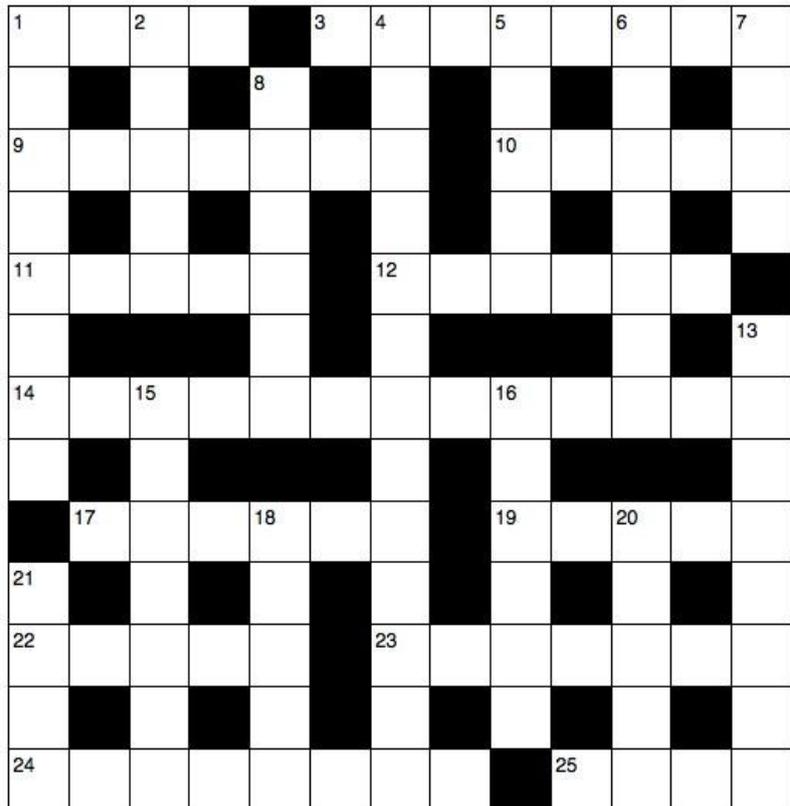
15 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7)

16 Of felt (anag.) (3,3)

18 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3)

20 Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5)

21 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4)



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



URC Wessex Synod - Big Day Out

Date: 7th May 2022

Time: 11am till 5pm

Venue: Hollycombe Steam Fair and Museum near Liss
(Wessex Synod will have sole use of the whole site)

Theme: Jubilee: 50th anniversary of the URC

Queen's Jubilee

February marked the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. Our [new anthem 'Rise Up and Serve'](#) written by songwriters Graham Kendrick, Mal Pope and the contemporary worship band Rend Collective has now been released!

We are Inviting local choirs to enter the competition to sing the anthem, with winners taking part in a YouTube video featuring choirs from around the Commonwealth. If you know a choir leader who would be interested, get them to check out the song. [Listen and Download Lyrics](#)

Let's help you plan

Download the free [Street Party Planner](#) we've put together to help local groups to organise local celebrations now. theplatinumjubilee.com has a guide on what to do when and some great party games ideas.

Decorate and give away

We've [partnered with CPO](#) to give you an option of **ready-made bunting, banners, mugs and other Platinum Jubilee resources**. You can also plan to give away copies of [Our Faithful Queen](#) and *The Girl Who Grew Up To Be Queen* – the new books which are out soon.

Rise up and serve

Christian service is at the centre of our drive. **We would like you to invite your church, schools and community to join in the [70 Acts of Service](#)**. We also have *On Her Majesty's Service* youth resources for schools, young people, children and uniformed organisations to get excited about. Find them on [theplatinumjubilee.com in the Learn section](#).

From the Hope Together Team

Further information available at:

<https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Group/Group.aspx?ID=371167>

Joint Public Issues Team Conference – 11 June 2022
‘From the Ground Up: unearthing hope and seeking justice’

JPIT Conference takes place online and in London on 11 June 2022.

Further details: <https://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/conference/>

The conference will focus on the increasing significance of the ‘local’ in action for change. During the pandemic, the local has taken on a renewed importance, and the needs, characteristics and opportunities in our communities have been seen in different ways. The local is playing a new role in the political landscape too, with the ‘levelling up’ agenda and regional and national identities assuming prominence, and grassroots community organising bringing new power to campaigning.

We will begin here, asking how we can listen to our communities and amplify local voices in order to work for change at national and international levels. The conference will seek to equip participants with new tools to use in their own context in order to call for change.

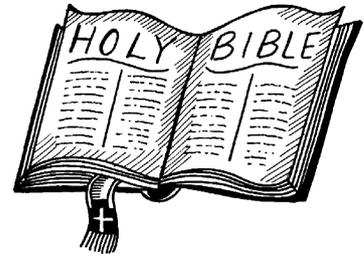
Keynote speakers at the conference will include Emma Revie, CEO of The Trussell Trust, Marsha De Cordova MP and Bishop Mike Royal, incoming General Secretary of Churches Together in England.

The conference is open to anyone who is inspired about working for change, from those already active to those who don’t know where to begin. There will be opportunities to respond creatively, to share in worship and to gather the tools needed to go out in hope.

We hope to make the conference as accessible as possible, which is why we are offering free tickets for those who have low incomes and for anyone aged under 25. These tickets are supported by the opportunity for other attendees to ‘donate a ticket’ when they purchase their own (costs are £5 for online, £12 for in person). Tickets can be booked at bit.ly/JPIT2022

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar April

April	3	Bournemouth: Richmond Hill St Andrew’s, Godalming
	10	Poole: The Beacon Church, Canford Heath, Twyford (Berks)
	17	Bournemouth: Immanuel, Southbourne, Guildford: Portsmouth Road
	24	Trinity United Church, Ringwood, Elvetham Heath



Lectionary Bible Readings for April

3	Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
10	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 <i>or Luke 23:1-49</i>
17	Isaiah 55:1-11 and Isaiah 12:2-6; Psalm 136:1-9; 23-26; Romans 6:3-11; Luke 24:1-12
24	Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29 <i>or Psalm 150</i> ; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

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 10th April 2022**. Please send articles to Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

Answers to Crossword on p28

ACROSS: 1, Womb. 3, Agnostic. 9, Long ago. 10, Fleet. 11, Horeb. 12, Yellow. 14, Deceitfulness. 17, Banish. 19, Towel. 22, Boils. 23, Inferno. 24, Eternity. 25, Defy.

DOWN: 1, Will hide. 2, Minor. 4, Glory of Christ. 5, Offal. 6, The Robe. 7, City. 8, Zabbai. 13, Psalmody. 15, Chalice. 16, Let off. 18, If son. 20, Worse. 21, Able.

Church Contact Details

Church	Petersfield : College Street, Petersfield GU31 4AG 01730 266475	Liss : Hillbrow Road, Liss GU33 7PX
Minister	Rev Joshua Thomas Tel 07734 254983 minister@petersfieldurc.com	
Church Office	Administrator Mrs Esme Kelly Office Hours 9am-12noon Tuesdays to Fridays	
Church & Community Worker	Mrs Jo Hopkins 01730 266475 communityworker@petersfieldurc.com	
Telephone	Church Family Centre 01730 266475	
Website	www.petersfieldurc.com	
E-mail	admin@petersfieldurc.com	
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”