THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH





PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

December 2026
No. 753

From the Minister ..



Dear friends,

There is a line in Luke's Gospel, I find myself returning to every December: ***"there was no room for them in the inn."*** It is one of the most familiar phrases of the Christmas story, and perhaps because it is so familiar we hurry past it. Yet it carries a question for each of us: where is there room in my life for Christ this season?

December has a way of filling up. Diaries crowd with carol services, nativities, work parties and family gatherings. Lists grow longer – cards to write, presents to wrap, food to order, journeys to plan. In our house, with three young children counting down the days, the excitement is wonderful (and a little exhausting!). None of this is bad; much of it is joyful and good. But it is very easy to arrive at Christmas Day breathless, having celebrated everything except the reason for it.

Advent invites us to do something countercultural: to slow down, to wait, and to make space. The innkeeper didn't turn the Holy Family away out of cruelty; his house was simply full. That is the danger for most of us too – not that we reject Christ, but that we never quite get round to making room.

So, this Advent, may I encourage you to keep one small space free? It might be ten minutes of quiet each morning with a candle and a Bible reading. It might be one service that you decide you won't miss. It might be a place at your table for someone who would otherwise spend Christmas alone. Room for God so often turns out to be room for others as well.

And as we turn the page into January, the same invitation stands.

New Years resolutions usually focus on doing more – more exercise, more achievement, more productivity.

What if, in 2027, we resolved instead to make more room? Room for prayer, for rest, for friendship, and for the God who still comes quietly into ordinary places.

The good news of Christmas is that God doesn't wait for us to have everything tidy before arriving. He came into a crowded town, to a borrowed stable, among ordinary people. He comes to us in the same way – into busy lives and imperfect homes – and asks only for a little room.

Do look out for details of our Advent and Christmas services in this magazine. I look forward to celebrating with you. Wishing you and those you love a blessed Christmas and a hope-filled New Year.

With every blessing, Josh.



Message from our Church and Community Worker...



Last month was a very special one for Children's Church and our wonderful Isla Thomas, who was awarded by Rev Michael Hopkins (no relation) The Lundie award for her outstanding contribution to the church. For her commitment to the children's Nativity Services for the past two years in finding the scripts and playing one of the main parts, as well as her music and singing in our church services, which we all so love to hear.

Well, done Isla, we look forward to hearing what you spent £100 award money on.









We had a wonderful walk around the Pond on Sunday 8th Nov, the weather was perfect and the autumn leaves were breathtaking, we started with a short poem, which Ann also read in the Oasis group on the Thursday.



The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me,

and I wake in the night at the least sound

in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,

I go and lie down where the wood drake

rests in his beauty on the water,

and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of the wild things, who do not tax their lives with forethought

of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me day-blind stars

waiting with their light. For a time,

I rest in the grace of the world and am free.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this year, it means everything. And I hope after the running around or helping Santa get ready for Christmas we all take a step back and think of the whole reason for Christmas. Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel ("God with us") and the light of the world rather than worldly power or material spectacle or greed. So please focus on keeping Christ central to the festive season and sharing the joy of Jesus' birth with others. Merry Christmas to you all.

Love Jo xx

Faith Comment

Submitted to the Petersfield Post for publication on 5th November

Church: Petersfield & Liss United Reformed Church



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I WILL NOT FORGET YOU

Sunday, 8th November is Remembrance Sunday, and Remembrance Day is 11th November. We will remember those brave men and women who fought for our freedom, peace and unity and celebrate their lives for their remarkable courage.

More than two thousand years ago another remarkable man walked this very earth, and He too fought for our freedom, peace and unity. He gave His life to accomplish this. All because of love, love for each one of us.

Despite the wars that were fought in the past for our freedom, peace and unity, we are still so divided, and peace seems to be so unreachable. People seem to struggle in all sorts of ways, and our differences at times still divide us. People are being enslaved even today, and religious groups are being persecuted for their beliefs. What did our brave men and women fight for, whom we will remember on 11th November? Was it not for our freedom, peace and unity?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who walked this earth more than two thousand years ago, told us in John 16 v 33, that in this world we will experience trouble, but we must take heart because He, Jesus, has overcome the world. With His help, we too can overcome. In the book of Revelation chapter 7 it says that for all those who believe in Jesus, those who have been suffering, Jesus will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to springs of living water. On top of that God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. He will come to our rescue. He will not forget us. He has even numbered our tears on a scroll as Psalm 56 v 8 says. We are not forgotten by our Lord Jesus Christ.

He remembers us.

Esmé Kelly

Church Christmas Card

As in previous years, I plan to produce a church Christmas Card again this year. The idea is that if you wish to send a brief Christmas greeting to everyone at church, you send the messages to me, and I will collate them all into one card that will be available for distribution to everyone.
Please send any messages to me on evansk282@gmail.com or phone 01730 235922 or hand them to me on a piece of paper **no later than Sunday 6 December.**
Look forward to hearing from you!
Mary Evans



Walk for Breast Cancer Now

In October I took on the challenge of walking 100 miles for Breast Cancer Now. Everyone knows of someone who has or is going through treatment at this time. We have a very close family relative who was diagnosed with breast cancer and who was going through daily treatment whilst we were walking, so it was lovely to walk alongside them daily. Walking some days was difficult, but nothing compared to those who are or have had treatment.

We would like to say a very big THANK YOU to everyone who has supported and donated to this worthy cause.

We have managed to walk 156 miles, in 3 weeks, and donations of over £900, we are truly blown away by everyone's generosity, support and love.

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH xx

Ken & Ann

Miscellaneous observations on life...

The love of God is broader than the measures of man's mind. - F. W. Faber

Forget your mistakes but never what you learned from them. - Anon


holiday at home
Winter
Saturday 23rd January
Come and join the team at Petersfield
URC College street. 10 to 3pm.
For craft, activities, lunch and
afternoon enertainment.
Please phone Jo on 01730-266475
to pre-book your place.

Community Matters



Food Bank Updates



Our opening times are: -
Stock and Donations: Mondays and Wednesdays: 9.30 am – 11.30 am
Distribution: Tuesdays and Fridays: 9.30 am – 11.30 am
At Petersfield Methodist Church

For more information please check our website: Petersfield Food Bank (pactfoodbank.org.uk)

Open every Wednesday from 2pm till 3. 30pm at St Mary's. You can meet us, enjoy a cuppa and take away your food bags. Delivery can be arranged for those on foot. Can't get to St. Mary's? Then a Wednesday delivery can be arranged if a request is made by lunchtime on Monday. Ring 01730 00659/300921 or text 07570792525
The Liss Foodbank is for surrounding villages as well as Liss. It can be accessed for your short-term need without a referral.
Please continue to drop off donations in St. Mary's Rectory porch, 111 Station Road, or bring donations to St. Mary's on a Wednesday afternoon.

Free Shop Petersfield

The Shop collects food from supermarkets, farms, community gardens and others, that would otherwise go to waste.
Anyone is welcome to come along and take what they need.
It is not part of the Food Bank; the goal is purely to keep good food out of landfill.
The Free Shop is located to the right of Petersfield Station Entrance.
Opening times: Wednesday 1.30 pm – 3 pm
Friday & Saturday 10 am – 11.30 am
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 December will be on the 8h and January will be on the 12th.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 – December 2026 /January 2027

Date	Duty Elders	AV
December 6	Tim Abbott	Carolyn Barton
December 13	Tony Phillips	Keith Evans
December 20	Wendy Holdsworth	Jonathan Oru
December 25	Carol Tubbs	David Darling
December 27	Isaac Oru	Roy Knight
January 3	TBC	David Darling
January 10	TBC	Keith Evans
January 17	TBC	Jonathan Oru
January 24	TBC	Carolyn Barton
January 31	TBC	Roy Knight

Welcomers' Rota December 2026 /January 2027

Date	Welcomers
December 6	Anne Glenn
December 13	Di Lugger
December 20	Roy Knight
December 27	Isaac Oru
January 3	Tim Abbott
January 10	Wendy Holdsworth
January 17	Robin Hart
January 24	Tony Phillips
January 31	Val Torrance

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

Tuesday	1	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		7.30 pm	Elder's Meeting	CFC
Thursday	3	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
		3-4.30 pm	Oasis	Gallery 30
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	**6**	**10 30 am**	**Esme Kelly -Gift Service**	
Monday	7	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	8	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2-4pm	Drop-in Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	10	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
Friday	11	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	CFC
Sunday	**13**	**10.30 am**	**Liss Band**	
Tuesday	15	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2-4 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	17	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
		3-4.30 pm	Oasis	Gallery 30
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	**20**	**10.30 am**	**Children's Church -Nativity**	
		4 pm	**Reflective Communion Service**	
Friday	**25**	**10 am**	**Minister -Christmas Day Service**	
Sunday	**27**	**10.30 am**	**Peter Jolly**	
Thursday	31	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary

Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar –January 2027

Sunday	**3**	**10.30 am**	**Mary Fair**	
Tuesday	5	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Thursday	7	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
		3-4.30 pm	Oasis	Gallery 30
Sunday	**10**	**10.30 am**	**Minister**	
Monday	11	1 pm	Ladies Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	12	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2.30 pm	Drop -in Tea	CFC
		7.30 pm	Women's Fellowship	CFC
Thursday	14	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Friday	15	10.30 am	Friday Fellowship	CFC
Sunday	**17**	**10.30 am**	**Minister - Communion**	
Monday	18	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
Tuesday	19	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
		2-4 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	21	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2.30 pm	Home Group	84 Moggs Mead
		2-4.30 pm	Oasis	Gallery 30
Sunday	**24**	**10.30 am**	**Minister -Café Church**	
			Church Meeting	**Sanctuary**
Monday	25	1 pm	Ladies' Bible Studies	Sanctuary
		2 pm	Monday Meditations	Sanctuary

Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar –January 2027 cont.

Tuesday	26	9.30 am	Little Fishes	CFC
Thursday	28	10 am	Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary
		2-4 pm	Games Afternoon	CFC
		7 pm	Home Group	Buckmore Farmhouse
		8 pm	Home Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	**31**	**10.30 am**	**Minister**	

Advent



Waiting is not popular in our culture, when so much can be obtained simply at the press of a button! Advent, as we wait for the coming of Christmas, is also an opportunity to learn what it means to be waiting for the promised return of Jesus. He says: *'It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back'* (Mark 13:34-35).

We live between Jesus' first and second comings and this parable reminds us of the need to watch and wait, as disciples living faithfully for Him. It reminds us of two kinds of waiting: *passive* and *active*. Imagine you're at the railway station, awaiting the arrival of a train. On the platform a man is asleep, as he thinks there is plenty of time before the train arrives. He is *passively waiting*. There is also a small boy on the platform who is excited about the train coming. He can't sit still and constantly looks down the track to see if the train is coming. He is *actively waiting*, as he expects the train to arrive at any moment.

Advent gives us a choice: *how will we wait for Jesus' coming?* Passive waiting doesn't require much attention on our part. We can live our Christian life pre-occupied with our own concerns, rather than looking to God. However, active waiting involves an eager expectation, as we await Jesus' return, ready for Him to return at any time. All we want is to be found faithful as His disciples. So, there is nothing more important than being ready to meet our Master!

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 CHRISTIAN PARTNERSHIP

UKRAINE MISSION UPDATE

As we come towards the end of the year, we would like to thank you for all your support of Ukraine Christian Partnership (UCP) during 2026. It is very much appreciated!

It is always nice to have something to look forward to in the New Year and we are very pleased to announce that Pastor Sergey and his wife Olena, from Chornobiavka, Kherson, will be visiting us in Petersfield in early February (4th – 7th). As well as attending church on Sunday 7th, we hope to involve them in other activities. More details to follow closer to the time.

As you may remember, UCP has provided support for Pastor Sergey's church since early in the war. In particular, we fund their house rebuilding project, which helps make war-damaged homes liveable once more.

Pastor Sergey has shared the following words:

We cannot stop this war by our own strength. But we can do everything within our power to ensure that, even in the midst of war, people are not left without love, practical help and the hope found in Jesus Christ.

Dear friends, your support of our roof repair program is a very practical expression of this love. Every repaired roof is more than a completed project. It is a reminder to a family that they have not been forgotten, that there are people who care, and that even in difficult times there is still reason to hope. In this way, you are not simply supporting a project in Ukraine. You are becoming part of the lives of people who are trying to survive the war, rebuild their homes and find strength to continue.

We would be grateful if you could continue praying for:

Protection and safety: for our congregation, our team, local families and everyone living under the threat of shelling and drone attacks.

Our roof repair program: for the safety of our repair team, the necessary building materials and resources, and opportunities to help more families whose homes have been damaged by the war.

Spiritual growth: for the many people who are exploring the Bible and considering a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

Strength and encouragement: for our ministry team and their families, especially as they face the long-term effects of war and exhaustion.

Families, elderly people and those in need: that they may receive practical help, healing, restored relationships and hope.

The coming winter: for protection of energy infrastructure and the continued functioning of our church and its ministries.

Ukraine and its people: for the protection of those defending the country and for a just and lasting peace.

Thank You for Walking With Us

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



Pastor Sergey with his wife Olena



The church's house rebuilding team at work

Christmas prayer

Let your goodness, Lord, appear to us, that we, made in Your image, conform ourselves to it. In our own strength we cannot imitate Your majesty, power and wonder; nor is it fitting for us to try. But Your mercy reaches from the heavens, through the clouds, to the earth below. You have come to us as a small child, but You have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with Your tiny hands, embrace us with Your tiny arms, and pierce our hearts with Your soft, sweet cries.

By Bernard of Clairvaux 1090 – 1153

The Challenges of Christmas

Christmas is a great time of year, but it's not without its challenges! One household had 250,000 Christmas lights, and then realised they could not boil a kettle, for fear of blowing the system!

The challenge of over-indulging

We all remember the episode of the Vicar of Dibley, where she had to consume four Christmas dinners! Christmas is a time when we usually eat and drink far too much, the average person gaining six pounds in weight. But Christmas is not simply about gaining weight, but losing what weighs us down. *'Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.'* (1 Peter 5:7). Whatever your concerns or worries this Christmas, bring them to God.

The challenge of overspending

In the rush to buy Christmas cards, a woman bought a pack of 50 identical cards. Without reading the verse, she hastily signed and sent them off, but for one. A few days later she read the message: *'This card is just to say a little gift is on the way.'* Christmas is not about getting into debt, but God getting us out of debt. He spent exactly what was needed on the first Christmas night: *'You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.'* (Matthew 1:21).

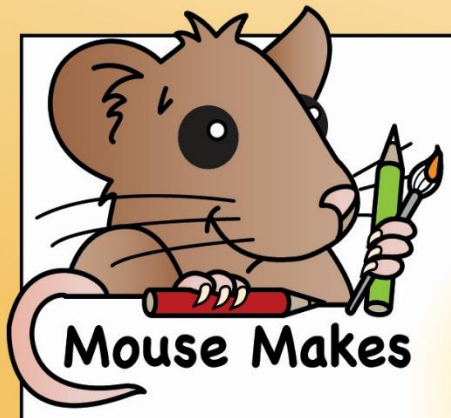
The challenge of over too quickly

Christmas doesn't last very long, yet the effect of the first Christmas is long-lasting. *'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'* (John 3:16). Jesus has come to bring us life in all its fullness, both for now and all eternity.

How do we face the challenges of Christmas? *'Yet what I can, I give Him - give my heart'*.

For our younger readers ...





Mouse Makes

JESUS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD!
"The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world... to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name He gave the right to become children of God."
from John 1:9-12

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

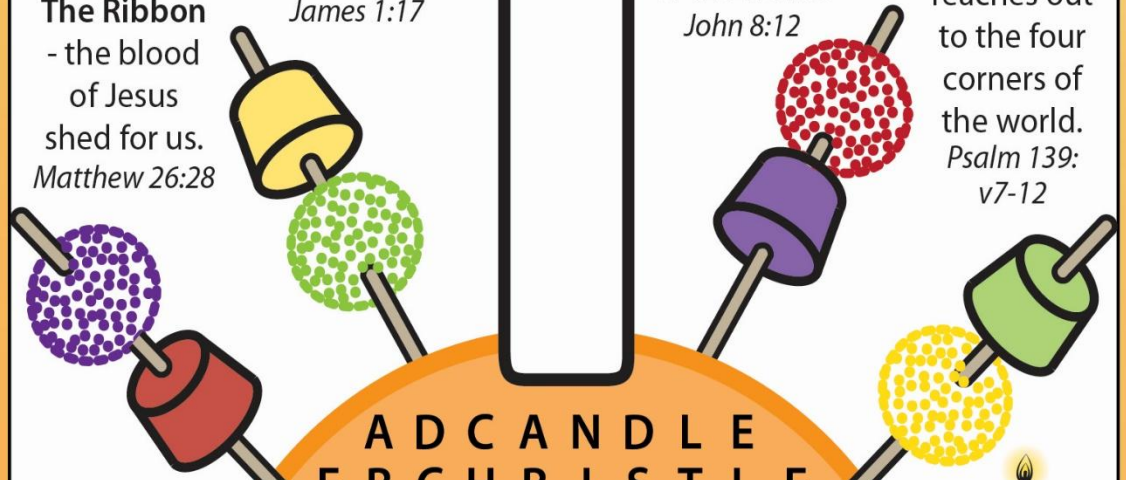
The Orange
- the world.
John 3:16

The Fruit
- God's goodness and provision.
James 1:17

The Candle
- Christ light, Jesus, light of the world.
John 8:12

The Sticks
- God's love reaches out to the four corners of the world.
Psalm 139: v7-12

The Ribbon
- the blood of Jesus shed for us.
Matthew 26:28



A D C A N D L E
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O R E J O I C E

CHRISTINGLE
CHRISTMAS
ORANGE
RIBBON
FRUIT
CANDLE
LIGHT
LIFE
GIFT
WORLD
GOOD NEWS





SAVIOUR
CHRIST
JESUS
MESSIAH
GOD
PEACE
LOVE
JOY
HOPE
REJOICE
ADVENT

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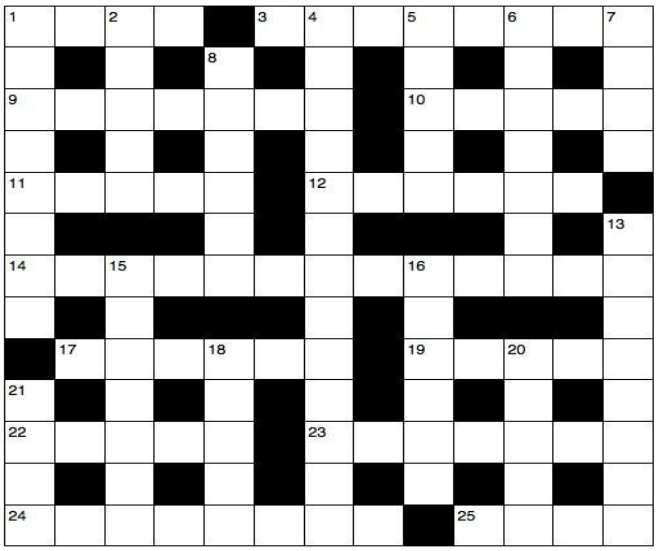
Crossword

Across



1 ‘How long will you — your face from me?’ (Psalm 13:1) (4)
3 ‘Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore’(Hebrews 13:13) (8)
9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
12 ‘For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted’ (Psalm 9:12) (6)
14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
19 ‘If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — — women, he might take them as prisoners’ (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
25 ‘Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?’ (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

1 ‘Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — — ’ (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
2 ‘You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “ — — murder”’ (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
4 One of Paul’s many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
5 ‘We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly’ (Romans 8:23) (5)
6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
7 ‘My yoke is — and my burden is light’ (Matthew 11:30) (4)
8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)

13 ‘O Lord, you have — me and you know me’ (Psalm 139:1) (8)
15 ‘ — to me the joy of your salvation’ (Psalm 51:12) (7)
16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
18 ‘Then he said to Thomas, “ — out your hand and put it into my side”’ (John 20:27) (5)
20 ‘God has said, “ — will I leave you; — will I forsake you”’ (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)

Sudoku

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

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Easy

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

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Medium

Silent Night, illustrated

In class little Jamie drew a picture of his favourite Christmas carol, Silent Night. His Sunday School teacher noted: “I see the manger with baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the star, and the shepherds, and three wise men. But who is the overweight man in the corner?"

Jamie replied: "That's round John Virgin."

Keep fit?

A magazine offered this exercise as a way of keeping your tummy trim over the Christmas break:
"First, clasp your hands over your head and place your feet together on the floor. Now bend to the right at the waist as you sit down to the left of your feet. Now by sheer muscular control, haul yourself up, bend to the left and sit down on the floor to the right of your feet. Keep this up for ten times and let us know of the result."
The first letter received by the magazine said: "HERNIA".

Christmas carols as mis-heard by children

O come, froggy faithful
Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly
We three kings of porridge and tar
On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me
Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire.
Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.
With the jelly toast proclaim
Olive, the other reindeer
Sleep in heavenly peas
You'll go down in Listerine …
Oh, what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap and hay

Solutions
ACROSS: 1, Hide. 3, Disgrace. 9, Sonship. 10, Oaths. 11, Tutti. 12, Ignore. 14, Foreknowledge. 17, Ashram. 19, Men or. 22, Aroma. 23, Nineveh. 24, Amethyst. 25, Trod.
DOWN: 1, His staff. 2, Do not. 4, Imprisonments. 5, Groan. 6, Altered. 7, Easy. 8, Shrink. 13, Searched. 15, Restore. 16, Lament. 18, Reach. 20, Never. 21, Jada.

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

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

Meeting Deadlines

I always meet my deadlines.
I don't even have to try –
They sneak up on me from nowhere,
Tap my shoulder and say hi.

It's you! I cry. So how are you?
I did not think you'd come so soon.
Can't stop now but why don't we meet
Next Tuesday afternoon?

Or, better still, two weeks from now?
My deadline shrugs and sighs.
A fortnight on, we meet again,
Much to my surprise.

Brian Bilston

I found this poem on Facebook (Meta). I'm dedicating it to everyone who contributes; thank you for making the Messenger what it is.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.
Carolyn



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

Property Officer recruitment announcement

We are delighted to announce that we have successfully recruited Robert Hanney to the full-time position of Property Officer (Building Surveyor) covering the entire Wessex Synod **from 14th December**.

Rob is an experienced building surveyor with a BSc in building surveying and 20 years practical experience dealing with responsive and planned building projects across a range of different property types. Rob's recent experience is at Housing Associations, but he has also worked at Local Authorities and for the University of Chichester on non-residential buildings, including Listed buildings.

Rob's project management experience includes preparing property condition surveys, diagnosing building defects and developing practical design solutions, then producing specifications, working drawings and schedules of work in accordance with any associated approvals and all statutory compliance requirements. Rob's construction management experience includes preparing budget estimates and all tender and contract documentation, then monitoring contractor performance and overseeing all stages of construction, including project delivery, handover and the defects liability period.

Rob will be based in the Synod office and is keen to start visiting many of our churches in January to get to know our buildings and their pipeline of building projects, and will make contact with relevant people as soon as possible to arrange initial conversations and meetings.

I am sure you will wish to join me in welcoming Rob and making him feel at home in the Wessex family. He will be reachable on surveyor@urcwessex.org.uk, 02380 674516 and 07351 218313.

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar December 2026

December	6	Bracknell; Trinity Totton
	13	Faringdon; Trinity United Church, Ringwood
	20	St Peter's, Guildford; Trinity, Bournemouth
	27	Thatcham; The Moderator and Synod Staff

December Prayer From Eco Congregation Scotland

Collaborative God
By Whose Word
The Heavens And The Earth Are Formed,
That Earth May Bring Forth Such Fragile Diversity Of Life
And The Seas Teem With Such Vulnerable Abundance.
In Christ, Your Word Made Flesh
Preserve And Heal In Us
Your Collaborative Image And Likeness
That In Partnership With Fellow Creatures
Both Great And Small
We May Serve The Earth, And Live To Your Glory
God, Involved,
In Every Habitat And Generation.

Amen

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar January 2027

January	3	Dorchester; Aston Tirrold
	10	St Francis, Banbury; Brill
	17	Avenue St Andrew's, Southampton; Banbury URC at the Haven
	24	Broad Chalke; Blackbird Leys, Oxford
	31	Bishop's Waltham Free Church; Cumnor, Oxford

January

Grant, God of wisdom and compassion
that your Church be awake and united
with all people of faith and goodwill
to the urgency of change at every level of human life
that, made resilient by faith to what yet may come
we perceive and proclaim
Christ's Great Commission
of Good News to every creature
whom you have called into being
and gifted with breath to praise you
One God: One Creative Community. Amen.

Eco Congregation Scotland

Lectionary Bible Readings for December 2026 /January 2027



December 6	Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
December 13	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-5; Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 20	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
December 27	Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
January 3	Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18
January 10	Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
January 17	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
January 24	Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
January 31	Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

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 **February Messenger** is Sunday January 17th. Please send articles to Messenger Editor, Carolyn Barton, tel 01730 265884 e-mail carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com

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Sunday Services	Mornings at 10.30 am Services will be held at College Street
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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"

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