

THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



700th Issue



July/August 2021 No 700

From the Minister ...

It has been a great couple of weeks for me as a football fan, firstly my team won the champions league making them temporarily the best in Europe (despite coming fourth in the domestic league) and then on Friday of last week the Euro's kicked off and there is a sense of optimism about England's current crop of talent. With this tournament, followed by Wimbledon and then the Olympics, it is every sports fan's dream summer!



On Saturday however, everything was put into stark contrast. Denmark were lined up to play Finland in what was to be the Fins' first game in a major tournament. The game was fairly uneventful until about the 40th minute when tragedy struck, the Dane's star player Christian Eriksen collapsed suddenly and required emergency medical help immediately. Thankfully, those on the field that day acted swiftly and decisively, and disaster was averted, Eriksen survived and was rushed to hospital for further tests. However, in those moments in which he lay motionless on the field of play, every single person felt an unbelievable sense of worry and concern for this one man. His teammates thankfully shielded him from the view of the cameras, the team captain unblocked his airways, put him into the recovery position and then consoled his wife who ran on to the field overwhelmed with worry for her husband. Teammates, appeared to be praying for him whilst fighting back the tears and as Alex Scott who was in the studio that day put it - I think football totally goes out the window right now. You're thinking about his family and the rest of his players out there witnessing it as well.

'Actually just got on my phone and told my mum that I love her. It's a reminder of how quickly life can change just like that.'

For those moments, nothing else mattered. The game was of so little importance and globally, we all came together sending our prayers and good thoughts for the player, his family and teammates. I've just come back from a week away with my family, these trips always leave me feeling so blessed to have those people I love around me, we must hold on to those feelings and try not to take those closest to us for granted. In times of trouble, many people turn to prayer and the hashtag – praying, often appears on social media following troubling incidents like Eriksen's collapse on Sunday. As Christians we believe in the power of prayer, we believe that nothing is too big or too small to bring to God and Philippians 4:6 reminds us that in all things, we can turn to the Lord

who hears our prayers and that offers me huge comfort to know that God is listening and God cares. Keep your loved ones close and don't take them for granted and know that God who cares for each and every single one of you is there listening and caring for you even in your darkest moments.

This message was recorded for 'Thought for the day' for Alan Cosh on the Petersfield radio station



Also on the theme of sport...

Olympic Gold

This month should see the start of the Tokyo Olympics, having been postponed from last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. A number of New Testament letters refer to Olympic sport including Hebrews: 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (Hebrews 12:1-2).

The Christian life is compared to a long-distance race, but despite the struggles and obstacles, there is a great crowd of witnesses cheering us on. We have a heavenly Father who loves us and a Saviour who has run the race before us. If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, He will enable us to finish the race.

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the semi-finals of the 400 metres. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore. He fell to the ground in pain and stretcher bearers came over to him. However, Redmond was determined to finish the race and so he started hopping toward the finishing line. Suddenly Jim Redmond, Derek's father, ran out of the stands towards him. "You don't have to do this," he told his son. "Yes, I do," said Derek, to which his father said, "We're going to finish this together." They completed the lap with Derek leaning on his father's shoulder. As they crossed the finish line, the spectators rose to give Derek a standing ovation.

Although he didn't win an Olympic medal, Derek Redmond finished the race with his father at his side. Let's not forget the encouragement we have to finish the race!



Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,

Halfway through the year! How did that happen!

I have been pondering about what to write this month for a while and then last night I shared home group on zoom with Keith and Mary. We were studying Jeremiah 18 where God talks to Jeremiah about the potter. It was quite a hard subject but so good to talk to the group where we know each other so well and trust each other to be able to say anything. One of the discussion points was "Have you ever wished you could remake your life? In what ways, and why?" It didn't take long for us all to say that we wouldn't change our lives at all. Yes, we've all had hard times and made mistakes, upset people and done silly things, but we all felt that because we have had God there to guide us, support us, forgive us and remould us that was the life we wanted to lead. I know there are some people who will probably have a different view but I just want to thank you all for being my church family. I know, for sure, that I was led to this family. What an amazing, diverse group of people belong to that family. God has a reason for each of us to be there and I thank Him for that.

If you don't belong to a home group and feel that you would like to then talk to Keith, he is the elder with oversight of all the home groups. Maybe it is time to start some new ones. Maybe you feel you would like to lead one. Have a think and ask God if this is the next step along the road for you.

As you know Josh has 25% of his ministry with Bordon and so will be with them on the first Sunday of the month. We are delighted that Mary Fair has agreed to take July 4th service at College Street. Whenever Josh is taking a morning service it will be streamed on zoom but this will not be the case for the first of the month. I'm delighted that we are starting Breakfast Worship for families on the third Sunday in the month. We were only able to do one last year but it was very well received!

God bless you all,

Carol

Dates for your diaries

July 4th Sunday worship at 10.30am at College Street led by Mary Fair

July 11th Sunday worship at 10.30am at College Street led by Ron Wing

July 15th Thursday at 8.00pm – Prayers for the NHS, our nation and the world, on zoom.

July 18th Breakfast Worship in the CFC

July 18th Sunday worship at 10.30am at College Street led by our minister, which will include Holy Communion

July 25th Sunday worship at 10.30am at College Street led by our minister



Prayer for the nation and the world

Prayer is needed for our world in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, for countries currently severely affected. Prayer is needed for governments, communities and all those in authority or with influence over the ethical dilemmas and practical challenges that abound in this world with regard to vaccination, sharing of resources, charitable aid, responsible safe behaviour and collaboration that determine all our futures about the world with respect to this virus. So many folk in our own country suffer bereavement, long COVID-19 or other consequences.

Individual prayer is of course important, but praying together can be such an encouragement, and we are taught that praying together is especially powerful. A couple of the verses that might give inspiration to us would be Matt 18:20 and Psalm 100:4-5.

Do think of joining us in a time of prayer on Zoom (limited to 40 minutes) 8pm on Thursdays 1st and 15th July.

Carol is kindly setting up the Zoom, details as below... Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77047121736?pwd=ZUxqM3YrRm>

owL09IZUtiUkJzMndDQT09

Meeting ID: 770 4712 1736

Passcode: Kk386c

Telephone access by calling any one of these numbers 02034815240, 01314601196, 02030512874, 02034815237.

Thank you!

Fiona and David Darling.

A Message from our Church and Community Worker...



Today I was listening to Radio 2's pause for thought, and it started me thinking about my relationship with God and where I find it. The Reverend was talking about doing a quiz and doing it rather well, until it came to the question about the Bible, which he got catastrophically wrong, the one question he felt he should have got right. On reflection he had the Bible always with him, in book form on his Phone and computer, so he did not need to remember every quote or where to find it. I wondered if that is how some of us feel about God too, he is always there so I do not need to worry. Or like this Reverend who actively searched the Lord out in other ways. I hope we all have our own way to feel God's love and strength, whether it be through his word and you know the Bible inside and out...(not me) or in the beauty of his world through all we see, hear and feel. Through worship so you feel his presence with us, however or whatever it maybe, please seek him to the full. The closer we are with God the more we will know him, feel his presence and be clearer of the plans he has for us.



Psalms 23:1-6 NIV

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Love Jo Hopkins



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*

Don't stop too soon

The story is told of a college graduation where there were a large number of graduates waiting to receive their degrees. Speed was of the essence, and so as the Chancellor presented their diplomas, he simply smiled each time and whispered: "Congratulations, keep moving."

It's actually good advice for all of life, and for your Christian life as well. Discovering the reality of God's love for yourself is life-changing, but – keep moving!

There is so much more that God has in store for you! Paul in 2 Timothy says "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day...."

So, wherever you have reached in your own faith pilgrimage, congratulations, but keep moving!



Following

A young mother writes:

It is always busy in our home, as we have four young children running about. But one particular Sunday afternoon James, my four-year-old kept following me about very closely. He was on my heels every time I turned around, and after nearly falling over him several times, I lost patience. 'Whatever is the matter with you?' I demanded. 'Why don't you go play?'

He looked up at me and said: 'This morning at church the teacher told us that we should walk in Jesus' footsteps. But I can't see Him, so I am walking in yours instead.' I gathered up my young son and felt tears in my eyes. I thanked God for this lesson I will never forget – about the value of being a living example to our young ones."



Cry baby

A woman took her four-month-old baby to visit her neighbour, but the baby began to fuss as soon as they arrived. The neighbour's five-year-old son asked where the baby had come from. "He was sent down from Heaven," the mother replied, above the screams. The little boy watched the baby crying for a few more minutes, and then turned to his mother. "I bet I know why he was sent from Heaven. God wanted some quiet up there!"



Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self. – *Charles Haddon Spurgeon*
Nobody can call himself a Christian who does not worship Jesus. – *John Stott*

A message from Emsworth ...

My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves. Hebrews 12 verses 5

I was sitting at my computer staring blankly at the wall wondering what to write this month when my eye rested on the two little paintings I have on that wall by Harold Coppins that reminded me of my time in The Boys' Brigade. One painting depicts the Lord Jesus holding the hand of a "Life Boy" (Now the Junior Section of The Boys' Brigade) at the foot of His cross. The caption for this painting is: "I will come with you, to which I have added the words "and He did!" The other painting shows Jesus behind a sergeant in The Boys' Brigade pointing the way he should go, with the caption



"The King's messenger to which I have added the words "and I am!" I thought I would write out the object of The Boys' Brigade but could not find it anywhere but then realised I actually remembered it: "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of the habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness."

The word discipline comes of course from disciple and to be a disciple is to be a follower, taking another as teacher and model. For us of course our teacher and model is the Lord Jesus Christ. In The Boys' Brigade, membership required attending Drill night and Bible Class each and every week and this of course was a proscribed habit or if you like a discipline. Each morning now I have a daily devotion with my Lord which follows the same pattern of Bible reading and prayer. I do not feel as if I have started the day properly unless following this regime. This is a discipline but one I happily accept. Outsiders of the Boys' Brigade criticised the emphasis on Drill. They thought it was far too militaristic particularly for young boys but the majority of opponents would be surprised to learn that most boys loved drill night. The working together as a

unit and the certainty of command at odds with perhaps the discipline they craved at home, whether they knew it or not.

There is the discipline to do but of course there is also the discipline to not do. Both actually are hard, but not putting so much butter on my bread has certainly helped my waist line!

Finally of course there is the discipline of punishment. My brother to this day denies hitting one of our chickens over the head. My brother hated our chickens; they used to gang up on him when he went to feed them. But I was beaten “black and blue” for this crime purely because as the eldest it had to be me!

Not one of us enjoys being disciplined or having a disciplined life. But is that true? Why develop discipline if we don't have a goal challenging enough to require discipline. Why pay the price if all you are after is a quiet undemanding life with a minimally challenging job, a passable spiritual life, and a just tolerable marriage? There is no need for discipline if you can meander through life without it.

But if our goals are higher than that, then discipline becomes a necessity. If we want to be a spouse, a parent or a friend who breathes life into other people, if we dream of honouring God with our finances, if we dream of using our spiritual gifts in a meaningful way, if we dream of maintaining physical health through diet and exercise then we need discipline. One of the fruits of the Spirit is patience and the rewards of discipline are seldom instant. The world clamours for instant gratification and easy solutions. The way of discipline is a hard choice sometimes. But true discipline should never be a straightjacket squeezing out the vitality, spontaneity and adventure of a faith filled life. If that happens, Christ no longer brings freedom and Religion becomes a heavy burden. Most people can't live that way for long. Some of those who really work at it develop such a self-righteous attitude that everyone wishes they would fail.!

If we are to be true disciples of Jesus we should look to all of His well ordered life, liberally sprinkled with mountain walks, seaside camp fires, boat trips, wedding celebrations, warm friendship filled dinner parties and overnight visits with close friends. Yes of course Jesus was disciplined about the important issues of life but definitely balanced this with the kind of activities that would enhance life with pleasure, light heartedness and joy. God rested from His work on the Sabbath; the God given day of rest which we seem to so totally abuse these days but that's another subject!

I would personally like to thank all those who were disciplined enough to produce these 700 wonderful “Messenger”s. Long may they continue!

Love, **Alan and Cora**

Church Gardening

Now that the summer weather has finally arrived, I am seeking to organise a small team to do an hour or so of general gardening at the church- weeding etc.

Can anyone interested in offering help, particularly on a Saturday morning contact me on 01730 265884 or at carolynbarton.barton6@gmail.com.

Many thanks

David



HIHCT Ride and Stride

This event will be held on Saturday the 11th of September from 10 am to 6 pm. All those who would like to join this fund raising event, please prepare for taking part in a way that suits you and contact me for details. For all those who may not be able to take part, please support the participants by donating to them

for the benefit of Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches fund.

Robin Hart.

From the editors ...

Welcome to this 700th issue of the Messenger! That means the magazine has been going for about 70 years, and how things have changed over that time. Technology has developed rapidly, and we are now able to produce a colour magazine with a professional appearance, compared to the early ones that were typewritten on to stencils and run off a duplicating machine. To celebrate this milestone, we have a supplement on the centre pages, which we hope will bring back some memories for some of you and will be interesting to delve back into the past for others. As we are nearing the end of our time of editorship, we would encourage you to think and pray as to whether you have the gifts and resources to consider taking on this role or one of the other roles described on the next page. As always we are very grateful to those who have contribute to this issue.

Keith and Mary

Church notices that didn't quite come out right....

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

Ladies, when you have emptied the teapot, please stand upside down in the sink.



Many of the church family are already involved in serving us in a huge variety of ways to enable us, as a church, to worship meaningfully and develop fellowship with each other and with the wider area. All this service is very much appreciated by us all. Extra help is always appreciated in all areas of service, but currently there are 3 particular roles in need of new blood. We do hope and pray that some folk in our congregation will be led to these areas of service.

Flower Co-ordinator - For many years, Jean Collins has been responsible for the lovely flower arrangements that have continued to enhance our worship. As well as producing many of these herself, she has also organised a willing team to assist her. Jean now wishes to step down from this role. . Jean writes... ***I am sorry to say that old age is catching up with me and I am hoping someone can take over the weekly flowers for church and their distribution afterwards as well as being responsible for our special services at Easter, harvest and Christmas. It's a big ask. Please contact me if you feel you are the right person for the job or Job share . Hoping to hear from someone soon. Thank you . Love from Jean Collins .'***

Website Manager - Our Church website is in constant need of updating so that people can find up to date information. John Clyde has been doing a sterling job in maintaining this but has now stepped down from this responsibility. He writes... ***'The role involves editing various pages of the website at regular intervals to keep the website up to date. This is mainly adding new items and removing older items no longer needed. This all needs to be done within the rules of the website provider. If you are interested in learning more about this role, please take a look at the current website at <https://www.petersfieldurc.com/> in the first instance and then contact me for full details and a tutorial session.'***

The Messenger Editor(s) - As many of you may be aware, by the end of 2021, we (Keith and Mary) shall have been editing The Messenger for 10 years. We feel that this would be the right time for us to step down from this role. While we have very much enjoyed producing the Messenger each month, and have been very blessed to receive so many varied and interesting items to include, we now feel that it is time for someone else to take on this task and bring a fresh look and approach to the magazine. Do please get in touch with us if you would like to know more.

St Swithun (or Swithin), saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.



Pandemic Prayer

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

Liberating God, walk with us into our new freedoms,
taking care to remember that we all approach life differently;
Give us sensitivity to people's feelings.

Give each person a sense of joy as we explore renewed life.

Reveal to us, your vision, as we hold on to the simplicity, we have found with you.

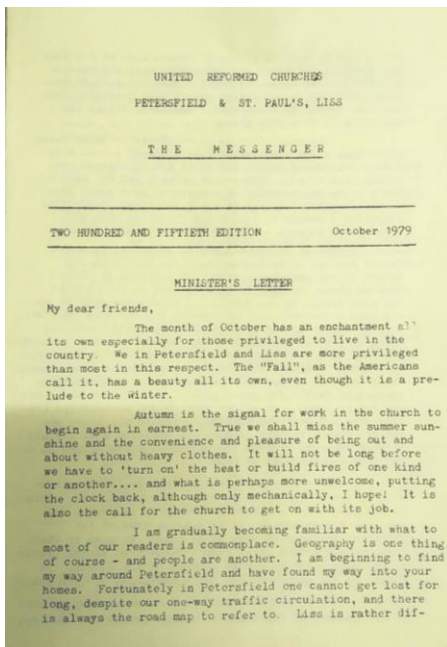
Enable us to share your enduring love for all people and creation.

Hug us every day, by your spirit. Amen

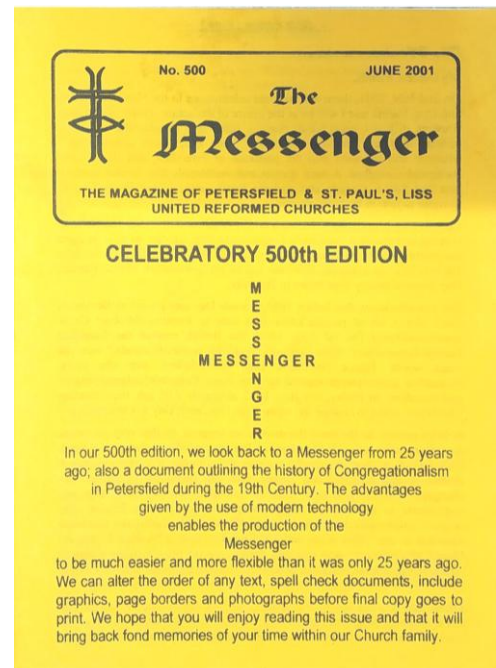
The Revd Sue Chapman, Hove and Portslade Pastorate, East Sussex

700 issues of The Messenger is a big milestone and to mark this, we have some special celebratory pages.

The Messenger has been produced by a succession of editors, each with their own style, and with the advances in technology, the printing has progressed from Roneo'd copies through various stages to the current colour printing. As well as the local congregations, the Messenger has been sent to friends in all parts of the world, who remember us and like to be kept updated.

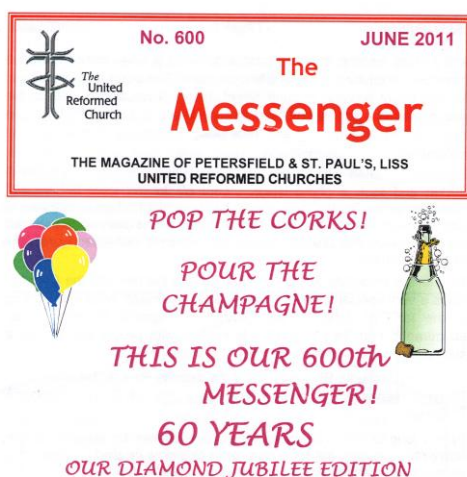


250th edition



500th edition

The changing face of the Messenger over the years

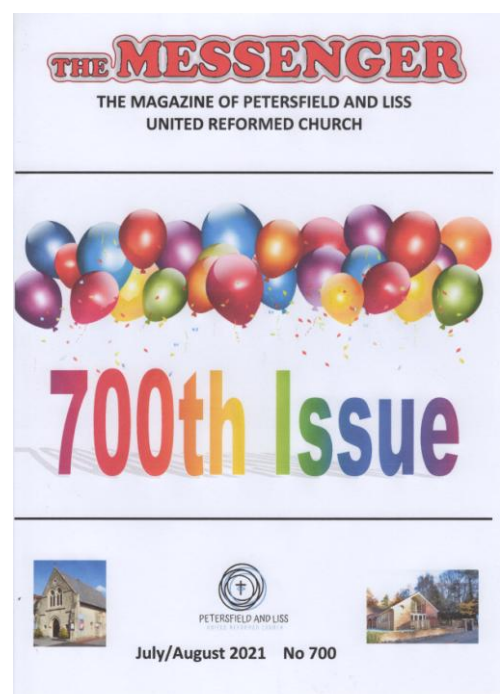


Dear friends,

Thank you for the warm welcome that you have given Sue and myself. We are enjoying being here and find the manse very comfortable. We are especially enjoying England in the Springtime and have been blessed with wonderful weather over the past four weeks.

One of many differences that we have observed between here and New Zealand is the number of footpaths and bridleways that are scattered around the towns, villages and countryside. In New Zealand, these are not a feature of our country and farming areas. However, there are plenty of walking tracks in provincial and national parks. Because Sue

600th edition



700th edition

There are many interesting articles in the older issues of The Messenger, and we thought you may be interested to read some of these again. The article below was written by Carolyn Jolly in 2003...

Off to the land of Paddington Bear

Where did Paddington Bear come from? Peru! As some of you will know, that's where I'm heading off to as well, in January, for a period of fifteen months. I am going out working as a volunteer for the charity *Latin Link*, and I'll be living in the city of Arequipa, in the south of the country. Arequipa is the second largest city in Peru and is situated about two hours from the coast, on the edge of the Andes, at an altitude of about 2,200 metres (around 7,000 feet for those of you who haven't gone metric yet).

I have been assigned to work in a day centre for physically and mentally disabled people in the city. This project offers the opportunity for the handicapped, who are often severely marginalised and ignored, to get out of their homes, socialise and meet others and undertake activities such as sports, crafts and outings. As the centre is just getting off the ground, I don't really know what my exact responsibilities will be, but I've just been asked to be enthusiastic and willing to help out with anything! So it will be quite an adventure.

In order to spend this time in Peru, I'm going to need to raise quite a lot of money and also be well prepared spiritually, emotionally and physically to make the most of my time out there. So I'd really appreciate your prayers in this. But don't worry, like Paddington, I will be back!

Carolyn Jolly



As a postscript to this, Carolyn writes... My time in Peru was overall a brilliant learning experience. There were many highs - from making friends with the children with disabilities and their families in shanty towns to becoming part of a Peruvian family myself. There were also several lows, including the death of my baby Peruvian cousin, Daniel, from cancer. But I am so glad I went and remain in informal contact with Latin Link Peru through a great friend who is a long-term missionary there. A belated big thank you to everyone who supported me through prayer, financial support, or emails/letters during my time in Arequipa!

See also article about Latin Link on page 17.



Many of you will remember the time Alan and Sue Missen spent with us in 2011

WALKING LIFE'S FOOTPATHS

I am here on exchange from New Zealand, and my wife and I have been enjoying England in the Springtime. One of many differences that we have observed between here and New Zealand is the number of Footpaths and Bridle Ways that are scattered around your towns, villages, and countryside. In New Zealand these are not such a feature. Because Sue and I enjoy walking together we have been exploring some of the local paths.

Life is a journey, and the Christian life is a spiritual journey. As I find myself living and working in the land of John Bunyan, author of the allegory, *Pilgrim's Progress*, I am encouraged that life brings us into contact with people and places in such a way as to further this journey with Jesus.

One of my favourite Bible authors is the Apostle Paul. In his letter to his Christian friends in Philippi, he says these words (Phillips translation; Phil. 3:16): *It is important that we go forward in the light of such truth as we have ourselves attained to.*

This encourages me to assume that God deals with us whatever our stage of spiritual growth and understanding and experience. Then he wants to lead us on in our journey with Jesus.

And to begin that journey, we simply need to respond to Jesus, who called his first disciples with the words, "Follow me." He is still issuing that invitation today.

Rev Dr Alan Missen

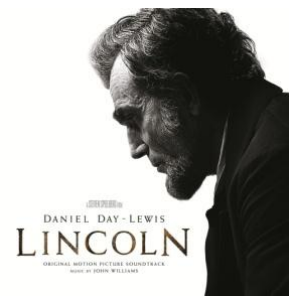
Petersfield URC (*Published in Petersfield Post: 1st June*)

With the recent unrest and the 'Black lives matter' movement, this article by Peter Norris from 2013 seems particularly relevant today.

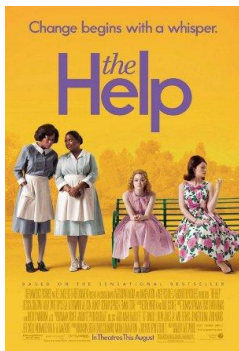
Living in Harmony is Black and White.

The films in October focus on the subjects of prejudice, discrimination and the struggle for equality. The first film to be shown is on Friday 4th and is **Lincoln**.

As the Civil War continues to rage, America's president Lincoln struggles as he fights the battle to emancipate the Black slaves.



The film that follows on Friday 11th is set in Mississippi during the 1960s, Skeeter



is a southern society girl who returns from college determined to become a writer, but turns her friends' lives and a Mississippi town upside down when she decides to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of prominent southern families. Aibileen, Skeeter's best friend's housekeeper, is the first to open up-to the dismay of her friends in the tight-knit black community. Despite Skeeter's life-long friendships

hanging in the balance, she and Aibileen continue their collaboration and soon more women come forward to tell their stories-and as it turns out, they have a lot to say.

So how much does the colour of our skin make us who we are, and shape the way the world sees us? The answer to that question I hope is obvious after decades of slow and uneven progress towards racial equality and enlightenment. However looking back less than 40 years the answer I would guess would not necessarily be quite so harmonious.



The keyboard on the old organ at Liss had black naturals and white sharps which is the opposite of today's piano and organs. This reminded me of another Paul that had something to say about harmony and black and white. Not, I might add St Paul

the Apostle but Paul McCartney the Beatle and his song Ebony and Ivory.

The words are set out below.

'Ebony and ivory live together in perfect harmony side by side on my piano keyboard, oh Lord, why don't we?

We all know that people are the same wherever we go. There is good and bad in ev'ryone. We learn to live, we learn to give each other what we need to survive together alive. Ebony and ivory live together in perfect harmony side by side on my piano keyboard, oh Lord why don't we?'

Revd Peter

Mission News

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



Latin Link
COMMUNITY WITH A CALLING

Latin Link is an international 'community with a calling' to love and serve God and our neighbour, through multi-directional mission work. The community includes over 140 members, from around 20 nations, serving in 15 Country Teams across Latin America and Europe.

History - Latin Link came into being through the evangelical interdenominational faith mission movement of the 19th and 20th centuries. Our roots are in the small but influential mission societies that operated in Brazil, Argentina and Peru. These were often quickly formed, experimental European groups, or individual pioneers, who later built sending agencies around them. Latin Link values the stories of these brave and intrepid adventurers who left their home countries without much concern for their prospects but with a passion to see evangelical churches established and growing healthily throughout Latin America.

Vision - Our vision is to see vibrant, Bible-believing Christian communities in every part of Latin America, impacting their neighbours, their societies, and the wider world.

Mission - Latin Link works in partnership with churches to send and receive individuals, families and teams, to or from Latin American communities, to share the love of God. Our members work with local Christians to meet a diverse range of needs, from caring for street children to training church leaders; from supporting prisoners to generating employment opportunities. It's all about holistic (integral) mission; we believe that sharing the gospel means addressing both practical and spiritual needs.

Values - Our mission springs from a desire to be involved with God in his work, and to bring honour to him. We believe that allowing people to follow their heart to fulfil a calling is how God uses Latin Link to achieve his purposes.

We value partnership and linking, fellowship and friendship, listening and encouragement, availability and flexibility; accountability, sensitivity, sacrifice and humility; seeking after godliness and openness to the leading of the Spirit of God.

Covid-19 is Ecuador's Rainforest

Jaap Bezemer is a specialist in tropical medicine and international health. He's a Latin Link member sent from the Netherlands, living with his family in Shell, Ecuador on the outskirts of a rainforest community. Jaap serves at an outpatient clinic there.



Jaap: "Each day during the peak from April-June 2020, we would have 40 Covid-19 patients coming in, and be visiting about three severely ill patients in their homes too. A few every day needed to be sent to the hospital to be put on oxygen, but there is serious mistrust in the public hospitals here and some did not want to go. We had to treat those with oxygen at home instead. In jungle communities, nobody applies PPE - there is no distancing and everybody drinks from the same cups. Inevitably, the jungle was infected massively at the beginning of the pandemic, but it showed signs of reaching herd immunity by July.

"I had Covid-19 myself early on in the pandemic. As we live in an indigenous community, it was hard to avoid. An upside for me was that catching and recovering from the virus at that stage gave me the confidence to travel around providing medical care across the region. Although Covid-19 cases are now declining here, the knock-on effects of the pandemic are really noticeable. Hospitals seem to get fewer and fewer supplies; my cancer patients aren't receiving their chemotherapy. Even the medication to intubate patients in intensive care is not available. The health system has collapsed.

"Of course my trust in God has kept me going through these really challenging times, and I've been able to share this with others. Several times I appeared on the local news and I explained why I was in Ecuador and that my faith in God helped me not to be afraid while treating Covid-19 patients.

"One time I visited an indigenous Shuar lady with Covid-19 who was feeling really scared. She was a Christian, so my team and I prayed with her. We went back several times to check on her during her recovery and we got talking about Jesus, along with her partner, who wasn't a believer yet. His heart was touched during her illness, and he decided to become a Christian too. I got to pray with and encourage him in his new faith. After her recovery, the couple decided to marry and invited me and my wife to be their godparents at the wedding! It's a wonderful story of hope to come from this difficult time."

***For further information , please see <https://www.latinlink.org.uk/> or at
87 London Street, READING RG1 4QA***

Time for a change

I have had my walking boots for a few years now, and they have been faithful companions. We have walked many miles together during that time, on my daily walks as well as on holiday. They are partly responsible for my physical recovery after Covid-19, so they have a place in my heart. They fit me very well, and we have adjusted to one another. But they are very thin now on the soles and heels, and it is reluctantly time for a change.

So, one recent Saturday I bought a new pair. They are clean and smart, and fully waterproof. The soles are strong and new. There are no signs of wear and tear. But I know that change is never easy. They will take some time to wear in. They may rub and I may get a blister or two. Occasionally I will long for my old boots, and wonder, 'Did I make a mistake?' Hopefully, they will become as much a part of me as my old ones as we tread the miles together. But there is always a risk with something new, Isn't there?

Change is never easy in whatever form it comes. But change is inevitable because life does not stand still, and we have to keep adjusting and adapting and being open to fresh winds of the Spirit. Never more so than in these present, troublesome days.

Strangely enough as I have been meditating on this, my reading this morning (Isaiah 9) contained a reference to 'Every warrior's boot used in battle ... will be destined for burning (v5).' Oh dear. I'm sure like me, warriors were fond of their boots too and found it hard to part with them.



Books of the Bible

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

This month we are focusing on ... **Hebrews**

- *What type of book is it?* Teaching
- *Who wrote it?* The author is unknown, but some of the leaders of the early Christian church have been suggested
- *When was it written?* probably before 70AD



In the early church, there was considerable concern about the relationship between Judaism and Christianity. This letter was written to the Hebrews (Jewish Christians) to clearly explain the superiority of Christ over anyone and everything and how the new covenant is greater than the old. This is followed by teaching about faith with many examples cited from the Old Testament. As with all other teaching in the bible, the teachings in the letter to the Hebrews are clearly still relevant today.

For our younger readers ...

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
2 Samuel 11:1-12:25

Kings normally led their armies to battles but David had sent his army with his commander, Joab, to fight the Ammonites.

David was strolling on his palace roof when he saw a beautiful woman.



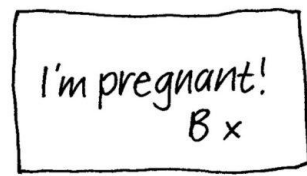
Who is she?

She is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah.



Have her brought to the palace!

Later, Bathsheba sent a message to King David.



David tried to cover up what he had done. He sent a note to Joab.

Send Uriah to me now
D

When Uriah came, David sent him to his home, but he didn't go.

Why didn't you go home?



How can I go home to my wife when my fellow soldiers can't?

David had Uriah stay to dinner and got him drunk.



But he still didn't go home.

So David wrote a letter to Joab

Put Uriah at the front of the fighting where he will be killed. D

He gave it to Uriah to give to Joab.



Joab did what was asked.

Bathsheba was now a widow and David married her.



But God was angry and He sent Nathan the prophet to David.



God says He chose you to be king of Israel and kept you safe.

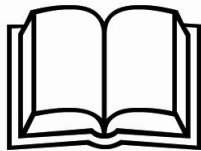
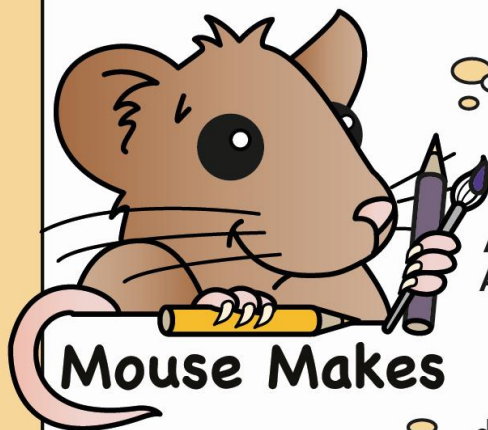
You took Uriah's wife and then you murdered him by having him killed.



I disobeyed God.



You certainly did! You are forgiven, but there will always be trouble in your family.



Read the full story in
Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

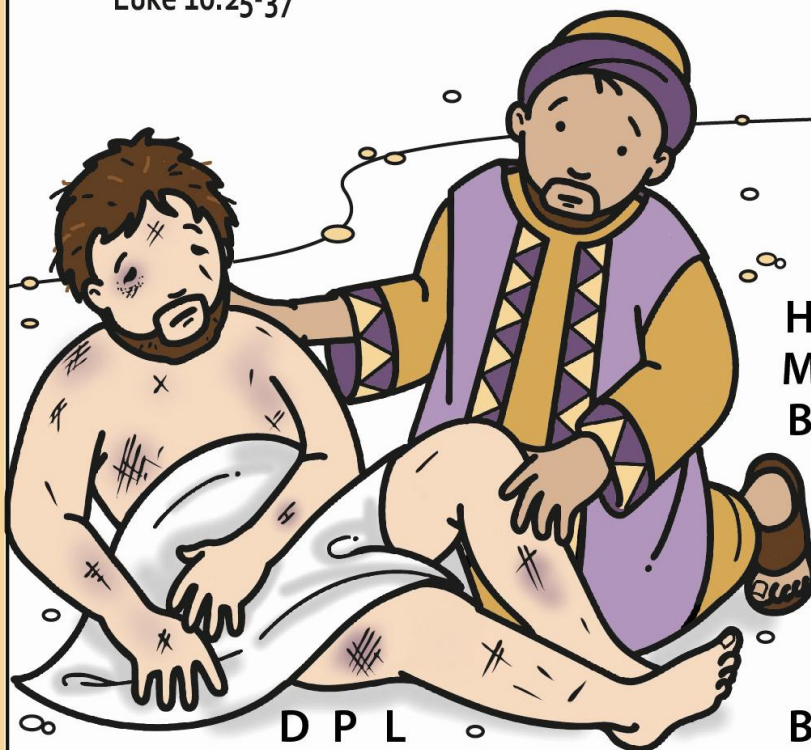
A man asked Jesus *"Who is my neighbour?"* and Jesus replied with this parable:

A man was attacked by robbers, they tore his clothes, beat him and left him almost dead. A priest saw him but walked by on the other side. A Levite saw him but walked by on the other side.

A Samaritan saw him and took pity on him, he poured oil and wine on his wounds and then bandaged them. He lifted the man onto his donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him.

The next day he gave the innkeeper two denarii to look after the man until he returned.

Which of the three travellers do you think was the neighbour to the man who was attacked?



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

JESUS • PARABLE • JERUSALEM • JERICHO • JOURNEY • MAN • ROBBERS • SAW
CLOTHES • DOWN • ROAD • PRIEST • PASSED • PLACE • SIDE • LEVITE • CARE
GOOD • SAMARITAN • COMPASSION • BOUND • WOUNDS • POURED • OIL
WINE • MERCY • INN • TWO • DENARII • REPAY • BACK • NEIGHBOUR • GO DO

Crossword

ACROSS

1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8–12) (4)

3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)

9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)

10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)

11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)

12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)

14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)

17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)

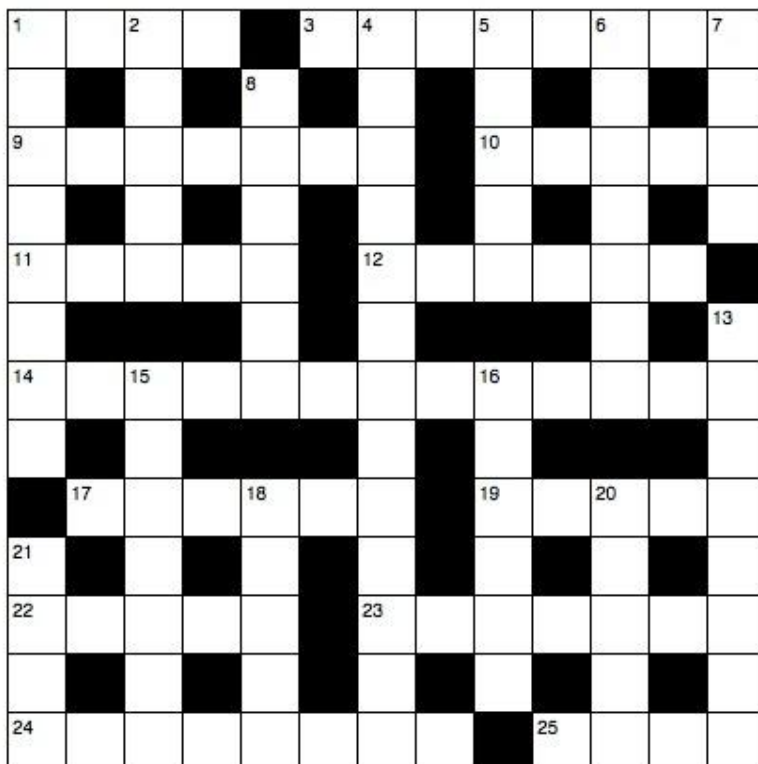
19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)

22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)

23 I gain me (anag.) (7)

24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)

25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)



DOWN

1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)

2 Church of England incumbent (5)

4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)

5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)

6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in —' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)

7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)

8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)

13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)

15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)

16 Real do (anag.) (6)

18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)

20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)

21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)

Solution on page 27



Wordsearch - Doubting Thomas

If you have ever doubted aspects of your Christian faith, St Thomas is the saint for you. His feast day is on 3rd July. Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 disciples, was deeply devoted, but also very honest whenever he got confused. When Jesus spoke of going to his Father (John 14), Thomas was not afraid to ask Him where His Father was. As for the Resurrection, that really baffled Thomas. He demanded to see the risen Jesus for himself - and touch the wounds in His hands and feet. When Jesus appeared, Thomas' immediate response was one of worship: "My Lord and my God" (John 20). Thus, Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of us down the centuries who also sometimes doubt Jesus. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, we can find support for our own faith in Him.

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

Thomas

Father

See

Worship

Saint

Afraid

Support

Lord

Doubt

Where

Touch

My

Faith

Resurrection

Wounds

God

Feast

Baffled

Hands

Honest

Demanded

Feet

Confused

Risen

Response

Sudoku

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

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Easy

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

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Medium

News from the United Reformed Church

items from the June edition of the Synod Newsletter



URC Buildings Forum Conference – 21 July 2021- Following

the relative success of the URC Buildings Forum conference on 19 April 2021, it was agreed we should hold future conferences around three times each year. The Steering Committee have recently met and agreed the date of 21 July 2021 for the next conference starting at 11.30am and finishing around 1.00pm. The conference will explore the vision and mission context for URC buildings and assets, including whether we need a building to be 'church' in the 21st Century? For this part of the conference, we are pleased to be able to welcome Martin Haywood, the convenor of the Mission Enablers Network and the Southern Synod Mission Officer. We hope to also hear from two separate places of worship about how that have creatively used their buildings. One in a rural community and the other in a multi-cultural community. Please email mission@urc.org.uk to sign up for this event.

The third and final conference for 2021 is being planned for 14 October from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, the conference will focus on environmental issues for church buildings, including Eco-Church and Eco-Congregation.

Christians on Ageing - Christians on Ageing provide useful resources, and are running a series of events in late spring/summer of 2021. More details from <https://christiansonageing.org.uk>

Elders' Conference – Saturday 17 July 2021 – bookings now open - Saturday 17 July 2021. A development day for Elders with speakers Andrew and Sally Willett, from Thamesmead Pioneer Church Project. The theme will be the Holy Habit of Making Disciples with a particular emphasis on your role as Elders.

We hope to be able to hold the Elders' conference at Sarum College, Salisbury with lunch included, and will stream the sessions via zoom for those at home.

To help with our planning, please book your place and let us know whether you are willing and able to attend in-person at Sarum College, Salisbury **or** would like to attend online (not in-person) **or** happy with either(in-person or online)

Children's and Youth Events and Training

Paediatric First Aid course in July 2021 - Saturdays 10 and 24 July 2021, 9.30am – 5.30pm at Woking URC. Participants must attend both days to complete the course and gain a certificate. This course will be delivered by the British Red Cross and will be Covid compliant. Places are limited so please book as soon as possible.

Wessex Summer Camps – update - 16 – 18 July 2021. Due to ongoing restrictions Wessex Summer Children's Camp for School Years 3 to 6 is going online and coming to your church direct. Please look out for further information. £10 per person, which includes a fabulous resources box sent to every participant full of things they will need during the weekend. We will provide the programme and resources, you provide the venue, whether its 2 young people having a sleepover at their home and joining in or a group of you joining from your local church building. Don't miss out on this exciting local version of camp. Contact Ruth White for more information. cydo-s@urcwessex.org.uk

Safeguarding Training – update - The basic safeguarding training course is delivered online across 3 sessions. Participants must attend each of the 3 sessions to complete the training and gain a certificate. Booking is essential.

Places available for those working with children & youth and/or adults at risk on the dates below. Please specify which group when you book your place.

Safeguarding Training on Thursdays, 7pm – 8.30pm

Session 1 – 24th June 2021, Session 2 – 1st July 2021, Session 3 – 8th July 2021

The next safeguarding training course online will be in the Autumn. Dates to be arranged and publicised in due course.

Mental Health First Aid Training courses. Wessex Synod covers the cost for members of URCs and LEPs in Wessex Synod. Upcoming dates

Mental Health Awareness. This course is one session on Zoom, 9am – 1pm.

21 July 2021(book by 12 July)

Become a certified Mental Health First Aider. Choose the adult focus or youth focus course. These courses are delivered online across four sessions with some self-learning exercises to complete in preparation for each of the live Zoom sessions with the trainer. Upcoming dates.

Become a Certified Mental Health First Aider - Adult focus

12 July – 22 July 2021, Monday and Thursday mornings 9am to 12 noon. (Book by 1st July).

Mentality for Students can be accessed here www.mentality.work

This course is aimed at University Students who would like to gain a base knowledge training so they can better support their friends, housemates and themselves. A one minute preview can be viewed at [Mentality for Students | Peter Larkum](#). Wessex Synod will cover the cost for University Students from member churches in Wessex Synod, even if they are studying out of the Synod area. Booking for all mental health first aid courses is essential.

Please email: bookings@urcwessex.org.uk to register for a course.

Mentality at Work can be accessed here www.mentality.work

This course gives anyone the need-to-know essentials to spot the signs of poor mental health and take action. Delivered online as a one hour video, the cost is £15 + VAT (£18). Wessex Synod does not cover the cost of this mentality course.

Triologue – online YouTube broadcast for 16 to 25 year olds Fortnightly on Thursdays at 7pm. URC Youth offer a fortnightly online live YouTube broadcast called 'Triologue'. Aimed at 16 to 25 year olds, each session explores a theme alongside a Bible passage, providing a spring board for further discussion and reflection. Follow the URC Youth Triologue Facebook page to engage and receive up to date information - <https://www.facebook.com/urcYouthTriologue/>

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar July and August

July 4	The URC Meeting of General Assembly; Salisbury: Broad Chalke; Southampton: Isaac Watts Memorial Church
July 11	Broadstone; Romsey: Abbey URC
July 18	Andover; Trinity Church, Totton
July 25	Wareham; The Spire Church, Farnham
August 1	Elvetham Heath; Oxford: Summertown; Verwood
August 8	St Martin's, West Moors; Bracknell
August 15	Fordingbridge; United Church of Egham
August 22	Bournemouth: East Cliff ; Warsash
August 29	Bournemouth International Church; Sarisbury Green



Lectionary Bible Readings for July and August

July 4	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
July 11	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24; Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
July 18	2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 25	2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21
August 1	2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35
August 8	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51
August 15	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58
August 22	1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69
August 29	Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Important - Sensitive issues

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

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

The deadline for the **September** Messenger is **Sunday 15 August 2021**. Please send articles to Messenger Editors, Keith & Mary Evans, tel 01730 235922 e-mail keithnmary@talktalk.net

Solution to Crossword on page 22

ACROSS: 1, Dove. 3, Offender. 9, Alcohol. 10, Loses. 11, Horam. 12, Ophrah. 14, Archbishopric. 17, Samuel. 19, Dwarf. 22, Lacks. 23, Imagine. 24, Military. 25, Revd.

DOWN: 1, Drachmas. 2, Vicar. 4, Fellow-soldier. 5, Eglah. 6, Despair. 7, Rust. 8, The mob. 13, Scofield. 15, Chancel. 16, Ordeal. 18, Upset. 20, Alike. 21, Elim.

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	<u>www.petersfieldurc.com</u>	
E-mail	<u>admin@petersfieldurc.com</u>	
Sunday Services	Mornings at 10.30 am Services will be held at College Street, either in the sanctuary or garden	
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”