

THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



September 2021 No 701

From the Minister ...

September, Harvest and a time to take stock...



Traditionally, in late September and early October we as a church take the opportunity to thank God for every blessing given to us as we celebrate our crops being harvested successfully. We had to do this very differently last year and we celebrated together in the garden as we were not so freely able to use our church building. This year, I'm delighted that on the weekend of the 24th-26th September we will once again be able to come together to celebrate this festival in our usual way!

On Friday 24th September there will be a harvest supper in the CFC from 5.30pm. Do join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and food as we celebrate together both the harvest, but also the fact we can once again gather together in such a way. Then on Sunday 26th September, we will celebrate harvest together in our morning service. After such a difficult year, I want to set the challenge here and now, to bring along a story to share of something that you have been grateful for over the past twelve months. Maybe this thing came as a surprise to you, maybe it had been there all along and you have just learnt to appreciate it more as other things changed so drastically. I would love for harvest 2021 to be an opportunity for us to take stock of all that has happened in this weird year and to thank God for those things which have come as a blessing to us during that time period.

On Sunday 12th September, we will also be holding a PACT picnic up at the heath. Again, this will be focusing on harvest and what it means to give thanks for the good things in our lives. The picnic will run from 1-4pm and we encourage you to bring a picnic from 1pm and join in with craft activities, games and hear the fabulous Salvation Army Band playing for us during the afternoon. We will then finish up with a short time of worship at 3.30pm. A flyer is included later in this magazine so do put it in the diary and join us if you can!

Finally, with all of these opportunities to look back, take stock and give thanks, we would like to encourage you to join us on Tuesday 7th September in the CFC at 7.30pm for our first church meeting back together physically. The meeting will start with a presentation from the firm of architects who completed our staircase to the gallery, they have been tasked by Synod with completing a feasibility study into a potential re-design of our sanctuary space and will be

presenting their designs as well as answering any questions at this meeting. We also have a lot of other things to share with you all and discuss together so do join us if you can!

Hebrews 12 reminds us of the importance of looking forwards with our eyes fixed firmly on our saviour; 'Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.' Whilst it is important to thank God for all that has come before, it is important that we look to our future and where the Spirit is prompting us to go, as we enter September and this harvest season – let us keep our eyes fixed on Christ, thanking God for all the good things in our lives but seeking to discern together where it is we are being led next.

Your brother in Christ, **Josh.**



Thanking God for our blessings

I've often reflected on the Old Testament festival of the Firstfruits, where the Israelites offered the very first sheaf of the spring harvest to God (Leviticus 23:9-14). I think this act required great faith, as they trusted God for a fruitful harvest to come, something that was far from certain, given their utter dependence on the weather.

I'm not sure about you, but I'm always up for giving thanks *after* the event. I'll sing 'Come ye thankful people come' and rejoice that "all is safely gathered in", but am I able to trust with anticipation for what is *yet to come*?

The festival of the Firstfruits reminded God's people that everything they had came from Him. I am reminded that I must learn (and relearn) to trust in God, who has proven His faithfulness to me, over and over again.

Perhaps right now as a church community or an individual you're waiting for a certain event, standing on the cusp of a new initiative, praying for a certain outcome or anticipating a long-held vision becoming reality. Let's all keep trusting that whatever the challenge, however things turn out, irrespective of what we anticipate, God is going before us and has secured the Firstfruits of an even greater harvest through Jesus, as He rose from the dead.

Just as the grain offering to God in the Old Testament anticipated a harvest to come, Paul reminds us that Jesus' victory anticipates an even greater bodily resurrection and eternal peace (1 Corinthians 15:20-22).

As we continue our journey with Jesus through the challenges of each day, let's do so with a deepening faith and trust.



Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,

For a year and a half, we have not been able to look forward to the next day with certainty, let alone the next week! However, things certainly seem to be changing and I do feel that now is the time to look forward and to the exciting things that will be happening in the future within the Petersfield and Liss URC community.

For a start we have a live, in person, Church meeting on Tuesday September 7th. There are many things that need discussing but we will be starting with a presentation of the plans for the sanctuary at Petersfield. Hopefully you will have been able to see the plans displayed in the CFC but if not there will still be time after the meeting.

We are looking forward to welcoming a bunch of new members to the fellowship and these names will be brought forward at the meeting.

We will also be discussing future services, timings, format etc so, if you can, come along prepared to listen and to give ideas.

And then there is the big 300 to look forward to! Next year sees Petersfield URC celebrate 300 years of worship on our site, first as a Congregational Church and then as the URC. We want to mark this in lots of different ways and will be forming a small group to organise these. If you have any ideas or feel you would like to be involved, please come and talk to Josh or me.

God bless you all, **Carol**

Dates for your diaries

September 5th Sunday worship at 10.30am at College Street led by Alan Jones

September 7th Church meeting at College Street at 7.30pm

September 12th Sunday worship at 10.30am at College Street led by our minister

September 14th Tuesday – Little Fishes at College Street starts and will be every Tuesday

September 19th Breakfast Worship at 9.00am at College Street

September 19th Sunday worship at 10.30am at College Street led by our minister, which will include Holy Communion

September 24th Friday Harvest supper – details elsewhere and to follow

September 26th Harvest service at 10.30am at College Street led by our minister with a representative from Two Saints in attendance

A Message from our Church and Community Worker...



I had finished this month's article and was ready to send it off. However, this morning God told me it was not what he wanted me to say.

It should about seasons, and, this month especially, change is afoot for some of our young people. Charlotte's off on a gap year, and Megan goes up to senior school while Isla starts the wonderful journey at the very beginning of infant school life. Hope, joy, and lots excited anticipation for our young people.

The weather season will be changing again too, from summer to autumn and as the leaves fall, we remember the end season for some of our loved ones with funerals and memorial services. But with that sadness there is also love, wonderful memories, hope and joy for the future.

From the young to the very old and everyone in between we are all in different seasons or walks in our lives. God breathes love hope and can guide us all through our own season or journey of our lives. His word is for all and is as relevant today as 2000 years ago.

I challenge you all to open the Bible on any page and not find something useful, compassionate and something that you alone needed to hear.

Rejoice in the Lord.

Jo Hopkins



Sign up for Harvest Supper!

As Josh mentioned in his article (page 2), there will be a **Harvest Supper on Friday 24 September at 5.30pm in the CFC** and

a cold meal will be provided. **There is a sign up list in the CFC.** Please sign this if you are planning to attend so that we know how many to cater for. Please sign up **no later than Sunday 12 September.**

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Benjamin Oru is available to assist with gardening , shopping and any odd jobs as part of his community DOE . He is also keen on board games , so good company for a couple of hours.



Forgiveness

After reading part of a book "Reflections From The Heart of God" by Thomas and Nanette Kinkade, I felt drawn to write something of a response. The article in question was on the topic of forgiveness. We all get things wrong and I, myself, recognise that I require a greater need of Father God's forgiveness than most, making me less qualified perhaps to comment on this subject !

The life of Christ and the Scriptures were designed to show us the way to live, yet many of the characters we find in the Bible failed to live by God's plan for them in many ways. Jesus knew that His life was to be given as the final sacrifice to cover all of humankind's transgressions before The Almighty. Because He loves unconditionally each and every one of us, He died and rose again to life, becoming One with The Father and His Spirit.

We all need forgiveness in our lives, maybe we've made poor choices, been selfish in our actions, deliberately disobedient to what we know to be right, maybe we've excluded others in their time of need or caused pain, sorrow and even anger. In doing these actions we also cause hurt and upset to our Father God.

If it is hard to say sorry, then it is perhaps even harder to forgive other's transgressions against us. How often have we heard or maybe even said "I will never forgive them"? Christians should be good at forgiving others but often are not because it does not come naturally. We are too easily offended, upset, enraged by "their actions", or what has been said. It is too easy to become vengeful, difficult, rude and ready to retaliate.

This is the opposite of Jesus' teaching. Jesus taught us The Lord's Prayer, and when saying it, we ask our God's forgiveness as we forgive those who trespass against us ! Jesus emphasised this transaction saying clearly you can't have one without the other !

Jesus paid the price for "our mistakes" offering us friendship, unconditional love, and a pathway to freedom from our sin. He tells us to forgive others and then request forgiveness for ourselves; being truly sorry for our mistakes and accepting Jesus as our Saviour and The Son of God. His further gift when our earthly time is over is everlasting life, where all our blemishes have been

removed making us finally acceptable to The Almighty. Jesus paid the price and this gift is His to give; no one could ever earn it !

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Should you be interested further, please ask a local church leader, attend an Alpha Course or Google scripture on what Jesus or Saint Paul say on forgiveness.

Tony Phillips

This article was first published in the Faith Comment column of the Petersfield Post on 21 July



Pandemic Prayer

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

God the holder of creation,
among rising numbers, changing guidelines, and new risks,
we turn to you from among those made in your image -
all who are beloved and yet broken.

We pray for the governments within our nations, and around the world,
that they might have insight and discernment;
that whether or not they call on your name, they might hear your voice.

And we pray too for those whose lives are blighted today,
that they might know your presence and your healing.

And we pray for ourselves,
that we might take our place in your purposes.

We bring this prayer trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, the giver of life,
and through our Lord Jesus Christ, broken among creation and risen for the
world. Amen

By the Revd Alistair Smeaton, Minister, Cumbria Missional Partnership



From the editors ...

We are all delighted that we have been able to start meeting together again in the church buildings as well as at home. We have all missed the face to face fellowship and now we can look forward to further opportunities to meet together. For the first time for a long while we are including a Church Calendar and you will be able to read short articles about various weekday activities that

are restarting or starting new. A big thank you to all our contributors - we are always very pleased to receive your articles.

Keith and Mary

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A message from Emsworth ...

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2: verse 14

I seemed to stumble by accident into the Book of Habakkuk. This Book may have been written by one of the so called minor prophets, but oh my goodness how hard hitting and direct. Just take the opening words "How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but You do not listen?" My very first thought was: "Should you really speak to God like that?" So why was Habakkuk so forthright with God. When you read the Books of Kings you know that some kings "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord," but a whole lot more "did evil in the eyes of the Lord." The king of Judah during the time of Habakkuk was Jehoiakim and he very much "did evil in the eyes of the Lord." The Assyrians had taken the ten tribes of the northern kingdom into exile, but it seemed that Judah was set on the same destructive path. Hezekiah had been a good king of Judah but his son, Manasseh, who was only twelve years old when he succeeded him, was certainly not and, like father like son, Amon became king after fifty-five years of decline. Everything spiralled downhill after that and Amon only lasted two years before he was assassinated. His son, Josiah, was only eight when he became king but he certainly stopped the rot having found the Book of the Law in the Temple and acting on it, but he was killed in battle after thirty-one years on the throne. You have to wonder what life was like in those days for just the ordinary people. Josiah's son, Jehoahaz, was twenty three when he became king and it would seem that in just three short months sent Judah back on the evil road. Mind you, Pharaoh Neco of Egypt didn't help, keeping the king in chains and taxing Judah. Pharaoh made another son of Josiah King changing his name to Jehoiakim. Although he was allowed to "reign" in Jerusalem, Jehoiakim sent even more tax to Neco. So enter Habakkuk and a contemporary of his, Jeremiah. God's answer to Habakkuk was devastating; "I am raising up the Babylonians" Habakkuk had already prayed "How long Lord must I call for help". Now he had his answer, an answer more difficult to receive than the silence. The pain of unanswered prayer can sometimes be less devastating than the pain of answered prayer.

There has only been one person in my practising career as a dentist, who suffered from a condition known as Sjogren's Syndrome. This lady, who was a lovely Christian woman, had hit a particularly bad spell in her life where her

prayers were always accompanied with many tears as she prayed for those known to her who were going through difficult times. She prayed long and hard

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for the Lord to take her tears away. One of the features of Sjogren's Syndrome is dry mouth (where I came in!) but also dry eyes. Yes she could not cry anymore but the problems did not go away and if anything intensified.

We can certainly get a lot more than we bargained for when we pray but always remember God provides grace for everything, whenever we need it He will be there for us. When we accept the calls God makes and face squarely what the light reveals, He will never leave us or forsake us.

Habakkuk did not like God's long awaited answer one little bit and returned with another prayer of complaint; "Why are You silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?" Once again I felt nervous, "that's a bit strong speaking to God like that I thought." But God, who knows all our hidden thoughts anyway, needs us to open our hearts to Him and leave absolutely nothing back. This was God's reply; "Those who are evil will not survive, but those who are righteous will live because they are faithful to God."

We, all too often, make judgements in haste and are not prepared to listen, coming up with flawed conclusions. Isn't it wonderful that God does not treat us like that?

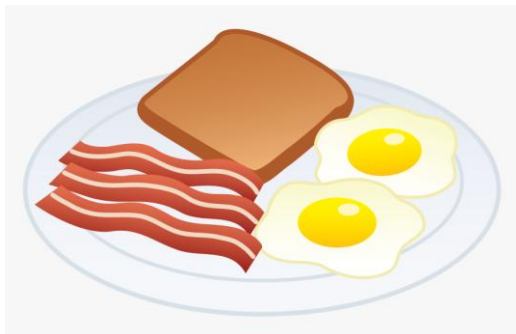
Was God right to cause the Babylonians, a foreign pagan power, to sweep Judah away into exile. I firmly believe that whatever God does is right even if my poor human understanding feels that that is not the case. But as Paul reminds us in his letter to the Roman Church; Chapter 8 and verse 28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him'. In God's reply to Habakkuk's second prayer of complaint we read "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.' This was enough for Habakkuk, he may have been confused but now he was able to pray at the end of this short Book; Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will



rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.”

Love, **Alan and Cora**

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Men's Breakfast

At last after 18 months we now feel in a position to open up the men's breakfast again.

Our first Prayer & Discussion Breakfast will be on **SATURDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER** from 8.00 to 10.00 a.m. The topic is: "At His banquet table - His banner over me is love" (Song of Songs 2:4).

Please come to briefly share (3 minutes max) something positive that has happened to you during Lockdown.

We will still be adopting a cautious approach as there are still COVID cases in Petersfield – some of them in the churches. We may need to change the format slightly for the time being – once we know how many of you will be with us we can plan in more detail for the safety of everyone.

We realise that this is the holiday time but please let us know ASAP if you expect to be with us.

Regards **Ted & Pam Dowdeswell**



Tuesday teatime drop-in

Now that Covid restrictions have been removed, and as Autumn approaches, it's a good time to start getting out and about and meeting up with each other again.

If you fancy some fellowship over a cup of tea and some special cake, then come along to the CFC on **Tuesday 7 September** between 2 and 4pm. Come when you can, leave when you must!

If there is sufficient interest, this may become a regular slot. This is for everyone, so hope to see you there!



RIDE+STRIDE



In aid of Hampshire & the Islands
Historic Churches Trust

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.

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Autumn Homegroups

With the lifting of government corona virus restrictions and many church members now fully vaccinated, we are starting to resume some of our usual church activities.

To many, the homegroups are an important part of church ministry, an opportunity to meet informally and have a time of fellowship around God's word.

This September there will be three homegroups restarting. If you are an existing member you are encouraged to rejoin your group, If you would like to join a group please contact your chosen leader who will give you more details.

- **Ron Wing and Mary Fair** will be starting a group at Ron's home, 1 Crundles GU31 4PJ on **September 1st at 2pm**. They will be meeting alternate Wednesdays.
- **Keith and Mary Evans** will be resuming their group at 12 Geddes Way GU31 4DJ on **Thursday September 16th at 8pm**. They also meet fortnightly
- **Esme Kelly** has now moved to 2 High View, Woolner Avenue GU32 2HD. Her group will restart on **Thursday 9th September at 7:30pm**. Please check with her as they are very close to moving house.



Connie's Handicraft Group

We are planning to restart the Handicraft Group on **Tuesday 21 September between 2-4pm**. Anyone is welcome to come and join us. In view of the present circumstances, please bring your own handicraft to do during the afternoon. Or, if you prefer, just come for tea, cake and a chat.



The Ukraine Table will not be available for the time being. If you have made items for the table over the last 18 months, please keep them at home for now as storage space is so limited.



Christian Aid Week

During Christian Aid Week, several of us took part in a 'Socially Distanced Pub Quiz' on Zoom, hosted by Josh and Hannah Thomas on Saturday 15th May. Donations were made to a



dedicated Just Giving Page. In addition, a Church Collection was taken on Sunday 16 May.

I'm delighted to announce that the combined sum received came to £691.75 (including Gift Aid). Very many thanks to all who contributed.

Carolyn Barton

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Fellowship Matters

Awards

Congratulations to **Charlotte Cassar** on being awarded the Lundie Memorial Award and medal by the Children and Youth Work committee of the United Reformed Church. This award celebrates children and young people playing a part in the mission of God. Josh presented Charlotte with this award on Sunday 27 June



Also congratulations to **Val Hart** who received the medal and Mayor's Award 2021 in recognition of her work in the community during lockdown.

Baptism

It is a pleasure to report the baptism on Saturday 31 July of **Aria Kinge**, the daughter of Ellie and Cameron Kinge and grand-daughter of James and Gilly Mancz.



Weddings

Many congratulations to **Mandy Martin and Martin Webb** on their marriage on 24 July.

Also many congratulations to **Jeanette Pejnovic and John Foyster** on their marriage on 20 August

We wish both these couples God's richest blessings and every happiness in their lives together.

Deaths

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of **Bunty Eames** and **Mollie Gauld** in recent weeks. Both these ladies were members of our congregation for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this time.

Thanks

The family and I thank everyone for their support over the past fifteen months and to Josh and all who attended the interment at Petersfield Cemetery on the 4th August. We feel he is among us all now.

God bless **Jenny Turner**

Brian came home the day after his operation which appears to have been most successful. No discomfort and breathing is already easier. Thank you all so much for your prayer support over recent months. Our God is gracious upholding us in all situations.

Our love to you all. **Audrey and Brian.**

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Seeds of hope

Do you remember our Easter Service in the Church garden? We were thinking about hope, and Josh gave us all some seeds to plant, with the hope of them growing into beautiful flowering plants. This is a picture of two of these plants, bright cheerful sunflowers, which brightened our garden for a few weeks. Many of you may well have also had a fine display which served to remind us of our hope in God in Jesus Christ.



The Four Candles

If you've ever felt despair, suffered tragedy or generally gone through the harshness of life, this is a wonderful story that will lift your spirits...

The Four Candles burned slowly. Their Ambiance was so soft you could hear them speak...

The First Candle said, "I Am Peace, but these days, nobody wants to keep me lit."

Then Peace's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

The Second Candle said, "I Am Faith, but these days, I am no longer indispensable."

Then Faith's flame slowly diminishes and goes out completely.

Sadly The Third Candle Speaks, "I Am Love and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer.

People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them." Waiting no longer, Love goes out completely.

Suddenly...A child enters the room and sees the three candles no longer burning. The child begins to cry, "Why are you not burning? You are supposed to stay lit until the end!"

Then The Fourth Candle speaks gently to the little child, "Don't be afraid, for I Am Hope, and while I still burn, we can re-light the other candles."

With Shining Eyes the child took the Candle Of Hope and lit the other three candles.

Never let the Flame Of Hope go out of your life. With Hope, no matter how bad things look and are...Peace, Faith and Love can Shine Brightly in our lives.

This was read at a funeral service recently.

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Petersfield & Liss Church Calendar – September 2021

N.B. All events will take place at College Street unless otherwise stated.

Wednesday	1	2 pm	Home Fellowship Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	2	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC & Zoom
Saturday	4	8 am	Men's Breakfast	Hurst Barn
Sunday	5	10.30 am	Alan Jones	
Tuesday	7	2 pm	Tuesday Tea time Drop-in	CFC
		7.30 pm	Church Meeting	CFC
Thursday	9	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC & Zoom
		7.30 pm	Home Fellowship Group	2 High View, Woolner Avenue
		7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting	CFC
Saturday	11	10am-6pm	Ride & Stride	
Sunday	12	10.30 am	The Minister	
		1pm	PACT Picnic at The Heath	
Tuesday	14	9.30 am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC
Wednesday	15	2 pm	Home Fellowship Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	16	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC & Zoom
		8 pm	Home Fellowship Group	12 Geddes Way
Sunday	19	9 am	Breakfast Worship	
		10.30 am	The Minister - Holy Communion	
Tuesday	21	9.30 am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC
		2 pm	Connie's Handicraft Group	CFC
Thursday	23	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC & Zoom
		7.30 pm	Home Fellowship Group	2 High View, Woolner Avenue
Friday	24	5.30pm	Harvest Supper	CFC
Sunday	26	10.30 am	The Minister - Harvest Thanksgiving A representative from Two Saints will be present	

Tuesday	28	9.30 am	Little Fishes Toddler Group	CFC
Wednesday	29	2 pm	Home Fellowship Group	1 Crundles
Thursday	30	10 am	Prayer Meeting	CFC & Zoom
		8 pm	Home Fellowship Group	12 Geddes Way

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PACT Picnic at The Heath

Sunday 12th September 2021

1pm - arrive with a picnic and enjoy time chatting together, there will be some lawn games and crafts available throughout the afternoon.

2pm - Musical entertainment (Salvation Army band plus others TBC)

3.30pm - A short time of worship with music from the Salvation Army band reflecting on Harvest and being thankful. Why not bring along something you are thankful for to give God thanks?

All of this is free - for more information contact Josh - minister@petersfieldurc.com



It was our Harvest Festival Sunday. My husband had cut his ear while shaving. We arrived at the church just in time to sing: 'First the blade and then the ear'

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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



The theme of this year's MAF Global Week of Prayer is a poignant



reminder that, in the midst of life's challenges, God remains faithfully the same yesterday, today and forever. Who would have imagined a year ago that the corona virus pandemic would have persisted for so long? Lives have been devastated through the loss of loved ones, long term sickness, economic insecurity, and isolation.

As we navigate the after-effects of a pandemic that has shaken the world,

we need to repeatedly lean into God to see restoration occur in the UK and throughout the world. The weariness of the last 18 months can lead us to lose heart and feel helpless. Yet it is in those moments that we most clearly hear the gentle whisper of our heavenly Father calling out, 'Trust me'.

Jeremiah 17:7 encourages us with the words, 'Blessed are those who trust in the Lord.' Something incredible happens when we look to God for the things that seem impossible, and when we trust in our hearts that He is the God who makes all things possible!

This year's global week of prayer takes place Sunday 31 October to Sunday 7 November, so we are asking you to join us from the comfort of your own home alongside thousands of others praying for MAF and for those we serve. Included in the October-December edition of ***Flying for Life*** magazine will be a special edition Prayer Diary to inform your prayers and petitions.

Another way you can get involved is to book a slot on our online prayer calendar, where you can register your commitment to pray for 30-60 minutes at some point during the 8 days of our global week of prayer. If for any reason you don't receive Flying for Life but would like to join in with our week of prayer,

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visit our website to sign up for your copy of the special edition Prayer Diary. Thank you so much for your faithfulness in supporting MAF at this time.

***For further information , please see <https://www.maf-uk.org/> or
Phone: 01303 852819***

With thanks to Fiona Darling for providing this item



Climate Sunday is this month

Sunday 5th September is being designated Climate Sunday, ahead of the UN's climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow during November. How should we approach the challenge of climate change?

We have damaged God's creation: God delights in His creation: 'God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.' (Genesis 1:31). However, we have damaged this world and impacted people, created in His image. The burning of oil or gas and cutting down forests is increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. The global average temperature could increase by 1.5°C in 2030, resulting in significant damage to our planet. Already, increasing temperatures are melting ice caps, raising sea-levels, changing rainfall patterns and creating extreme climate events. It's the 70% of the world's poorest population who are being impacted most!

Hope is found in Jesus: He has an intimate knowledge of the workings of creation. 'For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.' (Colossians 1:16,17). Our hope for the future lies in what Jesus has done and continues to do in the world. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion.

An invitation to respond: Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving and changes in our lifestyle and diet

to help the planet. We can fix our eyes on Jesus, as we pray for our world for our world leaders, gathering in Glasgow, asking that they may reach a good agreement for the future of our world.

See overleaf for information about what we can do locally.



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 !

A few tips on recycling, refilling and reusing in Petersfield....to be good stewards of God's beautiful creation!

- Please see the adjacent **Petersfield infant school recycling poster**, but if it is more convenient to you, there is a box 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 following:-
Digestive and other biscuit wrappers; cracker and cake wrappers; crisp packets, all clean and tied in a bag.
- **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.
 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.
- **Used Blister strips from tablets and capsules** - Carol is “very happy to collect blister packs and take them to the place in Liss”, where they are collected for recycling.

Fiona Darling



A little girl had been to Sunday School for the first time and was asked by her mother how it compared with her new primary school. “Oh, I like it much better,” she said. ‘There are no exams there, you go only once a week for an hour, and at the end you go to heaven instead of high school.’”



Becoming new

When a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, it's hard to believe it's the same creature. But at both stages of its life, it has a body that is perfectly suited to living in a particular environment.

This insect can help us understand the afterlife and the significance of the resurrected Jesus. Paul, on his journeys, discovered that some members of the church in Corinth were confused about life after death. So, Paul, wrote a lengthy letter to them to explain the importance of the resurrection of Jesus, and how it affects our future existence.

Paul doesn't mention caterpillars and butterflies but describes a seed becoming a plant. By just looking at an individual seed there is no knowing what it is going to look like! But out of its death comes a beautiful new life form.

Paul points out that all living beings have a body that enables them to live in a particular environment. There are earthly bodies for living in a physical world and a spiritual body for living in the heavenly realms. And so God will give to us a new spiritual body to enable us to live with Him in heaven.

Of course, all butterflies eventually die, but in our resurrected body we will not be subject to decay or death. How do we know this? Jesus said: "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). Jesus pioneered the way for us. He died on the cross, arose from the grave, and so opened up the way for all believers in Him to go to Heaven. Thanks be to God!



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 ... **James**

- *What type of book is it?* Teaching
- *Who wrote it?* James, the brother of Jesus
- *When was it written?* probably 49AD



As a leader of the Christian church in Jerusalem, James wrote this letter to all the Christians scattered among the nations. Having been subject to persecution in Jerusalem, many of these Christians were struggling to live in foreign communities. This letter was sent to them to encourage them in their faith, and to provide teaching on Christian living. This book is particularly noted for the teaching about faith in action,

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Kings 1:5-53

King David was now very old, but he had still not said which son would be king. Adonijah decided to make himself king.

Adonijah had a big party at Rogel Spring for all his friends, including Joab and Abiathar, to tell them he was the king. His brother Solomon and Nathan and Zadok were not invited.

Nathan told Solomon's mother

You must tell King David. If Adonijah is king, he will kill you and your son.



You promised our son Solomon would be king, but Adonijah says he is now king.



Nathan told David



He's having a big party to celebrate right now!

I will keep my promise! Solomon will be the next king. Zadok and Nathan, take him to Gihon Spring, anoint him and tell everyone!



So they went to Gihon with Solomon riding King David's own mule.



He was anointed king and a trumpet was blown.



Long live King Solomon!

At Adonijah's party they heard the noise.



What's going on?

David has just announced that your brother Solomon is now king.



Solomon was anointed and everyone is cheering.



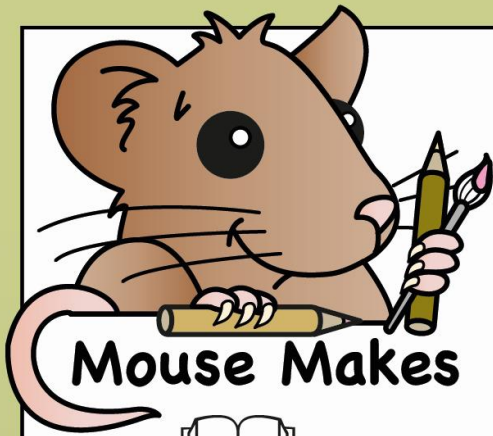
Everyone ran away. Adonijah was so scared he ran to the sacred tent for sanctuary.



King Solomon sent for Adonijah.

If you don't cause me any trouble, I will not hurt you.





The bowl of flour and the jar of oil

It had not rained for months and months, there was a drought in the land.

God sent His prophet **Elijah** to the town of Zarephath. At the town gate he saw a widow gathering firewood.

"Please bring me a drink of water and some bread." he asked her.



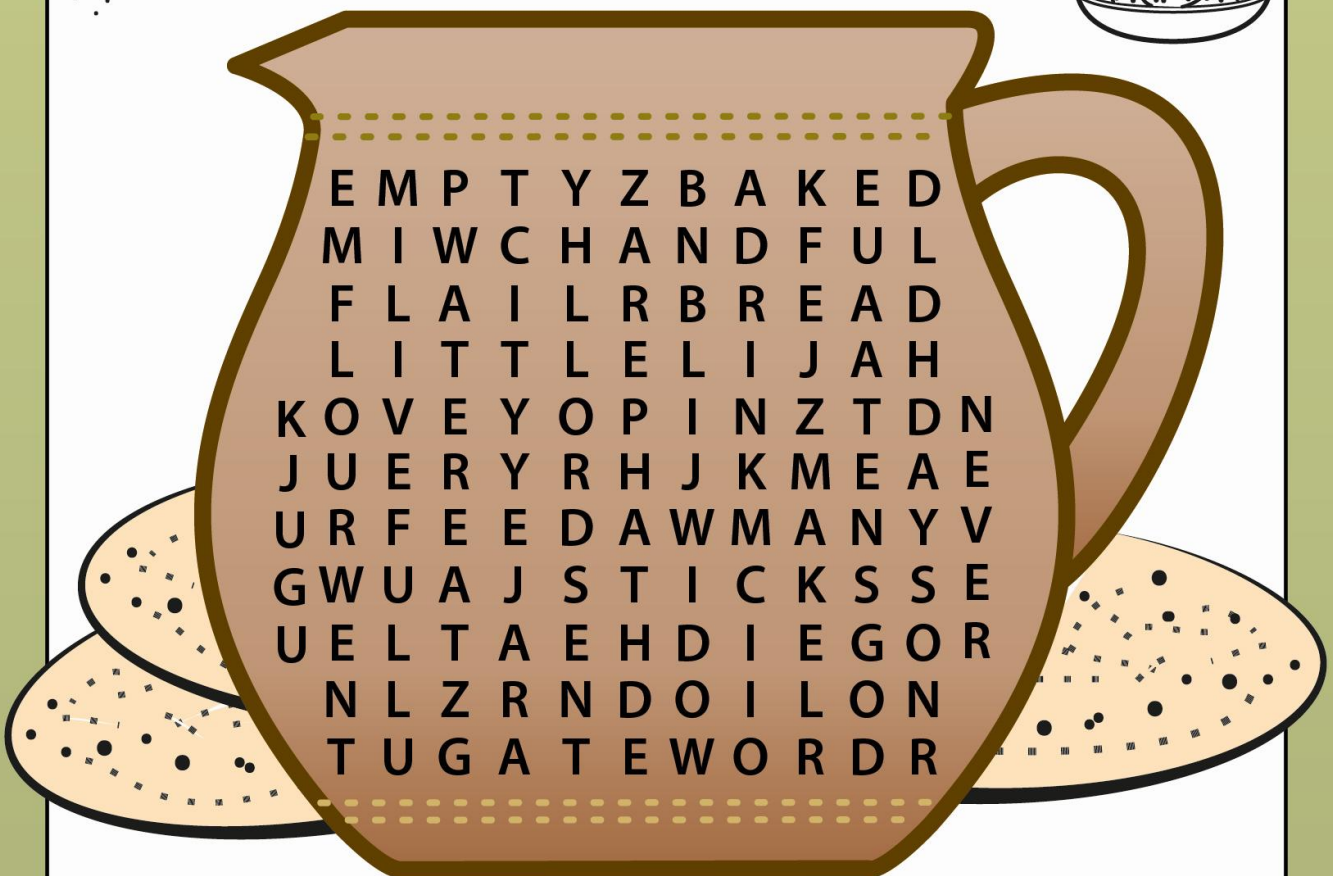
She answered *"All I have is a handful of flour and a drop of oil in a jar, it is our last meal."*

"Do not worry." Elijah said, *"Make the meal and make a small loaf for me."*

The woman did what Elijah had asked and God blessed her ...



... The bowl never ran out of flour and the jar never ran out of oil until it rained again!



Find these words from the story in the word search:

WORD • LORD • GOD • ELIJAH • SENT • ZAREPHATH • GATE • CITY • WIDOW
STICKS • WATER • DRINK • BREAD • FEED • HANDFUL • FLOUR • LITTLE
OIL • SON • EAT • DIE • FULL • WENT • MAKE • BAKED • ATE • JAR • JUG • MANY
DAYS • LIVE • NEVER • EMPTY

Crossword

Across

1 'Through [Christ] we have gained by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)

4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)

8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)

9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)

10 Belgium's chief port (7)

11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)

12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)

17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)

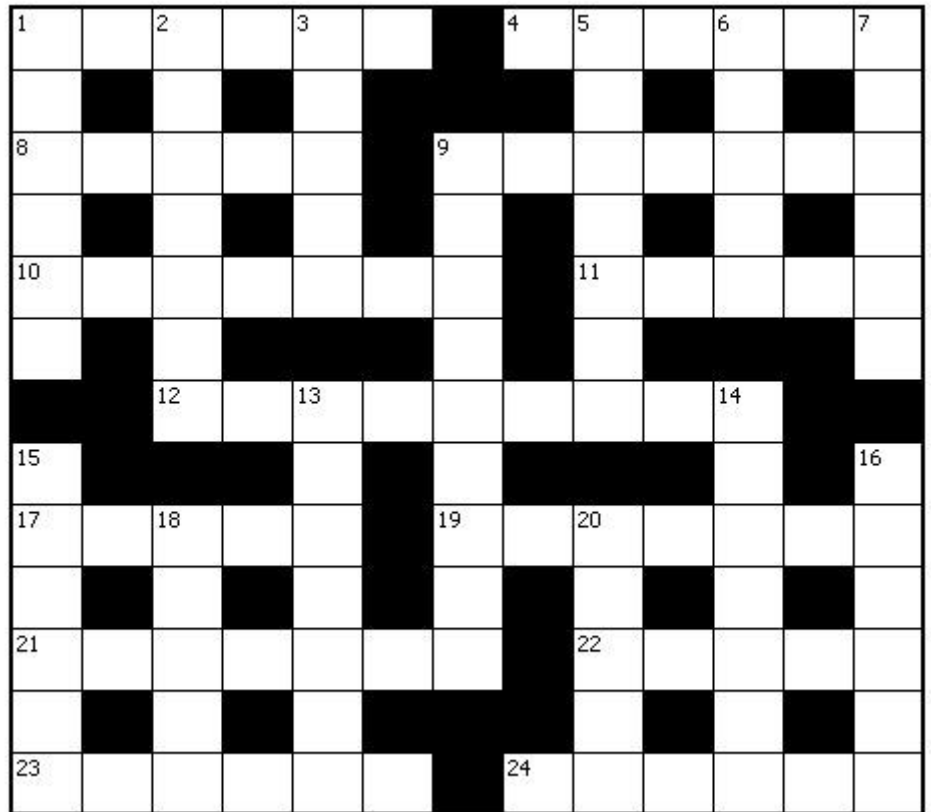
19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)

21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)

22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)

23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)

24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)



Down

1 Popular Christian author and humorist, Plass (6)

2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)

3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)

5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)

6 Lonny (anag.) (5)

7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)

9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)

13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)

14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)

15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)

16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)

18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)

20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

Solution on page 27



Sudoku

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

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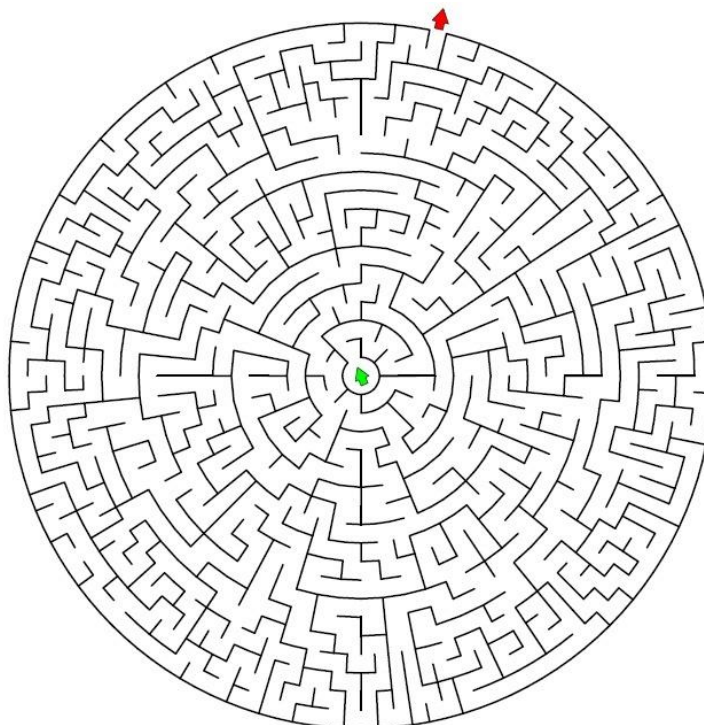
		7		6				3
1	6		4		3	9		
			1				8	
7	8							
9	2		8		4		6	1
							7	2
	1				2			
		8	9		1		3	6
2				3		1		

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Easy

Medium

Maze



News from the United Reformed Church

items from the July & August editions of the Synod Newsletter



Congratulations to **Kay Blackwell** (currently at London Street and Tadley URCs) who has been called into the newly created role of a 'Chaplaincy team leader' at The Oxford Academy secondary school, working in conjunction with the Cowley Church of England Deanery, The River learning trust, the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education and the Oxford schools chaplaincy charity. The role will involve developing the Christian ethos and values of the school by offering pastoral support and spiritual care to all (pupils, staff and community). The role will involve developing 'the public face of God' within the school communities (working with also with local primary schools in the Cowley /Littlemore area of Oxford) and will be about forming a new missional and pioneering ministry. The chaplaincy role will be distinctive about its Christian nature and be about offering encounters with, and exploration of, Christian scriptures, prayer and fellowship. The role will also involve networking and partnering with local churches, primary schools and Oxford city-wide charities and so one day a week will be spent working out in the community. Kay will commence in this role on 1st September 2021.

Commitment for Life Service - I am writing to draw your attention to the NEW service that *Commitment for Life* has created in conjunction with Christian Aid on leaving a Legacy. The Harvest service including full text and a video of the service is downloadable from our website by following the link <https://urc.org.uk/commitment-for-life/worship-commitment-for-life.html>

'Shaping our Everyday Prayer' Conference on Zoom Wednesday 22 September 2:30-5:30 pm Seeking to grow in your prayer life? Looking for creative approaches to prayer in worship? A prayer workshop (on zoom), hosted by the Joint Liturgical Group (JLG) of Great Britain, is the place to be on Wednesday 22 September 2:30-5:30.

Fr. David Birchall, Director of the Ignatian Spiritual centre in Glasgow, will lead the Conference in imaginative contemplation and reflective prayer.

Revd Peter Gardner, a visual artist and Church of Scotland minister, will invite us to 'Watch & Pray', to open our eyes and look with attentive curiosity, to consider what we would choose to look at when we pray. He will reflect on ways that contemporary visual art practice can enhance our ways of seeing and transform our everyday prayer as individuals and worshipping communities.

Please share the zoom link with folks in your church. Everyone is welcome. We've reserved extra places on zoom, so there's room for everyone.

There is no registration fee, but donations will be accepted on the day, for the costs of the day and the on-going work of the Joint Liturgical Group. Ana Gobledale is the URC representative on the JLG. Find more information about the presenters and the zoom link here: <https://jlg.org.uk/2021/08/03/shaping-our-every-day-prayer-zoom-conference-september-22-2021/>

Safeguarding. Southwestern Synod has arranged some further sessions by Farrer & Co regarding trustee responsibilities in respect of safeguarding. The training is free as it is as a result of a successful application to the Synod Development Fund managed by the Assembly Safeguarding Advisory Group and is open to all synods. The training will be via Zoom and the dates are below:

Wednesday 17th November 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

Tuesday 23rd November 11 am – 1 pm

Tuesday 30th November 11 am – 1 pm

To book email: Dinah Firmin at secretary@urcsouthwest.org.uk

Wessex Summer Camps 2022 – save the date 22nd to 24th July 2022, at Oakwood Activity Centre, Wokingham, RG40 3DA. Save the date for next year's camp which we hope will be bigger and better than ever.

Mental Health First Aider with Youth focus – in-person training

This two-day in-person training course qualifies you as a Mental Health First Aider, with a specific focus on how that relates to younger people.

Venue: St Paul's Anglican Church, Howell Hill, 15 Northey Avenue, Cheam,

Sutton, Surrey, SM2 7HS

Date: Two-day course on **Thursday 9th and Friday 10th September 2021**

Time: **9am – 5pm** both days, (arrivals 8.30 – 8.45am)

Cost: **free** to members of local URC churches and LEPs in Wessex Synod but you will need to fund your own travel.

Booking is essential and places are limited. Please email bookings@urcwessex.org.uk to receive the link to register on the course.

Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar September

5	Blandford Forum; Fareham
12	Christchurch: Walkford; High Cross Church, Camberley
19	Bournemouth: Iford; Romsey: Braishfield
26	Bridport; South Hayling Island



A man went into a drop-in medical centre where the diagnosis was done by a computer. The patient keyed in his symptoms. The machine whirred and buzzed for a few seconds and then presented its findings on the screen. It said simply: "There's a lot of it about."



Lectionary Bible Readings for September

September 5	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37
September 12	Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38
September 19	Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; <i>Jeremiah 11:18-20</i> ; Psalm 54; James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30
September 26	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

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 **October** Messenger is **Sunday 12 September 2021**. Please send articles to Messenger Editors, Keith & Mary Evans, tel 01730 235922 e-mail keithnmary@talktalk.net

Solution to Crossword on page 23

Answers

ACROSS

1 access; 4 blinds; 8 rhyme; 9 loyalty; 10 Antwerp; 11 Aenon; 12 loftiness; 17 Satan; 19 Obadiah; 21 on earth; 22 storm; 23 exhale; 24 depths

DOWN

1 Adrian; 2 crystal; 3 siege; 5 lay bare; 6 nylon; 7 saying; 9 Lappidoth; 13 funeral; 14 spit out; 15 ashore; 16 Thomas; 18 teeth; 20 aisle



From a church notice sheet: PLEASE NOTE: 'From this Sunday the evening service will begin at 8pm. This will continue until October.'

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

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,	
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”