

# THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

I will put my Spirit in you  
and you will Live  
Ezekiel 37:14



June 2020 No 689

## From the Minister ...



Dear friends, at the time of writing this letter to you all, it is unclear exactly what will happen next in the phased re-opening of our country and when and if restrictions might start to be lifted. At the moment we are working very broadly to a time scale of not being allowed back into our church buildings until July at the very earliest and even after this point there will be many in our church family who are still being asked to shield themselves because of age or underlying health conditions. Please rest assured that the Elders and I are still meeting regularly and will continue to discuss how things might start to happen using our building as soon as it is possible and safe to do so. I commend to you a document that has been put together on behalf of the denomination by the Moderator's of the various Synod's in the United Kingdom. It is called 'Ready for the new "normal"'. It is a discussion paper on how we might recover from this pandemic and begin to resume some of our activities. It can be found here - <https://urc.org.uk/images/Communications/New-Normal-2020.pdf> However, if you don't have access to the internet and would like to read this please do say and we should be able to arrange a printed copy for you.

Tomorrow morning, ministers from across the Synod have been called to a virtual meeting to discuss this paper and it will be interesting to get ideas and different thoughts from this forum. If you have any comments or questions about the document, please do let us know. One thing it would be particularly interesting to know is what you have particularly missed from our usual church format but also the things you really have not missed. If we can start to think about some of these things, we can see what common themes crop up and potentially adjust things when "normality" resumes.

One thing that we are incredibly aware of as a leadership team, is just how useful the internet has been in staying connected but also reaching out into our community over the past weeks. I mentioned last month that our first 'Tea Time Worship' was viewed by over 700 people. As predicted, this did plateau, but we are still regularly engaging with around 200 people who are watching this service each week. Clearly we need to keep up this kind of momentum and next week we have someone coming to the church to help us start thinking about how we can upgrade our internet facilities there in order to be able to stream acts of worship live on the internet as they happen. These, as I mentioned last month, are challenging but exciting times and I recently read a study conducted

by Tearfund which suggested in the last 8 weeks, 24% of people had said they had watched some sort of online church service and 43% had said they had prayed. God uses even our most challenging situations and we need to be praying that these positive signs continue when people are out of lockdown and returning to their everyday lives. To God be the Glory, great things he has done (and continues to do!)

Your Brother in Christ.

**Josh.**



## **The Valley of Dry Bones has a future hope**

*'A dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones. An' I hear the word of the Lord!'*

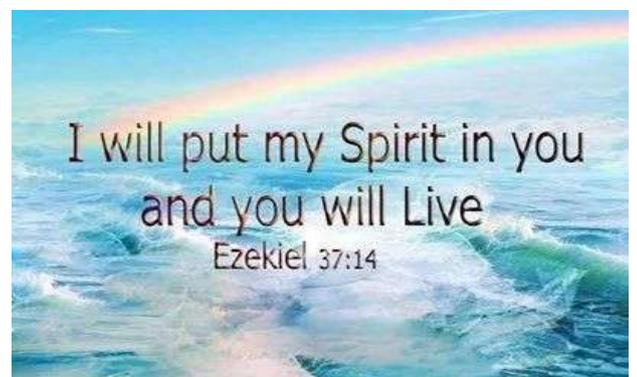
At this time of global pandemic, we live with stark reality of death and life. Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones (37:1-14) was given when God's people were in exile in Babylon. They felt dead, being separated from home and God! The vision answers God's question: *'can these bones live?'*

We can also feel cut off from God, facing the loss of job, business, home or health, with churches unable to meet on Sundays. This vision assures us that God has power over death and can breathe new life into what is hopeless.

When Ezekiel is told to *'prophesy to the bones'* (4), God brings them back to life: the bones come together and are covered with muscles and skin, and then filled with God's breath to bring new life, by the life of His Spirit.

The Covid-19 virus robs people of their life by suffocation, so that they can't breathe. Our hope beyond the pandemic is that the gift of God's Spirit will bring new life to our lives, churches and world. Life will certainly look very different in the future, but we can be assured that God is with us and that we are safe in His hands.

*'I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'*(vs14)



# Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,

I have to say, first off, that I miss you all terribly!

That said, I'll tell you a bit about what's happening within our church – not the building you understand. As I know you will be aware, Josh and Jo have been working really hard with different ways of communication. I hope you are all receiving the weekly newsletter either by email or hand delivered. It's lovely that Esme is well enough to do some of that work so thank you Esme. Josh has become a dab hand at burning CDs. If you know of any of our church folk who have slipped through the net (not the internet 😊) please let us know.

We had a virtual elders meeting at the beginning of May and will be doing the same every first Tuesday of the month. I thought you might like to see the round up of "How Church is Working" discussed at elders (plus a few bits I've added).

- There is the URC service each week sent by the Daily Devotions team. Folk are encouraged to join at 11 (normal worship time at Petersfield)
- Josh goes live on our Facebook page immediately after the service
- A newsletter is being sent each week by email and delivered to those without email along with a CD of the weeks' service
- Josh and family are recording Tea Time Worship – TTW- which goes live on Facebook at 4.00 on Sundays and is then available on our YouTube channel
- On Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> Josh led a live zoom communion service at 7.30pm. It had been very well received by those who attended and it was recorded so that it was available afterwards
- Every first Sunday in the month at 7.30pm there will be a live zoom communion service led by Josh
- There is a virtual Pub Quiz hosted by Josh and Hannah every other Saturday.
- JFC – Jo has started to do a zoom time each week – alternate weeks for the seniors and juniors
- Each Tuesday Little Fishes has a live zoom call to any wishing to join and Carol reads a story and leads singing
- Each Wednesday at 10 there is prayer time on zoom
- Jo has coordinated shopping and medicine runs for any folk needing them
- At least one Home group has started to meet by zoom

- The prayer chain has been even more vital during all of this time
- Josh, Isaac and Mike, along with Hannah's Dad, Tony, have been recording music to use at TTW and our live services
- Carolyn reported that the foodbank has been extremely busy and David is working hard with that
- And there are lots of phone calls

I have probably missed other things that are happening for which I apologise.

I know some of you heard me reading on one of the URC services. I have been recording the occasional podcast for the URC Daily Devotions for quite a few years. I signed up at the very start and enjoy doing them. So when the URC services started to be recorded Andy Braunston, who organises the Daily Devotions and coordinates all the services, asked the same team of recorders if they could contribute to these. You'll hear me a couple of times over June and beyond. They are organising services to the end of the year but I do hope we can meet together before that.

God bless you all – till we meet in person I send my love,

**Carol**



**Thank you**

I just want to thank you all for your love and prayers during the worrying time we've had with my Mum. For those of you who don't know, Mum is at Blenheim Court Care Home in Liss and was tested for Covid19 as she was not feeling great. She was found to be positive, as were others in the home. She was very poorly for a while, even expressing that she didn't want to carry on living like this. We obviously feared the worse, especially with all the media reporting about deaths in care homes. However I am delighted to report that Mum, along with all the others there, is well on the road to recovery and can't understand why we were so worried! I told the home that they were being surrounded by prayer and I truly felt that God has answered those prayers. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**Carol**

## Update from our Church and Community Worker...

Well, this month I am not going to tell you what I have been up to, to be fair its most probably very similar to last month.

I want to talk to you about relationships, friendships and a deeper knowledge of one another. When we met on Sunday mornings at Church most of us would sit in the same pews turn and talk to the same people around us. And then after the service chat and have coffee/tea with our friends as we did every week. Nothing wrong with that, we all did it, me included...

But with us unable to meet and worship God in our usual way, we have had to do things differently. One of the new things for me is to phone everyone in the Church directory. This has been an absolute blessing to me. A conversation is a two-way thing, some bloom straight away, others take time and a different approach. Having the time to listen and learn about the things we have in common and the things we didn't know about one another is wonderful. I have new friends to go dog walking with, home visits to make, friends' hobbies to marvel over, gardens to sit in and learn the right names for the plants instead of the pretty pink one (obviously when allowed). This virus has given me new relationships and opportunities to walk along our family church in a way that would have taken years to have done normally. Some of us have thrived during this pandemic some of us have just got our heads above the water. And others have sunk into despair, with isolation too much to bare. But there is hope. God promises are throughout the bible.

Psalm 27:1. 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?

Psalm 9:9-10. 9 The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Proverbs 3:5-6. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

We can ALWAYS turn to God taking our worries, fears and despair to him, but sometimes it maybe a phone call from a friend is what we need to get us through that day. Thank you.

**Jo Hopkins**



## **A message from Emsworth ...**

### **We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure Hebrews 6 verse 19**

I have not been able to walk Penny on our most favourite walk for several weeks now due to the pandemic. Especially with the sunlight sparkling on the sea, the coastal path around Nutbourne and Prinsted is quite simply beautiful. However, the world and his wife thinks the same and the path is quite narrow in places so “social distancing “ would be challenging. There are walks nearer to home but I sensed that Penny was becoming bored with these. A three-minute car ride away, however, is the wonderful Emsworth Common Road which bisects acre upon acre of mixed woodland. I parked in a deserted lay-by then walked in the most beautiful woodland with Fir and Yew, Silver Birch, Beech, Chestnut, and Oak. There were probably other trees too that I could not name. It was so quiet and peaceful with only bird song to underline the beauty. With “lockdown”, the road was unnaturally silent and as we moved further into the wood even the sound of the odd car was very muted. Suddenly there was a loud crashing noise to the side of the path and Penny and I looked on bemused as six or seven deer dashed deeper into the woodland.

Before we had left for our walk I had sung along with Captain Tom Moore, Michael Ball and the NHS Choir with the song from “Carousel” ; “You’ll never walk alone”.

We walked over to a pile of stones which, although covered in moss, looked out of place in that woodland setting. It had been sent up in memory of someone’s dad and it had an inscription; “Those we love don’t go away they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed and always dear.” This reminded me of another great verse from the Book of 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.” (Hebrews 12:1)

Some parts of the woodland had been partially cleared as evidenced by the now moss-covered tree stumps. It seemed in these cleared areas there were also a number of trees that had been blown down during gales and storms over the years, Other parts of the woodland were quite densely populated and where these trees were Yews, it was quite dark, It seemed to me that the trees seem to protect each other as not so many trees had been lost to the gales. Seeing the odd Fir tree pointing upwards above the canopy of the other trees made me

wonder, if I had a drone, what that would look like from afar above all the trees of the wood. On the ground all close together supporting each other but up above and from a distance, the Fir trees pointing up towards heaven above the other trees.

My hope is that I want to be like that, a team player, offering help, support and encouragement to those around me but looking back over the years as someone who always pointed people heavenward introducing them to my wonderful friend Jesus.

Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit in the fifth chapter of his letter to the Galatians Chapter five and verse twenty-two; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. On all my walks with Penny I recite the fruits of the Spirit to myself and ask myself have I been loving? Am I joyful but also at peace? Am I patient? (I won't tell you how many times I fall short on that one!) Am I kind, do I try to be good, am I faithful and gentle. Do I fly "off the handle" too easily or do I have self-control? I have added another fruit of the Spirit to Paul's list and that is hope. Hope comes after peace on my list and that order of Love, Joy, Peace and Hope is the reverse of the weeks of Advent before Christmas and the candles we light each week.

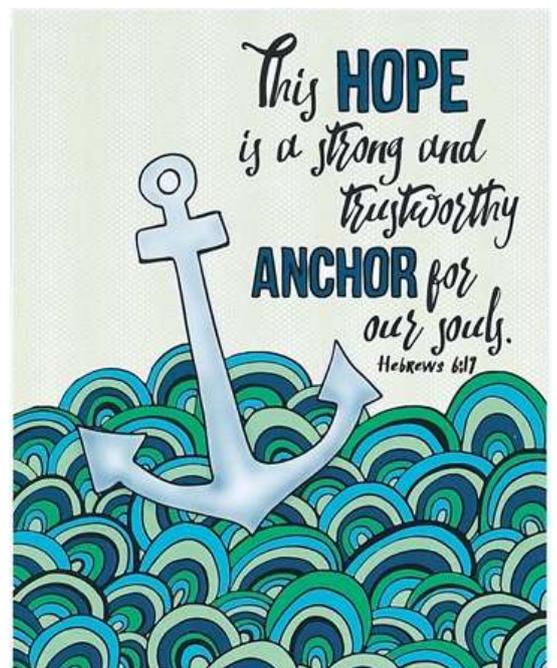
A hymn we sang a lot in The Boys' Brigade has as a chorus; We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll fastened to the rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.

In these uncertain times how wonderfully reassuring that we all have an anchor grounded in our Saviour's love. I know I am boring you all by keep going on about my really lovely walks. A daily necessity if you have a dog but a quiet dedicated time with God also a daily necessity and you do not need to go for a walk to achieve it.

We all need to pause more if we seek the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The blessing of Pentecost came after a ten day prayer meeting. The radiance on Moses' face only came after hours in the Divine Presence and not a few hurried prayers.

Yes I believe hope is a fruit of the Spirit and so necessary today but ask yourselves during your quiet times are all the other fruits of the Spirit evident in my life?

**Love,  
Alan and Cora**



## **And Sunday worship comes from....**

I wonder what you think of the streamed denominational services that many of us have enjoyed each Sunday thanks to the links that Josh has set up. Is this a new way of being Church? Is it something that we should adopt (or adapt) when lockdown and social distancing are relaxed? And if so, what is the future for our Church buildings? I have no doubt that the present crisis will cause us to re-assess some of our priorities for the mission of the Church, but fear not, I am very far from advocating that we abandon the College Street and Hill Brow sites! However, I do reflect that the Zoom communion service Josh conducted on the first Sunday evening of May felt more like a fellowship of God's people worshipping together. It is obvious that some of our number will have no access to, or struggle more with, the technology than others, and for them the sense of isolation would be all the greater if they were to be excluded from playing a full part in Church life. In whatever steps we take, we must take care to be as inclusive as possible. But for the time being, can I share one or two positive observations on these weekly services to balance against the enormous negatives that lockdown has brought.

We have heard and experienced new approaches to worship, new songs, musical and choral arrangements. We have the opportunity to worship at times of our own choosing - I can tune in at an earlier (and personally more convenient) time of day. We can pause the service to look something up in our bibles if we wish. We can even have coffee **during** the service. And the accessibility of streamed services such as these may be a less threatening way of introducing Christian worship to those anxious to seek God, so that when we open our doors once again we may indeed welcome more newcomers to the faith.

Now these are some purely personal views, but if they start you thinking, so much the better.

**Peter Jolly**



## **From the editors ...**

Over the past few weeks, we seem to have been spending a great deal of time focussing on the corona virus pandemic and the state of lockdown. This has completely altered our day to day way of life. This is reflected in very many of the articles in this issue, which we hope you find interesting, entertaining and, most importantly, spiritually helpful. As always, very many thanks to all those who have contributed.

Keep well and stay safe! **Keith and Mary**

## God is at work during Lockdown

The first few weeks of this nationwide lockdown felt completely alien and more than a little overwhelming. As a church minister, I was suddenly being called to work in very different ways to the ways I had been accustomed to doing. Getting my head around new technologies and camera skills isn't the stuff they taught me at college! However, things are now starting to settle down, a new kind of normal routine is being established. I'm getting quite used to the general pattern of a day and a week. Our natural world is clearly feeling the benefits of this period of lockdown. The waters in Venice are clear and people have observed all kinds of marine life there which previously would have been unseen. The skies are much clearer from pollution and animals and plants are reclaiming areas humans have taken away from them over the years. Our natural world is breathing a sigh of relief! In the bible we are told that God establishes new patterns and new norms. Isaiah 43:19 sums this up it says; 'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.' I don't for a second think that God wants to see His children suffering from this illness, but I do sense that God is at work even amidst the troubling situation we find ourselves in. God's creation is being renewed. As a family, we have agreed already to use our car less and to try and live a little bit more sustainably because we can see the clear benefits this time is having on our planet. God can and does make the best of a terrible situation and is calling us to protect the gift of His creation for future generations.

**Rev'd Josh Thomas** – Petersfield and Liss United Reformed Church.

***This article appeared in the Faith Comment column of the Petersfield Post on Wednesday 6 May***



## Betty Davies

It is with sadness that we report the recent death of Betty Davies. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.



## And people stayed at home ...

This poem is sometimes attributed to Kathleen O'Mara, who may have written it in 1869. It is still very relevant to the present times.

And people stayed at home  
And read books  
And listened  
And they rested  
And did exercises  
And made art and played  
And learned new ways of being  
And stopped and listened  
More deeply.  
Someone meditated, someone prayed  
Someone met their shadow  
And people began to think differently  
And people healed.  
And in the absence of people who  
Lived in ignorant ways  
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,  
The earth also began to heal  
And when the danger ended and  
People found themselves  
They grieved for the dead  
And made new choices  
And dreamed of new visions  
And created new ways of living  
And completely healed the earth  
Just as they were healed.

supplied by **Mary Fair**



# 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*

## Ukraine Summer Mission

It is with great sadness that we have had to cancel this year's summer mission because of COVID-19.



UKRAINE  
CHRISTIAN  
PARTNERSHIP

While we will not have a physical presence in the villages this July or August, we continue to think about and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank God that so far, at least, there have not been any cases in the villages, although we know that not too far away there have been.

We would ask for your prayers for the villagers and also for how we can best continue our medical support. We thank God that through the difficulties we experienced with winter supplies, we are in a better position to continue this support, but we need His guidance and help for this to carry on.

## David Darling

PS If anybody would like to donate to mission work, please pass cash or cheque (payable to Ukraine Christian Partnership) to David or Fiona Darling, Carol Tubbs or Jim Cleverly. Donations can be gift aided.



## Refugee Week - 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June



As the annual 'Refugee Week' approaches, various Christian relief agencies and campaign groups warn that coronavirus could have a catastrophic impact on the refugees whom they are trying to help.

First, the big picture: according to the UNHCR, "we are currently witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. An unprecedented **70.8 million** people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly **25.9 million refugees**, over half of whom are **under the age of 18.**"

Refugees are especially vulnerable, as their usual homes of makeshift tents or flimsy shelters are over-crowded and without clean water or sanitation, making social distancing and isolation impossible. Also, many refugees are already suffering under-lying health conditions and mental health issues.

As the head of the Humanitarian Division at Christian Aid, Nick Guttman, also points out: "Refugees are some of the most vulnerable people in the world. Access to medical facilities is limited and the destabilisation of the global economy is likely to have an impact on their livelihoods and the flow of humanitarian aid." He warns that it is only a "matter of time" before it reaches the countries with a high number of refugees: Bangladesh, Syria, Lebanon, Nigeria, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Tearfund has highlighted the problem of warning the one million Rohingya people, crowded in camps in Bangladesh. "There is no internet provision in the camps and the mobile network is currently suspended, so getting the message out about the dangers of the virus relies on word of mouth."

Meanwhile, Open Doors is concerned for the plight of the Pygmy people in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many fled their rainforest after persecution by Islamist rebels, and are now living in camps, where they are extremely vulnerable to the virus.

Leprosy Mission has warned that India "faces a human timebomb, waiting to explode." Communities affected by leprosy, malnutrition, overcrowded living conditions and poor sanitation, make "ideal breeding ground for the spread of coronavirus. Social distancing and isolation are impossible in the densely populated areas."

please email us at [info@christian-aid.org](mailto:info@christian-aid.org) or call our helpline on 020 7620 4444.

## **‘How long, O Lord?’ – the lament of Psalm 13**

As we struggle with the effects of the global coronavirus pandemic, we might echo the words of Psalm 13: *‘How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?’* It is one of a number of lament psalms, where the psalmist cries out in pain, because he feels abandoned by God. In our current circumstances, these psalms enable us to talk to God about our fears and frustrations, while renewing our confidence in Him. What does Psalm 13 say?

***Bring your complaint to God:*** The psalmist brings his pain and questions to God: *‘How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?’* (2). He is open with God about his complaints, despite the anger he feels.

***Ask boldly for His help:*** He goes on to ask for God’s help: *‘Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, ‘I have overcome him...’* (3–4). While avoiding despair (*‘there’s no hope’*) or denial (*‘everything’s fine’*), the psalmist is confident in God’s power to deliver.

***Choose to trust Him:*** *‘But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord’s praise, for He has been good to me.’* (5–6). The lament is a journey to the point of renewing our trust in God in the brokenness of our life.

The psalms of lament (e.g. Psalms 10, 22 and 77) give us a prayer language for dark times. They enable us to be honest with God about what is happening to us and remind us that God has not abandoned us. He is a God who is both sovereign and good.



“Have courage for the great sorrows of life, and patience for the small ones. And when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.” – *Victor Hugo, writer*

“Great faith is the product of great fights. Great testimonies are the outcome of great tests. Great triumphs can only come out of great trials.” - *Smith Wigglesworth, preacher*

## 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 ... **Mark**



- *What type of book is it?* Gospel narrative
- *Who wrote it?* John Mark
- *When was it written?* approx. 55-65AD

Mark wrote his gospel to be an encouragement to the Christians living in Rome, demonstrating that Jesus is the Messiah through His actions during His earthly ministry. Many scholars consider that Mark got his information from Peter, as he spent much time in Peter's company and would have heard Peter's account of his time with Jesus. Mark's gospel is concise and in chronological order.



At the end of Mark's Gospel in the NIV, (the earliest manuscripts do not have Mark 16:9-20). So I decided to look into the matter as it deals with the Resurrection of Jesus which is very important. Mark's Gospel was the first Gospel to be written, and it is possible that the other Gospels used Mark's Gospel as a Guide.

I am a member of the Creation Science Movement, and one of the members has looked into the matter, and has written a little book, and a flyer on the subject, his name is Dr Bill Cooper. The original Codex was written in 1843 by Dr Simonides who wrote the codex in the Athos Monastery, including a 19<sup>th</sup> century version of Barnabas in modern Greek and also a copy of the Shepherd of Hermas, the text is in modern Greek. When visiting St Catherine's Monastery he discovered the manuscripts were there and had been given the look of an old manuscript, although being in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and given the name of Codex Sinaiticus. It is most distressing that in Mark's Gospel, chapter 16: 9 – 20 had been removed not only in Codex Sinaiticus but also in Codex Vaticanus by the same Scribe. Codex Sinaiticus was shown all round the world. The manuscript was divided into four parts and sent to different countries including England. Fortunately the British Library took a perfect digital facsimile of all four sections with the publisher's co-operation. There are many blemishes in the Codex . There are two translations of the Bible today that are not affected, the first is the Authorised Version available today and the second is the 1560 Geneva Bible. Other versions are based on Codex Sinaiticus. The note in the NIV can be ignored as a forgery. If you want a copy of the Flyer, please contact **Robin Ive**.

For our younger readers ...

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies  
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic  
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..

I will fight the best soldier in Israel's army and if I win, you will be our slaves

David's brothers were in Israel's army. He came to bring them food, and he heard Goliath.

He is insulting God!

David's brothers were not happy.

You just came to watch the fight. Go back to your few sheep.

But David didn't stop..

and King Saul heard what he said.

We shouldn't be cowards. I will fight him!

You don't stand a chance.

I have killed lions and bears with God's help.

Then go ahead. You can wear my armour.

I can't move with all this on!

So David took it off.

He took his sling and chose 5 stones from the stream bed.

Goliath couldn't believe what he saw.

Do you think I'm a dog that you have come with a stick?

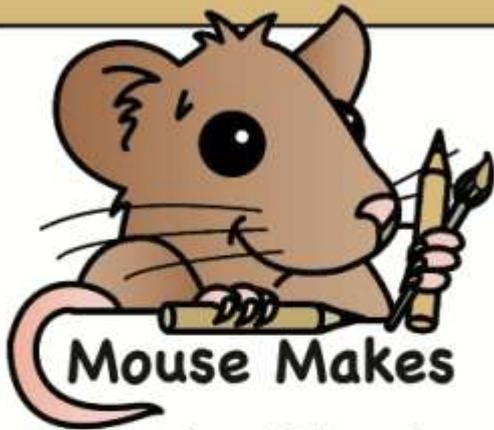
I have come to fight you in the name of the All-powerful God. The Lord always wins His battles

As Goliath came forward..

David slung his stone and hit him on the head.

Goliath fell down dead.

The Philistines ran away, chased by Israel's army.



When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

**READ** Nehemiah's story in the *Old Testament* book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| ○ PRAY      | ○ GATE     |
| ○ RUBBLE    | ○ BEAM     |
| ○ REPAIR    | ○ BOLT     |
| ○ RESTORE   | ○ BAR      |
| ○ BUILD     | ○ STEP     |
| ○ WORK      | ○ TOWER    |
| ○ STONE     | ○ HOUSE    |
| ○ TIMBER    | ○ POOL     |
| ○ WALLS     | ○ FINISH   |
| ○ FLOOR     | ○ DEDICATE |
| ○ ROOF      | ○ DOOR     |
| ○ CELEBRATE |            |

Word search grid containing the following words and partial words:

- REPAIR
- RESTORE
- WORK
- STONE
- TOWER
- HOUSE
- POOL
- FINISH
- DEDICATE
- DOOR
- CELEBRATE
- PRAY
- RUBBLE
- GATE
- BEAM
- BOLT
- BAR
- STEP
- TOWER
- HOUSE
- POOL
- FINISH
- DEDICATE
- DOOR
- CELEBRATE

How many gates were repaired?  
Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?

## Wordsearch

Coronavirus has turned our world upside down. But God is still there, and we can call on Him, as Psalm 91 (vs 1-6) reminds us...

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."

<sup>3</sup> Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.

<sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,

<sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

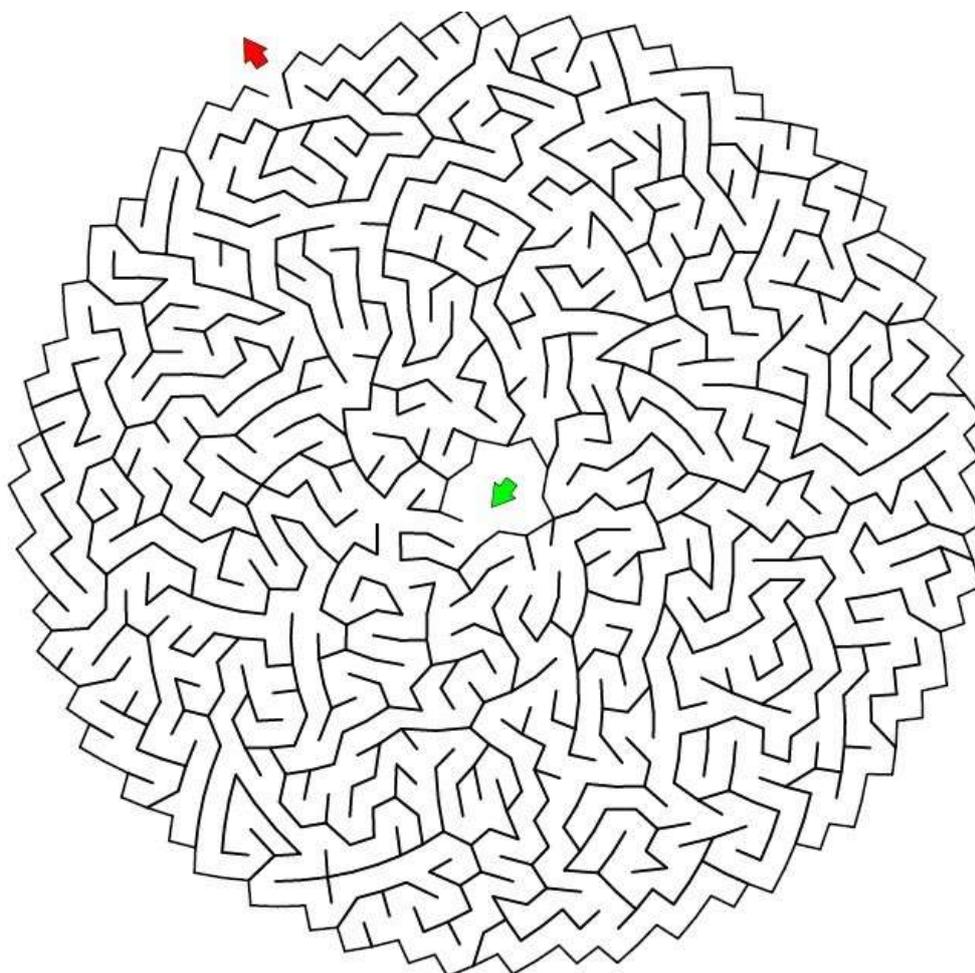
Dwells	cover
shelter	feathers
most	wings
high	faithfulness
shadow	shield
almighty	rampart
refuge	fear
fortress	terror
trust	night
save	arrow
snare	plague
deadly	destroys
pestilence	

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

### Sudoku

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

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### Maze

## **News from the United Reformed Church** **items from the May edition of the Synod Newsletter**



### **Message from the Moderator**

Some of the conversations I've been having recently have touched on the topic of how and where we are experiencing God during this period where we are unable to meet together in our normal ways. It might be that we find God in a less frenetic lifestyle - though for some, life is busier than ever. It may be that worship - streamed or shared through video conferencing - has touched us. It may be in the kindness of a neighbour, or shared family time even at a distance. Or it may be that you are struggling to find God at all.

God, of course, has a way of finding us - but it doesn't always happen in the same way. For the disciples, meeting together on the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God came as a violent wind, which virtually pushed them outside to tell others about Jesus. But contrast that with the story of Elijah in the cave, running away from both an evil king, and from God. There's another wind - great and powerful, tearing mountains apart - but God is not in the wind, nor the subsequent earthquake. God is in the gentle whisper that follows.

As we come towards Pentecost, I hope and pray that each one of us will have an experience of God. Possibly a violent wind, and tongues of fire, possibly a still small voice, possibly something totally different. God knows where we are - and although we may not be free to go out and preach to an assembled crowd, as God touches us, we, like Elijah, and like those early disciples are called to share God's message, in word and action.

### **Support from the URC in Wessex to the people of the Lusaka Presbytery of the UCZ, an update**

In the last issue I expressed my own thanks and that of Bishop Chomba and the Lusaka Presbytery for the funds contributed by local churches and the willingness of the Wessex Trust to provide matching funding. This allowed an initial gift of £10,000 to be sent to Zambia in mid-April. Transmission of those funds has proved to be a tortuous process and the need in Zambia is great.

Although the number of infections from covid-19 in Zambia are relatively small (146 cases and 4 deaths at the time of writing) the restrictions on daily life that have helped achieve that low level of infection have wrought havoc. As previously reported this disruption coming on top of the effects of drought has driven up the price of basic food-stuffs. For the Church the impact has been dire, their ability to function financially depends on immediate cashflow and with congregations unable to meet money has immediately dried up.

The generosity of the churches on the Wessex Synod has continued, although many I know will be facing financial challenges of their own, and contributions have continued to come into the Synod Office. Gifts from churches and individuals have brought another £10,000 and at its meeting today (May 7<sup>th</sup>) the Wessex Trust agreed to extend its matched-funding so that cover the full amount. We are therefore preparing to send a further £20,000 to Zambia, probably in two instalments.

It means that, as things stand, URC Wessex will have made gifts to our sisters and brothers of the United Church of Zambia of £30,000. **If you have been considering a gift but have not yet acted it is not too late and the Trust has agreed a small further margin for match-funding should it be required.** These are unprecedented times and the churches of the Wessex Synod have responded with unprecedented generosity, on behalf of those with whom we are linked in the Lusaka Presbytery I thank you most sincerely.

Nigel Appleton

Zambia Link Co-ordinator for URC Wessex Synod.

### **Freephone line ‘Daily Hope’**

A Church of England initiative in partnership with CONNECTIONS at Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life. The telephone line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

### ***Journey of the Magi* – a festive, light-hearted, joyful event with a moving and profound message**

Following a sell-out year in 2019, ***Journey of the Magi*** is back, for churches to host for Advent 2020. If you’re wanting to find ways to bring your community together in a joyful way after lockdown, then why not share the joy and wonder of Christmas with your church and local community through this exhilarating, critically acclaimed performance. The show offers a bridge between contemporary life and Jesus’ birth, comparing our own personal journey to Christmas day with the journey that the wise men took. With sparkle and songs to keep the children engrossed and bags of good humour for the grown-ups, ***Journey of the Magi*** delights audiences of all ages and offers a chance to reflect, refocus and bring strength to the community.

***“Absolutely fabulous show. Wonderful mix of fun, wit, and meaning. It made me laugh and it made me cry all in a couple of minutes. (Hope you’ll come back.)”*** Richard, Poynton Methodist Church

Springs is inviting churches to host a performance of ***Journey of the Magi***, which we are planning to tour nationally from 21st November to 23rd December 2020.

If a performance in 2020 cannot go ahead due to COVID-19, bookings will be fully refundable or postponed until Advent 2021.

Further information can be found on the Springs Dance Company website page <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/journey-of-the-magi/>, by emailing [touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk](mailto:touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk) or by calling 07876 752 910

### **Children's Day – save the date**

**Saturday 12 September 2020 in Reading.** An intergenerational day aimed at families of all ages. The URC's theme this year is Common Ground. We will start and finish at a local URC church and will spend the day on a walking tour of 4 places of worship of other faiths. We will hopefully visit a Jewish synagogue, an Islamic mosque, a Hindu temple and one Christian denomination. At each stop we will enjoy a mini tour and experience their style of worship, asking ourselves 'where is the common ground?' Cost £5 per person (under 5s go free).

### **Synod Youth Weekend – change of date to November**

Unfortunately, the date in May had to be cancelled but **we are pleased to announce that the weekend has been re-scheduled for 14-15 November 2020.**

At Park Place Pastoral Centre, Wickham, near Fareham, PO17 5HA. For ages 14 - 25 years. A chance to have your say, have fun, learn basic sign language and explore spirituality and prayer.

<b>Save the dates: September Area Gatherings</b>		
<b>Area</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
South West	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Salisbury
North West	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Thatcham
South East	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Petersfield
North East	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	tbc

### **Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar June**

7	Twyford (Bucks); Cheap Street, Sherborne; Jersey
14	Woodley Airfield Church; Portsmouth: Drayton United Church
21	Christchurch, Thame; Southampton: Hedge End
28	Oxford: St Columba's; Guildford: St Peter's





## Lectionary Bible Readings for June

June 7	Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
June 14	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
June 21	Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
June 28	Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

### **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 **July Messenger** is **Sunday 14 June 2020**. Please send articles to Messenger Editors, Keith & Mary Evans, tel 01730 235922 e-mail [keithnmary@talktalk.net](mailto:keithnmary@talktalk.net)



***What time of day was Adam created?*** Just a little before Eve.

***Who was the fastest runner in the race?*** Adam. He was first in the human race.

***Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?*** No — just an apple.

***Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?*** Because Noah was always standing on the deck

***Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?*** He only had two worms.

## Church Contact Details

<b>Church</b>	<b>Petersfield : College Street, Petersfield GU31 4AG 01730 266475</b>	<b>Liss : Hillbrow Road, Liss GU33 7PX</b>
Minister	Rev Joshua Thomas Tel 07734 254983 <a href="mailto:minister@petersfieldurc.com">minister@petersfieldurc.com</a>	
Church Office	Administrator Mrs Esme Kelly Office Hours 9am-12noon Tuesdays to Fridays	
Church & Community Worker	Mrs Jo Hopkins 01730 266475 <a href="mailto:communityworker@petersfieldurc.com">communityworker@petersfieldurc.com</a>	
Telephone	Church Family Centre 01730 266475	
Website	<a href="http://www.petersfieldurc.com">www.petersfieldurc.com</a>	
E-mail	<a href="mailto:admin@petersfieldurc.com">admin@petersfieldurc.com</a>	
Sunday Services	Mornings at 11 am with Junior Family Church	Mornings at 9.30am (usually 2nd Sunday in the month only, but see Liss calendar inside for full details)
	Evening Worship at 6.30pm (1st Sunday in the month only)	No evening Services
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”*