

# CROSSOVER QUARTERLY

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## SPRING EDITION 2022

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### TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHURCHES GROUP

WORSHIPPING GOD AND SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST IN WORDS AND ACTION



HAWKENBURY  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



RUSTHALL  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



UNITED EMMANUEL CHURCH  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

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VISIT OUR GROUP WEBSITE: [www.twgroupworship.org.uk](http://www.twgroupworship.org.uk)

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### GREETINGS

Welcome to the first edition of "Crossover Quarterly" our new Tunbridge Wells Churches Group quarterly publication. We hope you will find the format and content engaging and helpful.

There will be four editions each year as follows: **Spring Edition** (March, April, May) focus on the Lent and Easter period. **Summer Edition** (June, July, August) focus on the wider world, leisure and the lives we live.

**Autumn Edition** (September, October, November) focus on Creationtide (including Harvest) and remembrance season. **Winter Edition** (December, January & February) taking in Advent, Christmas & Epiphany.

Enjoy Crossover. We welcome feedback and suggestions to help us develop things for the future.

In this edition we have news to share from the three fellowships, invitations and information about forthcoming activities and events, articles about particular seasonally relevant themes and some fun elements. As the project develops, we hope that more folk will want to get involved both in writing and compiling each of the editions. The deadline for material the June issue is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May although sooner is always better.

Spring is a special time of the year – after the darker days of the Winter, sunlight hours lengthen (from where we get the word Lent) and the life of the natural world around us breaks forth again. Life, light and hope are fundamental to the message of the Church especially in the seasons of Lent, Easter and Pentecost. It's good to explore our faith, mission and service with these themes in mind.

*Editorial Team*

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## UNITED EMMANUEL CHURCH

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:30am**  
**TUESDAY SERVICE: 12:15pm – 12:45pm**

### **PROJECT 21 @ UE**

Rev Helen Warmington

We have been talking about Project21 for some time now, and been busy fundraising. Who can remember the quiz night back in October 2019, our first event? (Forever etched in my memory as the night I felt a bit under the weather not realizing the backache was my appendix getting ready to burst).

Obviously, things became more complex with lockdowns and life in general knocked sideways but despite this UE have raised the ballpark figure, the necessary consents and Capital Contribution Addendums finally signed off. Hooray. The plus side of being an LEP is both denominations have given grants, the downside is both denominations need to be consulted and sign off on such a big project so the administration takes longer.

So, we are just about ready to go! A brand-new commercial standard kitchen – so we can share meals through social-eating projects and partners. Specifically, we are looking for supplementing the work of Mosaic with the provision of a once-a-week evening meal, and offering space to support groups such as Dementia Friendly Café or carers groups, as well as “church family meals” where we can share fellowship over food. Churches are deemed to be “commercial” premises and so we have to abide by quite strict hygiene rules (think “scores on the doors”).

We also plan better access for those with disabilities with a new lift rather than the ski-

slope into the hall so we should also comply with the Equality Act (2010). Alongside this will be a general spruce up, and work to bring us up to date with modern-day regulations.

We thank everyone for their hard work in fundraising and ancillary work already undertaken to brighten up the hall e.g. the work on the stage, dismantling an old office, etc etc. UE look forward to inviting friends from the group and the Circuit to events in the not-too-distant future!



### **ST GEORGE'S DAY ENTERTAINMENT**

**RAISING MONEY FOR  
PROJECT 21**

**SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL**  
**4:00 – 6:00pm @ United Emmanuel**

**A VARIETY OF MUSIC, SONGS,  
RECITATIONS, COMEDY & MORE**

**TICKETS £7.50**  
**INCLUDES A CREAM TEA**  
**(Tea, Coffee, Scones, Jam & Cream)**  
**Available from Barbara Crosswell**  
**or Rev Helen Warmington**

### **LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP**

In the wake of the Covid Pandemic, causing churches to have to rethink how they met for worship and exploring new ways of meeting. Many churches went online and have, since then, continued to live-stream worship.

Over the past few months United have been experimenting with live streaming our morning services via YouTube; initially to a small group of volunteers who have been watching and giving feedback to refine how we work.

In February we were able to extend the live-stream link to include all church members and friends on our contact list. It is our intention, as soon as we have worked through this next phase to make the link to our YouTube channel available publicly via our website, news sheets and this quarterly magazine. This is part of our broadening mission to the local community especially with those who are unable to attend church in person.

## GETTING OUR ACTS TOGETHER

Acts was written by the same author as the Gospel of Luke. Both are addressed to the same, original reader, Theophilus, to whom Luke wrote to lay down the key truths of the Gospel in an orderly account. It contains many significant moments, beginning with a retelling of the Ascension account and swiftly moves on to the “birthday” of the Church at Pentecost.

Acts focusses on some of the joys and concerns of the first Christians as they began to spread the Good News, encountering opposition from outside and disagreement within their own numbers. It serves to encourage and inspire us in our service and life together as part of the Church today.

From Easter and in the following weeks, Helen has invited those preaching at United Emmanuel to engage with various passages from Acts, highlighted by the lectionary at this time of year. These are as follows:

Date	Theme	Passage
17-04-22	God Raised Jesus	Acts 10:34-43
24-04-22	Testimony to Easter	Acts 5:27-32
01-05-22	Turn to Jesus	Acts 9:1-7 (7-20)

08-05-22	Whole Living in Jesus	Acts 9:36-43
15-05-22	Vision and Outreach	Acts 11:1-18
22-05-22	Among the Nations	Acts 16:9-15
29-05-22	Risen and Ascended	Acts 16:16-34
05-06-22	The Spirit Comes	Acts 2:1-21

Whether you will be worshipping at UE or not, why not take time to engage the treasures of the book of Acts. You might like to try reading through the whole book. You may also find these online videos to be of help in getting to know the book.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGbNw855ksw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGbNw855ksw)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-17KxpiL0Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-17KxpiL0Q)

These are part of the “Bible Project” which offers a whole range of similar videos available, free of charge, covering the whole of the Bible. There is also an App to help people through the whole of the Bible, available from Apple and Android devices. You can access and download this here:

[www.readscripture.org](http://www.readscripture.org)



## CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS



@ UNITED EMMANUEL CHURCH

SECOND TUESDAY EACH MONTH  
FROM 10:30am to 12:00pm

Forthcoming dates are:

**TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY**

## HAWKENBURY URC

**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:30am**

### ELDERS

Following the morning service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January, we held our church Annual General Meeting. As part of this we held elections for elders.

Elders play an important role in the United Reformed Church, joining with the minister in the leadership and oversight of each local congregation. They have a number of duties especially in ensuring pastoral care for all members and friends of the church.

At our meeting we were pleased to re-elect Colin Owen, Jean Johnstone, Derek Fickling and Carole Bean to continue in the role of serving elders. Sue Fickling, was elected to return to duty as a serving elder after a sabbatical year and John Rose was elected to serve as an elder for the first time.

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March, John Rose will be ordained as an elder during our morning service. This will be a communion service and John will Sue to serve at communion. Please pray for John as he takes on this new calling and for all the elders, those re-elected or those continuing in their terms of office.

### QUITE DAY @ CROWHURST

We are delighted that, this year, we will once again be able to visit Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre near Battle. We will enjoy opportunities to worship, to share meals, to be still and reflect and have space to talk together.

**Crowhurst** Christian Healing Centre  
a place of Christ's healing

[www.crowhursthealing.org.uk](http://www.crowhursthealing.org.uk)

The church has a special link with Crowhurst as one of their chaplains, Suzanne Owen, is the daughter of two of our elders Colin and Judy. At the end of January, Suzanne joined her father, Colin, to lead our morning worship.

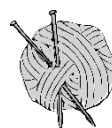
The cost for the day will be £20 to include morning coffee, lunch and tea in the afternoon. We will aim to arrive at Crowhurst in time for the morning service at 10:00am. Further details and booking arrangements will be publicised shortly.



### COMMUNITY COFFEE @ HAWKENBURY URC

THIRD TUESDAY EACH MONTH  
FROM 10:00am to 11:30am

Forthcoming dates are:  
**15<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL & 17<sup>th</sup> MAY**



### KNIT & NATTER @ HAWKENBURY URC



SECOND & FOURTH THURSDAY  
EACH MONTH FROM 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Forthcoming dates are:  
**MARCH 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>  
MAY 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES



EVERYONE IS INVITED  
TO A SERVICE OF  
**SONGS OF PRAISE**  
AT HAWKENBURY URC

**SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE at 3:30pm**

Come and sing some favourite hymns as we share some of the stories behind them, hear why they are important to us, pray and reflect and exercise our voices.

The service will be followed by tea including savouries and cakes.

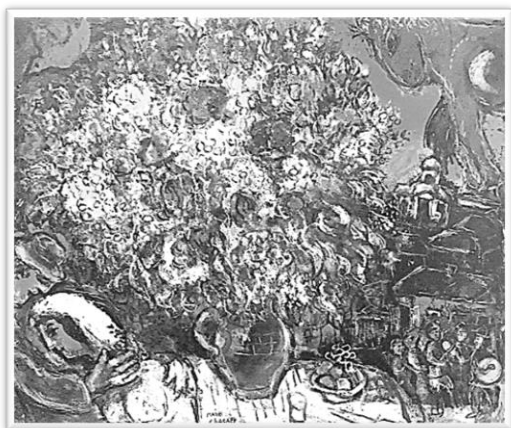
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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## RUSTHALL URC

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:00am**



If you visit Rusthall URC you will notice that an attractive framed picture has been hung in the entrance area. It has been presented to the church by Karen Gardner, a regular at our Pins and Needles Group and comes from her late father's art collection. It is a lithographic print of a painting by Russian Born French artist Marc Chagall, entitled "Bouquet De Fleur et Amants".

It's hard to appreciate the detail and most certainly the colour of the image from this tiny grayscale image. After the initial splash of colour in the bouquet, you will see a couple, possibly a bride and groom embracing, the moon born by a horse, which may represent the night sky, a party of musicians and others, maybe wedding guests, a table laid for a meal and even a small bird swooping into the top left corner.

Chagall is perhaps best known, in our region, for his work in creating the stained-glass windows at All Saints Church in Tudely, Kent. Chagall was Jewish but often included Christ and other powerful Christian imagery in his work.



Normally we meet on the last Tuesday of each month between 2:00pm and 3:00pm.

Forthcoming dates are:

**MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, APRIL 26<sup>th</sup> & MAY 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Rusthall Village Association  
COMMUNITY COFFEE  
@ RUSTHALL URC HALL**



**LAST SATURDAY EACH MONTH  
FROM 10:00am to 11:30am**

Forthcoming dates are:

**26<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL & 28<sup>th</sup> MAY**

## **CROSSOVER QUARTERLY CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Would you be willing to help with the collection of material and the compilation of future editions of Crossover? Perhaps you would be willing to join the editorial team? If so please email Richard Cannam [richard.cannam@gmail.com] or speak to Rev Helen who will pass on your details.



### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**10:30am @ St Luke's Church**

St Luke's Rd, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9JH

Everyone is invited to join in worship and prayer for the 2022 World Day of Prayer service hosted, this year, by St Luke's Church.

The theme this year is **"I know the plans I have for you"** with the foundation of the theme of Hope and has been produced by a team from the UK.

## **TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHURCHES GROUP LENT STUDY 2022**

### **HONEST TO GOD LAMENT IN THE PSALMS**

This year, we invite you to join in considering the theme of lament as we mine the rich seam of the Psalms. Lament might not seem to be the most attractive of subjects but it is a vital part of life and faith - honestly expressing how we feel and acknowledging that God is, ultimately, our only hope.

Please join us, via Zoom, to explore the theme, sharing and learning from one

another. We meet from **7:00pm** (N.B. The first session on **6<sup>th</sup> March** will begin at the slightly later time of **7:15pm**) for about 45 minutes. The link will be shared, by email, each week. If you do not receive the link, in advance, please contact Rev Helen. Everyone is welcome.

We are preparing a booklet outlining the scripture focus, key thinking points and questions for each session. This will be available in printed form or electronically if you prefer.

The dates for our Lent Course will be:

**SUNDAYS 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
and **SUNDAYS 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL**



## **MOTHERING SUNDAY**



The fourth Sunday of Lent (27<sup>th</sup> March this year) has for centuries been celebrated as Mothering Sunday. It is also known as Refreshment Sunday when flowers were permitted to be displayed in church, otherwise forbidden in Lent.

On Mothering Sunday, Christians have historically visited their mother church - the church in which they were baptised. As these churches were often situated in the village where family lived, the day would also be an opportunity to visit Mum and take her a gift.

For many Mothering Sunday (aka Mother's Day in the UK) is a day of joy and marked by visits to our mothers, maybe a meal together with cards and gifts exchanged. However, for some it is a day with far more difficult associations. Some may have (or have had) very difficult relationships with their mothers, some may not have known their

birth mothers. Some may have longed to be a mother but been unable. Some may be mourning the loss of their mother or of a child. As we gather to mark this day we must be conscious of those for whom the day will be tough.

We must also remember, not just our mothers but those who have been like a mother to us – this can include adoptive or foster parents, relatives, friends, fellow Christians, men as well as women. These should give us pause to give thanks.

Of course, in all this, as God's people we are called to remember our heavenly parent, Father (and Mother) God. It may seem strange to call God our mother; God is neither male nor female (although we have traditionally used male titles and pronouns) and the loving care of God is mirrored as much by human mothers as by fathers and in many ways more so.

Let us then, on Mothering Sunday, give praise to God, remembering with thanksgiving our mothers and those who have been like a mother to us. Let us pray for and with those for whom the associations of the day may be challenging. Let us remember that we are deeply and unendingly loved by God, each made in God's image and called to be a child of God.



## A POINT TO PONDER

Jean Johnstone

About three years ago the B.B.C. ran a series during Holy week where a well-known artist moved around Jerusalem sketching the various scenes which are mentioned in the Bible. It impressed me, for it took me to these places and inhabited them with actual



people that the artist brought alive by the commentary that he gave as he worked.

It also reminded me of a problem that we can all have in separating what we read and see on television from what actually happens. I was surprised to realise, when in Africa, that our Malawian Science Teacher thought that every person who died in the films that we viewed regularly was not acting but actually died. If a well-educated and intelligent person like George could be taken in, how must our children get mixed messages from the colourful fast-moving diet of images presented to them in words and pictures.

What we read in our Bibles was recorded by people who did not want the knowledge of what had actually happened to be lost. It was written after, but the places and incidents were real. These were not imagined. It must be very easy for our young people (and even ourselves) to discard what has been written and not to accept this recording of two thousand years ago in a simpler world.

As Easter comes let us take time to relive those memorable days and to share them with each other and with the next generation. These are not just stories but actual events, in actual places that we call to mind.

**JUST FOR FUN:** Before the service in church a little girl sat carefully drawing in her pad. "What are you drawing?" asked her grandmother. "I'm drawing God!" she replied. Her grandmother whispered back, "But nobody knows what God looks like." The girl continued to draw, "Well they will when I've finished!"





**TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**

COME AND JOIN US AT OUR NEW

## **MEMORY CAFÉ**

**1.45pm to 3.15pm**

**8<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> April & 10<sup>th</sup> May**

**NUMBER ONE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

1 Rowan Tree Road,  
Tunbridge Wells. TN2 5PX

Companionship over a cuppa, peer support and entertaining activities for people living with memory loss, sensory and cognitive problems and dementia. If you need personal or physical support, please come with a family member or a carer. **For further information please email**

[tonbridgedementiafriendlycommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tonbridgedementiafriendlycommunity@gmail.com)

## **EASTER WORSHIP**

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON

**PALM SUNDAY – 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL:** Remembering when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and was greeted with shouts of "Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

10:00am Worship @ Rusthall

10:30am Worship @ Hawkenbury

10:30am Worship @ United Emmanuel

**MAUNDY THURSDAY – 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL:** We revisit the Last Supper when the disciples gathered, with Jesus, in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Jesus washed their feet and later broke bread and poured out wine as symbols for remembering his coming sacrifice.

7:00pm Communion @ United Emmanuel

**GOOD FRIDAY – 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL:** On this day we remember the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. It may seem strange to call the day good but it is a vital part in God's plan. God's glory, love and grace are revealed at the cross and our salvation secured by these world changing events.

10:00am Walk of Witness @ Rusthall

10:00am Worship @ United Emmanuel

11:15 Christians for Tunbridge Wells, Service of Witness by the Millennium Clock Tower, Calverly Road. This will last about 15 mins.

**EASTER SUNDAY – 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL:** The cross was not the end of God's plan for our salvation; on this day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the empty tomb and the encounters of his followers with the risen Christ.

10:00am Worship & Communion @ Rusthall

10:30am Worship @ Hawkenbury

10:30am Worship & Communion  
@ United Emmanuel



## **EASTER TRADITIONS**

*Happy  
Easter*

Nobody seems to know exactly why we give the festival the name Easter. In the majority of other European languages, the word is a variation of Passover (Pesach). It most likely comes from the Anglo-Saxon name for the month of April, 'Eostremonath'. Some have suggested this month takes its name from a German goddess, Eostre, who is also associated, in legend, with the Easter Bunny.

### **Hot Cross Buns**

This delicious treat, usually associated with Good Friday, with the cross

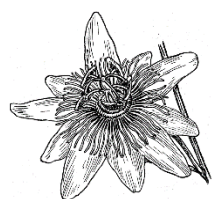




marking a clear reminder of the day's events, may have originated in St Albans. However, this suggestion seems to have originated from an advertisement used by a London Baker to increase sales of the product. Variations on the original are now available including chocolate orange flavoured; M&S have cheese and even Marmite hot cross buns in their range.

## Easter Blooms

White lilies are the classic flower associated with Easter. Their colour is a symbol of purity and serves as a reminder of the purity and holiness of Jesus, the perfect one who died on the cross.



There's also the passion flower, rich with symbolism, that have been interpreted in many different ways of the years. The three stamens may represent the nails in Christ's hands and feet, the Holy Trinity or the three crosses on calvary – Jesus was crucified between two thieves. (See Luke 23:39-43) The circle of petals may be said to represent the crown of thorns placed on the head of Jesus. The leaves are said to represent the spear with which the side of Jesus was pierced. The Passion flower usually lasts for three days – a reminder perhaps of the three days from Good Friday to Resurrection Sunday.



## UNITED REFORMED CHURCH NEWS

### WEST KENT & EAST SUSSEX SYNOD AREA

John Ellis – Area Leader

Representatives of the 22 United Reformed Churches that make up the West Kent and East Sussex Synod Area (WKESSA) met at

Maidstone URC and via Zoom on Sunday 13th February.

**Wonderful Local Church Leaders:** Since the 1980s some churches in the WKESSA area have been led by what are now called Local Church Leaders: trained, lay volunteers who can be embedded in the local church and community. Membership trends in the churches they lead have been better than the average for the URC.

We were glad to applaud Pam Tolhurst, our long serving LCL at Balmoral Road, Gillingham, following her award of the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours for her contribution to the community through her church service.

Also receiving national recognition have been Peter and Marie Jackson, LCLs who lead Sedlescombe Chapel. A double page colour spread in the URC magazine *Reform* outlined the transformation they have achieved since hearing a Call to the village in 2015.

**Treasuring our Ministers:** While the number of LCLs has been growing the number of Ministers of Word and Sacraments has been shrinking, making it ever more important to ensure they are used creatively in settings where their training and gifts can make the greatest positive difference.

The Revd Helen Warmington, the Convenor of the Synod Deployment Group, updated us on the latest work on ministerial deployment principles and processes. Several contributors to our discussion stressed the need to avoid expecting one minister to give day to day leadership to many churches; in most places the Elders would be the key visible leaders.

**Old and New Chapters:** We learnt with sadness that St Paul's URC in Gravesend has not felt able to reopen after the lockdowns and the existing chapter of its life has come to an end. The Revd Dr George Kalu is leading an initiative to explore the possibility of a new team to start fresh work on the site and prayers and volunteers for this are sought.

One of the people involved in exploring Gravesend options has been the Revd Wendy Swan, in her new role as Synod Director of Mission Projects. She explained how she can help in places where the energy for existing patterns of being the Church has run out.



In October 1972 the United Reformed Church was established. This key moment marked the

uniting of the Congregational Church in England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church in England. In 1981 the Re-formed Association of the Churches of Christ was added to the family. In 2000 the Congregational Church of Scotland also joined.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Reformed Church – a Jubilee year and a time to celebrate, reflect, look back with thanksgiving and look forward with hope in God's plan and promises.

The URC has been a catalyst encouraging different churches to work more closely together locally, nationally and internationally. We see much greater sharing and willingness to work together. In our own group of churches this is particularly marked by the established of United Emmanuel Church – the coming together of Tunbridge Wells URC and Vale Royal Methodist Churches to form one church.

Later in the year we plan to mark this milestone with events such as themed worship, special services and community celebrations. If you would like to help plan and organise these in our three churches, or have any ideas about how we could celebrate with the wider community please contact our Minister, Rev Helen Warmington.

## TRAINING TO BE A URC ASSEMBLY ACCREDITED LAY PREACHER

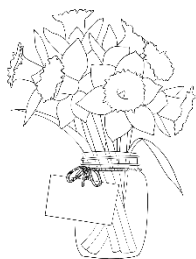


Calling all those leading worship in our local churches and wishing to learn and grow as a Lay Preacher.

The next course to train to become an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher begins in September 2022. This is a two-year part-time course leading to Assembly Accreditation. Learning is by mixed mode with some sessions on Zoom, some pre-recorded, and work to be done in between; there are also 2 study weekends a year. The programme covers personal development, crafting worship, the Bible in worship, theology of the URC, safe boundaries in pastoral care, equality and diversity and intergenerational worship.

For further details please contact your Synod Lay Preaching Commissioner or equivalent, or email Nicola Furley-Smith at [ministries@urc.org.uk](mailto:ministries@urc.org.uk)

*Revd Jenny Mills*  
Secretary for Education and Learning



## DAFFODIL DAY 2021

*'Behold, I am making  
all things new'*

SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH  
@ 2:00pm

WATCH ONLINE AT  
[www.mchw.live](http://www.mchw.live)

A Spring Festival Rally, held at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, led by Revd Tony Miles & Deacon Ali McMillan. Special guests include: The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Pam Rhodes, The President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, The Methodist Youth President, The President of Methodist Women in Britain, Simeon Wood, Anando Mukerjee, The National Methodist Choir of GB, The Jazz Vespers Group, Revd Lansford Penn-Timothy, Gerard Brooks, Ollie McEwen and also 'Hymn & Her'.



## CALL TO SERVE

Methodist Army Chaplains Take the Lead

In May 2022, the Rev Michael D. Parker will take up his new role as the 26th Chaplain General of Her Majesty's Land Forces. Mike Parker was born in Cornwall and initially trained as an electrical engineer for the Ministry of Defence. He read Theology at the University of Birmingham and trained for Methodist ministry at Queen's College (now The Queen's Foundation). He worked in the Colchester Circuit for four years and was commissioned into the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in 2000.



Operational service has taken him to Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan and he has, since September 2020, been the Deputy Chaplain General for the army.

Padre Parker said: "It is the greatest of honours to have been selected as the next Chaplain General for Her Majesty's Land Forces. Methodism has a long and treasured history of providing soldiers and chaplains in service of their country, that they do so explicitly as people of faith continues to make the organisation a better place to be.

Since the Methodist Church first stationed me to serve alongside the military community, I have had the privilege of offering pastoral care, spiritual support and moral guidance, around the globe in good times and bad. I have witnessed the joy of new found faith and the renewal brought by Methodist brothers and sisters from distant shores. Throughout, the words of Charles Wesley have been a constant – *Jesus, confirm my heart's desire to work, and speak, and think for thee; still let me guard the holy fire, and still stir up thy gift in me.*"

With Michael Parker moving into the senior role, a replacement for his previous post was needed. In December it was announced that Methodist Minister, the Rev David Barrett will take over as the Deputy Chaplain General in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department. It will mean that for the first time, Methodist Ministers will occupy the two most senior chaplaincy positions in the British Army.



David is originally from Blackpool in Lancashire and trained to be a Methodist minister at Wesley College in Bristol before

he was ordained in 1992. Following circuit appointments in Kent he joined the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in 1999 and served as a regimental chaplain in both the United Kingdom and Germany, before becoming Senior Chaplain in 2012. Most recently David was appointed Assistant Chaplain General to the 1st (United Kingdom) Division in York in January 2019 and in November 2021 became Assistant Chaplain General, Regional Command, based in Aldershot. During his time in the Army, he has been deployed on operations to the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2011 he has been a member of the Methodist Forces Board and the Denominational Representative Chaplain to the Army for the Methodist Church.



## **GOD'S CHURCH**

### **A home for all: walk**

Daud Irfan, Methodist Youth President 2021/2022, accompanied by the Revd Irfan John, his father and the Wales Synod Enabler for Culturally Diverse Congregations, are to walk from their home circuit in Cardiff to Wesley's Chapel in London, raising awareness of the need for more diverse leadership in the Church.

They are calling on young people, especially those from culturally diverse backgrounds, to join the walk, realise their leadership potential, and for churches and circuits to raise up their young leaders.

After a service of celebration, the walk sets off from Rumney Methodist Church, Cardiff on Sunday 27 February. As the pair walk the 160 miles to London, they will be stopping at various churches along the way, arriving at Wesley's Chapel in City Road on Saturday 5 March where a service attended

by leading Methodists will welcome the walkers.

Daud commented, "As we look to encourage Black British, British Asian and global diaspora leadership through this walk, I hope that others will join me along the route and that local churches will open their doors and host events relating to my theme and purpose. Though the UK is becoming more ethnically and culturally diverse, this representation is still not often seen within the Church."



## **AN EASTER HYMN**

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;  
Death is strong, but Life is stronger,  
Stronger than the dark, the light;  
Stronger than the wrong, the right.  
Faith and Hope triumphant say  
"Christ will rise on Easter Day."

While the patient earth lies waking,  
Till the morning shall be breaking,  
Shuddering 'neath the burden dread  
Of her Master, cold and dead,  
Hark! she hears the angels say  
"Christ will rise on Easter Day."

And when sunrise smites the mountains,  
Pouring light from heav'nly fountains,  
Then the earth blooms out to greet  
Once again the blessed feet;  
And her countless voices say  
"Christ has ris'n on Easter Day."

Up and down our lives obedient  
Walk, dear Christ, with footsteps radiant,  
Till those garden lives shall be  
Fair with duties done for Thee;  
And our thankful spirits say,  
"Christ arose on Easter Day."

# IPSWICH CALLING

Adam Earle

Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself! Having joined the pastorate for my final placement back in September 2022, it's hard to believe that I have just under 14 weeks left. It has been a really engaging placement with a fantastic role model and guide in Rev Helen.

Last Summer I was asked to write a personnel profile, outlining some of my understanding, experience and hopes for future ministry. The details of all the student ministers were viewed by the URC Synod Moderators' Meeting and held alongside the profiles of the pastorate in which a vacancy had been declared. It's a bit like a sort of "dating agency".

A pastorate was identified which the moderators felt was one which would be a good match for me. There followed by a formal "introduction" and interviews. I was next invited "Preach with a view". On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November I lead two services. The morning service was "live-streamed" and shared by four of the churches some in person and some watching in their own church buildings. Both services were followed by question-and-answer sessions.

The following Sunday, each of the churches in the pastorate held church meetings and voted on whether to extend a call to me to become their minister. The Interim Moderator telephoned, that afternoon, to asking if I would accept the call, which I did!

We will be moving in July, to take up the call to the Ipswich and East Pastorate. There are five churches, shared by two ministers. I will be working in partnership with the Rev David Rees. The Five Churches are:



Castle Hill URC



St John's URC



Saxmundham URC



Leiston United (LEP)

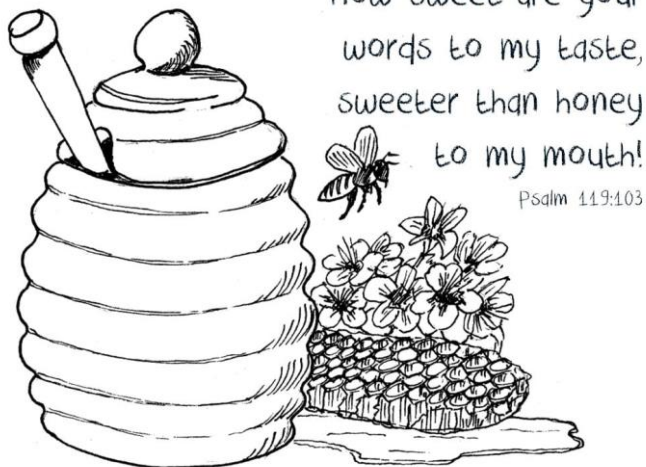


Felixstowe URC

Each of the church buildings, much to my delight, have a pipe organ which are maintained in relatively good condition. Castle Hill actually houses a Christie Theatre Organ owned by the Ipswich Light Organ Music Society.

Our manse is in the same area of Ipswich as St John's URC, located in a quiet cul-de-sac and within a few minutes' walk of a nature reserve. We are greatly blessed to have such a wonderful new home and setting to look forward to.





## SCRAMBLED EGGS

Each row of eggs contains the letters that spell a word or phrase associated with the Easter story. However, they are in the wrong order. Unscramble the eggs to find the words.

A A V C L R Y

E T L I P A

S L A T P U S P R E

T I R S E O R U N R C E

N N O E R C T U I

E M T E E G H S N A

P U P R E M O R O

F I R U N C X O C I I

Y P M E T B T M O

L A M P A Y N U D S

## BIBLE NUMBER QUIZ

Some of these you may know already, others you may need to explore. The answers will be given in the next edition of Crossover.

Books in the Bible

Books in the New Testament

Sons of Jacob + Sons of Isaac

Verses in Longest Chapter

Psalms in the Book of Psalms

New Christians at Pentecost

Verses in Shortest Chapter

Tribes of Israel

Single Chapter Books

People on Noah's Ark

Books in the Old Testament

Principle Disciples of Jesus

Letters attributed to John

Letters signed by Paul

### WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO HELP?

Although many folk receive Crossover via email or download it from the website we also print around 75 paper copies for those who are not able to access it electronically. These cost around 25p each. Printing for one issue costs about £20. Would you be willing to contribute towards this cost or even sponsor an issue? If you would like to help please email or speak to Richard Cannam [richard.cannam@gmail.com].