



TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHURCHES GROUP

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

CROSSOVER QUARTERLY SUMMER EDITION 2022

PASTORAL LETTER

REV HELEN WARMINGTON

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.”

Mark 13:28

The leaves on our fig tree have been out for a little while so we do know that summer is near. The tiny buds burst through into enormous leaves offering shelter to a whole myriad of little insects below. I am still amazed that we can grow a fig tree. We even get some fruit, though the badgers usually beat us to eating it. Maybe it's a sign of global warming, though when I was growing up my father was always very proud he grew a peach tree that supplied us with fruit all summer long, so maybe it is just finding the right sheltered spot.

As a supporter of the RSPB I was interested to read their “top ten things about summer” – ranging from the gentle buzz of bumble bees, through the sound of a thunder-storm at the end of a hot humid day, the pleasure of walking bare-foot on cool grass, and the opportunity to play cricket!

I know I still love the opportunity to walk on the beach in the long evenings, looking into

rock pools to see the huge diversity of little animals that I don't usually get the opportunity to just sit and watch.

I wonder what your favourite things of summer are? The opportunity to just sit in the sunshine maybe? Or take the opportunity to visit friends and family knowing the long hours of daylight mean less driving in the dark?

We have yet to visit Sweden to celebrate Mid-Summer, a massive celebration there and across Scandinavia. Almost 24 hours of daylight even in Stockholm. One day we will get there and celebrate with flowers in our hair, dancing around a pole, singing songs and Duncan downing a whole load of pickled herring served with delightful new potatoes, chives and sour cream. Or maybe we will stick with strawberries, raspberries and cherries, the delights of living in Kent.

Whatever our own personal highlights we can find God in so many ways in the summer. The delicate design of flowers, the fragrant scents, the quality of the light, the song of the birds, the wisp of breeze on a sultry day, the sweet and juicy taste of fruit; and of course, time to be with other people each made in the image of God. Whatever you do – Enjoy!



HAWKENBURY URC

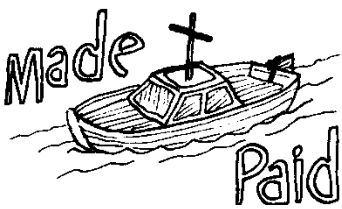
SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30am

QUIET DAY @ CROWHURST

Friday 29th April was a very special day for around 20 members and friends of Hawkenbury URC. We shared a wonderful opportunity to find space and refreshment in the beautiful surroundings of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

Our day, hosted by chaplain Suzanne Owen, began with worship in the main chapel. We shared this time with staff and other guests at the centre. The service included singing, open prayer, reflection on scripture and a simple holy communion.



Suzanne shared a wonderful story about a small boy who had invested great time and effort in building a model boat. When complete he took the boat to sail it on a local pond and, to his horror, he let go of the string and the yacht was lost.

Days later, passing a toy shop in the town, he saw his yacht in the window. The boy darted in and told the shopkeeper that it was his yacht. He was saddened to be told, "It's mine now, if you want it, you'll have to pay for it."

Returning home, the boy told his father about what had happened. "How much will it cost?" asked his dad. "I don't know." replied the boy sadly. "How much have you got?" responded the father.

The boy rushed to empty his piggy bank, searched pockets and down the back of the sofa to gather every penny he had. Without hesitation he returned to the shop. Placed the money on the counter and left with the boat with saying a word. Back at home he showed his father the boat and explained, "It is doubly mine, I made it and then I bought it!"

The story served as an allegory of God's love for us - we are doubly loved - God made us and paid the price to redeem us. God's love is amazing.

Tea, coffee and biscuits followed with a time to catch up with the others attending. Our group then gathered again in the chapel to share a time of reflection with Suzanne. Our focus was this passage:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30



Suzanne concluded the session with a story by Max Lucado entitled "You are Special". A poignant quote from this, the words of the wood carver creator, *"Remember, you are special because I made you. And I don't make mistakes."*

After a delicious lunch of baked potatoes or macaroni cheese followed by apple crumble and custard, we each had time to wander, to explore the beautiful surrounds, to sit, think and chat as we felt led. Some of our folk were rather moved and impressed by the stained glass window and display in the small chapel.



THE SMALL CHAPEL AT CROWHURST

Our time concluded with tea and cake in the form of tasty chocolate brownies. All-in-all a special and helpful day for renewal and refreshment. We are considering a further visit later in the year.

JUBILEE SONGS OF PRAISE & TEA

3:30pm on SUNDAY 5th JUNE



What better way to mark this historic moment, the 70th anniversary of the succession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II than

with a service of praise followed by a traditional tea. Hawkenbury URC would like to invite everyone to join us for this special time of worship – a Songs of Praise service led by John Leigh (our treasurer).

John has been exploring the hymns and readings that have featured in Her Majesty's life including her marriage, coronation and other jubilee celebrations. These will be drawn together to provide us with a joyful opportunity to celebrate her life and commitment and, together, give thanks and praise to God.

The service will be followed by a Jubilee Tea in the church hall. Expect delicious sandwiches, cakes and, of course, plenty of tea or coffee to wash it all down. Come along and share the celebration.

JUBILEE JAMBOREE

SATURDAY 4th JUNE

11:00am – 4:00pm

It's always good to see members of our village community (and friends from further afield) come together to share in celebration. We would

also like to make you aware of and invite you to join in the village "Jubilee Jamboree" which will be held on Hawkenbury Recreation Ground (TN2 5BU). It's free to attend. Bring your own picnic. There will be a variety of stalls and activities and some tasty treats to purchase and enjoy. We will be praying for beautiful weather. Come and join the fun.



COMMUNITY COFFEE

@ HAWKENBURY URC
IN THE SMALL HALL

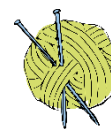
THIRD TUESDAY EACH MONTH
FROM 10:00am to 11:30am

Forthcoming dates are:
21st JUNE, 19th JULY & 16th AUGUST



KNIT & NATTER

@ HAWKENBURY URC
IN THE SMALL HALL



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

Forthcoming dates are:
**JUNE 9th & 23rd, JULY 14th & 28th
AUGUST 11th & 25th**



RUSTHALL URC

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00am



PINS & NEEDLES

@ RUSTHALL URC



We meet every Tuesday at 10:00am in the church vestibule. As well as knitting, sewing blankets and garments which are sent to various charities both in the country and abroad, it is a very sociable time with coffee, biscuits and lots of friendly chatter.

The group is always in need of wool so if you have any leftover from your own projects they would give it a good home - contact Jacqui Ferdinando.



Forthcoming dates are:
JUNE 28th, JULY 26th & AUGUST 30th

We meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 2:00pm in the church. Originally it was Jan Brooker's idea to help some of the older folk suffering from memory loss but it has developed into an all-inclusive group even attracting some home-schooled children who come along.

Since he has been with us Adam Earle has been leading our singing, entertaining us and accompanying us on the piano as well as providing the words of the songs to project on the screen. As his last meeting was in

May, Sheila Phelps, who used to play the piano for some of our services in Rusthall will be taking over from him at the end of June, accompanying us on the piano.

Although we will miss Adam, we are very much looking forward to having Sheila leading our singing. Why not join us if you enjoy singing? You don't have to have a great voice; it is what its name suggests Singing for Fun!

CHURCH CHARITY FOCUS

Rusthall Lunch Club



Our charity for this quarter is the Rusthall Lunch Club which is held, every Thursday, in

St Paul's Church Centre in the High Street. Lunch is served for all those who are over 60. Several of our congregation go along for a tasty meal and the opportunity to meet other people from the village. It is run mostly by volunteers and although those attending pay £6, it needs additional funds to help with overheads.

PRAYER GROUP



The second Monday of every month the prayer group meets in the church at 10:00am to pray for any topical concerns. All are welcome to come along but if you cannot attend and would like to request prayer tell Jacqui or Mary Nolze, or write your request on one of the leaves which you will find at the front of the church and put it on our prayer tree.

MARGARET REEVE



It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Margaret Reeve at the beginning of May. Although, due to ill health, she had not been able to come to church latterly, she was still very much part of our congregation and took an interest in what we were doing in Rusthall.

Margaret moved from her hometown in Hamilton, near Glasgow, when she married her husband John who she met when she came to Tunbridge Wells for a holiday with a friend. She settled well into life in Tunbridge Wells, living in Pembury and then in Langton Green where they joined in with the social life and established firm friendships. She had two children, Kay and Gerald. As a family they had many holidays both in this country and abroad, which Margaret liked to recall.

When John became ill, Margaret felt she would like to start going to church again and asked her friend Marion if she would go with her. They started coming to Rusthall URC where they were made welcome. Margaret found good fellowship and comfort there after John died. A few years after John's death her daughter Kay died which was another great sorrow to her. Again, she found comfort in the church where Karen and Bob Street and all the members were there when she needed them.

With Marion, Margaret helped out with the Wednesday Coffee and Chat group in the vestibule and also at any Saturday events in

the Main Hall, giving generous donations to the stalls and raffles.

As Margaret's health deteriorated, she was not able to participate in many of the events but she was always interested in what was happening and enjoyed visits from people in the church.

The service of thanksgiving for Margaret is on Tuesday 7th June at the Crematorium. Where there will be a collection for Cancer Research. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gerald and his family.

50 YEARS OF THE URC



On the afternoon of Sunday 17th July, we are having a strawberry tea in celebration of the URCs 50th birthday. We are hoping for a lovely day so that it can be held on the lawn in front of the church. Should it rain, it will be in the hall. There will be a display of photographs and a timeline in the hall showing various events in the church over the last 50 years. Please come and join us.

MANOR ROAD PRESCHOOL



Once again, at the end of the term, Manor Road Preschool leavers will be receiving a Children's Bible from the church. The funding for this comes from the Grosvenor Trust. Rev Helen usually presents these to the children either in church or in the hall just before they finish for the Summer holidays.

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



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

Forthcoming dates are:
JUNE 25th, 30th JULY & 27th AUGUST

**UNITED EMMANUEL
SUNDAY WORSHIP**

10:30am

**TUESDAY SERVICE:
12:15 – 12:45pm**



**AN ENTERTAINING AFTERNOON
ST GEORGE'S DAY**



On Saturday 23rd April, over 60 folk gathered in the church to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment and a delicious cream tea.

The programme began with a short film celebrating St George and dispelling some of the myths that surround him. Born in Cappadocia in modern day Turkey (although that fact is disputed by some), a Roman centurion who never visited England or fought a dragon, St George is celebrated in many parts of the world.

We were then taken on a journey of music, song, poetry and comedy which included an "Ode to St George" read by Rev Helen

dedicated to the memory of Malcolm Brown. Helen had met with Malcolm prior to his passing and he had asked her to read the poem on his behalf.

We heard folk songs, comedy songs by such writers as Joyce Grenfell, Flanders & Swan and Jeremy Lloyd. There was a monologue or two and sketches written by Adrian Plass, Stephen Fry & High Laurie. Music for recorder and piano duet and much more.

During the interval we tucked into scones with jam and clotted cream (there were also some "specially targeted" cheese scones). There was plenty of tea to quench our thirsts.

The concert was planned to raise further funding for Project 21. We are delighted to report that, after deduction of costs for the cream tea (clotted cream does not come cheap) we added £350 to the fund.

A huge thankyou to everyone who took part in the concert and those who prepared and served the tea. It was a thoroughly entertaining and enjoyable way to raise much needed finance towards the cost of the redevelopment of the hall and kitchen.

PROJECT 21 UPDATE



Things have been progressing well with the redevelopment project. The heavy "engineering" to enable the pillar in the middle of the kitchen to be removed and replaced by some enormous steelwork is complete. Underfloor work in the kitchen carried out. The new heating and boiler for the hall installed. The hatchway and door from the hall to the kitchen has been enlarged and the huge extractor hood is in place.

At present the redecoration of the whole space is underway, a mammoth task, and things are starting to look clean and fresh. Neutral colours are replacing the former salmon pink and yellow combination giving a more modern feel.

Unsurprisingly, given the current financial climate, there have been some increases in costs so we will continue to seek to raise funds until the Autumn. Some important elements, such as the accessibility lift, had increased in price since the original quotation.

The project is well on track to be finished on time, by the end of June. We already have a booking for early July which will make use of the refreshed hall space and the high spec commercial kitchen.

As the project comes to completion and we realise the full potential of the facilities we will together, as a church, seek to maximise the use of the space. This is part of our missional activity and a significant opportunity to offer social eating and hospitality, and exploring new ways to reach out in the name of Jesus Christ.

GOING LIVE



In the last edition of Crossover Quarterly, we mentioned our aim to go fully public with our live-streaming project. Just before Easter this ambition was realised. Our first fully public live stream was on Palm Sunday, a service led by Rev Helen.

We were greatly blessed to receive a grant, from the Southern Synod Strategic Mission Fund, towards the cost of the necessary items and resources to enable us to reach

this point together with several generous donations of equipment. Special thanks go to Dave Jesse, Adam Earle, Eric Christian, Adrian McGlynn and Jane McGlynn.

If you would be interested in joining the team operating the livestream then please have a word with Dave Jesse. Training will be available as needed.

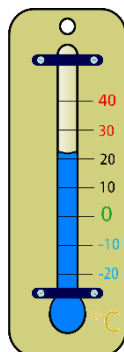
Visit our YouTube Channel to access the regular live stream:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJvMC5NRxDt6txuNlM5imjw/videos?view=57>

There is also a link available from the United Emmanuel page on the group website.

Thanks to the new technology we were also, recently, able to hold our first hybrid church meeting. A number of members joined those attending in person via Zoom and were able to contribute to the meeting as well as listen and observe. Shortly we hope to be able to allow members and friends worshipping at home to bring readings or lead prayers as part of our worship.

WARM AT LAST! CHURCH HEATING



After several months of research, negotiation and decision making we are pleased to say that the project to replace the failed gas heater, which provides warm air to heat the main worship area, is coming to a conclusion. In the end the only viable solution proved to be replacing the failed heater with a new one.

Ensuring that the new system is compliant with all the necessary regulations and

standards meant the installation of a new flue lining to the chimney and some additional duct work to provide ventilation to the heater room. It is somewhat ironic that the heating will be up and running just in time for the Summer when we don't require it. However, we can be confident that, when the colder days return, we will be warm as we gather for worship.

Whilst the replacement system was expensive (although less than some of the alternatives considered) we are delighted to report that our bid to the URC Southern Synod Building Fund was successful. They have generously agreed to pay for 50% of the total cost.

SUNFLOWER CLUB WELCOMING UKRAINIAN GUESTS



If you have been in or near United Emmanuel Church in recent weeks you will no doubt have seen the large welcome banner on the front of "Church House" and the

Sunflowers displayed in the window. Rev Helen was moved by the ongoing war in Ukraine, and the arrival of an increasing number of Ukrainian guests in the Tunbridge Wells area, to provide a meeting space for them and their host sponsors – so the Sunflower Club was born.

Beginning on the Sunday 10th April, every Sunday afternoon from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, we have opened the church to offer a meeting space, with refreshments and other resources, for Ukrainian Guests and their sponsoring families. From small beginnings

the number attending has grown and it is, at present, a thriving group.

We hope to continue as long as this project is necessary and that we can adopt this as part of the church's ongoing missional activity; providing welcome and hospitality. If you would like to help with the project, please sign up on the sheet provided in the church or contact Nicola Martin who will add you to the rota.

MESSAGE FROM A SUNFLOWER CLUB VOLUNTEER

So much more than a meeting place - a place of peace, welcome and even laughter. Our Ukrainian friends who gathered at The Sunflower Club on Sunday 16th May were truly grateful for the kindness of strangers. However not strangers for long as Tania quickly showed me the magic of Google Translator! She spoke into it in Ukrainian, it's a very quick language, and instantly it was translated into English on the phone! Oh the joys of technology!

Sponsors Linda Gared, Jeremy and Valerie and Siobhan Stirling were happy to chat about Olga, Roman, Lana, Valentina, Svyaboslav, Marina, Damir and Olivia all guests in their homes. There were lots of hand signs in evidence, but Adam Earle who was heading up the session that afternoon, did say that the English classes which are currently being run at The Mosaic Centre in Albion Road are full.

Our local MP, Greg Clarke who has been a fantastic supporter of the project, dropped by, had a cup of tea and chatted to some of the guests, he too was impressed with Google Translator!

The children happily played with the cars, trains, pick up sticks and Connect 4 - all international gateways to friendships, while enjoying the cakes, snacks and drinks on offer.

Yes, our guests may be traumatised, finding it hard to sleep far away for their once beautiful homes and loving husbands but hopefully these few hours they spend at The Sunflower Club will strengthen and support them for the uncertain months that lie ahead.



**CHARITY COFFEE
MORNINGS**

@ UNITED EMMANUEL CHURCH

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

Forthcoming dates are:
TUESDAY 14th JUNE
TUESDAY 12th JULY
TUESDAY 9th AUGUST



TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHURCHES GROUP SUNDAY @ SEVEN via ZOOM



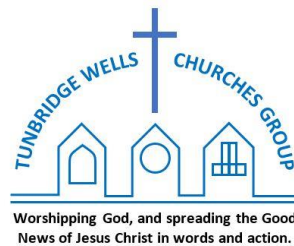
A vital part of our discipleship and faith journey is joining together to worship and study the Bible. During Lent, a number of folk joined a weekly study, at 7:00pm on Sunday evenings, focussing on Psalms of Lament. We hope to offer further blocks of study and sharing seasonally.

We have decided to continue to gather for worship and study once each month, usually on the first Sunday evening, via Zoom. The

link for these meetings is sent out in advance via the group email links. Due to the Queen's Jubilee weekend events, we will be holding the June meeting on the second Sunday. The meetings this quarter will be held on: **12th JUNE, 3rd JULY and 7th AUGUST.** Please join us.

GROUP WEBSITE

ADAM EARLE



The Tunbridge Wells Churches Group, which includes Hawkenbury URC, Rusthall URC and United Emmanuel

Church has had a joint website for several years. This has recently undergone a comprehensive reorganisation to make things both simpler to maintain and simpler to navigate for users.

The website is an important part of our communication strategy and is accessed regularly with several hundred views each week. It provides a "shop window" and we have welcomed a number of visitors and new friends and members to the three churches as a direct result of their visiting the website for information.

Each church has its own page giving "About Us" information, details of worship and other activities and providing some colourful images of church life. There is also a new News and Calendar page with information about events in all three churches. The website address is:

www.twgroupworship.org.uk

A POINT TO PONDER

JEAN JOHNSTONE



I was recently at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, and one of the chaplains shared this with us. I was very impressed, because it is the sort of question that children ask, *“To God, how did you get invented? From Lulu.”*

I found the answer, given by Archbishop Rowan, was so satisfying. I now share it with you.

Dear Lulu,

Your dad has sent on your letter and asked if I have any answers. It's a difficult one! But I think God might reply a bit like this:

“Dear Lulu, Nobody invented me - but lots of people discovered me and were quite surprised. When they looked round at the world and thought it was really beautiful or really mysterious and wondered where it came from. They discovered me when they were very very quiet on their own and felt a sort of peace and love they hadn't expected.

Then they invented ideas about me - some of them sensible and some of them not very sensible. From time to time I sent them some hints - especially in the life of Jesus - to help them get closer to what I'm really like.

But there was nothing and nobody around before me to invent me. Rather like somebody who writes a story in a book, I started making up the story of the world and eventually invented human beings like you who could ask me awkward questions!”

And then he'd send you lots of love and sign off. I know he doesn't usually write letters, so

I have to do the best I can on his behalf. Lots of love from me too.

Archbishop Rowan

PENTECOST, TRINITY SUNDAY & ORDINARY TIME

ADAM EARLE

PENTECOST



This year Sunday 5th June brings to an end the season of Easter with the Day of Pentecost. It is the 50th day after Easter Sunday when the Church celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The apostles were gathered in one place when the room was filled with sound like the blowing of a violent wind and tongues of flame were seen to touch each one on the head. The Holy Spirit filled them and they began to speak in other languages. This meant that all those gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish festival of Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks, were able to hear and understand the good news.

These events fulfilled the prophecy of Joel - *‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.’* Previously God's Spirit may have come to rest on individuals, for a time, and may have been withdrawn. Now the Spirit was poured out on all God's people and permanent dwelling of God with humanity made possible through the work of Jesus.

Pentecost is sometimes called the “Birthday of the Church”. From this moment the rate at which the faith spread increased dramatically. Why not revisit the story and explore it further in Acts chapter 2.

TRINITY SUNDAY

Sunday 12th June will be Trinity Sunday, an unusual festival in the Christian calendar in that it does not celebrate a particular event in the life of Christ or the Church. Instead, it draws our attention to a doctrine, a theological understanding of God.



We don't find the word Trinity in the Bible but we do find passages and references to the three persons of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. People have encountered God in these three distinct persons but also recognised that there is only one God.

We might try and draw analogies between the Trinity and things we find in nature such as St Patrick's famous shamrock, an egg (yolk, white and shell), Water (liquid, solid and gas) or even the Sun but none of these reveal the fullness of the idea or the nature of God. We usually then resort to either avoiding the subject, inviting someone else to preach on that Sunday or invoke the "mystery of God".

Perhaps "mystery" is the right way ahead as the human mind, however sophisticated and advanced, does not have the capacity to grasp the fullness and reality of God. What the idea of Trinity affirms is that God is one being with three persons – all at once God and yet all at once distinct.

What matters is, at the heart of God is a perfect, balanced, unbreakable loving relationship. When we read that "God is love" we can then understand that love is at the heart of God. The wonderful thing is that through Christ we are invited into this relationship, this perfect love. In Christ we are embraced in God.

ORDINARY TIME

From Trinity Sunday onwards we enter what is traditionally known as "Ordinary Time" in the Christian calendar. We might think that the name stems from the distinctive lack of festivals and celebrations especially during the Summer months. It's not until the autumn that we pick up with the Harvest Festival, Creationtide and the Season of Remembrance.



The colour associated with ordinary time is mint green. Although in our traditions we don't really follow the liturgical colours it might be worth taking some time, over the Summer months, to reflect on the many things that we associate with the colour green.

Here's a possible thought chain to get you started: *Ordinary has its roots in the word "order" → In creation God brings order out of chaos → Green is the colour of creation → Ordinary time could be a time to reflect on creation and protecting the environment or maybe (just maybe) getting the gardening up to date!*

I'll leave it with you to come up with your own thoughts but remember that where God is present nothing is ordinary - we have an extraordinary God. How will God fit in to your ordinary time this summer?

By perseverance the
snail reached the ark!

CHARLES SPURGEON





PLATINUM JUBILEE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

ADAM EARLE

It's hard for most of us to imagine doing any job or fulfilling any role for 70 years! Regardless of our views on monarchy, we cannot but be filled with admiration for our Queen as she reaches this historic landmark.

It was on 6th February 1952 that the then Princess Elizabeth, at the tender age of 25, took on the mantle of monarch from her father, George VI, when he passed away. Now aged 96, she continues in her commitment and service in accordance with the oath made at her coronation: *"The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep. So help me God."*

The Queen has a deep and strong faith in God – like a well from which she has drawn many times over the years. The world has changed dramatically since she became Queen and there have been many troubles and challenges on the way. She has worked with 14 different prime ministers in that time, which some might think is challenge enough.

Together with many in the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, the Commonwealth and the wider world, we give thanks for her loyalty, hard work and commitment and wish her well as she celebrates her Platinum Jubilee. There will be many ways to celebrate but I invite you to join in prayer. These words are taken from the worship material provided by the United Reformed Church:

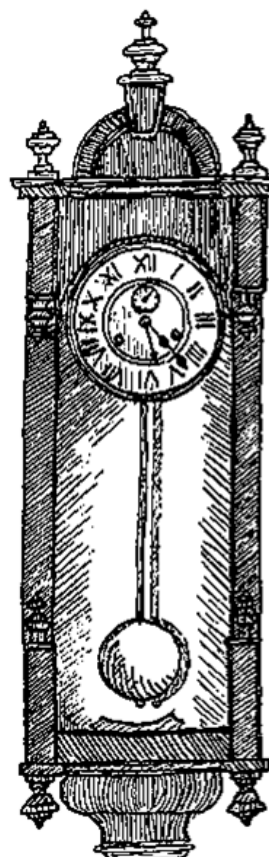
God of Creation, designer of sameness and diversity, of time and eternity, we give you thanks and praise.

Today we especially pray for Queen Elizabeth. In this year of Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love, joy and peace as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her God, and in devoted service to the people of these islands, and those of the Commonwealth.

Illuminate her path that she may walk in your way, now and all the days of her life. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

'I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God...I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.'

Queen Elizabeth, 2002



*Jesus Christ is
the same yesterday
and today and
for ever.*

Hebrews 13:8

*And surely I am
with you always,
to the very end
of the age,*

Matthew 28:20

SO LONG, FAREWELL

ADAM EARLE



Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself! Having joined the pastorate for my final placement back in September 2021, it's hard to believe that, at the time of writing, I have only days left to go. It has been a really engaging time with a fantastic role model and guide in Rev Helen.

We have all come a long way together during the past nine months and I am hugely grateful for the opportunity to work and walk with you during this time. I have learnt so much which will be valuable as I move on to my first pastorate. It has been encouraging to complete a number of projects and then hand things over so that, all being well, there will be no need for me as you all continue to move forward in faith.

We will be moving to Ipswich on 24th June, leaving my son Jonah and (for the time being) my daughter Beth and he partner Pan in our Crowborough home. I start work officially on 27th June with two weeks of "settling in" (which will almost certainly involve a great deal of unpacking and obtaining additional furniture). Then follow two weeks of "light duties" which I am assured involves meeting with people from the different fellowships and not climbing ladders to replace bulbs and fluorescent tubes!

The ordination and induction service will take place on Sunday 24th July, at 3:00pm in St John's United Reformed Church, Ipswich. The Moderator of the Eastern Synod, Rev Lythan Nevard will be presiding. I am hoping that Rev Bridget Banks (Moderator of

Southern Synod) will be preaching and Rev Helen will be leading the intercessions.

The space at the church is limited to about 100 people and I already have about 30 names on my list. The majority of places are allocated by invitation to members of the receiving pastorate. However, the service will be live streamed and, nearer the time, I will share the link to be circulated so friends of the Tunbridge Wells Group will be able to join to watch.

We are in the process of organising telephone providers and internet access which will include a new email address and phone numbers which I will share with Rev Helen, Richard and others as soon as I have these confirmed. I will be getting some business cards printed as well which will be quite exciting in many ways – a landmark on the journey.

Blessings to you all as we say farewell!



NEWS FROM THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

TREE PLANTING FOR THE URC'S 50th ANNIVERSARY



You'll be familiar with church primary schools, mostly Church of England or Roman Catholic with a few Methodist schools in the mix. But did you know that Barrow in Lancashire is home to something unique, a URC primary school. It's unique.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the United Reformed Church which we are celebrating this year, the children and staff planted 50 trees – one for each year of the life of the URC. The tree planting was followed by fun tea party.

MINISTERS' GATHERING

9th – 12th MAY



To mark the 50th Anniversary and to give our ministers the opportunity to explore the future mission of the denomination and prepare for the celebration of this significant event – 250 URC Ministers (including our own Rev Helen) and Church Related Community Workers gathered at Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre in Stone, near Stafford.

All attending were gifted with time to be inspired and encouraged with a very full programme of activities which blended keynote addresses, Bible studies, workshops, worship and space for conversation and reflection.

Guest speakers included Najla Kassab, President of the World Communion of the Reformed Churches; Pádraig Ó Tuama, a compelling poet and skilled speaker, teacher and group worker, whose work centres around themes of language, power, conflict and religion; and the Rev David Cornick, a former General Secretary of the URC and Churches Together in England.

To read more about this event and other URC news please visit <https://urc.org.uk/our-news-stories/latest-news/>.



NEWS FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH

INCLUSIVE METHODIST CHURCH



The Inclusive Methodist Church initiative has been launched to support the Church in its commitment to justice, dignity and solidarity, ensuring that these values are lived out through our churches and communities.

The Inclusive Methodist Church aims to celebrate the rich diversity of people within the Church, to eradicate all discrimination, to treat all people justly and with dignity and to create profound change in the culture, practices and attitudes of the Methodist Church. These changes will see local churches, circuits and districts support all Methodists in living as people of justice and respect.

Churches will be provided with resources, such as an Inclusive Language Guide, as well as training and support to develop awareness and skills around diversity, with each Methodist encouraged to commit to lifelong learning about the rich diversity of human life.

For further news and updates from the Methodist Church you can visit the national website:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/>



The Mosaic Centre, in Quarry Road, opened its doors in September last year providing support for homeless and vulnerable members of our community. The magnificent building offers a variety of spaces for meetings, counselling and support services. There are some great pictures on their Facebook page.

The "Soup Bowl" continues to provide lunch between 12:30 and 1:30pm each day - Monday to Thursday. Run by volunteers, preparing and serving food and drinks, welcoming guests and engaging with conversation. If you have some free time over the lunch period on a regular or occasional basis then why not contact the centre on 01892 487587 or email enquiriestwmosaic@gmail.com

If you would like to make a financial contribution to then details of their account are available on the Facebook page. Alternatively, gifts of food items (see the list below) are always gratefully received. There is a box in United Emmanuel in which gifts may be placed.

Popular food items that would be welcomed are: **Biscuits, Crisps and Snacks, Snack Bars, Canned Chicken in White Sauce, Canned Meats e.g. Ham or Corned Beef, Canned Sausages with Baked Beans, Canned Hot Dog sausages, Microwaveable Rice, Canned Minced Beef or Beef Chilli, Canned Ravioli, Canned Soup and Canned Tuna.**

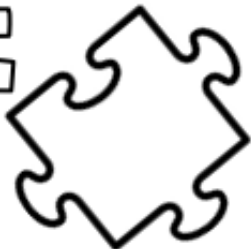
ANSWERS FOR LAST MONTH'S SCRAMBLED EGGS PUZZLE

CALVARY
PILATE
LAST SUPPER
RESURRECTION
CENTURION
GETHSEMANE
UPPER ROOM
CRUCIFIXION
EMPTY TOMB
PALM SUNDAY

ANSWERS FOR LAST MONTH'S BIBLE NUMBER QUIZ

Books in the Bible	66
Books in the New Testament	27
Sons of Jacob + Sons of Isaac	14
Verses in Longest Chapter	176
Psalms in the Book of Psalms	150
New Christians at Pentecost	3000
Verses in Shortest Chapter	2
Tribes of Israel	12
Single Chapter Books	5
People on Noah's Ark	8
Books in the Old Testament	39
Principle Disciples of Jesus	12
Letters attributed to John	3
Letters signed by Paul	13

PUZZLE PAGE



WE WILL NOW SING...

In both the URC and Methodist Church traditions, hymns play a very important part. Here are some lines from some well-known hymns – how many of them can you identify?

1. *"In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes."*
HENRY FRANCIS LYTE
2. *"Who from our mothers' arms
Has blessed us on our way"*
MARTIN RINKART
3. *"the great congregation
his triumph shall sing,"*
CHARLES WESLEY
4. *"we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;"*
CECIL FRANCIS ALEXANDER
5. *"watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love:"*
FANNY CROSBY
6. *"thine eye diffused a quickening ray –
I woke the dungeon flamed with light."*
CHARLES WESLEY
7. *"where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,"*
JOHN GREENLEAD WHITTIER
8. *"strength for today and
bright hope for tomorrow,"*
THOMAS O. CHISHOLM

INITIAL RESPONSE

Scripture is also important, in fact central in our traditions. Here are some well known verses (or parts of verses) from the Bible (from the KJV) with only the initial letters give, plus the Initial letter of the book and the chapter number. How many can you identify?

1. T L I M S; I S N W. [P 23]
2. I T B W T W, A T W W W G, A T W W G.
[J 1]
3. F U U A C I B, U U A S I G [I 9]
4. I T B G C T H A T W. [G 1]
5. G Y T, A T A N, B T I T N O F T F,
A O T S, A O T H G: [M 28]
6. F G S L T W, T H G H O B S,
T W B I H S N P, B H E L. [J 3]

NEXT EDITION OF CROSSOVER QUARTERLY

The Autumn Edition of Crossover Quarterly is due to be published on the **Sunday 28th August**. It will be made available in electronic and paper forms and will be downloadable from the news page of the group website.

The **deadline** for articles and other contributions is **Sunday 14th August**. Please email any articles to Nicola Martin [nicmarbiz@googlemail.com] or Richard Cannam [richard.cannan@gmail.com]