



Yours

Magazine of
The United Church
Winchester

December 2018 & January 2019



Amy Crocker
Moderator's Christmas Card Competition Winner 2018

The United Church

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Minister's Letter

Sabbatical Reflections: Part 2 – A more *mindful* Christmas?



On approaching a pub last Saturday we were greeted by a billboard next to the door which said: 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. Inside, the pub's interior was well-adorned with Christmas decorations and the usual seasonal menus. Not unusual you might think given that you're probably reading this 'Christmas' edition of Yours in December. But spare a thought that this article is being written in the second week of November, and it seems a long way off to be wishing anyone a merry Christmas quite yet! I can't be the only one that feels Christmas festivities are starting earlier and earlier each year. As soon as Halloween is done and dusted businesses can't help themselves from entering an almost febrile state of seasonal anticipation. For a full two months we are bombarded with Christmas advertising from every imaginable angle. I haven't sung any carols yet and I already feel as though I'm suffering from Christmas fatigue!

For me, the result of this over-commercialisation is that Christmas has tended to lose some of its magic. Rather than being excited by what the season might hold, I feel de-sensitised by the onslaught of advertising and daunted by how devastatingly tired I know I will feel once all is said and done. It seems, like many things in life, that Christmas has been hijacked by the western mindset which can't stop thinking about where to get its next fix from. In such a frantic and fast-paced environment no wonder we, as a society, are suffering more occurrences of stress, anxiety, panic and depression than ever before. Advent and Christmas should be a time when we deepen our spiritual journey, not be consumed by consumerism. The poet W H Davies really hit the nail on the head when he wrote the opening words to his famous poem *Leisure*: 'What is this life if full of care we have no time to stand and stare'. All this points to a loss of ability to simply stop and be comfortable in one place for any length of time before then moving on in a more ordered and *mindful* way.

The word 'mindful' stands out for me because I have spent a bit of time reflecting on it and the concept of *mindfulness* as part of my sabbatical reflections. Mindfulness might be judged by some to be merely the latest fad in a long line of cognitive practices designed to help combat stress, but its popularity alone shows that the demand for such techniques is worryingly high. People are crying out for a way of thinking that helps them to navigate our anxiety-inducing world and re-orientate our minds to a more restful place. Thanks to this church, I've just enjoyed my second experience of Yoga where the teacher describes what is going on in society as an

epidemic of 'sensory motor amnesia'. In other words, all too often we have forgotten what it is to really be aware of our own bodies and feelings, and I would argue that our headlong dash towards Christmas or whatever only serves to heighten this amnesia. Practicing mindfulness is a way we can begin to combat this trend. Fortunately the Christian tradition has a long history of encouraging mindfulness-like practices as a way of deepening both our personal and spiritual awareness.

So how will you try to make your Christmas a little more *mindful* this year? What of the froth and hype can you drop in order to allow more time for appreciating God's saving work in Jesus? For me, a retreat into simplicity is definitely on the cards. The chance to concentrate on family and community, the exchange of simple yet heartfelt gifts and cards, the opportunity to revisit the real Christmas story: one that is all about scandal, isolation, discomfort and displacement rather than opulent indulgence. I pray that Christmas will this year take us all on a more mindful journey, and that there we may discover what it really means to welcome the Christ-child into our lives. Wishing you peace and love this Christmas.

Sincerely, **Tim**

HARVEST COLLECTION

We have received a letter from the Winchester Basics Bank to thank the United Church for our response of food and other household goods to their Harvest Appeal this year.

'We are delighted to report that we have been very well supported by over 60 churches, schools and other local organisations. Your donations have made a massive difference to our store cupboards. They are looking very healthy once more, and it means that we are now well placed to support those in need in the Winchester district for yet another year. Please pass on our thanks to all those who donated. Your support is vital to our work and for this we are extremely grateful.'

Graham Rolfe

A Prayer for Christmas (contributed by Pat Fry)

Today, God desires not a festive party platter, but bread gifted to the hungry.

Today, God desires not a tinsel-twinkling window, but doors open to the lonely.

Today, God desires not a frantic queuing at the till, but ears attuned to the needy.

In this Advent season, God is the quiet bewilderment which wonders where Christmas went.

As partying grows, God is the re-awakened memory of there being no room at the inn.

But where hearts are willing, God reaches out, and dresses wounds in love. This is the hope: that in our changing, light and joy are birthed.

Stephen Best (taken from URC Prayer Handbook 2018)





Christmas Revealed

Angels for Advent

taking visitors on a reflective journey
through the Christmas story

at

The United Church,
Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RZ

3rd to 21st December

Monday - Friday 10 am - 2 pm &
Saturday 10 am - 12 noon

also

10.30 am Sunday Services in Advent

Advent Angels

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of Christmas in the town centre, and rest awhile surrounded by angels.



From Monday 3rd December the church will be open during Coffee Bar hours, decorated with a display of angels – like you’ve never seen before! (Many of them made from recycled materials).

Let them lead your thinking: through the events of the Christmas story, and what it can mean for each of us today.

Or simply take time to enjoy peaceful reflection away from the crowds.

Pat Fry

Some of you may remember Doris Meek, a church member 18 years ago, who wrote the poem below.

As we are decorating our church with angels this Christmas, I feel it is rather appropriate.

I'm sure Doris would be surprised and pleased to see that her work is still remembered and appreciated.

Hilary Holt

The Answer is “Yes”

By Doris Meek

“ Have you ever seen an angel ? ”
Came the question to us all.
Did none of us give answer
Or a nod however small?

“ What? A lady in a nightie
With tinsel round her head? “
“No ! – a power who helps us travel
With a sense of being led.

A voice which makes us marvel,
Gives us hints and clues on why
The light we are aware of
We see within a hidden eye

A power, a voice, a brilliance,
Comes into our consciousness,
A human force brings meaning
To welcome and to bless. “



FRIEDA THE FALLEN ANGEL

Underneath our Christmas tree there sits a sorry sight.
It's Frieda the fallen angel - her frock is far from white.
The sparkling tinsel trim that once so proudly she displayed
Is now all torn and tattered, and half her wings are frayed.
Perhaps the fifteen stone she weighs provides the reason
why.
She sits and flaps her wings, and can no longer fly.
One night there came the final straw that caused our Frieda's
end.
The tiny top branch of our tree - well it began to bend.
It couldn't take her weight, you see, - it bent and with a snap
It sent poor Frieda tumbling down, her feathers all a flap!
Poor Frieda has a problem, and it's proved her sad undoing.
She has a terrible sweet tooth and chocolate's been her ruin.
She bit into the bottles and found them good to taste
To leave a few behind would surely be a waste
So feeling slightly hazy she thought she'd have a nap
And soon was snoring quietly, wings folded in her lap.
But weep no tears for Frieda, she did as she was told
At Healthy Heaven Boot Camp she even won a gold!
She's now a glittering jewel in United's angel throng
Restored to grace, and flying high, she sings a joyful song.

Rosemary MacMullen

Christmas Memories from Anne Lord



Christmas in Brittany

As many of you will know in the last few years Bob and I spent a lot of time in the town of Vannes on the southern coast of Brittany. During that time, we were able to experience the Christmas season, which in many ways retains distinct regional aspects.

Vannes lies on the “Golfe du Morbihan” (“little sea” in Breton), a very large inlet. It has a strong sailing tradition, so the run up to Christmas there takes on a maritime flavour. Two beautiful old wooden sailing boats are moored in the harbour, decorated in such a way that their sails appear to be made of garlands of white fairy lights: a magical sight.



About ten days before Christmas, le “Père Noël” makes his appearance by sailing up the harbour amid great cheer and rejoicing to land in front of the main town gate where he boards a chariot for a triumphal procession around the town.

We missed hearing Christmas carols being sung in the streets as there is no such tradition in France, but we enjoyed the Christmas concert, given every year in the cathedral, of traditional regional carols sung in Breton.

As for Christmas itself, I found that the traditions I remembered from my childhood are still very much alive. Family celebrations start on Christmas Eve with the “réveillon” or late-night meal. This will generally feature sea food, in particular fresh oysters (le Golfe du Morbihan is a major oyster producing area) and foie gras. Christmas eve is also the time when adults and older children exchange presents. Younger children eagerly await a delivery from le Père Noël during the night and find their presents under the Christmas tree in the morning. But no Christmas stockings! They are not part of French Christmas traditions.

Brittany is a strong Catholic area, so many families go to Midnight mass, although this now takes place much earlier in the evening. The Christmas season in France is even more of a food marathon than in Britain. Families reconvene on Christmas day for a big festive meal which may again include all of the above, and also some fine meat, but not necessarily turkey. Dessert is usually a Christmas log. This can be home made, but many families will treat themselves to a log made by one of several excellent patisseries in town (sold at eye-watering prices!) Other treats include chocolates and “marrons glacés” (candied chestnuts). All this washed down with fine wines and champagne.

Some families of course, like here, are struggling over the Christmas season, and Vannes has a strong network of churches and local “associations” working together to support those in need. These include a substantial number of asylum seekers living in precarious conditions in and around Vannes. One of our best Christmas memories from our time there is of attending a Christmas party for immigrant families supported by the Eglise Protestante Unie in Vannes. The families, some of them Muslims, some Orthodox Christians, had prepared dishes from their home countries and we shared a wonderful evening eating, chatting and singing together. The children were delighted to find presents under the Christmas tree.

NEDELEG LAOUEN to you all!

That’s “Happy Christmas” in Breton – any Welsh speakers among you will recognise this, as the two languages are closely related.

Anne



Tried and tested (by Jo) sustainable Christmas present ideas

As we enter the season of gift giving, how about giving some thought to the environmental impact of what you give, and how it could make a difference to the receivers. These are things I've been given in the past which were lovely to receive *and* have really helped me alter the way I do every day ordinary things more sustainably.

My sister got this pretty **glass dome cake stand** in Ikea and although it is glass it has lasted years. I use it to store half cut loaves of bread, and occasionally cake 😊



Instead of clingfilm or foil, a **beeswax wrap** for bits of cheese, the kid's sandwiches, to cover left over crumble... It holds its shape around things, wipes clean with a cool damp cloth and should last for a year or so. Mine came from a vendor at the Cathedral Harvest weekend, but you can get them in Waitrose or Amazon or from Open House Deli stall on Wednesdays and Fridays at the lower end of our High Street market.

Pokito **collapsible reusable coffee cup**. When it is empty you can squash it down so it really can fit in your bag, so you *do* bother to take it with you.



Water bottle Aren't we blessed to live in a country where we all have access to clean drinking water? We don't need to buy it in bottles. And we don't need the single use plastic bottles it gets sold in. Remember we don't have to buy gifts.

Make! A simple reusable made from a tea towel, and personalised.



shopping bag can be even be

According to *lessplastic*, an organisation in Devon, 300 million tons of plastic is produced globally each year, and at least 8 million tons end up in the ocean because our waste systems are not fit for purpose.

Plastic production has doubled in the last 10 years and continues to rise, whilst recycling only deals with a tiny fraction of the plastic waste that's piling up around us.

Church Relaunch

Open Days: Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 December

Bob Lord interviewed Tim Searle, our Minister, and Jo Crocker about the Church Relaunch

Interview with Tim:



Tell me about the United Church relaunch. What are your plans?

As a church we've been looking at where we are going over the next few years and what our vision and mission is. As part of this we've decided to have a series of days when the church will be open so people can discover what our plans are and how we want to include everyone in what we hope will be a growing church with a growing vision for the community.

What do you mean by including everyone?

We want to be open to all. We feel very much that we are an inclusive church and want people to join us on a journey. We're a church in the Methodist and the United Reformed tradition, and whilst this certainly inspires and guides what we believe and do, our vision is very much about meeting people where they are and exploring a common walk with all.

If someone says they are interested in spirituality but put off by trite religion, can United offer anything for them?

I feel very sympathetic to people who have been put off by religion for one reason or another. Even as a Christian leader myself, I've had lots of experiences of church or religiosity that lacks depth or where I have felt judged rather than accepted. I think United is made up of people who have a deeper perspective on faith, yes from the Christian tradition but also exploring difficult questions about faith and life. We are not a congregation that's afraid to talk about contentious subjects such as human sexuality or to challenge prejudice and intolerance. We try and look at our faith from a broad perspective, and at deepening our faith.

What made you want to be a minister?

I had a church background myself. My father was a United Reformed Church minister as well, so that was part of my cultural upbringing, but for a while I pushed away a feeling of being called to the ministry. But over time I felt that my faith and my own spiritual journey were calling me to serve and that the gifts I had lent themselves to working in Christian ministry. I feel that my calling is to spiritually lead a community of people who want to share the love of God and want to build Christ-like community. As a minister, that is my *raison d'être* - from our understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus, to share something of that treasure, something of that expression of God's love with the world.

How does all that tie in with the needs of the local community?

I think asking questions like: In what way are people and communities around us hurting. What are their felt needs?

Sometimes we think of churchgoers in a very mono-cultural way, that we all believe the same things, we all look the same, we all have the same lives. Actually, if you dig down, we've all got very different lives and views on life. When we talk about communities who come into the church, those that worship with us are just one part of that story. Our church connects with a whole range of other people and communities, whether through activities like our Toddler Group or those who come into our coffee bar. Very often they aren't just in need of a cup of coffee but friendship, a sense of belonging, a warm welcome, somebody that is going to smile at them and treat them like a human being. We can't respond to everybody's needs in the way that we'd love to, but we can identify some of the real hurts and

some of the real worries and see what we can do as a church to respond to them.

You're obviously passionate about the church. How do you see the United Church developing over the next few years? What difference can we make to life in Winchester?

I think it's an exciting time. We have a beautiful building with spaces that are widely used by the community, so I already see it as a thriving place, but there's work that we can do to encourage more people into that space, to help them grow and to help us grow as well. I think that as a worshipping community we look to be encouraging more people from all walks of life to join as we share our faith. We have Education for Sustainability as a key theme. (See interview with Jo Crocker). We are looking at mindfulness from the perspective of the Christian tradition, how we can understand our role in helping people lead healthier lives, or to flourish more in what they are doing. Life is so busy and frantic. The church can offer spaces of calm and quiet where we can have that more mindful, more soulful, more prayerful connection with ourselves and with one another, and certainly the two traditions that the church is made up of, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, are looking about how we can become more aware of mental health related issues. I think we are seeing some of these things, our growth as a community, education for sustainability, looking at mindfulness and creating spaces, as being key things for how we will develop as a church over the next five years. We hope that through doing that we will become a resource, not only to the communities that already are part our life, but to other communities and people so that they become aware of us and the journey we are embarking on. So why not join us on that journey, why not come and see what we're about!

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## **Interview with Jo**

***Jo, you're a Christian and you're passionate about protecting the environment, so are you a green Christian or a Christian Green?***

Oh, interesting. Can I be both? To me my faith is completely relevant to how I'm living my life, and how I am living my life is relevant to my faith. I believe that the impact that we have on the whole of nature is

all wrapped up with that too. I believe there is a complete synergy between environmental issues and Christian faith.

***So what difference can a church like United make to improving the planet?***



Like any person or any organisation, we leave a footprint. How we use our energy, how we're responsible for our buildings and our lights, how we encourage each other as people to live lightly on the earth, is all part of our impact on the environment. As an organisation we are working on a scheme called the Eco Church award, which helps us look at five different areas of our impact. These include practical issues like heating and energy supplier, lifestyle issues such as supporting fair trade food, how we enable learning, and connecting with the spiritual. Living more lightly means trying to live in constructive ways where our environmental impact on carbon emissions or use of the world's resources, our impact on biodiversity is minimised rather than let loose in a careless, reckless way.

***How does this tie in with what's written in the bible?***

Yesterday we were looking at the laws of "Love the Lord your God, with all your mind, with all your heart, with all your strength" and "Love your neighbour as yourself". What does that mean if not living with our neighbour in a way that's considerate of our impact on a creation which we all share? I might think that how I choose to travel around this city has no bearing on people in another part of the world, but the air that we breathe and the impact of climate change has no borders. We've got to see our impact and relationship as a global thing and based on what we're doing here locally. For me my motivation in living in harmony and in relationship with other people and the whole of nature is to do with my faith and how I feel God wants me to live.

***How do you see your children's future? Are you optimistic?***

My faith gives me hope that there is always restoration and new possibility. So yes, I'm optimistic. I feel challenged, sometimes overwhelmed, by the daunting global issues that are brought to our attention. The recent IPPC report really indicated that we have 12

years in which globally we need to shift our ways of working. That is the time in which my 9 year old will become an adult and I really feel that for my children the world has got to change a lot in that time, so I feel quite excited when I think about the adulthood they can have in a world that has taken that on board and the ways they can be inventive and inspired by the changes that are going to happen over the next few years. It's an important decade ahead of us.

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New website and logo

Our new website is now up and running at ucw.org.uk. We hope you will explore it and then recommend it to your friends and people you bump into in Winchester.

There's lots to discover, and you can be there too by sending in a photo of yourself and up to 100 words on why you come to this church to office@ucw.org.uk.



I have already met people on a Sunday morning who have come to worship as a direct result of seeing the website. Tim and Jo, in their interviews elsewhere in Yours, talk about what we have to offer as a church now and in the future, and I am sure we will all play our part in welcoming those drawn to our church through the website or through the Relaunch Open Days on 6th to 9th December. Each new visitor will receive a leaflet about the church, a copy of Yours and an invitation to a follow up welcome evening on Monday 10th December from 7.00 to 8.30.

You will have seen our new logo. We responded to comments at the Church Meeting by widening the cross and centring it in the circle. Lots of people have commented favourably, members, users, and visitors. We hope you like it too!

The Communications Group: Richard Coleman, Bob Lord, Dorothy Lusmore and Tim Searle.

The Way Forward



No doubt you'll be aware of some of the exciting developments we have coming up as a church over the next month, including our church relaunch open days from 6-9

December. But that doesn't mean that Church Council has stopped thinking about The Way Forward for us as a church. We're still engaging with where we feel God is calling our church and how best to make that a reality.

Prompted by the church's desire to look in more detail at what it means to be a truly sustainable community we met once again for one of our special 'Church Council +' meetings. This is when we commit the entire meeting to considering the spiritual life and vision of the church. Jo Crocker ably led us in reflecting on Education for Sustainability (EfS), and one of the activities she encouraged us to do was for each person present to write a short statement about what their vision for the church is. We'd like to share these with you as a way of inspiring you to do the same. I'll be setting up a Vision Wall somewhere in church (location to be decided!) where people can write their own vision statements and add them to ours. There will be special slips available for you to do this at various places around the church building. So read on ... we hope you will be challenged to join us in sharing your vision for our church!

Church Council Vision Statements

- ❖ I want people to know that life is more than just money. That there is something deeper which calls to the better part of ourselves. Silence & reflection; Christian mindfulness.
- ❖ A church that accepts me as I am flaws and all without judgement, yet supports and encourages me to become a better person: more centred on God; more mindful; seeking simplicity; practicing discipleship; growing Christ-like community.

- ❖ An intergenerational community growing and learning together, conscious of being part of God's creation, improving how we live our lives for a sustainable and healthy future.
- ❖ A place where people *think*, individually and together, about what life means: for them as individuals; for the church community; for wider society.
- ❖ A fellowship which is warm, caring with a heart for both local and global communities and always focused on God and our calling.
- ❖ A community which cares, nurtures and educates spiritually, that builds on the past but does not stick to old formulas without questioning and feeling the most appropriate way forward. A community that's brings *all* closer to God.
- ❖ An openness of thinking, sharing loving welcome where hurts are noticed, contributions are drawn out, and a place that inspires a constructive and positive way to live.

Tim Searle, on behalf of Church Council.

The Wednesday Fellowship Join us for fun and fellowship over a good cup of tea.

5 December Pam Oliveck - Hannakah

12 December Wednesday Fellowship Christmas Lunch

In October we enjoyed the following events:

3 October: Pam Oliveck SuKKot

Of all the Jewish holidays, Sukkot is the only one whose date does not seem to commemorate an historic event. The Torah refers to it by two names: "the Festival of Ingathering," or "Harvest Festival" and "Festival of Booths", each expressing a reason for the holiday.

In Israel, crops grow in the winter and are ready for harvest in the late spring. Some of them remain out in the field to dry for a few



months and are only ready for harvest in the early fall. Chag HaAsif is a time to express appreciation for this bounty.

The name Chag HaSukkot commemorates the temporary dwellings God made to shelter their ancestors on their way out of Egypt (some say this refers to the miraculous clouds of glory that shielded us from the desert sun, while others say it refers to the tents in which they dwelled for their 40-year trek through the Sinai desert).

10 October: Fellowship sharing time

Which started off with a Poem by Pam Ayres, entitled 'Nowadays we worship at St Tesco'. Here is a short extract

At first the neighbours seemed a little shocked. But
then St Tesco's doors are always open. Whereas St
Cuthbert's doors are always locked.

It's hard to get to know the congregation. And the vicar
isn't actually ordained, They haven't got a pulpit or a
chancel But they've got enormous windows And
they're stained!

I'm glad we're in the parish of St Tesco, I feel so happy
walking down the aisle. While the Reverend was
always rather gloomy But the check-out girls have
always got a smile. Their uniform is anything but dreary
It's polyester cotton and it's striped. And pretty tunes
come floating down from heaven, It isn't organ music
but it's piped Thank heavens I converted to St Tesco. I
find this new religion suits me fine. It's altogether
younger than St Cuthbert's,

Where the congregation all look ninety-nine.!!

This was followed by an account of a sighting of Crocodiles, while
cruising along a River at Darwin, Australia. As well as the wonderful
sight of Sea Eagles fishing.

17: October Richard Costard WWII and me

Richard treated us to a Power Point presentation of family life during
the time of the war. With scenes of children being evacuated by
train, wearing their labels and carrying gas masks. The sources of
news were the BBC on the radio (no commercial radio), the
newspapers, cinema newsreels and, very important, Picture Post for

photographs of events. No pictures of corpses, or mutilated bodies were ever shown.

There were advertisements of long-handled shovels and scrapers for disposing of incendiary bombs. This all seemed very exciting at first, but people soon learned that it was anything but. A number of pictures showing the advertising of the day for food and clothing.

24 October Fellowship sharing time

Members shared readings and music of their choice. A highlight was a CD featuring the Orchestra of the Scottish Opera and a young Scottish boy soprano, Moray West.

The programme also included reflections and poems for the young at heart from the book, "As Time Goes By", and readings from "Hugs, the wonder Drug", and "Sharing Joy". Celia recited, in dialect, a moving poem, which she had learnt at school, and Noreen read the poem, "When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple", by Jenny Joseph.

31 October Peter Raw

Life of an Antique Auctioneer

Peter presented a Power Point presentation of various antiques he had been asked to value for Probate during his career. A model of Charles II's Royal Yacht, on a stand made of mahogany, originally valued at £50, sold for £2,000.

A small box in the Faberge style, was actually a Bell Push one inch square, sold for £3,000. At today's value, it would now fetch £30,000. A picture of some flowers, which the family owners hadn't considered of any value, was by the artist Henrie Latour and sold for 160K



Pamela Gilbert

February 2019 Yours Magazine

Publication date for the **February 2019** magazine (the next one) is **Sunday 27th January**. The deadline for articles and notices is **Monday 14th January**.



All contributions gratefully received.

The *Yours* Team is: Barbara Dunton and Sophie Armstrong
Email: yours@unitedchurchwinchester.org.uk

URC Wessex Synod

Traidcraft

The Autumn Wessex Synod Meeting (now moved forward a month to October) sent a message of concern to General Assembly about the threatened closure of this widely regarded business. Hilary Lock, who maintains our Traidcraft presence, has since posted a message to say that there may be a stay of execution because of the level of disappointment all round that the threat has engendered.

URC Wessex Trust

(Dr.) Chris Evans resigned as a trustee and as Convener on 1st June, prior to moving away from the district. Revd Anthea Wickens was formally elected as a trustee and Revd Dr. Romilly Micklem (minister at Thame U.R.C.) was appointed as Convener of this Trust.

Farnham Church

Farnham URC and Farnham Methodist Church have united to become The Spire Church, Farnham.

Our URC Moderator (Rev. Clare Downing)

Clare repeated her call that if we and all local churches do not grow in faith then we are not doing our job. *[My words]*: There have been new initiatives lately including “Walking the Way” giving support and guidance for the local fellowships. She said that Synod recognises that it can’t do everything and that it is only here to assist churches to develop on their ecumenical journeys.

Ian Giles

Hope for Planet Earth – Witness: Winchester’s first Green Week

Profile An initiative of Churches Together in Winchester, Winchester Action on Climate Change and The University of Winchester, the first Winchester Green Week happened 13-20 October 2018

Evidence 31 planned events and activities in a range of venues. Linking with a range of organisations. Providing an exciting and timely opportunity to respond to the issues of climate change and creation care one week after the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report urging urgent and ambitious action towards zero carbon emissions in the next 12 years if we are to keep global temperature rise to below 1.5°

Here are some stories of the week

**Incredible Edible
Winchester Community
Allotment Open Day**

50 people dropped in on a glorious autumn day to see lots still growing, eat a tomato picked in the green house and delicious home-made cake, be given some seeds to try and meet other green fingered like-minded people Anyone welcome to help out Saturday mornings, Edington Road

Green Fair St Maurice's
Covert, High Street.

Alongside the Farmer's market, despite the pouring rain, 8 organisations shared what they already do locally about the environment: *Friends of the Earth; Wessex Chalk Streams and Rivers Trust; Churches Together in Winchester; WinACC; The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England; Plastic Free Winchester; Hampshire and Isle of White Wildlife Trust; Hampshire County Council's Love Food Hate Waste Initiative.* Hundreds of Green Pack programmes were given out to interested passers-by.

Green Service

**A reminder of the joy and
pleasure we can experience
by living simply**

Think Globally, Start Locally

WinACC has existed for 10 years. This event, attended by about 60 people, launched the new strategy and website. See it at winacc.org.uk Fascinating presentations were also given by *Firstbite* community food project, *Shipped by Sail* supporting the ethical food movement by helping re-forge a sail cargo industry, and *Cytronex* electric cycle power by converting your own bike

the Discovery Centre

Information about green issues and Green Week

Faith and Climate Justice Gathering

Members of All Saints, Christchurch, the United Church, St Luke's in Winchester and Avenue St Andrew's,

Southampton, met for cake and drinks, information sharing and reflecting on what connects us in

the care for creation, what challenges we identify and what inspires us towards actions of restoration and recreation. We

learned about the Christian Aid campaign asking us all to urge our ask the government to improve vital UK law 10 years on from the Climate Change Act

This network is part of Churches Together in Winchester and operates year-round, not just for

Green Week *March 2013* *11th-13th*

To the ends of the earth

A free documentary film screening about people living at the frontiers of extreme oil and gas extraction. A hard-hitting message posing challenges to us as consumers of so much energy. Timely in the week that

Green Week @the coffee bar

You may have seen this
featured on That's TV
Hampshire!

A great chance to celebrate
what coffee bar does all the
time plus a few Green extras –
providing a welcoming place
for anyone, supporting fair
trade, providing delicious home
baked cakes made with produce
from some of your gardens,
giving people an opportunity to
add an artistic response to the
wonders of creation in the
Green Week Gallery, 'green'
books available to read over a
coffee, a Carbon Quiz,
opportunity in the chapel to

Sustainable Development Goals for Business

Excitingly the launch of a new
community Winchester
Sustainable Businesses. Next
meeting already planned for
November.

Let's Talk Climate Change workshop

A fun, simple and really useful
session to work on practical
skills for how to handle
conversations about climate
change with your friends and
family and colleagues.

Inspiration

As well as all that, spontaneous things were organised because
people took note of Green Week happening and were spurred on to
be part of it! Thank you all!

Jo Crocker

Inspirational Christians

This is the fourth in a series of articles introducing inspirational Christians, as discovered by South Wonston House Group. The idea is to learn a bit more about what is behind well-known names and to encourage people to find out more for themselves. We have heard about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, St Francis of Assisi and Oscar Romero. This month it is Cecil Alexander.

Cecil Frances (Humphreys) Alexander

We have probably all heard and seen the name Cecil Alexander on many occasions but how many know who she was (or even that she was a woman!)?



Known to her friends as Fanny, she was born in Dublin in 1818 and wrote tirelessly – poems, articles, critiques, and about four hundred hymns, as well as publishing several books. It is the

200th anniversary of her birth this year which has been commemorated throughout Ireland and pressure was put on the Westminster Government to table a lasting acknowledgment of her contribution to society.

Fanny and her sister Anne were brought up in Strabane in an affluent family and were very involved in local church activities, including visits to needy families. It was during one of these visits to a poor family that they came upon a small deaf boy. "They were concerned about the barrenness of his existence, the bleak future he faced, and also the fact he was cut off from knowledge of the love of God and the Christian way of life," said Brian Symington, leader of the RNID and Action on Hearing Loss in Northern Ireland. The sisters persuaded their father to allow them the use of a small building in the grounds of their home at Milltown House, so they could set up a tiny school for four or five deaf children.

This began a lifelong concern for deaf children and those with similar difficulties. Money from Fanny's first publications helped build the 'Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Institution for the Deaf and Dumb',

which she and Annie founded in Strabane in 1846, the year she published her first volume of hymns for children. This school was tragically burnt down with loss of life and never rebuilt, but other work developed and many of the royalties from her writings and hymns continued to support care and education of deaf people in Ireland. A new school was started in 1850 and education for deaf children flourished, with schools opening in Belfast, Dublin and Cork. Teaching in the schools was mainly done by sign language. Her frequent travels took her to Scotland and England as well as throughout Ireland.



The same year the new school was started she married Church of Ireland minister William Alexander. The marriage was controversial at the time because she was six years older than her husband – in some records her birth date has been altered to save embarrassment for his family! In 1867 her husband was made Bishop of Raphoe, and later Archbishop of Armagh, and they moved from Castlederg to the cathedral city of Derry.

Mrs Alexander was much-loved by the citizens of Derry, including the many poor people she helped, especially during the suffering caused following the potato famine, and she became known as a local Florence Nightingale. She had a strong social conscience and was actively involved in creating Sunday Schools and in improving the lot of women. She was also involved with the Derry 'Home for Fallen Women', supporting unmarried mothers, and worked to develop a district nurses service. During her marriage she was described as an "indefatigable visitor to the poor and sick". She died in 1895 and thousands of mourners lined the streets of Derry as her funeral cortege wound its way to the cemetery.

Cecil Alexander's first book of hymns, paralleling the Church Year and including the harvest hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', was written for children and the words are particularly suited to sign language. It has been emphasised this year that it is important to remember her as a pioneer of deaf education as well as for her writings.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

YOUR DAILY SURVIVAL KIT FOR THE NEW YEAR

- ❖ Toothpick ... to remind you to pick the good qualities in everyone, including yourself.
- ❖ Rubber band ... to remind you to be flexible. Things might not always go the way you want, but it can be worked out.
- ❖ Band-Aid ... to remind you to heal hurt feelings, either yours or someone else's.
- ❖ Eraser ... to remind you everyone makes mistakes. That's okay, we learn by our errors.
- ❖ Candy Kiss ... to remind you everyone needs a hug or a compliment every day.
- ❖ Mint ... to remind you that you are worth a mint to your family & me.
- ❖ Bubble Gum ... to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything.
- ❖ Pencil ... to remind you to list your blessings every day.
- ❖ Tea Bag ... to remind you to take time to relax daily and go over that list of blessings.
- ❖ This is what makes life worth living every minute, every day

Wishing you love, gratitude, friends to cherish, caring, sharing, laughter, music, and warm feelings in your heart in the year 2019.

Contributed by Hilary Holt

SPACE IN THE CITY

New Year 2019



Mark Byford

Three talks :

The Annunciation A Pilgrim's Quest

Inspired by a chance viewing of a painting in the National Gallery, on loan from Winchester College, award-winning journalist and

Winchester resident, Mark Byford, searches for the spiritual meaning of Luke's biblical story of the Annunciation.

Wednesdays from 12.30 – 1pm

at

The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 23 January | The Journey Begins |
| 30 January | The Meaning of the Meaning |
| 6 February | Seeing not Looking |

No entrance charge but your donations are most welcome

See the Archive at www.spaceinthecity.org.uk

DATES FOR DECEMBER 2018

3 rd	Church Council <i>in Room 1</i>	9.30-12noon
4 th	Baby & Toddler Group <i>in the Hall</i>	2pm-3.30pm
5 th	Fair Trade stall <i>in the Coffee Lounge</i>	10 am-2pm
	Wednesday Fellowship <i>in Room 1</i>	2.30pm
6 th	CHURCH RELAUNCH OPEN DAY -	10am-4pm
	Coffee Bar open <i>with free tea & coffee</i>	10am-4pm
	Coffee Bar Playtime <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
	MESSY CHURCH	3.30-5.15pm
7 th	CHURCH RELAUNCH OPEN DAY	10am-4pm
	Coffee Bar open <i>with free tea & coffee</i>	10am-4pm
	Friday Worship <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
8 th	OPEN DAY	10am-4pm
10 th	Coffee Bar Christmas special - <i>free</i>	10am-2pm
	<i>tea & coffee until 21st Dec</i>	
	CHURCH RELAUNCH WELCOME	7-8.30pm
	EVENING <i>in the Church</i>	
11 th	Coffee Bar Christmas special - <i>free t&c</i>	10am-2pm
	Baby & Toddler Group <i>in the Hall</i>	2pm-3.30pm
12 th	Coffee Bar Christmas special - <i>free t&c</i>	10am-2pm
	Wednesday Fellowship Christmas lunch	12noon
	<i>in the Hall</i>	
13 th	Coffee Bar Christmas special - <i>free t&c</i>	10am-2pm
	Coffee Bar Playtime <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
14 th	Coffee Bar Christmas special - <i>free t&c</i>	10am-2pm
	Friday Worship <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
18 th	Coffee Bar Christmas special - <i>free t&c</i>	10am-2pm
	<i>No Baby & Toddler Group</i>	
19 th	Coffee Bar Christmas special- <i>free t&c</i>	10am-2pm
	Fair Trade stall <i>in the Coffee Lounge</i>	10 am-2pm
	<i>No Wednesday Fellowship</i>	
20 th	Coffee Bar Christmas special - <i>free t&c</i>	10am-2pm
	Coffee Bar Playtime <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
21 st	Coffee Bar Christmas special - <i>free t&c</i>	10am-2pm
	Friday Worship <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
22 nd	Coffee Bar & Church Office closed	

DATES FOR JANUARY 2019

Happy New Year

2nd	Coffee Bar re-opens	10am-2pm
	Church Office re-opens	10am-3pm
	Fair Trade stall in the Coffee Lounge	10 am-2pm
3rd	Coffee Bar Playtime in Room 1	10am-1pm
	MESSY CHURCH	3.30-5.15pm
4th	Friday Worship in the Church	11-11.20am
7th	Church Council in Room 1	9.30-12noon
8th	Baby & Toddler Group in the Hall	2pm-3.30pm
9th	<i>No Wednesday Fellowship</i>	
10th	Coffee Bar Playtime in Room 1	10am-1pm
11th	Friday Worship in the Church	11-11.20am
15th	Baby & Toddler Group in the Hall	2pm-3.30pm
16th	Fair Trade stall in the Coffee Lounge	10 am-2pm
	<i>No Wednesday Fellowship</i>	
17th	Coffee Bar Playtime in Room 1	10am-1pm
18th	Friday Worship in the Church	11-11.20am
22nd	Baby & Toddler Group in the Hall	2pm-3.30pm
23rd	Space in the City: 'A Pilgrim's Quest'	12.30-1pm
	Speaker: Mark Byford – <i>The Journey Begins (1 of 3)</i>	
	Wednesday Fellowship in Room 1 (tbc)	2.30pm
24th	Coffee Bar Playtime in Room 1	10am-1pm
25th	Friday Worship in the Church	11-11.20am
28th	Craft Club in Room 1 (tbc)	10-12noon
29th	Baby & Toddler Group in the Hall	2pm-3.30pm
30th	Space in the City: 'A Pilgrim's Quest'	12.30-1pm
	Speaker: Mark Byford – <i>The Meaning of the Meaning (2 of 3)</i>	
	Wednesday Fellowship in Room 1 (tbc)	2.30pm
31st	Coffee Bar Playtime in Room 1	10am-1pm



SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2018



2ND DECEMBER – Advent Sunday

9.00 am Word & Worship
10.30 am Morning Worship with
Holy Communion

Mrs Pat Fry
Revd Tim Searle

9TH DECEMBER – 2nd Sunday in Advent

9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am All Age Nativity service

Revd Tim Searle
Revd Tim Searle

16TH DECEMBER – 3rd Sunday in Advent

9.00 am Word & Worship
10.30 am Morning Worship

Revd Adrian Roux
Revd Tim Searle

23RD DECEMBER – 4th Sunday in Advent

9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Morning Worship
6.00 pm Candlelit Carol Service
*preceded by Christmas tea,
from 5.00 pm*

Revd Tim Searle
Revd Bob Kitching
Revd Tim Searle

25TH DECEMBER – Christmas Day

10.00 am Christmas Celebration
with all the family

Revd Tim Searle

30TH DECEMBER

10.30 am Morning Worship

Mrs Pat Fry

Additional Services in December

Friday Worship – *pause for thought*, 11 – 11.20 am
(excluding the 28th December)



Messy Church, Thursday 6th December,
3.30 pm (straight from School) – 5.15 pm.



Fun, games, craft, DVD, Bible stories and shared meal. Children
must bring an adult with them.



SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2019



6TH JANUARY – COVENANT SUNDAY

9.00 am	Word & Worship	tbc
10.30 am	Covenant Service (S)	Revd Tim Searle
	<i>with our friends from St Bartholomew's, St Lawrence-in-the-Square & St Swithun-upon-Kingsgate</i>	

13TH JANUARY

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Revd Tim Searle
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Revd Adrian Roux

20TH JANUARY – WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, 18th–25th

9.00 am	Word & Worship	Revd Tim Searle
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Revd Andrew Bird
6.30 pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service, at The United Church	
	Speaker: The Very Revd Catherine Ogle, Dean of Winchester Cathedral	

27TH JANUARY

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Revd Tim Searle
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Revd Tim Searle

Additional Services in January

Friday Worship – *pause for thought*, 11 – 11.20 am



Messy Church – 3rd January

3.30 – 5.15 pm (straight from school)

Fun, games, craft, DVD, Bible Stories and a shared meal.

Children must bring an adult with them.

Future date: 7th February

