

# Yours

Magazine of  
The United Church  
Winchester

NOVEMBER 2018



UNITED CHURCH  
WINCHESTER

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# Minister's Letter

## Sabbatical Reflections: Part 1

Well, I'm back! And after three months away it's been great to see so many of you and catch up with what's been going on whilst I've been on sabbatical. Please accept my sincere thanks, not only for gifting me the time in the first place, but for all your kind wishes both during and following this short break from my ministry.



Now I'm sure there are questions on your lips: what have I been up to since July? What have I learnt? Do I feel refreshed and rejuvenated? And did I finally get that holiday abroad I was promising myself?

Well, to answer the last question first; no, sadly I didn't. Due to a range of factors it just didn't happen. However, a number of short breaks were enjoyed instead, including a retreat in Devon and a break at the Sustainability Centre in East Meon. With the school holidays being slap-bang in the middle of the sabbatical, I was able to spend some quality time with my family including Sophie and Lily, who by now I'm sure you've realised have become very special to me. We've enjoyed days at the beach, river walks, river-swimming, crab fishing, woodland trails, and plenty of camp fires. I've had time to read poetry, from Milton to Tennyson, Keats to Ella Wheeler Wilcox and have even dabbled with some writing of my own. I've had space to listen to music, from Vaughan-Williams to Puccini, Journey to Guns N' Roses. I've sampled some fine wines and shared some delightful meals. It has, I guess, been a bit of a 'staycation' as some would call it. For me though, and for the first time in a while, I've simply been able to put all my energy into living, loving and caring for those I love. At the beginning of the sabbatical I wanted to be back at work, by the end, it's not that I didn't want to come back, but that I'd become very used to living life on my own terms for once. I guess the biggest lesson I've learnt from all this, and from the whole sabbatical, is that I need to fit ministry around life; not the other way around!

So what else have I learnt? Well, I've been doing a little reading around the subject of mindfulness and how this might be better appreciated in worship and church life. I'll be writing more on this in upcoming editions of *Yours* so tune-in then to find out more.

Finally, do I feel refreshed and rejuvenated? Well yes, and no! Now that I'm getting back into the swing of things, the time-off I enjoyed is already feeling like a distant memory. And whilst it was great to have the time to rediscover a sense of personal equilibrium, being parachuted back into the day-job has jolted me into reality with somewhat disconcerting rapidity. I've only been back a couple of weeks and I already feel woefully behind and struggling to catch-up. So please bear with me as I adjust to working mode. If you need me in a hurry it's probably best to phone me rather than sending an email. Above all, and as we find our Way Forward together, I need *your* help to achieve a pattern which blends your needs and mine so that we can all flourish together.

Sincerely, **Tim**

## Church Family News



We were pleased to join in the celebration of the **Baptism** of Ella, daughter of Marianne Sharp, on 23 September. The service in The United Church was conducted by Ella's grandfather, the Revd Howard Sharp.

We have been pleased to welcome Moireach Harmer back to Winchester. Moireach has returned from Barton-on-Sea, and is now living in Kings Worthy.

There will be a meeting of pastoral visitors at noon on Monday 5 November.

**Graham Rolfe**

## **Church Relaunch – Open Days Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 December**



We all enjoy being part of the community at United and would like others to join us.

We are holding open days at the beginning of Advent to encourage people to come into the building, receive a warm welcome and feel encouraged to return. They may be newcomers to Winchester or people who have lived in the city for years and are searching for a spiritual home.

The Coffee Bar will be open from 10 am to 4 pm Thursday to Saturday with free tea and coffee. On Sunday we will encourage visitors to join us for the services. There will be a banner outside the church. We will have welcomers at the door to take visitors on a tour of the building, listen to music in the sanctuary and find out about all we offer. The chapel will be open for quiet prayer.

Each visitor will receive a bag with a leaflet about the church, an invitation to an evening event the following week, and details of our new website and social media presence. We will be holding a prayer meeting before the open days.

If you would like to be involved as a welcomer, as an extra Coffee Bar helper or be part of the prayer group, please let me know: [boblord3004@gmail.com](mailto:boblord3004@gmail.com), 01962 855910.

**Communications group: Richard Coleman,  
Bob Lord, Dorothy Lusmore, Tim Searle**

## Christian Guild Hotels

Next summer, The United Church is planning to hold a church weekend at Ashburnham Place in East Sussex. In the past we have held such weekends at three of the group of Christian Guild Hotels (formerly Methodist Guild), namely Highcliffe in Swanage, Lindors in the Wye Valley, and Sidholme in Sidmouth.



It is a sign of the times that, for financial reasons, the group has had to sell two of their hotels, Lindors and also Abbot Hall in Cumbria. This leaves them with just three: Sidholme, Willersley Castle in the Peak District, and Treloyhan Manor in Cornwall.

If you are planning a break in the UK, it is worth considering these hotels: they are situated in attractive places, and are of a good standard with always a warm Christian welcome. See the Christian Guild website for more details.

**Graham Rolfe**

## URC – Wessex Synod

Educational visit to Israel & Palestine 18–28 September 2019

An opportunity exists for a guided educational visit to Israel, the occupied West Bank, annexed East Jerusalem and Golan Heights to learn about their peoples, religions, politics and cultures. Possible direct flights are planned.

I have a single A4 sheet with more details, but application forms may be obtained from URC Church House by emailing [carole.sired@urc.org](mailto:carole.sired@urc.org) by Tuesday, 18 December.

**Ian Giles**

## **Christmas Memories from Mary Belshaw**

My memories of Christmas go way back to the 1940s.

I was brought up in the National Children's Home in Frodsham, Cheshire, from the age of two until I left at age 16 and came down to live at the NCH head office in Highbury London.



There were around 200 children living on the so called 'branch' accommodated in individual houses; we had 15 children in our house.

The run-up to Christmas really began at the end of October, which would have been the half-term week. We had an annual trip to Delamere Forest – which meant a bus ride (a rare treat) to collect as many sweet chestnuts as we could carry. These were for roasting later.

One year I remember a group of us were invited to the American Airbase at Burtonwood near Warrington for a party. We had a wonderful time eating lots of food we had not had for years, including ice cream, chocolate, oranges, sweets and drinking chocolate to name just a few. We were well entertained by the airmen, who played games with us, and were each given a present to take home. A wonderful afternoon.

The week before Christmas was always very busy. We made paperchains to hang in the main rooms, wrote our letters to Father Christmas which we then sent up the chimney (no health and safety in those days), and then later helped decorate the rooms. One morning we came down to breakfast to find a very large Christmas tree in the dining room, all beautifully decorated, which added a great deal to our excitement.

By Christmas Eve the excitement levels were really high. We brought up the chestnuts from the cellar and roasted them on a shovel over the hot coals on the fire. Sometimes they would burst their skins and shower us with hot nuts! We also had a visit from Father Christmas, who gave us each a little card with a sixpence inside. We then hung our stockings up round the fireplace, had a



hot cocoa and went to bed. We lay awake for ages chatting to each other – no one could sleep – and we waited for the carol singers to come round. By the time they had finished we were ready to drop off and were soon in the land of nod.

We were always awake very early on Christmas morning and found our stockings at the end of our beds. We spent a while trying to feel what Santa had left for us until it was time to get up and see what we had been given. We had a good selection of toys, books, games, puzzles, etc. I learned many years later that the local Methodist churches always had a toy service in December and we were the recipients of such toys! One year I asked for a teddy bear but was given a golly. He was very handsome and one night I lent him to another girl to help her sleep. Unfortunately, she wet the bed and as golly wasn't washable he had to be thrown away. I never did get a teddy!



After breakfast and after the washing-up was done we played with our new toys until it was time to go to church. We had lunch and then opened any presents we had received through the post. The rest of the day was spent playing with our new toys.

On Boxing Day the staff always produced a pantomime/concert, which was great fun. The men dressed up as 'dames' and spoke in silly squeaky voices which made us all laugh – it was good for us to see the staff entertaining us. One year, though, I managed to catch the flu and had to spend time in our branch hospital, so I missed the concert which was very disappointing.



Later in January we were treated to a visit to the Royal Court Theatre in Liverpool to see a real pantomime. The noise must have been deafening when hundreds of children shouted out 'behind you'. We all came back on the coach singing the songs we had learned from the performance. This was before the digital age and the words were written on a large card which hung down over the stage.

Perhaps these comments will remind you of your past Christmases and revive happy memories of bygone days!

Wishing you all a very memorable Christmas.

**Mary**



*Geoffrey and Dorothy Lock thank you for the prayers, flowers and good wishes sent after Geoffrey's accident on 5 September. Also, we thank you for the good wishes on Geoffrey's 90th birthday on 24 September.*

# **The Wednesday Fellowship**

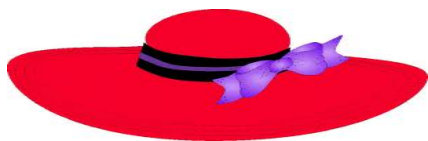
**Join us for fun and fellowship over a good cup of tea.**

**November 2018**

**Please read the Weekly Notice Sheets for Events**

**In September we enjoyed the following events:**

## **12 September: Fellowship Sharing Time – Hats**



Jenny brought along her wide brimmed red hat, which she wore at her son's wedding. After the wedding, the journey to the

reception proved to be an adventure. It entailed driving along the M1, though to her horror Jenny soon discovered she was travelling in the wrong direction! As it was a long way to the next exit, it took some time for Jenny to retrace her route. Thankfully, all ended well as she arrived at the reception in good time.

Celia brought along a lovely turquoise and pink fascinator decorated with small pearls. Her daughter had investigated the origin of fascinators and discovered they were first made during the Victorian times. Jo had a navy and white hat that she had worn for her son's wedding. While Naomi recounted an occasion at school where all the pupils were asked to wear a hat for the visit of Princess Anne. Naomi had selected a deep pink hat with roses decorating the brim. An abiding memory was that Princess Anne spent more time talking to the pupils than the staff.

Finally, Pamela showed her Girl Guide beret, and spoke of her first time camping on a farm with the guides. On their first night under canvas an enormous storm erupted, tents were torn in half and the guides were evacuated by local soldiers and spent the night in the village hall, sleeping on the floor.

## 19 September: Chrissie Bye – Alcoholics Anonymous

We listened to a stunning presentation on the work of AA.

***(This subject was also covered in a comprehensive article in the September 2018 issue of Yours so we won't say more about it again here. Editors)***

## 26 September: Fellowship Sharing Time

Jenny shared with us extracts from a book by Terence Sackett, on *British Life a Century Ago*, which included how the popularity of the



seaside developed. Many people today enjoy their visits to the beach, but in Queen Victoria's time any lady wanting to go for a swim had to cover their bodies discreetly, changing their clothes in wagons pulled by horse to the edge of the sea. Existing piers

were extended during this time and included various attractions, from ice cream stalls to entertainment. There were also fairground rides, one of which (the flying boats) was particularly enjoyed by the ladies. On the beach donkey rides were available, whilst seaside steamers sailed around various bays, giving visitors a different view.

Naomi read out a poem that was printed on a tea towel entitled 'We are the Survivors', for those born before the 1940s. Here is an extract:

*We were born before TV, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Zerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes...and before man walked on the moon.*

*We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.*

*We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts, and 'software' wasn't a word.*

*We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today – but – by the Grace of God, we have survived!*

**Pamela Gilbert**

## **Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal**



Leaflets are available from the table in the Hall or in the Coffee Bar.

**We are holding a shoe box covering and filling morning on Wednesday 31 October in Room 1, from 10 to 12 noon. All welcome to come and lend a hand and drink coffee/tea!**

If you do not feel able to fill a shoe box but would like to make a contribution **a donation will be very welcome.**

**The last day for handing in completed boxes is Friday 16 November** (but it would be helpful if they could be brought in as soon as they are ready).

We will be **dedicating these boxes during the 10.30 am service on Sunday 18 November.**

**Yvonne North & Ann Coleman**

## Royal Mail Commemorative Stamp to Mark the Centenary of the End of WWI

The officer whose photograph is on the commemorative stamp is Walter Tull. Orphaned, he was brought up from the age of nine at a Methodist National Children's Home (now known as Action for Children) together with a brother, Edward, who was later adopted.

He was the first officer of mixed race to lead white men into battle in WWI. His mother was British and his father from Bajan. Before joining up he was the first black outfield player to play professional football. His regiment was the Middlesex Regiment, otherwise known as the Footballers' Battalion. He was killed in action on 23 March 1918, a month before his thirtieth birthday. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.



His brother, Edward, was the first mixed race dentist to practice in the United Kingdom.

**Details from an article in the *Methodist Recorder***



# **SPACE IN THE CITY AUTUMN 2018**

## **Remembering War... Making Peace**

**Our speakers this series will consider what has been said  
and done, painted and composed and written, that  
has been inspired by the experience of war  
and the hope of peace**

**7 November** Michael Wooldridge on *Reporting War and Peace*

**14 November** Alice Farnhill on *Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral*

**Wednesday lunchtimes 12.30–1 pm**

**at**

**The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester**

***No entrance charge but your donations are most  
welcome***

**See the Archive at [www.spaceinthecity.org.uk](http://www.spaceinthecity.org.uk)**

## Inspirational Christians

This is the third 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 and St Francis of Assisi. This month it is Oscar Romero.

### Oscar Romero

15 August 1917–24 March 1980



*'We know that every effort to be a better society, especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, God wants, God demands, of us.'*

Oscar Romero was a Catholic priest who spoke up for poor communities in El Salvador during a period of terrible violence. He was ordained in 1942 and made bishop in June 1970. He actively denounced violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable people and defended the principles of protecting lives, promoting human dignity and opposition to all forms of violence. He was assassinated in a hospital chapel in 1980 whilst celebrating Mass.

There was a huge gulf between the poor and the wealthy throughout the country and, although Romero showed compassion to the poor, he was initially very conservative and was not involved with Liberation Theology\*. The violence increased in El Salvador by the mid-1970s as the government and army began killing poor people who stood up for their rights. On his appointment as Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977 the ruling class expected Romero to condemn the protests and preach obedience to the authorities.

When the army killed three people in the village of Tres Calles in Romero's diocese, he comforted the families and wrote to the President to protest about the murders. Peaceful protests were all met with a violent put-down. A few weeks after his appointment, his friend Fr Rutilio Grande was shot and killed, along with two companions. The following Sunday, Romero allowed only one Mass in the whole diocese – at the Cathedral – where he spoke out against the murders, spoke the name of victims, and denounced abusers.

He was deeply affected by the murder of his friend and fellow priest and, after a brief spell in the countryside which opened his eyes to the real suffering of the poor and where he saw personally the violence of the authorities, he developed into an outspoken social activist.



He was a brave leader who wanted Christians to stand up and protest peacefully against injustice and violence but, when that had no effect, he refused to stay beneath the radar. As the violence in El Salvador continued, Romero continued to speak out. Every Sunday his sermon was broadcast by radio. The whole country listened and his life was often threatened – when his radio station was bombed it was rebuilt by an overseas charity organisation.

In his sermon on 23 March 1980, Romero ordered the army to stop killing people: *'In the name of God, and in the name of this suffering people whose cries rise to heaven more loudly each day, I beg you, I implore you, I order you, in the name of God, stop the repression!'* The next day, a shot killed Romero as he said Mass.

Thousands came to his funeral. The army fired into the crowd, thirty mourners died and hundreds were injured. This accelerated the civil war which continued until 1992.

There were many calls for him to be made a Saint but these were mostly ignored until Pope Francis, who has more sympathy for the poor and oppressed, was appointed. In 2013, in his own words, he



‘unblocked’ the paralysed canonisation process and made it clear that he wanted to see Romero’s cause progressed without delay. Two years later Archbishop Romero was proclaimed a martyr and, at a magnificent ceremony in San Salvador on 23 May 2015, he became **Blessed Oscar Romero**. His canonisation took place on 14 October 2018 in Rome.

**\*Liberation Theology:** *a movement in Christian theology, developed mainly by Latin American Roman Catholics, which attempts to address the problems of poverty and social injustice as well as spiritual matters. It sought to apply religious faith by aiding the poor and oppressed through involvement in political and civic affairs. Critics of liberation theology associate it with Marxism and see it as a religious form of socialist policies. Vatican officials, including several popes, have spoken against liberation theology.*

## December/January Yours Magazine

Publication date for the **December/January** magazine (the next one) is **Sunday 25 November**. The deadline for articles and notices is **Monday 12 November**.



**All contributions gratefully received.**

The *Yours* Team is: Barbara Dunton and Sophie Armstrong  
Email: [yours@unitedchurchwinchester.org.uk](mailto:yours@unitedchurchwinchester.org.uk)

### ***A note from the Yours team:***

***We would love to receive more articles from readers of Yours – perhaps about travel, holidays, good books, plays or films enjoyed. Articles don’t need to be long, but just to give a personal angle. If you have an idea for a new series (like the one that was run some years ago called ‘At the Coal Face’) please let us know. All ideas and articles most welcome. After all, it is Your magazine!***



Chandlers Ford M D G Players

Presents  
Charles Dickens

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted by James Reynard

At the Dovetail Centre Café  
Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
21st, 22nd, 23rd November 2018  
at 7.30 p.m.

**Tickets: £7.50**

available from the Dovetail Centre Cafe  
or Box office 023 8025 3922  
or email: [johndiscombe22@talktalk.net](mailto:johndiscombe22@talktalk.net)

## DATES FOR NOVEMBER 2018

1	<b>Coffee Bar Playtime</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
	<b>MESSY CHURCH</b>	3.30-5.15pm
2	<b>Friday Worship</b> <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
5	<b>Church Council</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	9.30-12noon
6	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> <i>in the Hall</i>	2pm-3.30pm
7	<b>Fairtrade stall</b> <i>in the Coffee Lounge</i>	10 am-2pm
	<b>Space in the City: 'Remembering War, Making Peace' – Michael Wooldridge reporting war and peace (6of 6)*</b>	12.30-1pm
	<b>Wednesday Fellowship</b> <i>in Room 1*</i>	2.30pm
8	<b>Coffee Bar Playtime</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
9	<b>Friday Worship</b> <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
12	<b>Christmas Project meeting</b> <i>in the Church</i>	7.30-9pm
13	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> <i>in the Hall</i>	2pm-3.30pm
14	<b>Wednesday Fellowship</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	2.30pm
15	<b>Coffee Bar Playtime</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
16	<b>Friday Worship</b> <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
20	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> <i>in the Hall</i>	2pm-3.30pm
21	<b>Fairtrade stall</b> <i>in the Coffee Lounge</i>	10 am-2pm
	<b>Wednesday Fellowship</b> <i>in Room 1*</i>	2.30pm
22	<b>Coffee Bar Playtime</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
23	<b>Friday Worship</b> <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
25	<b>CHURCH MEETING plus Bring &amp; Share Lunch</b>	after 10.30am service
27	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	2-3.30pm
28	<b>Wednesday Fellowship</b> <i>in Room 1*</i>	2.30pm
29	<b>Coffee Bar Playtime</b> <i>in Room 1</i>	10am-1pm
	<b>Women's Group</b> <i>at The Queen</i>	7.30pm
30	<b>Friday Worship</b> <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am

### Circuit Events:

**Local Preachers & Worship Leaders' meeting:** 28 November at Chandler's Ford, 7.30pm

**Circuit Prayer Fellowship:** 8 November at Canada Common, 7.30pm



## SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2018



### 4 NOVEMBER

9.00 am	Word & Worship	Revd Prof Neil Messer
10.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Tim Searle

### 11 NOVEMBER

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

### 18 NOVEMBER

9.00 am	Word & Worship	Mrs Elizabeth Britton
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Revd Andrew Bird

### 25 NOVEMBER – *WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE SUNDAY*

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Revd Tim Searle
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Revd Tim Searle
<i>followed by Church Meeting plus Bring &amp; Share Lunch</i>		



### **Messy Church – 1 November**

**3.30–5.15 pm (straight from school)**

Fun, games, craft, DVD, Bible Stories followed by a meal.

Children must bring an adult with them.

**Future date: 6 December**

