



Yours

Magazine of
The United Church
Winchester

February 2019



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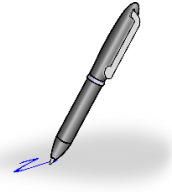
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Minister's Letter

Bursting the Bubble

It's tempting to think that simply by living in leafy Winchester everyone's quality of life gets automatically boosted. Doesn't everyone within the safe confines of our green and pleasant bubble maintain a standard of living that others can only dream of? A safe, well-maintained roof over one's head, a cleaner, a gardener, a paid-off mortgage, money in the bank, a steady flow of overseas holidays, stable, loving, long-term relationships and friendships; surely that's the norm for each and every person that proudly counts themselves a Wintonian? Sadly not. Behind many a front door the reality is anything but, and places like Winchester can make you feel like crawling into the nearest hole if your life doesn't measure up. For some, the standard of living described above is so far removed from their lived realities that it might as well be another world. Instead, low incomes, rising debt, uncertainty over housing, a dysfunctional and unsympathetic welfare system, strained relationships, fragmented families, mental illness and social isolation pose a constant threat, sometimes even behind the most prestigious looking façades.



Regrettably, churches, particularly middle-England, middle-class, predominantly white and retired (or retiring) ones, can be the worst places for perpetuating the monoculture myth. Winchester churches are replete with a class of people that simply don't have to worry about the afflictions described above. Pastorally, it's common for me to be told about the health or social care concerns that you would expect of an ageing population, but rarely have I had a conversation with a 'church person' who feared for their livelihood. The fact that the question 'Where did you go on holiday?' is a frequent point of conversation over coffee indicates the kind of cultural and

social norms that predominate. Like it or not, churches tend to be made up of the 'haves' rather than the 'have nots'.

The point of this article is not to make people who 'have' feel guilty about their quality of life. I'm abundantly aware that church people form the mainstay of voluntary charitable endeavours such as the Christmas Project, Nightshelter and Basics Bank which look to tackle such inequalities head-on. However, we must get better at not assuming that everyone who walks through our doors, whether for a church service or a baby clinic appointment, leads a life similar to our own. Not everyone has access to the basic standard of living that many Winchester church-goers are used to. Not everyone has the relatively safe, stable and predictable lives which many of us enjoy and which allow us to be as altruistic as we are. If we are to be a genuinely inclusive community then that must include having an attitude that is mindful of the social diversity in our midst, especially when that defies the leafy Winchester norm.

Sincerely,
Tim

Church Family News



We are now well into the New Year, but it was good to welcome to our Christmas services several families who were at home for the festive season. I would like to record some of the Christmas card greetings which were sent to the congregation of The United

Church.

Good wishes came from Debbie Borda, Enid Brook, Yvonne and Peter Alderson, Harry and Helen Hamilton, and from Anne Bray (with thanks for our prayers and messages through her very difficult year). And of course members of our current congregation shared their best wishes to all.

We send congratulations and best wishes to Celia Holloway who has just celebrated her 90th birthday.

We continue to remember in our prayers those people in our congregation who are passing through a difficult time themselves or are concerned for those close to them.

Graham Rolfe

Church Relaunch Open Days and Christmas Revealed

A big thank you to all those who helped out during the Open Days at the beginning of Advent, including welcomers, coffee bar volunteers,

musicians and the brilliant team who made the angels. Coffee Bar stayed open later than usual with free tea and coffee and John Heath played carols on his organ on the pavement outside!



We had lots of visitors who appreciated the very warm welcome they received. We gave out 150 goody bags with information about the Church and a copy of *Yours* containing interviews with Tim and Jo Crocker. These were offered not only to visitors but also to regular customers of the coffee bar, Live at Home staff, and those attending groups such as Parents and Toddlers. It was an opportunity to share something of what we're about to all these people and to encourage them to go upstairs, visit the beautiful sanctuary, listen to music played by numerous volunteers and be inspired by the wonderful angels of Christmas Revealed!

Our hope is that all those who came into the building will have received something to help them along their spiritual journey and that all we are doing, including our new website and updated social media presence together with events we put on

in the coming months will encourage people to join our community.

Here are some of the comments left in the Visitors' Book:

'Always made to feel so welcome. Popped in again before I met my cousins. Angels are fantastic. What a lovely idea!'

'Inspiring with beautiful music!'

'A really stimulating and enjoyable journey. I'll take the leaflet home and re-use it personally over the coming month.'

'Brilliant ideas for drawing out the Christmas Story and drawing out thoughts and prayers.'

'Great idea and really well done. Thank you. What I needed this Christmas to help reflect.'

'Beautiful, thought-provoking, ingenious and uplifting. Thanks to all.'

'Lovely church and amazing angels. Made very welcome and free coffee! Thank you.'

'Lovely exhibition and thoughtful retelling of Advent in a lovely church!'

'Thank you for the beautiful and inspiring angels and the angels who greeted us and put together this display. A lovely thought and a challenging message.'

Bob Lord, Richard Coleman and Dorothy Lusmore

Church Weekend 14 to 16 June 2019

We have asked Tim Stead to lead the weekend. Tim is the author of *Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality – making space for God*, which Tim Searle read during his sabbatical.

The book combines the insights he has gained through being an accredited Mindfulness teacher with his 20 years' experience as a parish priest and Christian disciple. It explores how mindfulness practice can contribute to Christian thought, prayer and spirituality.



Tim also has a science degree and has developed an interest in how science and faith can both critique and inform one another. He sees Mindfulness as a particularly good example of how this has happened in a constructive way.

We are drawing up a programme for the weekend with practical sessions inside and out on Christian Mindfulness, crafts, poetry, sustainable living and worship. Everyone will be free to take part in any of these they like, and spend time relaxing in the beautiful house and grounds. There will be activities on similar themes for the children and young people led by Sam Barnes.

We have 74 people signed up for the weekend, but have a few spare places for those who wish to join us. Let me know if you would like more details. I will send out the programme by email with a request to pay the balance by 18 March.

Bob Lord: boblord3004@gmail.com

The Privilege of Ministry in Cambodia

Tucked away in the back streets of Phnom Penh is a jewel of a Bible School. The Cambodian Methodist Bible School (CMBS)



has a small committed staff, 30+ enthusiastic students and two buildings. One building contains offices, a well-stocked library, lecture and seminar rooms and a chapel. Another houses the dining room and dormitories.

It has been our privilege to teach second and third year students recently. What a pleasure, and challenge, to help students engage with the Old Testament written prophets in the setting of modern Cambodia. To read Amos and his critique of political corruption, financial exploitation and his condemnation of the powerful who crush the poor and needy. His prophetic words have a real bite to them in the setting of Cambodia where Premier Hun Sen has been in power for 37 years, where there is exceptional wealth for a tiny few and abject poverty for most people, where young girls are still sold for the price of a pair of sandals (Amos 2:6). O how we need to 'let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 5:24).

The invitation to teach at the Bible School came because of links between the Hong Kong Methodist Church and the fledgling Cambodian Methodist Church (CMC). This support goes back 14 years with teams from Hong Kong visiting three or four times a year to support the CMC programmes of health care, family ministry, evangelism and to encourage and support the pastoral staff. Two years ago the Methodist International Church became involved in this programme.

Rosie and I visited the Bible School in June 2018 to assess the needs and clarify the invitation. This autumn Rosie has supported the provision of teaching in written and spoken English. My task has been to assist in the biblical and theological teaching programme. It is an honour to work



with the Academic Dean Revd Tiong Yeun (Jessica), and the Principal Revd Prak Vuthy in delivering seminars and lectures for the students. It should be said that the ministers in Cambodia are 'bi-vocational' – that is they have two jobs – one in which they are employed for five or even six days a week and also that they minister in the churches on the Sunday. Revd Vuthy is not only Principal of CMBS but also Principal of a Methodist Secondary School and Senior Minister in one of the Phnom Penh Churches! These people are highly motivated, work very hard and still have time for visitors.

The students are very keen about their faith and their studies. On weekdays they are up at 4.30 am attending prayers at 5 am for one hour. They wake us up at 6 am with their enthusiastic singing! This is followed by cleaning tasks around the campus until breakfast at 7 am – congee! College prayers are at 8 am and lectures from 8.30 to 11.30 am, 2 pm until 5 pm.

All lectures and seminars are in Khmer so Saly Nareth translated for me, though the English appreciation for most of the students is very good. The student day is a demanding schedule but the students seem to approach it with joy. It occurred to me that the Buddhist monks would be in the Temple at dawn, so why should not the Ministerial Students be in prayer to the Triune God. It does send out a challenging

notion to theological students (and supernumerary ministers!) the world over.

The Bible School was opened in 2000 with support from the Korean Methodist Church. The plaque celebrating this in the lobby indicates that the school was opened by the Cambodian Government Minister for Cult and Religion. It is young institution but with a great future if that is to be measured from the present staff and students.

The young Cambodian Methodist Church is part of United Methodism and has until recently been a Mission Conference supported from

Singapore. This summer it became a Provisional Annual Conference moving towards full status by 2026.

I thank God for the opportunity for Rosie and myself to minister in this way.

G Howard Mellor

Revd Dr G. Howard Mellor



My Version of *Call the Midwife*

Previously, I wrote about memories of my nurse training days, however this time I would like to tell you something of my time in midwifery. Part 1 of my midwifery training was at a hospital near London where I learnt the basics of pre- and post-natal care. I also had



experience looking after premature babies in the special care baby unit. Whilst there, I was very privileged to have delivered twins during my first six months of midwifery training. Medical students and midwifery pupil nurses took it in turns to perform the deliveries; it was with great envy on their part that it was my turn when the twins came along!

Having completed six months of Part 1 training I felt ready to move to another hospital in a different part of the country for Part 2 of the midwifery course. When I arrived at the new destination, people asked if I was the new secretary! It was coming from a London background that singled me out from the other students – shorter skirts and rather smarter London styles! From that day onwards I was known as ‘The London girl’, but I digress from the topic of midwifery.



On arrival, I found that not only did I have to accomplish a certain number of deliveries in hospital, but I also had to attain my standing in numbers of deliveries of home births in the community. The district covered was both urban and rural and it was during that time that all sorts of incidents occurred that I call to mind quite vividly.

Travel around the district was mainly by bicycle. It was winter time so often very dark as well as cold. One morning I was stopped by the police and I wondered what I had done wrong. Apparently, my front light was ‘dazzling’ the policemen in their patrol car! I had been out so early in the dark, but was now peddling away with a very efficient dynamo still switched on in broad daylight. Gradually the weather changed but not for the better. It rained and rained until finally I could not get to my district from the hospital by the river as it was in flood. Ironically, I had to abandon my bicycle at a garage!

After that it was ‘Shanks’ pony’ until the flood waters subsided. My uncle came to the rescue by taking me to my area each

morning on his way to work at the Courts which was a great help and a good start to the day. I made my calls on foot until things returned to normal.

Some of the babies I delivered were fine but the mothers concerned had complications so that meant on at least two occasions the 'flying squad' had to be called from the hospital late at night. Fortunately, all went well and the mothers were soon put to rights without any need for a hospital admission.

The rain stopped and the weather became more spring like. I was back on my bike and was very thankful for that. I made several visits to a farm and was always accompanied along the track leading to the farm by three or four Jack Russell dogs nipping at my heels. They were lovely creatures so I did not mind them around me one bit.

After several pre-natal visits, the day came for the lady to deliver and when I arrived that morning her husband greeted me with 'Have you counted the ducks in the yard today?'

Apparently there was one less and, as I was a part of their household for the day I was included in their lunch plans. It was a delicious duck roast!



Such a pleasant experience was not always the case. One day I went to deliver a lady's fifth baby. I thought, wrongly, that I would not be there long; however it took ages and the house was so dirty I did not even dare to have a drink all day. Much to my horror I discovered that the oft heard joke was true – yes, they did keep the coal in the bath!

Travelling around the district, caring for mothers and babies was a great and wonderful experience, never to be forgotten. Finally, I reached the stage when I had to take the Part 2 midwifery examinations. This not only meant written papers, but also travelling quite a distance to another city hospital

where I had a practical – to examine several women and give a full verbal assessment of their situation to the examiner. It was a difficult task, but I rose to the occasion and passed. Once a fully qualified midwife I stayed on to work at the hospital where I had done my Part 2 training, but that is a story for another day.

Lesley Worrall

2018 Sustainability at Church: House Group Feedback Comments

In the Autumn house groups delved into issues of Sustainability. Thank you to those who fed back comments – most of which I include here for everyone to be able to get a flavour of conversations.



Session 1: Sustainability

We had a lively discussion with all sharing their thoughts and we were very much all on the same lines.

A great deal discussion surrounding the letter P came to mind.

- **Pollution** i.e. Air, water, noise – We talked about harnessing water in deserts etc.
- **Personal communication** Not the techno babble but talking face to face, caring for others
- **Peace** Respect for others of all nations. Proper time out – a time of quiet for everyone. Almost impossible for some in noisy environments.
- **Population explosion** Can the world sustain growing numbers? – very controversial
- **People's Needs.** Finally, we talked about meeting others needs and loving your neighbour as yourself.
- We felt that the statement re sustainability could not really be better than already described.

I think the first session went well. Everyone showed interest and the material generated some interesting and wide-ranging discussion. The work of the Vineyard church came up in discussion, e.g. the provision of second-hand school uniforms, particularly for All Saints school, and we all agreed that we need to work with other churches if we are to make any impact with sustainability.

Session 2: Renewing our understanding of Mission

Just a thought which I find useful: the Five Marks of Mission can be remembered as:

TELL, TEACH, TEND, TRANSFORM, TREASURE

We had very good discussion and commented on the Five Marks of Mission. It was felt that we needed to put some ideas into everyday language, i.e - to talk to people about lives improved by the love of God.

On a personal level we quoted Wesley's words which summed up our feelings on the subject :

'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you , as long as you can.'

Session 3: The Call to Care for Creation

My group have really got the bit between their teeth with this series!

People feel very positive about the topic and the material – and we think we are getting lots from it. People feel generally



hopeful about the future of Creation. We can, with God's help, address our problems re climate change etc. God is marvellous in his Providence for, and care of, us (re Matthew 10:29–31). In return, we understand our responsibilities towards him. We can't always understand why

others 'trash' the earth (re the quote from Stephen Rand). Rather than condemn them we have to show them by our example what can be done ... small things each of us can do count.

Session 4: Sustainable Lifestyles

Plenty of thoughts expressed and various tales to tell, but we felt that although we understood the concept it was still very difficult to get our heads around the subject.

There are so many complex issues, i.e. if you change anything, how many others are affected? As to the question of the last three things we bought, all but one of the group found that it was food items. One person's washing machine had failed so they had to buy another!

We also talked a good deal about being in the image of God and what that meant to us.

Session 5: Biblical Economics (no comments fed back about this session)

Session 6: Church as Change Maker

We went off piste with some of our discussions in this session, partly because some of the questions seemed to require one syllable answers only, or had been answered previously. We did like the words of St Francis, though. *'Always remember to preach the Gospel and if necessary, use words.'*

There are small ways in which we can set an example of how to live in a green style, such as the use of honey for ailments and vinegar & bicarb for household chores.

There is a lot of pressure on women now to be perfect – appearance, job, wealth, fitness – and the resultant damage to the balance of family life & childcare. (Not suggesting that it's only women who are responsible, but children suffer hugely, too, in the rush



for status and success, and are farmed out to day-care centres, etc.)

Within the church, better communication & responses from the council would be appreciated. Also, perhaps there could be a list of specialist tools owned by members of the congregation who would be prepared to share them. Likewise, skills, such as basic DIY.

Do we have any contact with The Gaolhouse, or nearby businesses? What about contact with hospital wards (carols?) & old people's homes? Do other churches do this? What about a central register of all the Winchester churches & their charitable work, so that the others don't overlap, & to show people with specific concerns where they should go to volunteer?

General Comments

I don't think we came up with anything new, but it certainly helped us all by raising awareness of some of the issues. The group agreed that it was a good course.

I think we used nearly all the material, and it generally linked together pretty well. Once or twice it was difficult to move on from fairly 'trivial' actions in response to challenges.

Winchester Community Night Shelter

Does this rough sleeper make you feel uncomfortable? Do you feel compassion but don't think dropping a coin into his begging bowl is the answer?

For this man and others like him Winchester Churches Nightshelter provides a solution. A vital lifeline for the homeless since 1988, it



remains the only Nightshelter offering direct access emergency accommodation in Hampshire.

More than just a bed is on offer:

- A bed with fresh, clean sheets
- Home cooked evening meals and breakfast each day, with access to local day centre for midday meals
- Hot showers
- Clothes washing facilities
- Clothes (if needed) and toiletries
- Computer and internet access
- One to one specialist support services.



Of course, there are conditions. Residents are required to pay £2 per night on the door or £10 if working. Prospective residents have to be made aware by referral agencies that it is a drug and alcohol free establishment and they will be breathalysed on the door. Hours are from 6 pm to 8.30 am.

There is a programme of rehabilitation for those fortunate enough to stay until more permanent accommodation can be acquired. This includes:

- One to one advocacy and advice
- Computer training
- Help with budgeting and finances
- Practical aid with food and nutrition
- Guidance for anyone with substance misuse problems
- Counselling.

As a non-profit organization, this work is dependent on donations and fundraising by willing volunteers.

The United Church Coffee Bar recently donated £294 to this good cause.

Anyone interested in learning more about this vital work can visit their website at www.wcns.org.uk or come to the Open Day on Saturday, 26 January 2019 from 11 am to 3 pm, 20B Jewry Street, Winchester.



Rosemary MacMullen

EfS@church

Education for Sustainability

This year is a crucial one for climate change – full of enormous challenge, and therefore full of potential for good. United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Guterres, in his New Year video message said

‘Now we need to increase ambition to beat this existential threat. It’s time to seize our last best chance and stop uncontrolled and spiralling climate change. As we begin this New Year, let’s resolve to confront threats, defend human dignity and build a better future – together.’

Our church decided last year to tackle this challenge head on by making Education for Sustainability (EfS) a focus. In *Yours* through 2019, look for a regular feature on this topic.

To start us off, here’s a reminder for us from Christians in Indonesia in their material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for 2019: ‘Jesus commissioned the disciples to proclaim the good news to the *whole* creation. No part of God’s plan is outside of God’s plan to make all things new. And so conversion is needed from a tendency to exploit to an attitude that values and reconciles us with creation’. EfS is a process of learning, towards sustainable living.

You are invited to hear of stories of people offering simple and concrete solutions to environmental and social challenges in the film Tomorrow being shown by WinACC and the University on 5 February at 6.30 at The Stripe, University of Winchester.

Jo Crocker

Inspirational Christians

This is the fifth 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, Oscar Romero and Cecil Alexander. This month it is Julian of Norwich.



Julian of Norwich 1352-1417

'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well'

Julian of Norwich was an anchorite who lived in the fourteenth century and was the first woman to write a book in English. Her book *Revelations of Divine Love*, published in 1395, was widely read and contains very significant theological thought.

An anchorite (or anchoress) was a type of hermit who voluntarily goes into isolation in a bricked-up room, often attached to a church. The 'cell' usually had two windows – one into the church so that the occupant could access the church services and receive Holy Communion, and the other to the outside to receive food etc. and to converse with people.

Julian had visions of Jesus when she was very ill and, after her recovery, she began to reflect deeply on the messages she had received. She compiled her reflections into a book, writing that God is pure love and that he saves us because he loves us, also that God shows care for us with compassion as a Mother and looks after us like a family. Her views were completely different to the ideas of God as a Father who demands obedience and punishment or atonement and would not have been acceptable at the time – possibly because she was a woman and therefore insignificant.

As truly as God is our Father, so truly is God our Mother, and he revealed that in everything, and especially in these sweet words where he says, 'I am the power and goodness of fatherhood, I am the wisdom and lovingness of motherhood. I am the light and grace which is all blessed love.'
Julian of
Norwich

Julian was known as a spiritual counsellor. People would come long distances to her cell in Norwich to seek advice. Her teaching was full of hope even through chaotic, worrying, and sometimes dangerous times. She lived through the Black Death which was virulent between 1348 and 1351. Nearly half the population of Norwich died during the three years with devastating results, both socially and economically. The plague returned, though less virulently, fifteen years later and some people wonder if she may have lost her husband and family then, although there is no evidence to support this. In 1381 the Peasant's Revolt took place as a response to years of injustice and unfair taxes. Julian herself nearly died from her illness at this time.



The church was also in turmoil resulting in a complete split in 1378, and for the next 68 years there were two Popes each claiming supreme authority. Christians became disillusioned with the church and not sure where true authority lay. Yet, her

writings are suffused with hope and trust in God's goodness. Her theology was optimistic with a vision of God's nearness, love, joy and compassion. She said, *'The greatest honour we can give almighty God is to live gladly because of his love'*.

Interest in Julian's writings has grown during the last 40 years or so as more and more people have discovered the significance of her book. Her theology and positive image of God is very 'up to date' and her work is now well-respected by theologians, historians and literary scholars. She seems to ask many of the same questions that we have today on our spiritual journey. If God is all goodness, why is there suffering in the world? What is God like? What is the ultimate meaning in life? Her book has been translated many times and many commentaries have been written.

Her church and shrine are in Norwich where there is also a visitor centre and she is particularly remembered on 8 May each year by the Anglican Church or 13 May in the Catholic Church. There are Julian Meetings today all over the country where people meet in small groups to meditate and pray.

**For details of Winchester Meetings contact Churches
Together in Winchester or Dorothy Lusmore.**

March 2019 Yours Magazine

Publication date for the **March 2019** magazine (the next one) is **Sunday 24 February**. The deadline for articles and notices is **Monday 11 February**.

All contributions gratefully received.

The *Yours* Team is: Barbara Dunton and Sophie Armstrong

Email: yours@unitedchurchwinchester.org.uk



The Wednesday Fellowship

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

February 2019

Please read the Weekly Notice Sheets for Events

6 February Fellowship Sharing Time

13 February Revd Tim Searle

20 February Ambassador Winchester Hospice Fund Raising

27 February M A F tbc

In November and December 2018 we enjoyed the following events:

7 November Pamela Gilbert: Life is a gift from God

As we come away from the noise and bustle of the day, we each bring different concerns and problems. This is our time, just a short while to sit and be still. This is a precious moment to be at one with God. Time to let God in, open ourselves to the healing power of the spirit. In letting go, we release ourselves from the burdens and pains of life. Life is a Gift from God. Our choices form the burdens and stress which distract us from that gift. So let us face those burdens, acknowledge their pain and offer them to God. For God understands us, knows us, loves us and forgives us.

14 November Fellowship Sharing Time

Alfred Noyes' Poem 'Daddy fell into the pond' was shared.

Everyone grumbled. The sky was grey.
We had nothing to do and nothing to say.
We were nearing the end of a dismal day,
And there seemed to be nothing beyond,
THEN
Daddy fell into the pond!

And everyone's face grew merry and bright,
And Timothy danced for sheer delight.
'Give me the camera, quick, oh quick!
He's crawling out of the duckweed.' Click!

Then the gardener suddenly slapped his knee,
And doubled up, shaking silently,
And the ducks all quacked as if they were daft.
And it sounded as if the old drake laughed.

O, there wasn't a thing that didn't respond.
WHEN Daddy fell into the pond!

Who will Write our History by Samuel D. Kassow.

This is a story of rediscovering a hidden archive from the Warsaw Ghetto, and recounts the results of an archaeological dig carried out there in 1946. Whilst enduring unimaginable conditions from 1940 onwards, one man, Emanuel Ringelblum, started an extraordinary clandestine organisation dedicated to recording life under Nazi occupation. His aim was to ensure his people's history would be written. The workers found containers, which, when opened, contained papers. These papers, when examined, were records of the people who lived there. During the spring of 1942, these are an example of some of the words that were written: 'in the tragic destructive chaos of our present-day life we can nonetheless observe flashes of creative activity, slow development and birth of forces that are building a base for the future.' These records are now archived and preserved.

21 November Yvonne North: Crafting Angels

A fun afternoon was had by all, learning how to fold paper in such a way as to produce angel shaped figures. They were decorated in many different designs, and were displayed in the Coffee Bar area.

28 November Miriam Davies : Her life as a Missionary in Japan

We were treated to a short video of the town in Japan where Miriam stayed, containing pictures of a Shinto Festival and a Shinto shrine, pictures of her flat, the Hokeuai Church that she attended, a Baptismal service, a Christmas party and her hospital visiting.

Miriam served in the church for 40 years, and learnt Japanese. When witnessing to her hairdresser Maki, she discovered that Maki had been seeking from the age of 12. Miriam set up a Bible study group, and during this time six came to Christ. Miriam is now retired and living back in the UK.

5 December Pam Oliveck: Hannakah

We were treated to a festival of light. The King of Syria had attacked the Jews and captured Jerusalem. Judah the Maccabee, was the leader of the fighting band. For two years



the Jews fought their enemy. Then one night they attacked Jerusalem, the enemy stronghold. Judah the Maccabee and his followers camped outside Jerusalem all winter. When the people inside had little food or water left, they attacked and overwhelmed the enemy. The Jews were free! One of the

first tasks of the Jews was to clean up the Temple. They restored the holy lamp – the menorah – but found only enough clean and holy oil to last one day. Yet the flames of the menorah burned steadily for eight days. With each passing day, the flames grew brighter. From then on, every year at that time, Jews have celebrated with the Festival of Lights. Candles are lit at sundown for eight nights in a row. Today's menorahs have nine branches; the ninth branch is for the shamash, or servant light, which is used to light the other eight

12 December Wednesday Fellowship Christmas Lunch

Our table was decorated beautifully and included the traditional crackers. A very delicious lunch was enjoyed by all who attended.

With grateful thanks to our catering team who cooked the food and made sure we enjoyed ourselves.



Mission Project Audio-Visual Evening



We are planning to give another of our audio-visual presentations in support of the LUNA Mission Project on **Saturday 23 March 2019 at 7.30 pm.**

We will be showing AV's from our visits to India's Golden Triangle and South Africa, including rural life, wildlife, and cultural highlights.

Make it a date for your diary and bring along your friends for what should be an entertaining and informative evening.

Hilary & Mike Holt

Le Weekend, Woking, 12-14 April



ÉGLISE RÉFORMÉE
DE FRANCE

The annual coming together of members of the French protestant church and the United Reformed Church is being held in Woking, on April 12-14, 2019. This is the successor event to the Colloque which was hosted by The United Church in 1982 and 1998.

The weekend is for all ages, and there has been an attempt to attract young families. Translation is now offered for the talks; there is Bible study, and there are 'tourist' outings.

The initial title of the weekend is 'The stranger in our midst'. It would be good if a car load from The United Church could go there on Saturday, 13 April. More details will follow. If you are interested, please contact me.

Kathleen Hill

Wessex URC Synod

Bridge Builders Course at Fleet URC

'Bridge Builders' – changing how we handle conflict, useful for lay people and Ministers.

This will be held at Fleet URC 10.30 am to 2.30 pm and spread over four Saturdays as follows: 2 March, 6 April, 11 May and 1 June 2019. Participants should plan to attend all sessions. (*Our Minister recommended this course should you be uncertain about going.*)

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| 2 March | 'Let's Talk About Conflict' and 'Our Theology and Attitudes' |
| 6 April | 'Communicating Better' and 'Getting Unstuck' |
| 11 May | 'Beyond Default Mode' and 'Recognising Emotional Process' |
| 1 June | 'Changing How We Do Conflict' and 'Becoming Bridge Builders' |

Lay Preachers' Gathering

Saturday 23 March at Old Alresford Place, Hampshire SO24 9DA 10.30 am–2 pm. 'Join us for a day of fellowship and reflection'. Lunch will be provided.

Under 'Children's and Youth Events and Training' read as follows:
One-day First Aid Training – Red Cross training course at Havant URC on Saturday 23 February 2019, 10 am–4 pm. Booking is essential.

2-day Paediatric First Aid Training – to be held on two consecutive Saturdays, 23 and 30 March at Grange URC, Reading. Booking is essential

Wessex Summer Camp – 19– 21 July at Runways End Activity Centre, near Farnborough.

New Junior Camp for those in school years 4, 5 & 6 and will run in parallel with the youth camp.

All the above events may be booked through Ruth Heine at the URC Synod Office in Southampton: tel.023-8067-4513, email:bookings@urcwessex.org.uk

DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2019

1	Friday Worship <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20 am
5	Baby & Toddler Group <i>in the Hall</i>	2-3.30 pm
	Daytime House Group <i>in the Chapel</i>	2.30 pm
6	Fairtrade stall <i>in the Coffee Lounge</i>	10 am-2 pm
	Space in the City: Mark Byford – ‘The Annunciation: A Pilgrim’s Quest’ (3of3)*	12.30-1pm
	Wednesday Fellowship <i>in Room 1*</i>	2.30 pm
7	Coffee Bar Playtime <i>in Room 1</i>	10 am-1 pm
	MESSY CHURCH	3.30-5.1 pm
8	Friday Worship <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20am
12	Baby & Toddler Group <i>in the Hall</i>	2 pm-3.30 pm
13	Wednesday Fellowship*	2.30 pm
14	Coffee Bar Playtime <i>in Room 1</i>	10 am-1 pm
15	Friday Worship <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20 am
19	No Baby & Toddler Group – half term	
	Daytime House Group <i>in the Chapel</i>	2.30 pm
20	Fairtrade stall <i>in the Coffee Lounge</i>	10 am-2 pm
	Wednesday Fellowship <i>in Room 1*</i>	2.30pm
21	Coffee Bar Playtime <i>in Room 1</i>	10 am-1 pm
22	Friday Worship <i>in the Church</i>	11-11.20 am
25	Craft Club <i>in Room 1</i>	10-12 noon
26	Baby & Toddler Group <i>in the Hall</i>	2-3.30 pm
27	Wednesday Fellowship <i>in Room 1*</i>	2.30 pm
28	Coffee Bar Playtime <i>in Room 1</i>	10 am-1 pm

Circuit Events in February

- CLT Meeting: **Wednesday 13 February** at Chandler’s Ford Methodist Church, at 7.30 pm
- Circuit Prayer Fellowship: tbc
- Circuit Service: **Sunday 24 February** at Chandler’s Ford Methodist Church, at 6.30 pm



SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2019



3 FEBRUARY

9.00 am	Word & Worship	Revd Tim Searle
10.30 am	Holy Communion	Revd Tim Searle

10 FEBRUARY

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

17 FEBRUARY

9.00 am	Word & Worship	Mrs Beth Sharratt
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Revd Prof Neil Messer

24 FEBRUARY

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Revd Tim Searle
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Revd Tim Searle
6.30 pm	Circuit Service at Chandler's Ford Methodist Church	

Additional Services in February

Friday Worship – *pause for thought (each week),*
11–11.20 am



Messy Church – 7 February

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 dates: 7 March, 4 April



