



# Yours

Magazine of  
The United Church  
Winchester

JUNE 2021



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# Opening Letter

## 'The Four Essential Values'

I'm grateful to Penny for sharing an article with me by Radha Modgil, who is an NHS GP and a TV and Radio presenter. Writing in *The Guardian*, Modgil argues that whilst science and technology have made great leaps in helping us overcome the pandemic and (hopefully) getting us back 'to how things were', if we don't apply some good 'old-fashioned' values alongside the science, we risk sidelining some of our most basic human needs. Commenting on her return to the gym, she found herself faced with four words: Respect; Patience; Honesty; and Kindness, and believes that re-engaging with these values is a must as we emerge from hibernation. The link to the whole article is below, but here's what she says on those four words in particular:



### 'Respect

'By this I simply mean consideration and showing a sense of regard for others – and ourselves. As we open things up more, we need to remain cautious, careful and responsive. We need to respect the science of the virus and make sure we are all doing what we can to help. Respect the changes that have been put in place in the gym or the restaurant, respect the staff who have to put them in place and respect our friends' or family members' decisions about what they feel comfortable doing. Respecting ourselves by voicing what we need and what we do or do not feel comfortable doing is part of our mental and emotional wellbeing as we readjust.

### 'Patience

'Be patient with yourself and others as we all try to re-engage. Every one of us has been through a huge amount, but in very different ways. It is going to take time to build trust in new

situations, and it is going to take time to re-establish connections and relationships. Go at your own pace and choose the activities that are priorities for you. You don't have to do it all at once. It will take time to process the life-changing events that we have been through.

## **'Honesty**

'When we are able to open up about how we feel and tell people what we are worried about or what we have been through, they will also be more likely to do the same. In the shared global experience of the pandemic, we have all had unique challenges and changes. Yet the universal feelings of fear, anxiety, sadness, disorientation, grief and loss provide us with an opportunity to connect more deeply with each other. It is easy to get distracted and to push these feelings down but if we all take the time and space to be honest with ourselves and others about who we are and how we feel, we really can start to re-engage meaningfully.

## **'Kindness**

'Showing each other kindness will help all of us to feel more confident in getting out there again. Kindness was something we were all talking about a lot last spring. But are we still talking about it? Are we still giving people a wave or a smile? Are we still remembering to check in on our neighbours? Are we still saying thank you to frontline workers? If someone shows you kindness when you are making that first trip back to your gym or favourite restaurant, then you are more likely to feel OK about doing it again.'

Belonging to a church has been a lifeline to many throughout the pandemic. Yet wonderful though our churches are, they can, for lots of different reasons, be places of frustration and anxiety too. It's important for us to realise that these four words need to be practised in all areas of our lives; church included. We don't have to have all the answers, and we're in no more a

position to project certainty than anyone else, but we can show our community that we too are wrestling with how we emerge, and that we also understand the value of respect, patience, honesty and kindness.

Radha Modgil 'The four essential values we relied on last year - and forget now at our peril', *The Guardian*, Tuesday 18 May 2021

[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/may/18/the-four-essential-values-we-relied-on-last-year-and-forget-now-at-our-peril?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/may/18/the-four-essential-values-we-relied-on-last-year-and-forget-now-at-our-peril?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

In Christ, Tim

## News of the United Church Family



Long standing members of the congregation will be sorry to hear of Paul Rolph's death on 30 March. Both Paul and Jenny were members of The United Church and also Methodist local preachers but had been attending St Paul's Church in Winchester for some years.

Joy Richardson has recently moved to 14 Matilda Place in Gordon Road. We hope that she soon feels settled in her new home.

Naomi Thomas is now living permanently at Sunrise Senior Living on Stockbridge Road. She is always happy to hear from church friends and can initially be contacted via the main Sunrise phone number Winchester 673550.

We send good wishes to all those young people approaching university exams, 'A' Level and GCSE exams and assessments. We know that life has been really tough for all students but hope that they are able to achieve their best in whatever they are required to do.

**Helen McTiffin**  
**Pastoral Co-ordinator**

## **The Role of an Anna Chaplain**

Anna Chaplaincy is a new role across denominations aimed at supporting older people. It has been pioneered by The Bible Reading Fellowship. 'Anna Chaplain' was chosen as a title because it echoes the work of Anna who, the Bible tells us, recognised the baby Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promises. The name Anna emphasises that this is a hope filled ministry, in the tradition of older people having prophetic voices and life lessons to share.

Anna Chaplains are representatives of their local church offering person-centred ministry for older people of strong, little or no faith – those living in their own homes and also older people in care homes and sheltered housing, as well as friends, family and care staff.

An Anna Chaplain advocates for older people with dementia. Their work complements the wider ministry of local churches with older people.

### **Roles which are Part of Being an Anna Chaplain**

- One to one pastoral and spiritual support for older people and those caring for them, through listening, sharing and prayer ministry.
- Designing and leading worship services that are inclusive of people with dementia.
- Being involved in end of life and funeral ministry and bereavement care.
- Building bridges and working collaboratively with local care homes and support agencies to ensure spiritual needs are met.
- Continually developing skill and knowledge in ageing, dementia and caring, and sharing this with local churches to increase understanding.
- A leadership role within local churches.

## **Background and Characteristics of an Anna Chaplain**

- A heart for older people and those affected by dementia.
- Compassion for those struggling in their later years or caring roles, alongside a positive, hopeful attitude which values the contribution they continue to make.
- Being a good listener.
- Skill in leading, and energising and inspiring others.
- Experience of working in ordained and lay ministry, or a willingness to undertake training provided by BRF, Caraway Trust and Local Preacher training.
- A sense of accountability to the local church and a willingness to work collaboratively and be guided by the Christian community and line manager.

**Pamela Gilbert**

## **Link to Hope**

### **Items to collect in June:**

Work gloves, DIY tools, tape measures, scissors, pencils and crayons, rulers, paper, and notepads.



We hope some of you are enjoying knitting and sewing – they really appreciate homemade items.

The leaflets for the boxes should arrive in the next few weeks. You will need one leaflet for each box.

Leaflets will be available from both of us, so do contact us.

Many thanks.

**Ann Coleman and Yvonne North**

## **The Duke of Edinburgh**

### ***His Role in the Management and Development of Windsor Great Park, Frogmore Gardens, Together with Some Wider Reflections***



Like many, I found the death of the Duke of Edinburgh somehow signalled a passing of the times being that essentially of my parents' generation, i.e. those who contributed in manifold ways to the securing of the democracy we continue to enjoy today rather than the regime that the Nazis may have had in mind for us. In fact, there is now only one person from the days of my youth who was born in the 1920s that I can communicate with in a meaningful way – my former Bible Class teacher. Naomi lives in Maidstone, thus communication consists of a Christmas card, Christmas letter and an occasional phone call.

Whilst there has been a measure of criticism of the BBC for the volume of coverage relating to the death of Prince Philip, the whole occasion carried with it a greater poignancy for me as I had worked on the estate at Windsor as part of my horticulture career and the Duke of Edinburgh in his role as Ranger of Windsor Great Park had been my 'Great Grandparent Manager', to use an HR term. In other words, he was my boss's boss's boss, i.e. my boss was the Keeper, his line manager was the Deputy Ranger and he answered to the Ranger. I thus paid particular attention to the 'day long' broadcast when a recording of the late Rowland Wiseman came on air, he being the Deputy Ranger when I worked on the estate. Before Prince Philip, the post of Ranger had been held since the time of King George III mainly by the reigning monarchs, e.g. King George V, King George VI et al.

Windsor Great Park as a whole is a large area of parkland, being just a part of the much larger Crown Estate. Two gardens found within the Great Park worth a visit are the Valley Gardens and



Savill Gardens. The Valley Gardens are, arguably, at their best in the spring containing copious plantings of Rhododendrons and Azaleas and are free to enter.

Perhaps one of the more memorable gardens that I worked in was Frogmore Gardens, which is part of the Home Park Estate, adjacent to Windsor Great Park. Frogmore Cottage has been in the consciousness of the public recently, but I do not recall it having such

notoriety in the early 80s, although it would be a truism that those who lived on the Frogmore Estate would, in the main, have been people considered to be of rank and consequence.



In addition to the merit of the gardens in their own right, they are the burial place of some past members of the Royal Family, including Queen Victoria and Prince Albert together with Edward VIII and his wife, Wallis, Duchess of Windsor. Part of Frogmore House (the House, not the Cottage), subsequent to my appointment in the 1980s, has been used to 'reproduce' a room from the Royal Yacht Britannia, housing (from memory) the Dining Room; indeed, the whole house has been subject to restoration since the time of my employment on the estate. In addition, within the gardens can be found Queen Victoria's Tea House together with some other curiosities.

The gardens and house are open for just a few days a year known as Charity Days, alternatively, it may be possible to arrange a guided tour for a group.

Returning to Prince Phillip's funeral, I do like to see a formal lawn mowed to perfection for the right occasion. Such lawns were to be seen adjacent to St George's Chapel Windsor on the day of the funeral.



For a moment or two I considered in my mind the stress that there must have been in the present Keeper and the operative that he had chosen to cut the lawns prior to the important day and the amount of time taken to make sure the mowers were

sharpened and adjusted to perfection. I always found mowing for important occasions to be somewhat stressful, but to the best of my knowledge my work was not going on television around the world as I was a practitioner before the days of the internet.

**Chris Young**



## United Church Coffee Bar



For many years our coffee bar has offered a welcome haven from the bustle of the city, an opportunity to meet friends, or make new ones, whilst enjoying good Fairtrade tea or coffee, and a taste of home cooking. It has been missed during lockdown.

We plan to re-open in September, but operating rather differently because of the impact of Covid. Initially we will be open mornings only, 10 to 12 noon, Monday to Friday. There will be a welcomer at the door, and table service to avoid a crowd at the servery.

Snackattack, who have kept us supplied with sandwiches since we opened, have ceased trading, so we will not be offering sandwiches. Increased overheads make it necessary to increase our prices, but we will still offer good value.

All our regular helpers will be contacted by email with fuller details.

We have simplified our organization, making the roles of chairperson and rota compiler less arduous as these positions are vacant at present. We would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in taking on either role, or joining our rota of helpers, either serving or welcoming.

Please contact any member of the committee for more details of what's involved.

**The Coffee Bar Committee: Graham Rolfe, Pat Fry,  
Jenny Barber, Jessica Tringham, Margaret Fields  
and Pauline Brooks**

## Book Review Corner

This is not so much a book review but a synopsis of a most interesting interview in the *Daily Telegraph* (Monday 10 May) between Harry de Quetteville and Professor Drew Weissman.



Drew Weissman is Professor of Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the man who, together with Kati Kariko, developed mRNA, the ground-breaking technique used in the Pfizer and Moderna jabs, and he says this is only the beginning.

Prof Weissman is aware that without the Covid-19 pandemic this research and its spin-offs would not be receiving the money and attention they are now. He says that Moderna has already started a clinical trial with the South African variant and Pfizer are doing the same, but his concern is that he doesn't think that is the right approach. He says that soon pharma companies will have to update again and then again, in an eternal battle of cat and mouse.

He thinks it would be better if Covid vaccines worked not by identifying what makes variants different but against what they have in common. He is doing just that by making a vaccine that will protect against every variant that's ever been produced and should protect against all possible variants that appear in the future.

The Professor has been able to develop not just a vaccine for Covid-19 but a whole new vaccine technology which, instead of priming our immune response by injecting us with bits of virus, uses genetic couriers called mRNA to teach our bodies how to build those bits themselves. The technique has been astonishingly successful.

Even more significant is the fact that mRNA can be loaded with new parcels while maintaining the same delivery mechanism, meaning it can be updated to carry instructions to our cells that could protect against malaria or herpes, cancer or HIV. From the ashes of the pandemic's destruction is rising the phoenix of a medical revolution.

This is the positive news we all need to hear at the moment.

If you would like to read the interview in full, I can let you have a copy.

**Barbara Dunton**

## ***Yours Magazine***

Publication date for the next issue of *Yours* is Sunday **27 June**. **The deadline for articles and notices is Tuesday 15 June.**

All contributions gratefully received.

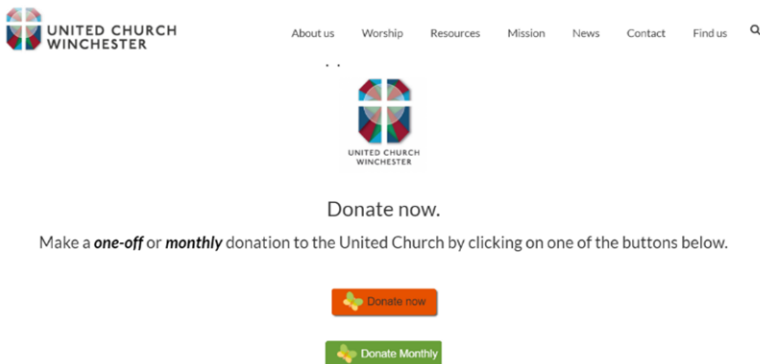
The *Yours* Team is: Barbara Dunton and Sophie Armstrong.

**Email: [yours@ucw.org.uk](mailto:yours@ucw.org.uk)**



## Donating to The United Church

Would you like to make a one-off or monthly donation to the church but don't want the fuss of setting up a bank transfer? Then you will be pleased to know that there is an easy way of giving on our website on this page [ucw.org.uk/donating/](https://ucw.org.uk/donating/). Why not give it a try?



Many thanks for your support.

## No More Plastic

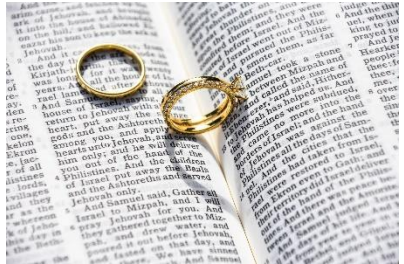
I have just decided to change my washing powder to Eco Laundry Club's plastic free and zero waste laundry sheets from 'Peace with the Wild'. This is a small family run business. Check it out.

Some of you may be interested in another brilliant business – 'Cotton Twist' based in Dorset. If you have young children or grandchildren, they have some great very reasonably priced craft products. Great fun.

**Ann Coleman**

# Registration of Marriages Simplified

After a long delay, the Government has at last introduced a new system for the registration of church weddings. The relevant Act was passed by Parliament in March 2019, but the new regulations did not come into effect until 4 May this year. The main thrust of the changes is to keep all the records on the central computer system, so that marriage registers will no longer be used. The marriage service itself will not be changed – it will still need to include the appropriate words!



You may have seen that in August I shall retire from my role as the Authorised Person for marriages at the United Church. I have held the position since August 2015, and in that time I have registered five marriages (with one more due in July). It is a very important but not too onerous a role, and the new system will be in many ways simpler. It will relieve the Authorised Person of several responsibilities, including the issue of marriage certificates. One positive aspect of the new paperwork is that instead of giving the names of just the father of the bride and of the groom, the names of both mother and father will be included.

**Graham Rolfe**



## News from Our Denominations

- With the improvement in the Covid situation, it was hoped that the 2021 Methodist Conference in July could be held in Birmingham, but the Arrangements Committee have been informed that the hotel venue will not be open, so the Conference will be held online unless an alternative can be found.
- The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church (9–12 July) was due to be held at The Hayes, Swanwick, but that booking has been cancelled, so the Assembly will be held online.
- The Revd Dr John Bradbury (General Secretary of the URC) told Mission Council that the extraordinary pace of secularisation means the denomination has reached a time when it needs to reflect on its direction. It was agreed to form a group to look into the future of the United Reformed Church, its remit to be decided by General Assembly.
- The Methodist Church has sold its remaining holdings in the oil and gas sector. The Advisory Committee has determined that the slow pace of change means that the oil and gas sector is failing to meet the targets set by the Paris Accord, and the firms (including Shell) are failing to take enough action to address the climate emergency.
- Leaders of seven denominations including the Methodist Church and the URC have joined together to decry the UK government's decision to reverse 50 years of gradual nuclear disarmament by raising the cap on nuclear warheads from 180 to 260. 'Our Trident submarines already carry warheads that in total have an explosive yield equivalent to hundreds of the bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima. It is immoral that the government is committing resources, which could be spent on the common good of our society, to stockpiling even more.'



## Yours Editor



After the July/August edition of *Yours*, Barbara Dunton will be stepping down as our Editor. We're massively grateful to Barbara for her service as Editor over the last few years (and as Assistant Editor prior to that), and though we could never replace her, we will need to find a new *Yours* Editor in time to produce our September edition.

Below is a summary of what's involved so please have a read and consider whether you might be the right person to carry on this valuable ministry. Do please get in touch with me if you'd like to know more! **Tim Searle**

### Role Summary:

- To produce 10 issues of our *Yours* church magazine per year (approx. 10–12 hours per issue).
- To work with Sophie Armstrong who continues to provide valuable support in proof-reading and formatting, and returns a final version to the Editor ready for distribution.
- To set copy dates at the end of the year for each issue in the coming year.
- To be proactive in encouraging our church community to contribute to their magazine.

### Role Requirements:

- Proficient with email and Microsoft Word
- Good language and grammar skills
- Knowledge of the congregation
- Preparedness to phone people to request contributions
- To be proactive and innovative in order to keep the magazine fresh and interesting

# Inspiration from the Internet

## Prayer

Dear Lord,

So far I'm doing all right.

I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate.

I have charged nothing on my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed in a minute and I'm pretty sure I'll need your help there.

**Rosie MacMullen**

## Keep the door open!

URC daily devotions online during May have been from the letter of Revelation. Our Moderator, Revd Clare Downing, currently Moderator of the URC General Assembly, contributed thoughts from Revelation 3, a chapter where a small, struggling, apparently insignificant Christian community is commended for its endurance, and encouraged to 'open the door'.



'I'm a sucker for competitive cookery programmes on the TV. Some of it is about food that I'll never cook myself, but part of the attraction is the interaction between competitors and judges; the reactions to praise and criticism. The good points of a dish are commented on, then a pause, and a "...but..." Some competitors hear both parts, many ignore the positive, and only hear the bad. Just a few only hear the compliments.

'The letters to the churches in Revelation follow a pattern of encouragement, criticism and opportunity to change. But this letter, to the church in Philadelphia, is unique in only containing praise and challenge – no negatives. They are not the strongest

church, but they are committed and steadfast. They are loved by God. They have “hung on in there” patiently.

‘Writing in the context of ongoing lockdown, praise for “patient endurance” seems particularly relevant. What we have been coping with is very different from the trials of the early church, but endurance is still a Christian virtue to be developed. Have we – have I – kept God’s word and not denied God’s name?’

‘The church in Philadelphia is promised “an open door”. By the time you read this, hopefully far more doors will be open than have been for many months. What will open doors mean for us? If they are simply open to let the insiders back, then we will have failed. The open door has to involve us leaving the buildings and getting outside into the world.

‘Listen to the encouragement of this letter, but take up the challenge too. We may have little power, but the opportunities of open doors are there for us to grasp. Hear God’s encouragement. Make the most of every opportunity.’

### **‘Prayer**

Loving God,  
open our ears to your encouragement  
and your challenge.  
Give us the confidence we need  
to go out through the doors you open  
and share your story, and your love  
beyond the confines of our buildings -  
beyond the confines of our limited imaginations.  
Amen.’

**Contributed by Pat Fry**





## Services for June 2021 In-person and Live-streamed



### 6 JUNE

10.30 am **Morning Worship**    Revd Tim Searle  
*(HC, DS)*

### 16 JUNE

10.30 am **Morning Worship**    Revd Tim Searle

### 20 JUNE

10.30 am **Morning Worship**    Revd Dr Howard Mellor

### 27 JUNE

10.30 am **Morning Worship**    Revd Tim Searle  
followed by Church Meeting

*This Preaching Plan is subject to change in response to changes  
in Covid-19 Restrictions.*

HC Holy Communion (provisional)

DS 'Discipleship - Know it; Nourish it; Live it' Series

### JUNE 2021 LECTIONARY:

**6 June**    1 Samuel 8: 4-11; 16-20. 2 Corinthians 4: 13-5:1.  
Mark 3: 20-35.

**13 June**    1 Samuel 15: 34-16:13. 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10; 14-17.  
Mark 4: 26-34.

**20 June**    1 Samuel 17: 32-49. 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13.  
Mark 4: 35-41.

**27 June**    2 Samuel 1: 1 & 17-27. 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15.  
Mark 5: 21-43.

### FOR UNITED CHURCH'S LIVESTREAMED SERVICES:

UCW website: <https://ucw.org.uk/streamed-services/>

YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/ucw-services>