



Yours

Magazine of
The United Church
Winchester

OCTOBER 2021



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Did You Miss Yours in September?

A small group of us met at the beginning of September to discuss how to build on the wonderful work of previous *Yours* editorial teams, which Ralph and Carol Jessop refer to in their article on page 13. We came up with the following objectives and hope that we will be able to fulfil them over the coming months. We aim to:

- be inclusive – catering for those who prefer a printed magazine and those who prefer to read an interactive edition online
- encourage two-way communication between all age groups – so that everyone feels involved and able to share.

We have some ideas of features and articles and are introducing a comedy corner. Let us know what you think and tell us if we get things wrong or right! We would like to make the most of the talents of our young people and hope, with their direct involvement, to have a young people's section. This month we are delighted to share Amy Crocker's artwork on our front cover. We have a poignant article from Richard and Pauline Costard, a taste of getaway moments from Jo Pellatt and Carol and Ralph Jessop, garden reflections from Rosie MacMullen and news from our Mission Projects, the Methodist and URC conferences and the wider church.

Next month we will be introducing a letters section, so please send in your response to Tim's article below, to Jill Cook's thought-provoking question on page 27, to any of the articles in this edition, or something you wish to share.

Finally, we will be sending emails in between magazines with topical items which cannot wait until the next edition, so send items at any time to yours@ucw.org.uk.

**Yours team: Sophie Armstrong, Bob Lord
and Dorothy Lusmore**

Horried by Holy Communion

John 6.54–56

⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

Reflection

The verses above from John's Gospel remind me of something Lily said to me when returning from church recently. Following the service, which included Holy Communion, she announced, with a mixture of annoyance and horror: 'but Daddy, I don't want to eat Jesus' body or drink his blood!' Fair comment, I thought. And when put in such a direct way, why would anyone want to partake in such a grisly ritual, one that in her mind at least, and not without good cause, seems almost cannibalistic. Yet this is what we do as often as the opportunity permits. And though the words of the communion liturgy may not be quite as direct as hers, the implicit meaning is the same. When we break bread and eat it, we break Christ's body once again and consume it as he instructed. When we pour out wine and drink in remembrance, we recreate the spilling of Christ's very lifeblood and drink of it at his command. Whether you view this 'celebrational' activity as symbolic or the actual consumption of Christ's flesh and blood, the meaning remains the same: it is a celebration of sacrifice, and a re-presenting of that sacrificial act of Christ in the here and now. And no matter how sanitised or ritualised this holy meal has become, it still boils down to a broken body and spilt blood. So, it is right that she pulled me up on this and made me think long and hard about how our act of communion *communicates*.

Before thinking about how we might respond to this contention, it's important to emphasise the significance of this

passage in John's Gospel for the Church catholic.^[1] The interpretation of the explicit nature of Jesus' words here have divided Christians on doctrinal grounds for as long as 'Christian' doctrine has been around. Was Jesus saying that, provided the bread and wine are appropriately consecrated, these elements themselves become physical manifestations of His body, and His blood? And was Jesus saying that this transformation only occurs if the correct form of words is used by a specially chosen person? Or rather, was Jesus speaking metaphorically, perhaps about how vital it was (and is) for his followers to partake of his life, death and resurrection? Or was his response to the Jews he was in dispute with a foretelling of his own death and resurrection, and a realisation that no-one could 'live for ever' unless Jesus became the paschal lamb – the sacrificial meal. And if this is the case, is it not more important that the story is appropriately re-told and re-presented so that we may be transformed, rather than focusing on the changed nature of bread or wine? You won't be surprised to learn that this dispute in Christendom is still going strong and shows no signs of abating any time soon. Anyway, I digress, back to what Lily said ...

I usually find that there are two ways people approach the tensions that arise when we talk about eating the body of Christ and drinking the blood of Christ. The first is to change the language itself to make it more *palatable* and easier to accept. Whilst I've not heard many variations on 'the body of Christ', I do regularly hear 'the cup of salvation' being used instead of the 'blood of Christ'. The problem with changing the language is that it is a bit of a fudge. It adds a blurry layer over something that is already difficult to understand and articulate. And very often the only real benefit is to make us

^[1] I use emphasis for 'catholic' (note the small 'c') to emphasise its proper meaning of the Church universal i.e. the worldwide Body of Christ in all its shades and flavours; as opposed to the Roman Catholic denomination (large 'C').

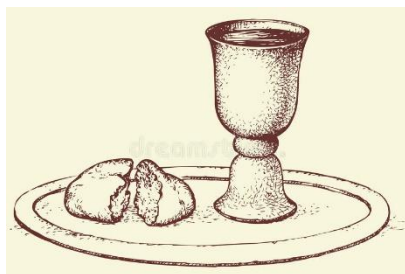
feel more comfortable about a truth that is, at its core, deeply uncomfortable. The second approach is not to side-step difficult language but to deal with it directly. Are we prepared to talk about sacrifice and how the taking of a human life, in this case, Jesus', was life-giving and transformational? Are we prepared to spend longer than one week on the Passion and to invite onto ourselves the vulnerability that comes from being exposed to its horrors? The problem with this approach is that it requires time, energy, and great care if it is to be done properly and with appropriate sensitivity, particularly bearing the needs of younger members of our congregations in mind.

I can't tell you what the answer to all this is: I just don't know! But what I can tell you is that the innocent, yet impassioned words of a child stopped me in my tracks and made me really think about how we approach the difficult language of our faith, particularly when it comes to sacrifice and communion. What did the Psalmist say? 'Out of the mouths of babes and infants.' For the deep wisdom that is theirs to teach us if we are but prepared to listen: thanks be to God! Amen.

If this article has made you think, or you'd like to offer your own view, why not write a reply for our new 'Readers' Letters' section in next month's *Yours*? Go on, you know you want to



Tim



News of the United Church Family



Long standing members of the congregation will be sorry to hear of several deaths recently:

Mair Carpenter died on 18 July aged 99. She and her late husband, Frank, were members of the church for many years and Frank wrote a history of Winchester Congregational Church/ The United Church. We send sympathy to their daughter, Alison.

Brian Collis died in Andover on 27 August. Brian and Daphne were also members of Jewry Street for a long time, until moving to Gillingham in Dorset. Brian was a Local preacher and Chair of the Church Development Committee in the 1980s. He was one of the driving forces behind the resulting spectacular building we have today. We remember Daphne and their family as they celebrate Brian's life.

Friends will be sad to hear of the death on 30 August of Kate Shapland (née James) after a long illness. Kate was a 'daughter of the manse' as her father, David James, was our URC Minister and she was a church member until her children were grown up in their turn. We send our sympathy to her husband Alex, children James and Emma, her mother, Margaret, and her three brothers, including Tim, and Andrea, Hollie and Noah.

On a more joyful note, we have had a wedding and a baptism recently. Congratulations to Sarah Morgan and Chris Richardson who were married in church on 29 July. It was a really joyful service with lots of singing and music and a full church. We wish them every blessing as they set out on married life. Molly Theia Morton was baptised by Tim on 15 August. She is the younger daughter of Sarah and James. Congratulations also to Jane and Steve Lawson who celebrated their Ruby wedding anniversary on 29 August.

There will be a Thanksgiving Service for Evelyn Penny to which all are warmly invited, at The United Church on Wednesday 13 October at 2.30 pm. Evelyn's family would appreciate a

rough idea of numbers to help with catering. Please let me know if you can.

Membership – We send our best wishes to both Janet Landon and Muriel Wilkinson who have each transferred their memberships to Wesley Methodist Church, Weeke, at different times in recent months. We hope that they now feel settled there.

Dorothy Fendick and Jeanette Mullins are both now happily living permanently at Abbots Barton Care Home. They are always happy to hear from Church friends and look forward to more 'in person' visits very soon.

We are very sorry indeed that Juli Wills has decided to leave Winchester for the seaside! Highcliffe, in Dorset, to be precise. Among other things, Juli has been a member of Church Council for a number of years, was our Worship and Education Worker for a period and has written much of our house group study material too. We wish her well in her new life.

Congratulations to Alex Pellatt on graduating recently with a degree in History from Oxford University. We know that student life has been so hard with Covid restrictions so this is very welcome news!

Helen McTiffin
Pastoral Co-ordinator

Greetings from West Park URC in Harrogate

Jackie and I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome you extended to our family when Tim baptised our granddaughter Molly on 15 August. It has been always a pleasure to be with you when we have visited in the past both for the previous baptism of Grace and when we were in the area. I do hope your congregation soon returns to pre-lockdown levels and that your excellent coffee shop is back doing what it does so well. Do visit us should you ever be in Harrogate; I am sure the welcome will be as warm but sadly our building which is in need of major renovation may not be.

Brian & Jackie Goldthorpe

Jurassic Coast Mighty Hike

When my friend, Estelle, asked me if I would join her on the Jurassic Coast Mighty Hike to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, I had little hesitation in saying 'yes'. It felt fairly local, and I had walked some of it before, albeit a good many years ago. So how hard could it be?

As more information came through and I studied the elevation profile I realised that the answer to that question was – very! In the words of one other hiker that I chatted to 'it was brutal'.

We dutifully printed off the specially devised 15-week training plan and stuck to it as diligently as possible. It proved a good opportunity to make the most of Hampshire's Public Rights of Way and to visit countryside I had not previously made the time to walk in. Our longest and toughest training hike was along The Hangers Way in East Hampshire to replicate some of the challenging climbs of the Jurassic Coast.

The challenge was to walk from Lodmoor Country Park in



Weymouth along the coastal path as far as Lulworth Cove. From there the route moved inland and ended at Corfe Castle. The total distance was 26.6 miles: steep climb, steep descent, repeat, with a cumulative ascent of 1,024 metres.

We set off along Weymouth seafront with the sun low over the sea promising a dry, warm day ahead and crossed the finish line at Corfe Castle almost exactly 12 hours later. Thankfully we made it before dark; marshals had just put up glowsticks to guide walkers through the last section of woodland.

We were well looked after along the route, with the first Pit Stop coming at about 5 miles: a chance to use the loos, refill water bottles, and refuel from a vast array of high energy snacks. Moving on, we found marshals on hand to advise and

warn walkers down the trickiest sections of the coastal path approaching Durdle Door. After that leg of the hike, we were definitely ready for the lunch stop at Lulworth.

After a buffet lunch, cup of tea and a welcome sit down it was on to the longest single section of the walk to the second Pit Stop at about 20 miles. The endless, hot, breezeless climb out of Lulworth was a tough walk but the route eventually moved to less challenging terrain and after long trudging miles we made the Pit Stop. The final segment included one last hurdle of a significant climb before Corfe Castle. Thankfully I powered on through fuelled by a banana, chocolate Freddo and Ready Salted crisps – not my normal diet!



We were welcomed and spurred on at the finish line with much cheering and a welcome glass of Prosecco as we received our medals. A trip to the hot buffet preceded a coach trip back to Weymouth for a much-needed bath at our

hotel and a chance to inspect sore feet, treat blisters, and ease stiff muscles.

I am so grateful for the fantastic support I have had from all my sponsors; it was such a motivation to keep going. At the time of writing the total donations to Macmillan I have had is £1,190 plus Gift Aid and I can't say a big enough thankyou to all who contributed. The donations page can be found [here](#).

Jo Pellatt



Summer Conferences

The United Church Winchester belongs both to the Methodist Church and to the United Reformed Church. Our denominations held their central meetings in July. Here are a few of the points to emerge.

Methodist Conference



- The Conference was held in person in Birmingham and online.
 - The Revd Sonia Hicks was inducted as the President of the Conference for 2021/22, with the Revd Barbara Easton as the Vice-President.
-
- Conference recognised that the pandemic has affected all aspects of church life. Specifically, the budget for 2021/22 was accepted, showing a reduction in funding in a number of areas.
 - Conference confirmed the 2019 decision which states that Conference consents in principle to the marriage of same-sex couples in Methodist churches and by Methodist ministers.
 - There were a number of other issues considered in the discussion of marriage: more details may be found on the Methodist Church website.
 - The list of Methodist ministers permitted to become supernumerary contains the name of the Revd Debbie Borda, our former minister. We wish her well in her retirement.

URC General Assembly

- The Assembly was held digitally.
- Our own Synod Moderator and former Synod Clerk – Revd Clare Downing and Mr Peter Pay – continue as Moderators of General Assembly until 2022. The Assembly will then revert to annual meetings, and the Revd Fiona Bennett (a URC minister in Edinburgh) was elected as Moderator of General Assembly for 2022/23.
- The General Secretary, the Revd Dr John Bradbury, presented a wide-ranging report on the current state of the United Reformed Church. The pandemic has highlighted strengths and weaknesses of the URC. A small group has been appointed by Mission Council to study some of the issues faced by the denomination. Further details may be found on the URC website. NB: Mission Council has now been renamed Assembly Executive.
- A number of resolutions were passed to further the URC's solidarity with Palestinian Christian communities.
- Plans are in hand for celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the URC in 2022. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Methodist Central Hall on 1 October 2022, the same venue as the inaugural worship in 1972.



Graham Rolfe

Another Era for Yours

Carol and I are celebrating our 30th Anniversary. No, not our 30th Wedding Anniversary, which has long since gone, but our 30th Anniversary of joining The United Church Winchester in 1991.

In August 1991 we moved to a new house in Kings Worthy having lived in Chandler's Ford for 10 years, which was our second stint there as we lived there previously in the 1970s. When our youngest daughter went to university, we immediately moved to Kings Worthy, saving an hour each day travelling to Oxford to work (before the M3 was completed).

Barbara Bircumshaw, the new minister at United, knew us at Chandler's Ford and came knocking on our door pleading with us to join her church, which had just been reopened after its rebuilding. Another United person, Bunty Newport, was also on the case and she had been to see the sales agent in her site office seeking us out and anyone else with the right credentials. Barbara had told her that we had plenty of experience in church drama and musicals.

Anyway, we did join, which had a lot to do with the serving opportunities that we saw. Colin Veysey was a very persistent Admin Co-ordinator so we were lobbied fairly hard by him. With regular lengthy work trips abroad and Carol doing other voluntary work, we opted for a role that could be done anywhere and to some extent anytime. This was to edit *Yours* for eight years (what a funny name we thought). Colin and Doreen were founders of The Olive Branch and Carol and others were involved with them as it was being set up. It was a really busy time.

The point of this article is to wish the new *Yours* team all the best as they take this valuable asset to its next stage. *Yours* has come a long way with Barbara Dunton in charge and much of this is down to her competence with modern computing. When we did the editing, 'cut and paste' was exactly that. Most articles were hand written and we had a team of typists who provided the copy. Different typists had

different equipment so there were various styles of copy. We purchased an Alan Sugar Amstrad computer which came complete with dot matrix printer. We had to paste the copy on to card and then took the package to the printer, Alan Waters, in his Kings Worthy garage and we still use him today so he has kept up with the technology.

We look forward to a new era of Yours.

Ralph and Carol Jessop

Many thanks, Ralph and Carol, for your good wishes and for bringing back fond memories from the past. We are grateful for all former editorial teams and especially to Barbara Dunton for her skill and dedication. The new Yours team hope that we can live up in a small way to the achievements of past.

Sparsholt College

John Lander is writing the history of Sparsholt College, which will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2024. It is a fascinating story and he has already been put in touch with former students and retired staff, including some who are members in local churches. He is increasingly aware that there are very many people in and around Winchester who have an association with the College – either as staff members or as students – and he is keen to be made aware of any matters that may be useful for inclusion. John can be contacted by email (jlandplander@btinternet.com) or by phone.



Cancer, Cats and Covid

Once upon a time, as all good stories begin, there was a man who loved cats and the cats liked him. One in particular always settled on my burgeoning waistband. As time went by it seemed that the 'hay fever' season had been extended into Autumn – a sneeze here, a runny nose there. Medication it seemed had no answer and in the end it was either me, or Pauline's much loved cat, that had to go. 'Smokey' found an adoring foster home with 'parents', whose dog had recently died.



So Christmas came and went, and Covid came and stayed. The 'allergic' cough also bedded itself in, but antibiotics did not touch this apparent 'asthma' and weight loss. Just standing for a wet shave once every other day was a considerable challenge. Might a stubble be preferable? Finally in January I was so ill that I asked if the duty doctor could pay a visit, literally just up the road, but Covid restrictions led instead at last to a person-to-person consultation and palpation at the surgery. Finally, the duty doctor said that I needed to be hospitalised. The investigation in the RHCH soon concluded that my right lung had a very serious infection that was nothing to do with cats nor with allergies. Beware the dangers of tunnel vision and Covid enforced phone conversations.

Thus another chapter in the story unfolded. Three bottles of fluid were drained from my chest and finally the young Registrar came to say that it was bad news, that it was stage 4 lung cancer. 'Oh bugger' was the sole response, as I vividly remembered my wife's own death from lung cancer two years before. She had never smoked and neither had I! The hospital's palliative care team as well as the Mountbatten Hospice were rapidly in touch, rather confirming the diagnosis.

What does one do with 'two short months to live'? One could get married of course, so Pauline and I did, on 13 February under the rules for 'special circumstances', which allowed four family witnesses plus bride and groom. AND it was very 'special' with Tim taking the service, Tony Wood playing and the Tech Team on recording. Tony even played us out with 'Falling in love again, never wanted to, what am I to do, can't help it'. It was the best thing that happened to us in the pandemic, even if I had lost twenty pounds in weight, but it was worth it.

**RJC – 'hanging on',
9 September 2021**

Away at Last

We haven't been to church for 18 months as we are shielding for medical reasons, and we have been collecting cash refunds for cancelled holidays since June 2020. However, we had two weeks on one of the two new SAGA ships, *Spirit of Discovery*, going round the UK. The itinerary was changed several times before the holiday and it continued to be changed as we sailed clockwise from Tilbury. We stopped at many places, but we were not allowed to stop in Scotland until 9 August by decree from the First Lady. So, we had Sunday going around Mull and stopped near Iona where we had the Sunday service.

This was really well attended and it took place in the entertainment area at the front of the ship in what looks like a

modern cathedral. The music and singing (masks on) were superb. The ship's chaplain is a retired archdeacon and he led the service with a saints theme. So, we have been to church during the last 18 months after all.

Why did we risk this trip? Simply because nobody, passengers and crew, was allowed on board without a Covid test. All coach drivers and guides had to be tested before anyone could get off the ship for the excursions and we had to stay with our bubble, our coach, and couldn't go into shops, cafés or anywhere else except where we were taken.

So, the trip was not without limitations, but it was worth it to go to the Orkneys and Shetlands as well as Invergordon.

Ralph and Carol Jessop





the
Waynflete
singers

50th Anniversary

AN AUTUMN THANKSGIVING

Winchester Cathedral
Saturday 16th October 2021
at 7.30pm

The Waynflete Singers
English Chamber Orchestra
directed by
Andrew Lumsden

Eves: Waynflete!

Waynflete 50th anniversary fanfare

Parry: I Was Glad

Haydn: Cello Concerto No. 1

Cello: Natalie Clein

Roderick Williams: To Autumn

Waynflete commission world premiere

Bruckner: Mass in F minor

Soprano: Elin Pritchard

Alto: Claire Barnett-Jones

Tenor: Jaeil Kim

Bass: Jerome Knox

Tickets: £42, £35, £27, £22, £15
Winchester Cathedral Box Office
Online and 01962 857275

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September News

A new survey has found more than a third of UK adults believe prayer can help them overcome mental health struggles. The poll, conducted by Savanta ComRes and commissioned by the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer, revealed 38 per cent of UK adults believe that prayer is good for their mental health.

'We are often told that we live in a secular society. But it's not true. And we're seeing an undercurrent now, an under growing movement of people in this country having more spiritual awareness,' says the founder of the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer Richard Gamble.

Olympian Team GB swimmer, Dan Jervis, who finished fifth in the 1500 freestyle told reporters, 'The thing I am most proud of in my life is that I am a Christian.'

The Church in Wales has voted with a two-thirds majority among clergy and laity to allow same-sex blessings to take place after a marriage or civil partnership has taken place outside the church. All Bishops were in favour. This follows a similar decision by the Methodist Church. Many Anglican Clergy call for the Church of England to consider the same decision.

The Church of England has published an online 'toolkit' for supporting Afghan refugees.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/community-action/toolkit-supporting-afghan-refugee>

The Methodist Church in Great Britain has written to HSBC to ask it to reconsider introducing charges which it says will hit smaller churches. Many churches and community groups have been informed by the bank that new charges will be introduced which will mean they have to pay monthly fees and charges on each transaction they make.

Rt Revd John Sentamu has become the first person of African descent to chair the charity 'Christian Aid'.

Children in state-funded schools without a religious character in England and Wales might soon be free to skip compulsory

collective worship in school assemblies. The Education (Assemblies) Bill is seeking to remove compulsory collective worship to replace it with 'inclusive assemblies' giving the space to teachers to organise voluntary acts of collective worship. During its second reading in the House of Lords, Liberal Democrat Baroness Burt of Solihull, who tabled the Bill, said its removal would bring 'all children together in a community to reflect on matters that affect them – and us all'.

Garden Memories

Two gardens featured in making my day memorable. This beautiful photo came on a birthday card. Mary and Tom's garden has been a place of refuge for me through decades and recently our House Group has had heightened appreciation of Mary's gardening skills. We always relish the warmth of that special Belshaw welcome, companionship and Mary's cake especially, but the family feeling our house group generates was particularly relished by those who could not meet their 'ain folk' during the pandemic. The astounding number of birds flying around us and tweeting merrily added to the fun of our garden party.

I will keep this image at hand to bring out during the dark days of winter as a reminder of a time we relished the enhanced experience of meeting together outdoors again.



Moving on from the loveliness of an English Country Garden, Kathy treated me to a visit to the Hillier Arboretum. Strolling among the magnificent trees, each step increased the feeling



of calm. Like the ancients who believed spirits inhabited them I became more and more aware of a living and benign presence. Standing below this incredibly tall and long-lived specimen and breathing in its energy I felt attune to nature.

Grateful for the work, dedication and vision of the garden planners who have created such a healing place I left feeling uplifted and full of grace.

Rosemary MacMullen

Comedy Corner

Memories of Lockdown



Only for Bishops?





Winchester Green Week is Here!

After months of planning by the dedicated volunteer team Winchester's fourth annual green week is here, running from 25 September to 3 October.

The incredible array of events is open to everyone. Art and photography exhibitions and competitions, singing (please especially join in with WinACC's mass sing of Song for the Climate on 3 October), litter picks, talks, open days, a carbon neutrality open forum, climate action planning workshops, services with a climate theme, coffee and zero waste shops, a mass cycle ride – there really is something for everyone. To find out what's on visit the events page at www.winchestergreenweek.co.uk. Events are constantly being added so check daily.

Yours readers might be especially interested in

25 SEPT, Saturday – **Climate Sunday at Christ Church**. You are most welcome to our 3 services to hear Andy Lester, Head of Conservation at A Rocha, speak about 'Care for Creation', 'Hope for our Planet' and 'Catching Fire for a Greener Future'. We intend to declare a climate emergency and for this to spur us to action. Time: 9am in church, 11am and 7pm in church and online.

1 OCT, Friday 7.30–9 pm – **A Christian course on climate change**. COP26 will soon be starting. Join with us in learning about Caring for Our Common Home and what part we must play in solving the problem for all. The aim of the course is:

- To understand and implement the Christian view of Caring for our Common Home

- To learn some practical measures that each of us can take in our daily lives.

Weekly on Fridays for seven weeks. 1 October onwards.

Venue: Zoom (online) Organised by St Peter's Laudato Si group.

3 OCT, Sunday 2 pm – **The Sustainable Mind**. Roly Riem, Vice-Dean at Winchester Cathedral, will lead a discussion exploring how the Rule of St Benedict helps to transform our relationship with things, with others and with ourselves, as we seek to grow in humility before our Creator. Roly has been practising the Rule of St Benedict for the last 25 years. Location: Wessex Centre, 8A The Close, Winchester, SO23 9LS. *Please Book* on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-sustainable-mind-tickets-173004279457>

3 OCT, Sunday 3.30 pm – **Rise to the moment Green Week service in Winchester Cathedral**. Organised by Churches Together in Winchester and Winchester Cathedral. Preacher: Professor Emeritus Joy Carter CBE DL FGS. No need to book.

3 OCT, Sunday 4.45 pm – **Song for the Climate**. Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) is co-ordinating a mass singing event. Turn up on the day *and/or* record yourself, your house group, your family on your phone and send it in. Open to all residents of Winchester and beyond – not just choirs. The event aims to send a strong message to politicians, both locally and nationally. A film of the song, words, audio track and rehearsal details and instructions are on the green week events page. Venue: Central Winchester if you want to come on 3 October.

ALL WEEK Donate a local **veg box to the Winchester Night Shelter** this harvest time. Oooby (Out Of Our Own Backyard) will deliver the veg as and when the Nightshelter needs it, thereby reducing food waste. Oooby will donate one of their fruit bags for each box donated. Details on the green week events page.

ALL WEEK – **Display for Season of Creation and the Young Christian Climate Network Relay to COP26** St Lawrence in the Square. Open daily.

ALL WEEK – **The Heart of Winchester and Climate Change** The Laudato Si group of St Peters Church are inviting us to explore the heart of Winchester in response to the challenges of climate change this autumn. Send photography, painting, drawing, doodling, sewing, writing, poetry and other creative expressions of concern and hope to be exhibited during Winchester Green Week and the United Nations Climate Change conference in Glasgow in November. 'May our struggles and concern for our planet never take away the joy of our hope' Pope Francis – Laudato Si 2015 Email mslinn@stpeterswinchester.org.uk.

The success that Winchester Green Week has demonstrated over the past few years helped inspire The Climate Coalition to create a national Great Big Green Week



from 18 to 26 September. Events in Winchester district take place during both weeks and will carry on through the autumn in the run up to COP26, the international climate conference in Glasgow.

Partners of Winchester Green Week include WinACC, Winchester BID, Winchester City Council, Winchester Cathedral, Churches Together in Winchester, Learning Through Landscapes and Mimosa Montessori, with loads more putting on events. We're genuinely growing greener together!

www.winchestergreenweek.co.uk

Fundraising for our Charity has been very difficult this year. Yvonne North held two very successful cream teas and raised an amazing £225. Thank you so much for the generosity of all those who attended. Perhaps others can be inspired to hold small coffee mornings or tea afternoons to raise funds. Richard and I organised a coffee and bacon roll morning in September. Thank you to all those who donated and attended. We raised £270. It was lovely to get people together again safely.



We hope you are enjoying collecting for the shoeboxes. The community really appreciate the love and care shown to them by strangers when they receive hand sewn or knitted items. Many of you have been very busy in lockdown and it is much appreciated. Do check out the charity on their website or on Facebook.

We have been given a large number of reading glass cases and really need reading glasses. Also magnifying glasses and playing cards and small games for adults and children. Headscarves for the elderly would also be useful too. Donations and items to go in the boxes would be much appreciated.

All filled boxes need to be in by the end of October. If you need a box contact Ann. You will need one leaflet for each box. These are available from the front and back entrances of Church (or Yvonne or Ann). The box does not need covering – it is much easier as it is wrapped as a parcel. These boxes are needed more than ever this year.

There is also a Just Giving page [on the church website](#) where you can make a donation or set up a standing order.

Many thanks for all the donations we have received.

Ann and Yvonne

Winchester Churches Christmas Project 2021



Winchester Churches Christmas Project aims to help those in Winchester for whom Christmas can be a really difficult time. We show our Christian faith and witness in our practical help and our care for those we visit.

Despite the problems and restrictions, last year's Christmas Project turned out as well as we could have hoped.

All of us greatly missed the usual personal contact and shopping trips with families but we did what we could. We do know that we made a difference.

As I reported in *Yours* in February, we were thankful that, despite the anticipated problems, 70 volunteers from 13 different churches came forward, offering a range of skills and possibilities. As usual, they were amazingly thoughtful and creative in their planning! Wonderfully, we were able to help 33 families (47 adults and 74 children), 6 single people and 6 young people. That is almost as many people as in 2019!

We hope that this year's Project might be more normal. We will be contacting volunteers from previous years directly to ask if they are able to help again this year. However, we are always in need of new volunteers (who would be paired with someone experienced). Please contact me on deanacre@talktalk.net for more information. We do need to know volunteer numbers by 5 November, please.

We know that funds are tight after the last year, but we would still be grateful for donations. There will be donation envelopes and boxes available in church from mid-October. Please make cheques payable to 'Winchester Churches Christmas Project'. Individuals who would like to Gift Aid their

donation should add 'Gift Aid' to the Project name on the cheque, use the special envelope, or provide their name and address and specify that it is to be Gift Aided, please. If you would prefer to give by bank transfer, please consult either me or our Treasurer, Jessica Tringham, for details.

Thank you to everyone for your prayerful and practical support.

**Helen McTiffin (Joint Co-ordinator of the Project
with Janet Stewart)**

Prayer Response – 12 September

I like Taizé chants. I like 'Lord hear my prayer'. But is it necessary? Do we have to ask God to hear us? If the last line was 'Help me listen to You' I would find it more meaningful. What do you think?

Jill Cook

Share your response to Jill's question by sending an email to yours@ucw.org.uk or by leaving a note in the church office.



**The deadline for November Yours is
Monday 18 October.**

All contributions welcome. Send to
yours@ucw.org.uk.



Services for October 2021

In-person and Live-streamed



3 OCTOBER

10.30 am **Harvest Sunday** (HC, CSS) Revd Tim Searle

10 OCTOBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

17 OCTOBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship** (AA) Revd Tim Searle

24 OCTOBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship** House-group led

31 OCTOBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Prof Neil Messer

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

AA: All Age Worship. CSS: Climate Sunday Service
HC: Holy Communion

OCTOBER 2021 LECTIONARY:

3 October Job 1: 1 & 2: 1-10. Hebrews 1: 1-4 & 2: 5-12.
Mark 10: 2-16.

10 October Job 23: 1-9 & 16-17. Hebrews 4: 12-16.
Mark 10: 17-31.

17 October Job 38: 1-7. Hebrews 5: 1-10. Mark 10: 35-45.

24 October Job 42: 1-6 & 10-17. Hebrews 7: 23-28.
Mark 10: 46-52

31 October Ruth 1: 1-18. Hebrews 9: 11-14. Mark 12: 28-34

FOR UNITED CHURCH'S LIVESTREAMED SERVICES:

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

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