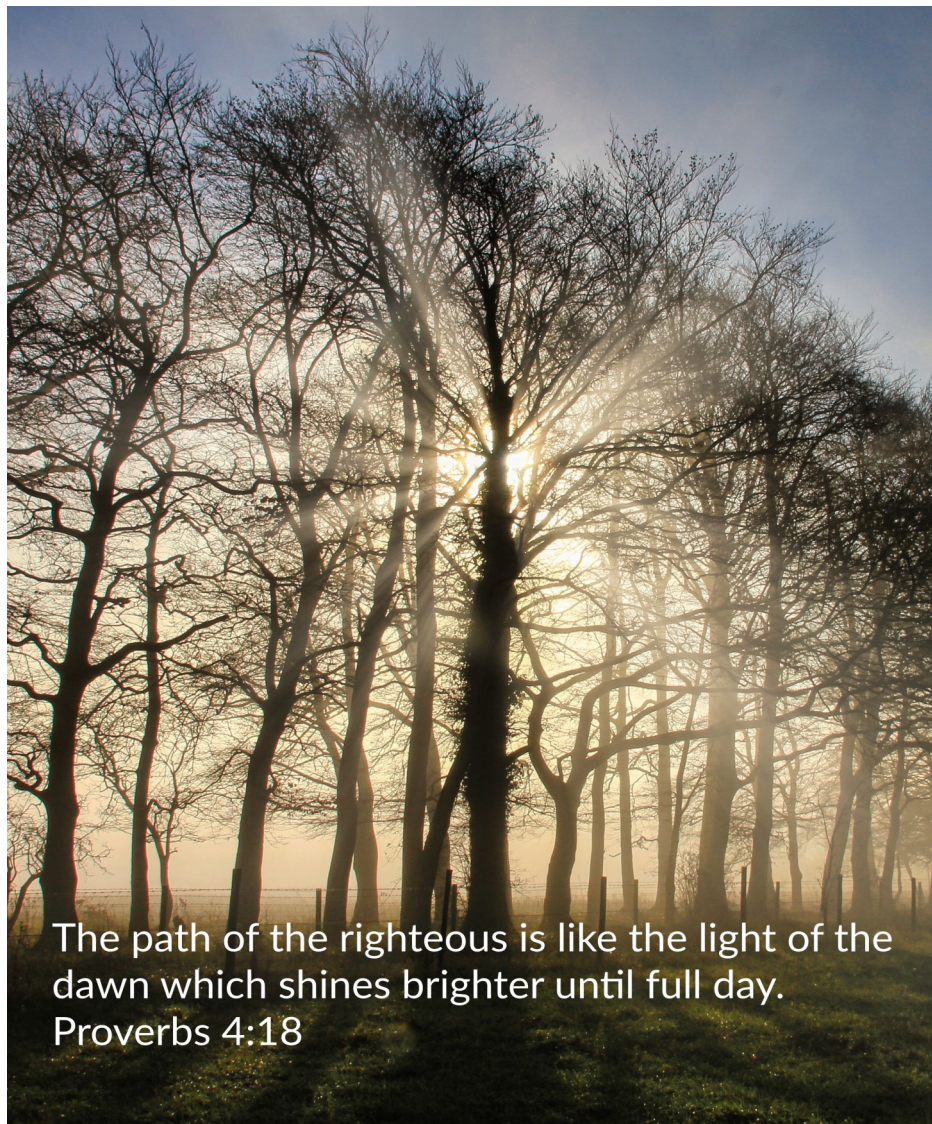




Yours

Magazine of
The United Church
Winchester

February 2022



The path of the righteous is like the light of the
dawn which shines brighter until full day.
Proverbs 4:18

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Tim's Letter

Happy New Year?

Welcome to this edition of *Yours*. And may I take this opportunity to say a Happy New Year to you all. May God bless us all with peace and reassurance as we embark on this new year together.

I don't know about you, but 2022 is already feeling a bit like a rerun of 2021! It can't get as bad as it did in 2020, and 2021 was all about realising the hopes of 'the vaccine' and the possibility of resuming some semblance of 'normal' life. Some of those hopes came to fruition, some didn't. And with the emergence of Omicron late last year, we were left, yet again, holding our collective breath over Christmas and wondering what the government might say as soon as the festive season was over.

Fortunately, Omicron, though highly transmissible, has proven to be not as virulent as previous strains, which is something to be thankful for indeed. However, it didn't stop it from disrupting many people's Christmas plans and preventing loved ones from being able to meet. I hold in prayer all those who I know weren't able to be with family or friends because they were isolating or ill. I had hoped to see my mother in Devon for New Year, only to receive a text on Boxing Day to say that she'd tested positive and now had to isolate. And yet, I also rejoice with all of those who told me how they were able to spend treasured moments with family when long made plans finally did work out ... God is good!

So, as I started with, 2022 is already feeling like 2021 mark 2; filled with a mixture of hopeful anticipation and uneasy trepidation. For us as a local church, we looked forward in faith during 2021 to discern where God might be calling us to in the next stage of our journey. Now 2022 invites us to continue our conversations about our strategy and how we best serve one another and the community. And as a Circuit and Synod, important discussions are taking place about the shape of ministry, and how to use the scarce yet precious resources we are blessed with.

At times like these, I try to remember the wanderings of the Israelites recounted in the first seven verses of Exodus 17, and the revealing tale

it tells of how human beings deal with uncertainty. Despite the life-giving water which streamed from the rock at Horeb, the passage ends in verse 7 by naming the places Massah and Meribah, meaning to complain and to quarrel. It paints an abiding picture of the human ability to overlook the good when faced with the opportunity to have a good old whinge about something else instead! The challenge is for us to ground ourselves in the goodness of God, and the hope we find in Christ, to help us keep the balance between toiling and treasuring.

As we camp at Meribah and circle Massah, let's not forget to fix our eyes on Horeb, the mountain of God. To remember that what we sacrifice in the pursuit of leading liberated lives will always give God cause to stream forth life giving water.

In Christ, Tim

Editorial

Happy New Year from the *Yours* team!

Last month Anne Clews (MacKenzie), who was a member of Youth United, wrote about her memories of the church and sent news of her life now. This month we have up-to-the-minute news of some of our current youth group collated by Amy Crocker.

We are fortunate to have gifted writers in the congregation and it is wonderful to share reminiscences from Pauline Costard and Ralph and Carol Jessop. Fascinating !

We also have a Brief Encounter with Hilary and Mike Holt, exciting news of the coffee bar, and Pat Fry has kindly put together what we wrote on the Christmas tree decorations during Advent.

All that together with news, a poem, thoughts, tips, comedy corner and more!

We will have another 'Where are They Now?' next month.

Many thanks to all our contributors and to Mike Holt for this month's cover photo.

**The *Yours* Team—Sophie Armstrong, Bob Lord
and Dorothy Lusmore**

News of the United Church Family

Sadly, another of our very longstanding church members died recently. Brenda Rickman died after some years of ill health on 26 December aged 87. Brenda (née Rolfe) was born in Winchester and brought up in Winchester Congregational Church. Over the years, she was very active in the church – teaching in Junior Church, starting the Junior Church Whitsun camps, running both Friday Club and the badminton club. She was also a leader of Women's (later, Wednesday) Fellowship. For quite a long time she was the church caretaker and lived in Staple Gardens until the church redevelopment. More recently, she served on the Coffee Bar committee and as part of the Hospitality Team. In 2000 she married Alan and they enjoyed 20 years of marriage until Alan's death in autumn 2020.



We give thanks for Brenda's life and remember her family, and Alan's too, at this time.

We also send our love and sympathy to Mildred Taub whose husband Matt died just before Christmas.

Congratulations to Pauline and Roger Brooks on the birth of a granddaughter on Monday 3 January, and to proud parents Catherine and Dale.

Helen McTiffin,
Pastoral Co-ordinator

Winchester Churches Christmas Project 2021

After last year's inevitable 'at arm's length' way of doing things, when we had very little personal contact with families, we were very glad to have more interaction with our clients this Christmas. It makes such a difference! Having said that, some volunteers found that

things went really well and for others the experience proved far more difficult. One can never know in advance as we work with individuals – each with their own particular situations and issues.

This year we are pleased to have been able to help 24 families (30 adults and 50 children) plus 5 single people – a total of 85 people. In addition, we were able to help some of the Afghan families through Churches Together in Winchester. Our 59 volunteers from 12 different Winchester churches have (as always) been brilliant. Thank you all!

Some feedback from agencies –

'Thank you so much to you and all your volunteers for their amazing work at Christmas, the generosity and kindness was wonderful and the family that I referred were so incredibly grateful.'

'We just want to say a huge "Thank you" to you and the Christmas Project volunteers for supporting our families this Christmas. It has once again been a very difficult year for so many and the generosity of the donors and the gentle understanding and compassion of the volunteers makes a real difference at what can be a challenging time of year.'

Here is what a parent said –

'I am really, really grateful this year for the support from the Christmas project. I was feeling bad before Christmas that my children would not have a good Christmas. But it was a great Christmas and the children were very happy which has made me very happy too! I am so grateful that this help exists and seeing the children happy is the best Christmas present for me! The volunteers were very kind and very flexible... We had a lovely family Christmas and I was so pleased when my daughter said "Daddy this is the best Christmas!" Thank you for everything you do.'

Thank you to everyone for your prayerful and practical support.

Helen McTiffin
(Joint Co-ordinator)

What's happening...

2022

United Church Youth

I have GCSE's this year so lots of hard work, followed by a couple of weeks taking part in the national citizenship programme (NCS) and then hopefully starting at Peter Symonds College in September. In between all that continuing to take part in various concerts and events playing my flute and and some weekends away getting to know my 'Project23' team (a scout adventure through Europe in Summer 2023).

Elise Grigorian

I'm looking forward to everything getting back to normal and not having to wear a mask at school. I look forward to normal activities and performances starting back up. I am hoping to be involved in Westgate School's production this summer.

Jacob Grigorian

This year I will be completing my GCSE's and then during a longer summer break I will have work experience at The Open House Deli in Winchester. As a family, we are hoping to travel to Guernsey this year as we were unable to do this last year. In September I am hoping to start studying Fine Art, Biology and Philosophy at college, which is exciting along with the possibility of meeting new people.

Amy Crocker

As I am in year 8 at the moment I am looking forward to going on the end of year residential to the Isle of Wight where we will do many activities. I am also looking forward to going to Guernsey with all my extended family. This trip is extra special as it has been postponed for two years now.

Matthew Crocker

I have been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in August 2023. At the end of January I will meet the rest of my unit and then spend the rest of this year training days getting to know them. I will also be doing a lot of fundraising to get the money needed to go on the trip, so watch this space!

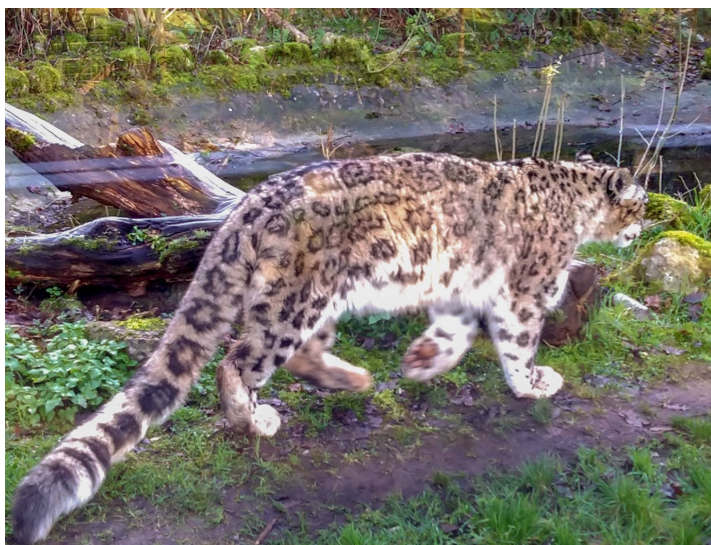
Amelie Grigorian

Cold Enough for Snow

We are members of Marwell Zoo and we therefore pop in for an hour or so just to keep up with changes, new additions, etc. We always find time to look into the Snow Leopard's enclosure and all we seem to spot is a tail or the top of a head.

One morning last week it was very cold, and when we had been round most of the zoo we were in two minds about walking around the Snow Leopard's area, but we did take the small diversion from the main path. We couldn't believe our eyes when a *Panthera uncia*, as it is officially called, walked just in front of us and continued to want to be observed.

So there really is at least one Snow Leopard at Marwell enjoying the cold weather and showing off her amazing coat and stately walk. They are endangered and live in mountainous areas in south and east Asia.



Some of our most memorable holidays have been to places where the wild life is more exciting than in the South Downs. The Independent Travel Shop in the Brooks arranged an amazing holiday in South Africa a while ago and we travelled from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth by a very posh minibus with a dozen Brits and two Danish ladies, stopping

at many places on the 'Garden Route'. We spent a few days in Port Elizabeth, the windy city. We booked a couple of day trips, one of which was to the Addo elephant park. A young guide took just us in her minibus to a place that she hadn't actually been to herself. She was as amazed as we were when we came round a bend to be confronted by so many elephants just feet away. So we took photos, but most of all we just absorbed the atmosphere. We were alone as far as humans were concerned but we were so outnumbered by the elephants.

Then we had a packed lunch on the tailgate of the minibus. It was such an amazing experience that it is clear in our minds as though it were yesterday.



No elephants at Marwell though!

Ralph and Carol Jessop

News from the Methodist Church and the URC

URC Anniversary Service

The United Reformed Church celebrates the 50th Anniversary of its formation this year. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at 2.30 pm on 1 October at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London, where the Uniting Assembly took place in 1972.

Free tickets are available: for details see the URC website, www.urc.org.uk.

Peter Pay

We were sad to learn of the death of Peter Pay on 18 December. Peter was well known in the URC Wessex Synod, where he had served in a number of roles, most notably as Synod Clerk for 10 years. Peter was in his second year as Assembly Moderator, working jointly with the Wessex Synod Moderator Clare Downing.

Methodist Guild Holidays

The last hotel held by the administrators of Methodist Guild Holidays, Willersley Castle in Matlock, Derbyshire, has been sold. Under new ownership it will take advantage of its location in the Peak District to become an outdoor pursuit centre offering accommodation and a range of activities.

Vaccine Shortfall

Christian Aid has urged the Government to address the shortfall in vaccine delivery to developing countries. Big pharmaceutical companies have delivered only 12% of the doses they had promised to Covax, the system created to help achieve fair access to vaccines. The Government has resisted moves to waive the patents on all Covid 19 vaccines to enable countries to manufacture their own. **Those countries with money and power have vaccines; those without, do not.**

Police bill

Religious leaders have written an open letter to the government, urging it to rethink the controversial Police, Crime, Sentencing and

Courts Bill. They warned of the 'chilling effect' that the Bill could have on 'millions who put their faith or belief into practice'. Specifically, the Bill proposes wide ranging police powers to restrict the right to protest. There is concern that the Bill could lead to disproportionate policing on public acts of worship or prayer vigils, such as the Sarah Everard vigil last year. The letter was signed by Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh and Humanist leaders, by charity heads and representatives of the Methodists, URC, Baptists, Quakers and Unitarians.

Other News

A Chinese bookshop owner will be jailed for seven years for selling Christian books – mainly Bibles. Chen Yu, the owner of Wheat



Bookstore was sentenced in Linhai City Court, in the Zhejiang province of eastern China. He had sold more than 20,000 books to 10,000 customers before being charged with 'illegal business operation'. In China, it's currently an offence to carry out religious activity without the express permission of authorities.

The country has a long history of mistreating religious groups, prompting countries like the US and the UK to hold a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, which are due to take place in February.

Victory for Christian nurse. A tribunal has ruled that the firing of a nurse for wearing a cross discriminated against her Christian beliefs. In a landmark ruling, the Employment Tribunal declared that Mary Onuoha's dismissal had been both victimisation and harassment, that Croydon Health Services NHS Trust had breached her human rights and created a 'humiliating, hostile and threatening environment' for her to work in.

When she failed to remove a cross necklace she was removed from clinical areas and demoted to various administrative roles before

resigning in August 2020. Her dismissal was found to be 'without reasonable and proper cause'. The dress code and uniform policy has been updated to ensure it is inclusive and sensitive to all religious and cultural needs.

The Scottish government has appointed its first national advisor and operational lead on spiritual care. Mark Evans will be responsible for advising the Government and NHS boards on the development of spiritual care policies as well as making sure the same standards of spiritual care are followed in all national health boards. The Church of Scotland Deacon said his main priority is to develop a national strategy and policy for spiritual care and health care chaplaincy for NHS Scotland.

The President and Vice President of the Methodist Church have expressed their concern over the situation in Tonga and are urging Christians to pray for **The Pacific Island of Tonga** and other Pacific Islands suffering the devastating consequences after an enormous volcanic eruption and subsequent tsunami hit the country on 15 January. Tonga has been cut off from the rest of the world says the Red Cross, all communication lines in the country have been disrupted with no timeframe given on restoration. It's reported that the explosion which caused the tsunami was an event that only happens roughly every thousand years and was visible from space. It triggered an earthquake which registered a 7.4-magnitude. The charity says it's one of the worst volcanic eruptions the Pacific has experienced in decades with around 80,000 people affected.

Offertory Envelopes.

The new offertory envelopes will be available from the first Sunday in April and can be collected from the top of the Ramp by the pigeonholes. However, because many people are now choosing to give by Direct Debit, your envelope is likely to have a different serial number this time.

breathe

she sat at the back
and they said she was shy
she led from the front
and they hated her pride

they asked her advice
and then questioned her guidance
they branded her loud
then were shocked by her silence

when she shared no ambition
they said it was sad
so she told them her dreams
and they said she was mad

they told her they'd listen
then covered their ears
and gave her a hug
whilst they laughed at her fears

and she listened to all of it
thinking she should
be the girl they told her to be
best as she could

but one day she asked
what was best for herself
instead of trying
to please everyone else

so she walked to the forest
and stood with the trees
she heard the wind whisper
and dance with the leaves

and she spoke to the willow,
the elm and the pine
and she told them what she'd been told
time after time

she told them she never
felt nearly enough
she was wither too little
or far, far too much

too loud or too quiet
too fierce or too weak
too wise or too foolish
too bold or too meek

then she found a small clearing
surrounded by firs
and she stopped. and she heard
what the trees said to her

and she sat there for hours
not wanting to leave
for the forest said nothing ...
it just let her breathe

© Becky Hemsley
Contributed by Beth Sharratt

My African Days

Did you know that from the age of six I grew up in Africa? My memories of the early days in Rhodesia are of having a lot of freedom. My twin brother, Pat, and I would tie ourselves together with rope (that's what climbers do isn't it?) and jump over deep splits in the huge boulders as high as a house, that we would climb over. My brother never forgave me. Pat said I was trying to kill him. We would play 'sloppies', digging holes and filling with water, and generally getting dirty, good for the immune system!

The freedom disappeared when we moved from Rhodesia to Kenya, where, with the Mau Mau, we lived fearing we would be hacked to death in our beds. Everyone had a gun for protection including my nine-year-old brother with his pellet gun which he slept with. I was a girl so of course I didn't have one but my mother did do target practice.

We moved on to the Belgian Congo when we were eleven. No one thought to tell my parents there were no English schools so Pat and I just sat in school until, after about a year, we began to understand the French we were taught in. Mathematics in French! At that point Pat was sent home to England to go to school in Crewkerne, as boys after all need an education!!

Moving on swiftly, at the age of seventeen I was head hunted by The Embassy of the United States. They had heard I was bilingual after I had babysat for one or two of their diplomats. I always remember on my first day being told 'welcome aboard' by the Admin. Officer. At this point I met a British Junior Diplomat. I came from Dorset, he came from Devon. Amongst the few British expats, we matched fairly well.



He had just arrived from his first posting in Afghanistan not having seen many women during that time, as they were all clothed in hijabs. We married when I was eighteen, a Union Jack having been thrown over a table for the Consul General to marry us. In the afternoon we had a Church wedding at the Baptist missionary church.

We went on leave to England and two months later we returned when the Congo had received its Independence. Soon there was chaos as the army were out of control. We were staying with my parents and had to run for our lives. We managed to get to the ferry to try and go to French Congo, Brazzaville. At a road block. my father was dragged out of the car, thrown into the back of a lorry, with a Danish Diplomat and others, with bayonets at their throats and taken to the army barracks. There the Danish diplomat met a senior army man whom he had previously met at a cocktail party. (I always said afterwards, 'cocktail parties can be useful.') They were driven back to the ferry where the Belgian head of the ferry had a gun at his head. My father saw Mum and I eventually on to a ferry, to be met across the river by the British Consul in Brazzaville. The local consulate staff went back to the Residence and lived like Boy Scouts with a primus stove to cook on, very 'gung-ho'. One of the staff later told me that they crawled across the floor to avoid gunfire. Mum and I spent ten days on mattresses on the Consul's floor, me sharing with a Canadian Diplomat's wife and baby. After that time we were so fed up with being refugees we returned to the Republic of Congo. Mum and Dad went back to Britain as it was too dangerous for Dad to continue working at the airport as an electrical engineer. I remained and left to come home when we were due for leave, very stressed, pregnant and only weighing 7 stone.

This was the beginning of an eventful life which some would call exciting, not my word. I had already met my first spies. The first secretary at the American Embassy was Frank Carlucci, later head of the CIA. At my wedding was Dorothy Park, the only spy to later admit to her occupation. Gordon Carera wrote a fascinating book in which she featured, entitled *M16, Life and Death in the British Secret Service*. When I knew her, she looked like anyone's Grandmother, not at all James Bond, but of course that was her cover.

To be continued – Next Belgrade and Moscow.

Pauline Costard

Coffee Bar News

We were very pleased to re-open the coffee bar in September 2021 after being shut since March 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. It was really good to have the life of the church back in evidence in this way. I know that our 'regulars' are very happy that we're open again. We've also had many favourable comments from other local residents and visitors to the city. I for one have been glad to be involved as a volunteer once more.



©DESIGNALKIE

This couldn't have happened without the support of the members of the committee and our fantastic team of volunteers. Thanks too to Naomi and Rowan in the office and to Church Council. There were inevitably some changes, but we're pleased to be open Monday–Friday 10.00–12.00.

Also returning is Coffee Bar Playtime in room 1 on Thursday mornings, which is very much appreciated by those with babies and toddlers. Thanks to Ann, Yvonne, and Mel.

We had additional openings on Saturday mornings and lunchtimes while the Christmas Market was taking place. This proved to be very popular and donations have been made to local charities Night Shelter and Trinity. Thanks to all volunteers doing extra shifts enabling this to happen and particularly to Pat for all her hard work.

Although we were closed for a bit longer than usual over Christmas and New Year, we are now open again and look forward to seeing you there!

Pauline Brooks

Next Women's Group Meeting

Tuesday 22 February at Cathedral Refectory at 11 am

Ann 07739793489

Link to Hope

Happy New Year to you all!



Thank you to everyone who donated to 'Link to Hope' in 2021. Your generosity was much appreciated when fundraising events were difficult to hold. The tea afternoons and bacon roll mornings were well supported with very generous donations. We hope to hold more of these and encourage others to consider helping. All those who have attended have really appreciated getting together again.

The Shoeboxes have arrived to many areas. Check out the [website](#) and photos on [Facebook](#). These communities have so little and to see their smiles on receiving our gifts of love is wonderful. The Shoebox project was hard work this year as we had to make up a great deal of boxes. We were grateful for so many handmade items and money contributions. We have two supporters (not connected to Church) who have really got involved and have already started collecting for 2022 and filled five boxes! We thought we were obsessed.

Please let us have shoeboxes if you have them but we would really like to encourage more of you to collect through the year. December is always busy so start now as many items will be in the sales or charity shops and it spreads the cost. January/February are good times to begin as we spend more time indoors, and last year we did loads of knitting and sewing. Every shoebox needs a candle and holder and small game which we were short of this year. Lavender bags and tote bags and tabard aprons are always appreciated. Any spare wool or material is always needed. If you are having a sort out we need small soft toys and head scarves, playing cards and reading glasses. Please ask friends to collect too. Let us make 2022 our record year.

Please also consider making a donation – the link can be found on the Church website and is very easy to access.

Many thanks.

Ann Coleman and Yvonne North

Revd Andrew Barker

Memories of my Pastor and his Congregation when Aged 12–22: The Testimony of Being Nurtured from a Child to an Adult

Human beings are incredibly complex characters. The people we interact with play an important and ongoing role in who we are, how we develop and who we continue to be. For many of us, as children, it is our parents that have a profound influence on who we are both in 'nature' and 'nurture' terms.

After parents, many might cite teachers and/or aunts and uncles et al as being people of influence or even inspiration in their lives. However for some there can be an important group of people in the next 'orbit out' from the people of first rank and consequence as we might style parents and teachers.

One such person in my life was Andrew Barker, pastor of the mission church I attended from the age of five onwards. Appointed pastor when I was 12, he was quite a contrast with the two previous pastors I could remember, he was young, in the first half of his 20s, newly married and a recent Geology graduate from the University of Bristol.

Taking up his post, he soon started to 'diversify' the congregation, though I am not sure if the subject of diversification held such sway during the 1970s in the way it resonates now.

Andrew's 'heritage' was from a long line of Methodist ministers and he was very keen to facilitate the development of the ministry, in the widest interpretation of this word, of the congregation, with a special emphasis on the growth of young people. Thus Sunday school work, membership of the church council and preaching were all ministries I was enabled to develop under his, and, in the case of the Sunday school work, that of his wife, Claire's (who was a school teacher) watchful eyes and guidance. This was made somewhat easier due to Mission's status as an independent congregation.

The 'diversification' of the congregation drew in undergraduates and graduates in greater numbers than had hitherto been the case as many of the established congregation would have received their

education in the main from 1900 to the 1950s and so would not have contemplated or seen higher education as 'being for them'.

In addition to work within the mission, we would share in the ministry of 'cross denominational' organisations such as (the then) Campus Crusade for Christ, The Gideons and Open-Air Campaigners. We had also been known to baptise believers in the sea, which did tend to draw a crowd on the beach.

The year 1980 saw the mission celebrate its centenary with Dr Martin Lloyd Jones giving the address; some of us also discovered that he liked chocolate biscuits. Funny, the things you remember from what might be called a 'punctuation mark' in one's life. A further speaker of note at one of the mission's anniversaries was Roger T. Forster, who, at the time, was busy, among other things, developing his Ichthus Christian Fellowship ministry. Arguably, Ichthus, and other such like fellowships, are a modern manifestation of the very spirit which moved some believers to set up the independent missions in the Victorian era.

Andrew and I both left the mission in 1980, Andrew moving to a ministry in Buckinghamshire thence spending the rest of his working life in the Methodist ministry in Nottingham. I moved north, indeed, further to the north, engaging with higher education in the York area; this gave the opportunity to worship at St Michael Le Belfrey, where David Watson and Graham Cray were conducting a ministry among a congregation of hundreds. This was quite a contrast to the erstwhile mission church.

It was with a measure of sadness that I learnt of Andrew's death this summer; however Claire invited me to attend a Thanksgiving Service held in Nottingham, where not only did I learn more about Andrew's Nottingham ministry, but also a few things about his pre-Brighton days.

Andrew was a strong singer and one of the lasting memories I have of him is that of leading the praise on Easter Sunday mornings where the celebratory singing was manifested with gusto under his leadership.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

Chris Young

Our Christmas Tree Choices



I thought you might be interested in what people wrote on the decorations they were invited to hang on Christmas trees during Advent.

Christmas Carols

Thirty people wrote down their favourite carol. The most popular were 'O come all ye faithful' and 'In the bleak midwinter' with 4 votes each, and 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' with 3. There was a wide range, with sixteen different choices: of varying age ranging from the 4th century 'Of the Father's Love Begotten', to the very recent 'Jesus is the heart of Christmas', and from the widely known children's carol 'Away in a manger', to the less known 'Break forth O heavenly light', set to music by Bach.

Our Response to Climate Change

Many people did not restrict themselves to selecting one response, but wrote of several things they are doing.

Using green energy and reducing use of electricity by turning the heating down and switching off lights were high on the list, as was making the effort to walk or use the bus for short journeys, rather than the car, and trying to buy local food saving on food miles, and making an effort to avoid wasting water. Two people had electric cars, and two had solar panels. Recycling, mending clothes, and avoiding single use plastic were popular responses. The local farm milk delivery in glass bottles was also mentioned (look on line for Cross Valley Milk for details). Three people had planted trees. Sending fewer Christmas cards was another idea. Two of our young people were actively involved in school eco groups.

Organisations we supported in this area included WWF, Christian Aid, Water Aid, Green Search engine Ecosia, development of solar batteries, organisations encouraging tree planting, SRI rice (a method of growing rice with minimal irrigation), and the National Flower

Arranging Society leading the way in using a biodegradable material rather than oasis.

Organisations we support that give help to people in difficult circumstances

Again some people listed several, and the range was enormous. Two were initials that the internet did not recognise, so if yours is omitted please let us know about it.

Action for children

Al.Anon

Basics Bank

The Beacon (formerly Winchester Churches Nightshelter

The Belay Foundation (supporting adoptive parents coping with traumatised children)

Cancer Hospices (various)

Christian Aid

Citizens Advice

Cups of Hope

Link to Hope

MHA communities (formerly Live at Home)

Motor Neurone Disease Organisation

NSPCC

Olive Branch

Red Cross

Refugee Support Groups

Rafiki Thabo Foundation (providing education in Lesotho)

Salvation Army

SCM

Street Pastors

Trinity Centre

UNICEF

Winchester Churches Christmas Project

Winchester Youth Counselling

Women's Refuges

Our Favourite Bible Texts and Stories

This is the complete list, as I find knowing someone else finds a text particularly significant helps me to see it afresh. There's plenty here to give us all food for thought.

Those Chosen Most Often:

John 3:16: (7) For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son , so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.

Luke 10:29-37(5) The Good Samaritan.

John 1: 5,14(3) Best to read the whole section, v1-18

Other Stories from the Gospels

Luke 15: The Prodigal Son

Luke 1:23-25, 2:25-32 Elizabeth and Simeon's God given joy

Mark 6:30-44 Feeding of 5,000

John 13 Jesus washes the disciples feet

John 20:1-18 The Resurrection, and Jesus calling Mary by name

Other Sayings of Jesus

John 8:7 Let anyone among you who is without sin be the one to throw a stone at her

John 8:12 I am the light of the world

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd

Matthew 5:1-11 The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:14-16 No-one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl... Let your light shine...

From Paul's Letters

Colossians 1:20 God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself

Colossians 3: 12 You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

From the Old Testament

Psalms 46:10 Be still and know that I am God.

Isaiah 9:2-7 The promise of the Messiah

Zephaniah 3:17 The Lord your God is with you; his power will give you victory. The Lord will take delight in you, and in his love he will give you new life.

1Kings 17: 5 and 1Kings 19: 1-18 God meets Elijah's need when he is desperate

Other Ideas without Specific Texts

The hymn 'Tell Me the Stories of Jesus' because it gives an overview of the Gospel story simply.

'I am saved in our Lord Jesus' name, thanks be to God.'

House groups are going to be asked to take local arrangement services more frequently. One way of leading this would be for several people each to share a few thoughts about a text or story they particularly value. It doesn't have to be a scholarly exposition, just a few simple words explaining why it means so much to you, and an opportunity for us all to reflect. Such a way of leading worship is very much in tune with early Methodist and Reformed tradition.

Pat Fry

Brief Encounter with Mike and Hilary Holt

What was the first news/historical event you can recall from your early life?

Hilary: The announcement of the death of King George VI.

Mike: Coronation of Queen Elizabeth.

One bit of advice you'd give to your younger self?

Hilary: Believe in yourself and don't be afraid to ask for help. Then, never give up.

Mike: Its not what you know but who you know that is important.

Who was your first hero?

Hilary: My first Sunday School teacher. She was young, kind, beautiful, and had a lovely singing voice too, I remember.

Mike: My Physics teacher, Mr Whittaker.

What is your favourite saying or quotation?

Hilary: 'God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference.'

Mike: 'Engage brain before opening mouth'.

What is your favourite piece of music?

Hilary: 2 please! Classical –Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto no.2. Also – 'Dancing with Wolves' by John Barry.

Mike: Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor.

If you could spend a day in one city or place at one moment in history, where and when would that be?

Hilary : Winchester Cathedral 25 July 1554. A guest at the wedding of Queen Mary 1st and King Philip 2nd of Spain, and the wedding banquet at Wolvesey Castle.

Mike: Berlin in November 1989 when the Wall was knocked down.

Where is your favourite place to be?

Hilary: In England – The Cotswolds. Abroad – soaking in the warm tropical waters of the Cook Islands. Both places are peaceful and timeless.

Mike: Jurassic Coast around Lulworth – beautiful and full of geological interest.

Where do you feel closest to God?

Hilary: Taking in the beauty of nature – beside water and its reflections, dappled sunlight through the trees, birdsong, and a glowing sunset.

Mike: when photographing the natural wonders of the world.



Next Men's Group Meeting

Thought we could try a lunchtime meeting instead.

Thursday 10 February, 1 pm, at The Queen Inn, Kingsgate Street .

Richard 07739793489

Comedy Corner

Humour for Epiphanytide



For the musicians



The deadline for March Yours is **Monday 14 February**.

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

Yoga

Over the last 2 years we have all had to change and life has not been easy for anyone. Yoga has really helped me and just doing 10 minutes first thing in the morning has been a real help. I usually follow Kasandra on [YouTube](#).

My yoga teacher is so positive. Here is a quote she uses.

'The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, worry about the future, or anticipate troubles, but to live in the present moment wisely and earnestly.'

If you are depressed you are living in the past.

If you are anxious you are living in the future.

If you are at peace you are living in the present.

Everyone worries. The difference between thinking and worrying is that thinking leads to a solution.

Worrying does not lead to solutions or new insights. Much worrying can lead to stress, anxiety and gloom. Moreover, worrying takes a lot of time and energy.

These ideas really help me to try to live in the present.

Ann Coleman

This Month's Bible Verses

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

Matthew 6 25-34



Services for February 2022

In-person and Live-streamed

6 FEBRUARY

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

13 FEBRUARY

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

20 FEBRUARY

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Andrew de Ville
*Chair of Southampton
Methodist District*

27 FEBRUARY

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

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

HC: Holy Communion.

UCW website: ucw.org.uk/streamed-services/

YouTube: tinyurl.com/ucw-services