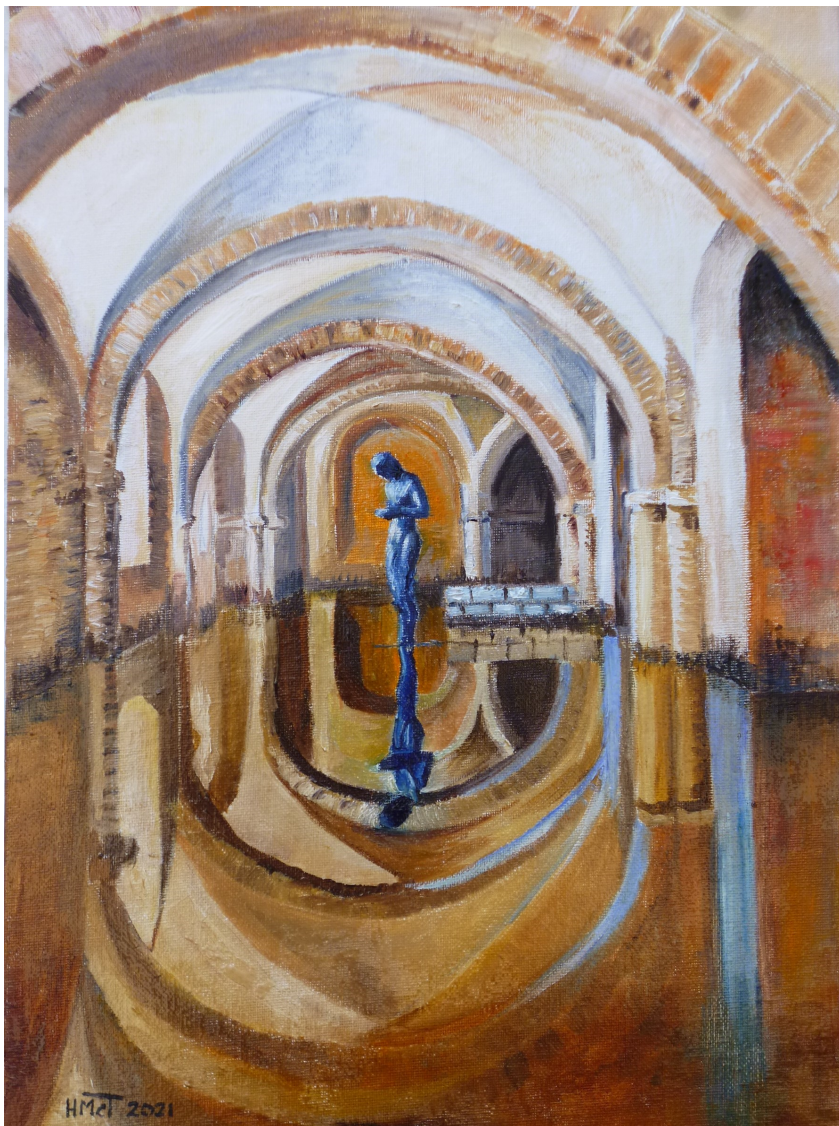




# Yours

Magazine of  
The United Church  
Winchester

March 2022



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## Introductory Letter

The Platinum Jubilee year has got underway with programmes celebrating the Queen's succession in February 1952, and I watched a BBC broadcast documenting the significant changes in Britain since that date. It had an odd feel as it seemed at times as if there was an implication that the Queen was somehow responsible for these, however the programme did give me much food for thought. I was five at the time with no appreciation of the great event (although I do remember having a coronation mug) but the Queen's reign and my life have run pretty much in parallel and we have 'shared' the great technological revolution and improvements in living conditions. It still seems strange to think my Mum managed so long without a fridge and that kids were pleased to watch Captain Pugwash take on Cut-Throat Jake – a bit different from the battles of my grandson's Superheroes.

Change usually does bring to mind material advancement but, though important, this is certainly not the only change to reflect on and probably not the most important one. The last 70 years have also seen a transformation in how we regard others; how society treats those in need, our attitudes to minorities and concern for the underprivileged have all changed significantly and generally for the better. This shift is very clear in our laws but I am not sure it is so evident in individual behaviour; are we more caring, more compassionate, more generous than 70 years ago? I suppose we can't measure this but I think it is doubtful. We still see the abuse of women, the neglect of children and it seems impossible to stamp out racial prejudice.

But perhaps the most fascinating aspect of change is how what '**we are like**' develops over time or whether it is so slow that for all practical purposes we do not change. Are we really any different than our grandparents or for that matter than their grandparents? Are there underlying characteristics of people that are essentially constant? Philosophy has a lot to teach us here because the character of its core subject matter asks fundamental questions about us – the nature of reality; how we know and believe; what is right and wrong. Philosophers propose their theories in the currency of their background – these may be attacked, developed, perhaps discarded, but they never become obsolete. Plato's ideas were set out over 2,000

years ago but are still valid today because they deal with the most basic aspects of our humanity.

Christian life has been subject to significant change since the Queen's succession, although perhaps surprisingly she is still the head of the Church of England. The numbers of people who attend church has fallen dramatically and probably even more those who no longer count themselves as Christian. Churches have taken on board change, not just theologically, but in the way they are adjusting to the movement of social norms and this process will have to continue as each denomination seeks to find its place in an ever-changing world.

But what about our faith – we talk about faith growing or being stronger. Certainly my beliefs are different to what they were 60 years ago but would I say my faith is different? Does the nature of faith actually change? Is the faith of Abraham, at its heart, any different than ours? My own cautious view is that it does not and I would suggest this is because faith is our basic human response to a spiritual need which, however the world changes, is always there.

**Martin Ramsey**

## **Editorial**

This month we are delighted that some of you have shared with us your God given creative talents. We have poems and art work to enjoy and be inspired by. Many of you will recognise Antony Gormley's 'Sound II' from the crypt of the cathedral, on our front cover, beautifully painted by Helen McTiffin. Jill Cook has sent in a colourful tapestry made during the first lockdown and Junior Church have contributed a creative take on Spring with artwork by Matthew Crocker.

Andrea Berriman says that, like many, she has found it difficult to be creative during the Covid period, so it is wonderful to read her poem based on cafés, which will resonate with many of us. We are fortunate to welcome an established poet, Arthur Wood, to our congregation and he shares his 'Kingdom and King' with us.

We hear more of Pauline Costard's rich life story, this month focussing on Belgrade and Moscow, as well as Pat Fry's thoughts on

25 years as a preacher. We have news from Simon and Tim Barber, former members of Youth United as well as of Amy Mitchell and Jodie Turner, students from the University who we have been part of our congregation throughout their studies. All this and more!

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

## Our New Facilities Manager

Hi, I am looking forward to being your Facilities Manager.

So, who am I? I have lived in Winchester for over 30 years and am Catholic. Our parish has 7 weekend Masses in our 4 churches and I usually attend the Saturday evening vigil Mass in St Peter's in Jewry Street.

What are my interests? I love being outdoors: cycling, walking and running. I also enjoy growing my own fruit and veg. Each year another corner of my garden becomes a raised bed, or a fruit bush is planted.



Professionally, I started work in one of the high street banking groups. Initially this was in branches in Winchester, Southampton and Basingstoke, but then I moved to the West End of London and managed branches in Pall Mall, Westminster and Covent Garden. A couple of years before the financial crisis, I took voluntary redundancy and went to work for the Financial Services regulator. Until last week, I was in a team trying to ensure the UK's banks and building societies operated within the rules.

And finally, I inherited a 1938 Austin Seven 18 months ago and it doesn't work. Even with my very limited mechanical skills, I think the problem is more than a flat battery so if any of you have any mechanical knowledge and want to help please get in touch.

See you in March.

**Patricia Mitchell**

## Musings from a House Group

In the Abbott's Barton House Group we have been meeting weekly during the pandemic, alternating between a serious week and a light week.



For our light meeting last week I was prompted by the expected visit of Prince Charles to Jewry Street to unveil a statue of Licoricia of Winchester, and therefore suggested we might chat about 'so-called' famous people we had met, or at least been close to, over the years. Two of our members actually live very close to the new statue and were able to tell us about what happened.

It proved to be a very interesting discussion and, to our great surprise, all of us were able to relate stories about such people we had

encountered, ranging from royalty through pop stars, moguls of industry, actors and more!

During my own working life I have seen many radio and TV personalities as they took a break in the BBC or ITV canteens or walked the extensive corridors of the studio buildings.

I remember on one occasion when I was rushing to a meeting and rounded a blind corner in a BBC corridor I literally ran into Ronnie Corbett, simply because I did not see him! I was over 6 ft and he was less than 5ft.

I spent ten years or so working for a small company owned by the rock group Pink Floyd and got to know their drummer, Nick





Mason, very well. At an exhibition in Montreux he took us all out to dinner and asked if he would mind if he brought his girlfriend along, her name was Jenny Agutter.



In our House Group discussion we wondered why we seem to have such a fascination with so-called famous people anyway. Surely they are not so different to the rest of us, just in the public eye?

In our everyday life we need to be sure we are not spending too much time worrying about why we are not able to emulate the success of others and concentrate on being the best version, we can be, of ourselves.

**Tom Belshaw**

### **This month's Bible verse**

'For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.'

**1 John 3:11**

## Walking with Dylan Thomas on the Wales Coast Path

Given the travel restrictions last year, Sue and I decided to make the most of the beauty of our own domestic countryside and so embarked on walking the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path in West Wales.

The path, which starts at St Dogmaels on the border of Cardiganshire in the north and finishes at Amroth on the border of Carmarthenshire in the south, runs for 180 miles hugging the coastline. It is a stunningly picturesque coast, with rugged cliffs that plunge down to small isolated beaches, and estuaries forcing their way inland at the end of which are pretty little harbours. It is an area renowned for its wild birds, including Guillemots, Razorbills and Puffins and the world's largest colony of Manx shearwater on Skomer Island. We were also lucky to be walking in September when we saw large colonies of Seals with their pups, which look like large fat white maggots (!), and sleek shiny Dolphins speeding along further out to sea. In fact, there are too many beautiful places and things to recount on what is often reckoned to be one of the world's greatest coastal paths.



We enjoyed the area so much that we decided just to carry on walking (!) and have now left the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and are continuing onto the extended Wales Coast Path into Carmarthenshire. Our intention is to walk the remainder of the coast path going east to Chepstow, then head north on Offa's Dyke to Chester, before re-joining the coast path and walking west and then south to finish back at St Dogmaels, and so circumnavigate the border of Wales. In all the walk is around 1,050 miles of which we've only done 210 miles so far – so plenty of enjoyment left for this year (including the fabulous long wide sandy beaches of the Gower)!

As we walked into Carmarthenshire, we reached the village of Laugharne, where Dylan Thomas lived towards the end of his life (1949–53), in the Boat House. The house is perched above the village and looks straight out to sea along the stunning Taf estuary, with its



mudflats crammed with sea birds and surrounded by rolling green hills. It was this view from the house that inspired Thomas to write the beautiful 'Poem in October'. You can hear Dylan Thomas reading it on the [Yours](#) page of the church website. I hope this inspires you with a sense of the beauty of this place. God Bless.

**Tim Clifford**

## **Memories of Seventy Years Ago**

King George VI died on 6 February 1952. Some days later I sat for the 11 plus examination – a daunting task that shaped the future of all our lives at that time. One of the set tasks was to write a 'composition' and we were given alternative titles to choose from, including 'My Holiday' or 'Our Princess'. Our family never went on holiday so that one was out for me, but everyone knew loads about our princess so I happily settled down to write about Princess Elizabeth. I had just started on the second sentence when it dawned on me – 'Our Princess' was now Princess Margaret and I didn't know anything about her! I managed two rather tortured sentences and that was it – I often wonder if I passed the exam just because I knew who was on the throne!

**Dorothy Lusmore**

### **Jubilee Memories**

If you, like Dorothy, have memories of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne or her coronation, send them in so we can publish them in time for the official celebration of the Platinum Jubilee in June this year.

You might like to write a couple of lines on 'What I did on Coronation day!' or 'The Coronation present I received from school, and what happened to it.'

## Poems and Art from the United Church Community

### Coffee Hordes

On rainy days the coffee hordes pour  
From saturated streets through misted door  
To find their favourite brew

Wrapped in the café's warm embrace  
Exhausted mothers filter through  
Experiences of the past day or two  
While doting lovers sit and steam  
Sipping slowly, sharing glances in between

Commuters bustle in and out  
Placing well-rehearsed orders with a shout  
Tutting if there is a queue  
While old folk linger over just one cup  
With not too much else to do

Soothing warmth, sliding down  
Companionable chatter all around  
Unimaginable how many lives have been propped up  
By the simple pleasure of a coffee cup.

Andrea Berriman

## Kingdom and King

Unworthy to speak, unworthy to sing  
Reviled and whispered, but called to the word,  
Abandoned, abused, and clueless to chord,  
With nothing to find but the grace of the Lord,  
How can I worship your kingdom and king?

I'm travelling home, but what can I bring,  
Poor as I am in scattering seeds,  
What can I bring, for nothing he needs?  
*Loveless, the Lord of the universe bleeds –*  
*Bring love for the kingdom, bring love for the king!*

The serpent is vanquished -- *one final sting!*  
Then long is my journey to manage the curse,  
And long is my toil in vision and verse,  
God's holy priesthood -- *bring me my hearse,*  
*Send me to the kingdom, take me to the king!*

Arthur L Wood



aviour



raise



ejoice



gnite



ew life



od brings light

Junior Church reflected on ideas for Spring on 13 February and created this; artwork by **Matthew Crocker**.

## The Centrality of the Cross



I made this picture during the hot summer of the first lockdown—sitting in the sunshine by my open window. It combines two of my interests – stained glass windows and tapestry.

I am intrigued by the way medieval, Victorian and contemporary windows live together happily in one building. This tapestry emphasises the centrality of the Cross in my faith journey.

**Jill Cook**



**Would you like to share a poem you've written or a piece of art you have made?**

The deadline for April *Yours* is **Monday 14 March**. All contributions welcome. Send to [yours@ucw.org.uk](mailto:yours@ucw.org.uk).

## Twenty-five Years a Preacher

On 6 March, Barbara , Nick and I will be presented with our local preachers' long service certificates. It is a great privilege to lead worship and preach. So I thought it appropriate to share in *Yours* something of the testimony I have to write for that occasion. Back in July 2019 I wrote a piece about my call to preach, and about Wesley's ideas on preaching, so I will not repeat that here. No-one could be more surprised than I am, either that I became a Methodist local preacher, or that I am still here doing it in my seventies in spite of my battles with mental illness. So what are my thoughts?

### **First and foremost: Gratitude: Gratitude to many people:**

- To my parents and foster parents for their Christian example of grace, courage and forbearance in difficult circumstances
- To the unconventional London grammar school I was lucky enough to attend, where developing independent thinking, study skills, and the ability to communicate clearly in both writing and public speaking were considered far more important than O levels
- To the minister of the Baptist Church I went to in my teenage years, who would now be described as a liberal evangelical. He encouraged his youth group to wrestle with difficult questions and to be aware of the world church through contact with BMS and Christian Aid. I was taught early that if you know the love of God in Christ, then you have an absolute duty to witness to that grace in some way
- To the Student Christian Movement and the Baptist Student Federation for the opportunities they gave us to hear eminent Christian speakers from the World Church
- To the writers of the Faith and Worship Course, in 1992 a radically new course, which was inspirational, gave us a good grounding in scripture and was much more practical than its predecessor



- To my mentor and tutor Deacon Jean (below left) and the people of the Derby Derwent Mission Circuit who encouraged me
- To ministers who have inspired and challenged me
- To my husband David, and my children who supported me and accepted the demands on my time and energy



- To you, the people of United and of the wider circuit, who have accepted me and encouraged me when life was hard and I thought I would never preach again.

### **Secondly: this label 'preacher'**

I hesitate to say that I am a preacher outside of church, because in common parlance the word preacher is assumed to mean someone who has a 'holier than thou' judgemental attitude. That is not what Methodist local preachers are about. We are called to share the Gospel of God's Grace and compassion, and relate that message to the real experiences, often challenging experiences, of the people in our congregations.

Preaching is just one calling among many. We are all called, in our different ways, called to witness to the love of God in Christ in our everyday living.

### **Thirdly: Key principles I try to follow:**

- Preparing meaningful worship that enables people to feel included and express their worship is just as important as writing a sermon.
- The sermon should 'Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable' as Colin Morris famously wrote. There is a need for both comfort and challenge: the Gospel is good news of God's forgiveness, and love and grace,
- but it also challenges us to follow in the way of Christ.
- It is essential that our preaching is relevant to the reality of people's everyday experience. This was brought home to me recently, worshipping in a very different style of church. Whilst the worship was lively and engaging, and the preacher had a relaxed friendly style, conveying warmth and conviction, I felt very uncomfortable at the way the sermon seemed to advocate prayer as the simple answer to everything, ignoring the painful experiences of many Christian people when prayer appears unanswered. Preaching needs to be grounded in reality.
- I hope that I may be enabled to continue to serve the Church by leading worship and preaching, and I hope there may be others among you who will consider if you are called to explore this way of witnessing to the love of God in Christ.

**Pat Fry**

## What Really Matters in Worship

*This kneeling, this singing, this reading from ancient books  
This acknowledgement that the burden is intolerable, this promise of  
amendment  
This humble access, this putting out of hands  
This taking of the bread and wine, this return to your place not  
glancing about  
This solemn acceptance of the 1000 sins that will follow it, this 1000  
sins and the repenting of them  
This dedication and apostasy, this apostasy and this restoration  
This 1000 restorations and this 1000 apostasies  
Take and accept them all, be not affronted or dismayed by them  
They are a net of holes to capture essence, a shell to house the  
thunder of an ocean  
A discipline of petty airs to catch creation, a rune of words to catch one  
living word  
A ladder built by men of sticks and stones whereby they hope to reach  
to heaven*

For me this passage (author unknown) means 'Don't get bogged down in what is actually the minutiae of worship. What we do, how we do it and even sometimes at what time.

These discussions can be very time consuming and even heated. They really are temporal and of the human condition. Pay attention for the 'one voice' and the direction of spiritual journey. All will be well. All manner of things will be well.

'Apostasies' are the turning away from belief and religion and the restorations 'the turning back'.

**Jean Forster**

## Belgrade and Moscow

I left the Congo in April 1961. I was pregnant and ill from the stress of living somewhere where there was no order. The police and army were fighting each other on the streets. David would be asked by the Ambassador, after curfew, to pick up a message for London. He would then have to try to bypass road blocks to get to the office to send it. I would sit on my bed reading passages from my Bible to comfort me, and praying he would get back. The United Nations eventually parachuted in Ghanaian soldiers with British officers, but they were not supposed to intervene to save us if we were attacked. They just stood around the city in their blue berets.

My husband finally came home to the UK in the summer. In the meantime, I had lived in a caravan with my parents, because, when they fled the Congo, they had had no home to go to in England.

David was then posted to Yugoslavia and I joined him five months later because the Foreign Office would not allow me to have my baby in Belgrade, as the medical care was not up to standard. Having had my baby in England and, feeling like a single Mum, off I flew, but the snow was too deep in Belgrade and we landed in Zagreb. The next day I joined a plane full of black-suited men on one plane after another as each in turn was too iced up to fly. Luckily, I was feeding the baby myself, as no one asked if she needed milk. Finally, I arrived on Christmas Day.

In Belgrade we lived in a house in which the owners had rented the top half to us. They lived in the basement, but I'd find them using my kitchen occasionally without so much as a 'by your leave'! I was aged nineteen with a new baby, no Mum to help or speak to on the telephone. I read Dr Spock and hoped for the best. Nothing about Belgrade was notable except for the amount of snow, the cold and the cherry tree in the garden, which later had the most beautiful cherries. After two and a half years there we had leave in England and a new baby was born, an Englishman!

Then on to Moscow. It was 1963 and at the height of the Cold War. Caroline was two and a half and Ian a month old. We were not allowed to travel more than twenty-five miles outside Moscow. If we

went over that a policeman would be waiting. We were watched and followed and listened to constantly. I would go into empty flats to make up beds for new arrivals. As soon as I opened the door the telephone would ring and someone on the other end would blow a 'raspberry', just to let me know they were watching.

All of the Embassy staff except the Ambassador lived in diplomatic flats provided by the Russians. We lived in a flat previously occupied by Vassall, a British spy compromised by the Russians, so our walls probably had more 'ears' than usual. I had a lovely maid called Raya, who would shop for me. She didn't speak English but we managed. Every Saturday, like the other maids, Raya would go to a meeting to report on what she had seen/heard about us. At one point I was given



the job of looking after a wife visiting a British man who was in the Lubyanka prison just for distributing Bibles.

We had a club at the Embassy, which was on the river overlooking the Kremlin. Us 'expats' would dance and do the 'twist' and for a while let the stress go. We had our own doctor which was useful when 3-year-old Caroline pushed a button up her nose. There were even enough nannies and little ones to form a nursery, and the Embassy owned a

Dacha at which we could spend occasional weekends and get out into a garden.

From the age of nineteen to twenty-two there were no shops I could visit except for GUM on Red Square where the only things one would want to buy were champagne and caviar! We put in an order for scrawny chickens once a week and lived on grey bread. The Embassy had a one room shop for some goods. However, one of the benefits was being able to go to the Bolshoi ballet, which I loved. Ian was baptised, using the Ambassador's rose bowl, by a visiting minister.

After two and a half years we had done our bit (we had had a short leave after one year). It was a huge relief to be able to talk openly once again with no one listening. The stress fell away and we felt normal again. One thing, in these situations you do develop an appreciation of those around you and the friendships you make.

Later postings were Detroit, Tel Aviv (for the Yom Kippur war), Dallas, Beijing (I left the month just before Tiananmen) and at last a European posting, Dublin. I'd always hoped for somewhere exotic like Fiji.

**Pauline Costard**

## **News from Jodie and Amy,**

*We have been fortunate in having Jodie and Amy from the University worshipping with us at The United Church since the beginning of their courses in Autumn 2019. The Yours team asked them to write something about their experience as students.*

My name is Jodie Turner. I am a psychology student from Guernsey and I have been attending church whilst being at University. I chose Winchester University as it reminded me of back home and I felt comfortable here. It's been great being a university student because my confidence





has grown and I have learnt a lot about myself, other people and my studies. Time management has been essential to keep a work/life balance and I have found my faith has grown so much whilst being on this journey. Dedicating time to my faith every week has enabled me to stay grounded, has calmed me down during uncertain times and has allowed me to meet some lovely people. In the future, I am looking into moving back to Guernsey to take a year out to volunteer and gain experience within the psychology sector. I would love to become a counsellor of some sort in the future because I am passionate about mental health. I also hope my relationship with God can continue to grow and that I can visit Winchester many more times.

**Jodie Turner**

I chose Winchester because it appeared to be small and friendly. It is really quite different from London where I'm from, which is nice. I have had a great experience studying history at Winchester. My course is really interesting, and I have become involved in a range of activities across the campus, such as the Christian Union and the Music Centre. I really don't have any plans yet of what I want to do after I finish University, although I have always liked the idea of working in the heritage industry.

**Amy Mitchell**

*We wish Amy and Jodie a good end to their studies and pray that they will find fulfilment in their lives after Uni.*



**Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.**

## Link to Hope



We hope as many of you as possible will attend ( or attended) our Pancake event on 1 March. It is a lovely popular social event and will be extra special as we were unable to hold it last year. If you were unable to attend we would welcome any donations – the Church website has details and is now easy to access.

Yvonne and I hope to begin to have coffee and tea afternoons as it gets warmer. Please do support these or consider holding your own. They really are appreciated and it is a great way to raise funds.

We hope you have checked out the [Link to Hope website](#). Here are some pictures from 2021. It really shows the joy our gifts give.



We hope you have started knitting and sewing. We have already received some items – it is never too early. Do look out for bargains and let us know. Poundland had a sale and were selling hats for 25p! We always need wool/material/small games/reading glasses/cutlery/mugs. Someone is making glass cases so we need to fill them. They really appreciate our homemade items. We hope to make up sewing kits this year. The Works sell ten sewing threads and needles for a pound each. We need small bags for these and larger bags for toiletries. Please ask friends to collect . The MHA members are also getting involved. One member found Barbie dolls in the charity shops and has knitted lovely outfits. We are happy to receive items throughout the year.

Many of the Link to Hope project leaders are working in intensely difficult situations with people who have high levels of illness and poverty and a lack of material possessions, just living with the sheer bleakness of life. The Emmaus Club in Moldova works with children who have a tough home life and struggle at school. The amazing teachers now work with the school directly to come alongside the children that need extra support and are seeing some great results. Please pray especially for these boys who are struggling: Ion, Florin, Nicolae and Dima. These children need huge support as their progress is very slow. It is important for these children to socialise, to feel good with the class and their friends and to gain confidence to communicate and join in the class activities. Thank you for helping us support Emmaus Club so these children can experience real love and compassion in their lives.



Please support 'Link to Hope' in any way you can. We hope to have more details next month.

**Ann Coleman and Yvonne North**

## Where Are They Now?

My earliest memory of Junior Church is from the time the church was temporarily relocated to Milner Hall. I remember Sunday mornings at Junior Church/Youth United being such a warm, happy place in the company of wonderful leaders and friends, where we learned a lot but also laughed a lot (and inevitably ended up with several of us playing table football or kicking a ball around in the crèche room). In 2003 I moved to London to study Physics at university, and I still live in London today, although physics doesn't come up very often these days. Since leaving uni I have been fortunate to make a living from my passion for sport, and I now work for a sports marketing consultancy, helping organisations like Wimbledon, the ECB, Formula 1 and the Premier League understand and create better experiences for their fans. I've also been very fortunate to work overseas for periods of that time, spending time in India, Australia, South Africa, the Caribbean, and most recently three years in New York, before settling back in London in 2020.



**Tim Barber**

I'm still in the Winchester area, head of the English and Media department at Perin's School in Alresford. I've been worshipping at Christ Church in Winchester since leaving United Church back in the



2000s. I drum in the worship band most weeks and, up until last summer, was serving on the youth team with their 14–18s group. I spent 13 years doing that, watching the young people grow into adults, most of whom I am still in contact with. I think my passion for that ministry largely came from how well

pastored I was in my childhood. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunities I had to make friendships and explore my faith, so I was keen to take the opportunity to pass that opportunity on. My wife, Beth, served with me in that team for nine of those years too and stepped down at the same time in order to make space for the next season of leadership in the group.

**Simon Barber**

## Vintage Fun



What does God require of you? From the Micah challenge (Micah 6:8), God is doing

something new in the City of Winchester.

On 14 March, at 2 pm, we are launching 'Messy Vintage', renamed 'Vintage Fun', which will be opened by our own Minister Revd Tim Searle.

The afternoon will include, mind games, singing, praying, two guests, who will be announced on the day, some elements of craft and refreshments.

As the Anna Chaplain for the City of Winchester, I welcome you all to enjoy a touch of spring together.

God bless you.

**Pamela Gilbert**



Enjoy

'A taste of Spring'

at

**Vintage Fun**

**Monday 14th March**

**2 - 4 pm**

in the

**United Church**

Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RZ

01962 849559





## Licoricia of Winchester – Unveiling the Statue

Wedge between a Muslim lady and a Jewish gentleman as we tapped our feet to the rhythm of the fiddles, I felt a mounting excitement. As we waited for His Royal Highness to unveil the statue of Licoricia, the important Jewish lady who lived here in medieval times, we were astonished by the number of police who were everywhere. I felt sorry for those cycling around on rickety looking bikes compared to those on gleaming motor cycles, and for the streets cleaners following the mounted police. The chestnut and white horses with their poker-backed riders were a magnificent sight and so patient. They stood still and quiet for over an hour. It was really refreshing to be part of a crowd whose one aim was to celebrate the occasion together. As purple Platinum Jubilee flags were handed out, the children lined up in front of the Arc had a practice wave. Time was passing! I suggested they should have placards proclaiming THIRTY MINS – FIFTEEN MINS – SORRY FOLKS YOU CAN GO HOME NOW HE'S NOT COMING! when a man behind me said 'He's not!'. We thought he was joking but a few minutes later an official announcement told us HRH had tested positive.

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Nigel Atkinson, looking resplendent in uniform did the honours instead. The life-sized bronze statue by Ian Rank-Broadley is beautiful. This statue is not simply a tourist attraction, but a timely reminder of our history when the Jewish community thrived and worshipped at their Synagogue in Jewry Street and where Licoricia had her home. No matter which faith we personally adhere to, hopefully we can agree that religious intolerance must not be allowed to repeat the atrocities of the past.



Rosemary MacMullen



## Licoricia of Winchester – Her Story

Licoricia was the most successful businesswoman in England and the most prominent Jewish woman in the whole of Europe during the Middle Ages. She lived in Winchester during the thirteenth century and her house was opposite to where The United Church stands now. She was born in the very early twelve hundreds, married at about 14 years old and by 1234 she was widowed with three children. She was a financier and money lender; the first record of her was in a document from 1234 which details a dispute with a nobleman for a large sum of money – about enough to buy and equip a ship. Her first husband was accused of murder, so all his assets were confiscated – she had to start from scratch, probably with what she had managed to save herself. Ten years later she met and married a wealthy Jewish businessman, David of Oxford; she moved to Oxford, and they combined their business interests, increasing her status and wealth, but David died two years later and Licoricia moved back to Winchester. Death duties were due to the King, and all records, money chests and assets were seized – and she was immediately imprisoned in the Tower of London until a vast sum of money was paid. She spent about nine months negotiating with the King and eventually emerged with quite a good deal whereby she was exempt from all future taxes if she paid a sum equal to several million pounds today. The money was used to build a shrine to Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey.

She continued to have very good relations with King Henry III, supplying funds for many of his projects as well as those of other noblemen including Queen Eleanor and Simon de Montford. Her business interests covered the whole of South of England, and she also had a large property portfolio. Her children joined her, and she carried on working well into her seventies. Licoricia and her Christian maid were found murdered at home in 1277, probably during a robbery. No one was ever convicted for the crime.

How did Licoricia, a Jewish woman living in an extremely patriarchal and Christian society reach such wealth and achievements? At that time the English economy relied on money lenders who filled the function that banks do today, so it was a lucrative activity; most money lenders were not Jewish. Christian married women had virtually no

rights – their money and possessions all belonged to their husband. However, this was not the case with Jewish women, who were allowed to work and develop their own assets. Proverbs 31 describes an ideal wife. The bronze, life-size statue of Licoricia of Winchester with Asser, her youngest son, was designed by renowned British artist Ian Rank-Broadley and aims to promote inclusivity and tolerance. He said, 'The broader message is that we all benefit from letting women take an equal part in our society'. Christian, Muslim, Sikh, and Buddhist, community leaders, were present at the unveiling as well as the Chief Rabbi of the UK Ephraim Mirvis. The statue features the inscription: 'Love thy neighbour as thyself' from Leviticus, in English and Hebrew.

**Dorothy Lusmore**

## News of the Wider Church

### Queen's Jubilee

Congregations are being asked to take part in a giant community challenge to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June by serving others in small ways. The initiative has been put together by the charity 'Hope Together' and lists 70 possible acts of service. Churches are asked to help bring their communities together in celebration .

A new anthem, 'Rise Up and Serve', has been commissioned from Graham Kendrick, Welsh musician Mal Pope, and the Irish band Rend Collective. Choirs are invited to record their own version of the anthem to be released on YouTube.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, commended Her Majesty for her 'duty, leadership and character' as the Monarch becomes the first ever to celebrate a platinum jubilee. He said Queen Elizabeth II had committed herself to a life of duty and public service: 'The clearest moment for me, the absolute summit of that, was that at the funeral of her husband of 70-something years, she sat alone.' 'That was leadership, it was doing the right thing, it was duty, it set an example.'

### **The President of the Methodist**

**Church in Ireland**, the Revd Dr Sahr Yambasu, brought greetings to the Church of Ireland Synod and made a plea for the co-operation of all in addressing issues of global warming, climate change, and unpredictable weather conditions. He rejoiced at the Covenant relationship, referring to the Methodist and Church of Ireland congregations as 'giving me particular joy at grass-roots level'. In conversations about closer unity, 'we are committed to work through our differences and are called to co-operate in ministry and mission.'



**The investment body of the Methodist Church** is reportedly considering ditching stakes in mining companies. The move comes after a report was published exposing widespread sexual harassment, bullying and racism at Rio Tinto. Last year the company also admitted to blowing up 46,000-year-old rock shelters in Australia, containing priceless, sacred Aboriginal artefacts.

**Eco Church Milestone.** Lindley Methodist Church, in Huddersfield, is the 4000th church to be registered for Eco Church. Now that milestone has been reached— ten per cent of churches across England and Wales —A Rocha UK's next aim is to have 6000 churches registered in the next three years.

**The Archbishop of Canterbury**, Right Reverend Justin Welby, will be interviewing a number of high-profile authors and politicians including Tony Blair and Stephen King as he hosts a six-part series focused on faith and morality in a new weekly radio show for the BBC. In each half hour episode, he will discuss the balancing of spirituality and life in the public eye. 'The Archbishop Interviews' will air for six Sundays on BBC Radio 4 at 1 30 pm, starting on 20 February.

**Bishop of Winchester retires.** At the end of a farewell service of Evensong in Winchester Cathedral, Tim Dakin laid down his pastoral staff on the altar and concluded his time as bishop. He emotionally prayed the Methodist Covenant Prayer, struggling but determined to get through. We wish him a time of healing and spiritual renewal.

## Comedy Corner



For St Patrick's Day (17

This digital age!



## The Bridge

There are times in life  
when we are called to be bridges,  
not a great monument spanning a distance  
and carrying great loads of heavy traffic,  
but a simple bridge to help one person from here to there,  
over some difficulty  
such as pain, fear, grief, loneliness,  
a bridge which opens the way  
for ongoing journey.

When I become a bridge for another,  
I bring upon myself a blessing  
for I escape from the small prison of self  
and exist for a wider world,  
breaking out to be a larger being  
who can enter another's pain  
and rejoice in another's triumph.

I know of only one greater blessing  
in this life, and that is,  
to allow someone else  
to be a bridge for me.

**Copyright Joy Cowley, *Aotearoa Psalms*  
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## Services for March 2022

In-person and Live-streamed

### 6 MARCH

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

### 13 MARCH

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

### 20 MARCH

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

### 27 MARCH

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

HC: Holy Communion.

UCW website: [ucw.org.uk/streamed-services/](https://ucw.org.uk/streamed-services/)

YouTube: [tinyurl.com/ucw-services](https://tinyurl.com/ucw-services)