



# Yours

Magazine of  
The United Church  
Winchester

June 2023





## Tim's Letter: Passionate about being Pastoral

I recently attended the inaugural meetings of the 'Pastoral and Prayer' Enabling Group. We had a truly blessed time celebrating our caring community, and sharing our aspirations for how pastoral care and prayer in our church might develop. The main theme that emerged from our conversations was that, though some are content with the pastoral visiting model we have successfully practised for many years, others are keen to see us provide care in new and different ways according to the changed lives we now lead. So, the question that our new Pastoral and Prayer Enabling Group want to put to you is: how would you like us to care for you?

For some the answer to that question will be a continuation of what we currently do, and we're committed to making sure this continues. But as part of that, perhaps we should be making more of the wonderful ministry that Mary, Tom, Pat and Pamela deliver on our behalf through Extended Communion. Some people are happy not to have a 'named' Pastoral Visitor knowing that, as established church members, they can call on the support of church friendships in trying times. Others may value knowing that there are members of the pastoral team who are available to listen should a particularly difficult or sensitive issue arise. Caring for each other's mental health is also up high on our list of priorities.

In last month's letter I focused on the work of our house groups. Many of you have approached me to say how much you value the care you get by being part of them, so we must ensure that pastoral care and prayer continue to feature in house group's DNA alongside discipleship and fellowship. And is there a role for those who want to offer care but struggle with mobility? Could they help us to support more people through telephone befriending for example, and by praying for them? At one of my previous churches, they ran an effective telephone prayer chain. If deemed appropriate, it was a way of communicating pastoral needs quickly

to a group of people who would hold that person or situation in prayer. And finally let's not forget the importance of our wonderful ministry of flowers. How many people have received comfort and reassurance when a delivery of church flowers has appeared at the door unexpectedly, or a card of encouragement has popped through the letterbox.

You really are a fantastically caring bunch of people, so let's celebrate that and think creatively about how we can expand this vital ministry. We want to hear from you. We want you to tell us how you would like us to care for you. And we're going to provide ways of helping your voice be heard on this important topic in the coming months. So keep an eye out for when these opportunities appear, and get stuck in.

In Christ,

Tim

## Editorial

Last month will be remembered for the Coronation of King Charles III. Many will have found the opening words of the liturgy significant:

### **Young Person:**

Your Majesty, as children of the Kingdom of God we welcome you in the name of the King of Kings.

### **The King:**

In his name, and after his example, I come not to be served but to serve.

As Ian Bradley, Emeritus Professor of Cultural and Spiritual History at the University of St Andrews, wrote recently, 'Jesus never repudiates the idea of kingship but gives it a wholly new meaning of humble servanthood which has been the inspiration for Christian monarchy ever since.'

Others, despite not being natural royalists will have enjoyed the celebrations associated with the ceremony. Read how people of different nationalities were gripped by it at Meet and Greet on page 19.

Some will have been uncomfortable with what they see as the opulence and militaristic aspects of the day. Read Graham Rolfe's reflections from a non-conformist perspective on page 16.

Others, like Revd Graham Thompson, welcomed the ecumenical nature of the church service. Read the President of the Methodist Conference's thoughts on page 17.

One of the wonderful things about our church community is that we can hold contrasting opinions like these and are able to respect each other and 'disagree well'.

This month's front cover has a photo taken by Roger Brooks on Magdalen Down in June 2021. Below you can see the logo for Refugee Week . The sunlit flowers of Roger's image can be seen to show the beauty, goodness and hope of each of God's children despite the obstacles and danger represented by the barbed wire. Read about our Refugee Sunday service on page 21.

Amongst our other contributions this month: Val Hillier writes about the significance for her of a Judas Tree in her garden, Ralph and Carol Jessop visit Elizabeth Britton's farm, and we receive an invite to the church camp in July. Elena Popova tells us about Flamenco dancing in Mariupol and Seville and we read about Graham MacKenzie's upcoming cycle challenge. We hope you enjoy reading this edition. Many thanks to all our contributors.

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

## News of the United Church Family

We celebrate with Jean Forster will be 90 on 26 June.

We were delighted to welcome Saeid, Mahdi, Artin, Daniel and Hamed through baptism during Church services in May.



We remember all of those in the United Church family who now live in care or nursing homes and who very much remain part of our community.

Thomas Wood (Tony's son) has gained a Masters Science degree in Applied Criminology with Distinction – congratulations. Amazing achievement!

We continue to think of all of those who are in the midst of exams and wish them well.

**Jane Lawson,  
Pastoral Co-ordinator**

## Finding a Cure for Alzheimer's Disease

Jean Forster has drawn attention to the organisation *Re:cognition Health* and its search for further insights into Alzheimer's disease. This information includes an opportunity to become involved in a clinical trial. Jean heard of this through her support network following Jim's illness.

If you are interested visit <https://recognitionhealth.com/our-services/clinical-trials/>.

*The website link includes information and asks readers to 'Help find a cure for Alzheimer's disease by volunteering for our Alzheimer's clinical trial. Your participation will save lives and help our scientists develop new medications to prevent the progression of this debilitating disease.'*

## Margaret's Heavenly Garden

*A poem written by Tim James for the occasion of his Mum's  
(Margaret James') funeral, May 2023.*

There's a special garden where the flowers of memory grow  
Nurtured by the kindness and concern that mothers show

The roots are life's sure grounding which cling to mother earth  
The petals' tender arms which enfold us right from birth

The leaves are cherished memories of good times we have known  
Its aroma tender words which helped us as we've grown

In Spring the flowers bloom and grow with rainfall from above  
And death is passed to life anew where lives are joined in love

The garden's tender promise that souls endure and last  
Will fill our lives with hope and joy until our time is passed

It's a place of peace and beauty where bright new hopes can start  
It's Margaret's heavenly garden that soothes the hurting heart.

**Tim James**



## The Wiltshire Wander



*Graham Mackenzie's 3 day cycle challenge.*

*Approximately 200 miles in total.*

*26–28 June 2023*

*Winchester–Gt Bedwyn, Marlborough, Wooton Bassett,  
Malmesbury, Longleat, Gillingham, Salisbury–Winchester*

Over the years, I have cycled to raise money for different charities after Richard Coleman convinced me to join him on the London to Brighton cycle ride for the British Heart Foundation in 2007. The photo below was taken back then.





After a lapse of a few years, due to the COVID pandemic, the time is right to get on my bike again.

At the end of June, I plan to cycle from Winchester and join the Wiltshire Cycleway at Great Bedwyn and follow it anti-clockwise to Salisbury and then join National Cycle Route 24 through Alderbury and Lockerley back home. I'm currently working on how to edit a blog that all can see and follow our progress.

I will be joined by my cycling companion Andy, who will be raising funds for research into Parkinson's Disease. As such, we will be unsupported by anyone else and will take all we need with us. Every £ raised will go to the charities, as we will be self funding our expenses over the 3 days.

All donations will be split 50/50 between Motor Neurone Disease (charity # 294354) and Prostate Cancer UK (charity # 1005541). MNDA has been chosen to help fund their valuable work for this debilitating disease. Prostate Cancer UK in recognition of Graham's treatment for this condition in 2014 and continued good health.

My original plan was to cycle from Winchester to John O'Groats, but my then cycling companion developed bowel cancer and then COVID arrived.

Please give generously by going to the following website [www.givewheel.com/fundraising/968/wiltshire-wander/](http://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/968/wiltshire-wander/) or catch me in church when I will have a sponsorship form with me. My target is to raise £750 but it would be great to exceed that total.

Many thanks,  
Graham

## Elena Dances in Seville

Why did I go to Seville?

It was not a pleasure trip. I consider and call it a mission. A mission trip.

In Mariupol, I was a member of a flamenco group. Dance group 'Rosas Para Maria Flamenco'. I call us a legendary group! Firstly, we were all a little over 30. Secondly, we have a unique leader – the wonderful Natalia Goncharova. Thirdly, many who wanted to learn how to dance flamenco came and went, but only the most devoted, the most passionate, the most enthusiastic remained.



It took us almost a year to learn how to dance one single dance. It lasted 2 or 3 minutes, now you understand why we are legendary!

Rehearsals, rehearsals. This is already a feat. Break away from daily routine and family commitments and plunge into another reality. Everyone unanimously answered 'no' to my appeals to start performing on stage. One more year passed. And I no longer limited myself to calls but arranged a presentation of our group on local TV. Then we started to perform at different venues. We were invited to take part in the local competition, private events, the legendary Halabuda and finally a big performance at Theatre Square, this was the presentation of our group.



As Natalia brilliantly put it, we flew like a 'wounded bird' around the world after 24 February. But we remained devoted to flamenco and our common cause.

Wars can destroy the material, but they cannot destroy love and ideas, courage, and genius. This is beyond their power.

Natalia told us more than once about the flamenco festival in Seville – Seville Feria. And we all together dreamed about it.

And here my girlfriend-flamenco, Ludmila Diorditsa, and I are in Seville. To say that it was not easy is to say nothing. We didn't drive, we crawled, 'tearing our knees and souls to blood'. but love and commitment can overcome everything.

'Now Seville is your stage' is another genial phrase of Natalia.

We did it. We danced in the streets of Seville.

Having survived the horror of the besieged Mariupol, bombing, betrayal, hunger, cold, we are here in Seville. We brought the flag of our group to the homeland of flamenco.



The two of us, old and sick girls, came here for the sake of Natalia Goncharova and all our friends and participants of 'Rosas Para Maria Flamenco'. We are NEZLAMNI\*, like Mariupol, and all of Ukraine.

P.S. Tears are rolling down my cheeks.

\*Unbreakable

Elena Popova

## Springtime on the Farm

Among the several notices in 'Spotlight' in April was an invitation to a coffee morning at John and Elizabeth Britton's farm in Colemore. As regular viewers of Springtime on the Farm on Channel 5 we enjoy the updates from the presenters Helen Skelton and Jules Hudson. The farm, run by the brothers Rob and Dave Nicholson, is an animal farm and has become a major tourist attraction in South Yorkshire. The programmes have an overlap with the several Channel 5 vet programmes especially in the Spring when various animals, particularly sheep, have their young. It is situated in Cawthorne near Barnsley.

Elizabeth has led services at The United Church and we thought that there would be other Methodists from the Circuit attending the coffee morning so we went, having decided to skip a cathedral duty. We probably would not have found their location without SatNav and the drive was a bit like a cross country car rally with lots of mud and water. We parked the car and as we went towards the crowd already there we heard 'Look, there's Ralph and Carol,' which was so welcoming. It is such a long time since we met our friends from Chandler's Ford and Weeke and it is a pity that we don't have the regular gatherings of circuit members, presumably because the circuit is too big. We look back into the late 90s when we frequently gathered as a circuit socially and at joint services. We remember the musicals which were so successful and provided wide fellowship and they enabled us to share our many talents. They were really hard work but the results were amazing. We were all 30 years younger though.

The proceeds of the Colemore coffee morning went to the charity Get Kids Going. The charity inspires young people with disabilities to compete in sporting events such as marathons and wheel chair games. John had run in the London marathon and had the shoes to prove it. He is keeping them for another

marathon in four year's time when he will be 80.

The main farm attractions on this morning were the sheep and lambs – live Springtime on the Farm. Amazing views and pleasant country sunshine. A really good way to spend a Saturday morning. It's good to read 'Spotlight' in its entirety.

**Ralph and Carol Jessop**



## Looking Forward to Bible Month: A Revelation

Some of you may remember that every June Methodist Churches are invited to join in studying one book of the Bible in depth; this year the book chosen is Revelation, the final book of the Bible, the most challenging yet.

We have not forgotten about it, and we have not chickened out; along with some other churches in our circuit we have decided that July would be a more practical time to engage with it. Five preachers from the northern area of the circuit spent a day together participating in a national training day via Zoom. I went along feeling very apprehensive; like many people I had found Revelation a bewildering book. But the course was indeed a revelation.



I am a Londoner, and I describe a downpour as 'raining cats and dogs'. That makes perfect sense to me, but people learning English as a foreign language find it very strange. It's the same with the fantastical pictures in Revelation; they made perfect sense to the first century Christians in the Graeco-Roman world, though strange to us. With helpful explanations of what it meant to them, we discovered this is a book to challenge and encourage Christians feeling isolated in a troubled world.

So don't be put off by such an unusual topic. Look forward to an interesting and enlightening series of services and house group meetings in July!

**Pat Fry**

## Val and John Hillier's Judas Tree

This tree in our garden is covered in rosy, lilac-coloured flowers. It is known as the Judas Tree, named after Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus. The botanical name is 'Cercis siliquastrum' which I remember by thinking 'ask a silly question'.



It is from the Eastern Mediterranean region as described in the Hillier Manual. In the Revised English Bible with Apocrypha, Matthew chapter 27 verses 3-10 states that Judas was filled with remorse for betraying Christ to the priests for 30 pieces of silver and that he took the money back to the temple, but they didn't want to use

'blood money' for anything in the temple, so they used it to buy the 'Potter's Field' to make a burial place to bury foreigners (non-Jews) and it became known as Blood Acre!

I have always felt a bit sorry for Judas as he was pre-destined to be the disciple who betrayed Jesus – but he obviously cared more for money than for love!

**Val Hillier**

## Thoughts on the Coronation

One or two people have asked me if I enjoyed the Coronation. I replied that I did not watch it. My sister asked me to explain why this was. So here are a few thoughts.

My first point is that I did not watch the Queen's coronation in 1953, although we did possess a television set by then, so why break the habit now?

Secondly, I find anything connected to the military difficult. I think this may be partly due to the fact that after seeing my father in uniform early in the Second World War, he then disappeared for several years. Hence my need to avoid anything which involves a large presence of the uniformed services.

Thirdly, and importantly, I think this is connected to our nonconformist history. The Coronation service is of course an Anglican rite, and we in the Methodist Church and the URC are separate from the Church of England, so it is arguable that we find uncomfortable the fact that our monarch is from a different heritage.

The *Methodist Recorder* editorial pointed out the stark contrast between two news reports in that day's paper:

- Foodbanks in the Trussell Trust network have distributed three million food parcels in the past year.
- Many in Westminster Abbey were drawn from the more affluent strata of society: the sheer opulence of the event was undeniable.

As an interesting footnote: a letter in the *Church Times* from a church organist pointed out that 'the most watched church service this year had 48 pieces of music, and one sermon that lasted less than three minutes'.

**Graham Rolfe**



## Representing the Methodist Church at the Coronation

It was an amazing privilege to represent the Methodist Church at the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. The arrangements for the day were kept from public attention for as long as possible.

My invitation came about three weeks beforehand and the requirement to attend a full dress rehearsal about a week later. All of which meant that plans had to be changed and I am grateful to those (especially the Methodist Diaconal Order) who accommodated these.

The Faith Leaders who were invited to attend the Coronation were led into the Abbey just after 10 am and seated in the North Transept behind the pulpit. We couldn't see all that was happening but had the benefit of television screens that we could watch but we could hear everything. The music was incredible; chest pounding and moving.

The overall message – I have come not to be served but to serve – was clearly enunciated from the beginning of the service and reinforced throughout, including a reference by Prince William in his speech at the Coronation Concert the next day.

The call to service, to live for the benefit of others, is a call that we should all recognise. After all, we are disciples of the Servant King and discover how much we can receive as we give ourselves to meet the needs of others.

Hugely significant were the number of departures from the Coronation of seventy years ago. On Saturday, ecumenical partners took part (including Helen Cameron as Moderator of the Free Churches Group) as they invoked a corporate blessing

on the king. Leaders of other faith groups also took part as they brought some of the symbols to the throne. And, right at the end of the service, they met the newly crowned king at the door of the Abbey and declared, 'Your Majesty, as neighbours in faith, we acknowledge the value of public service. We unite with people of all faiths and beliefs in thanksgiving, and in service with you for the common good.'

We are all called by God to serve and to do so in partnership with others. This clear message ran through the whole occasion, whilst also assuring everyone who would listen that God's leading and a positive response to God's call is all that we need so that we might know life in all its fullness.

**Revd Graham Thompson,  
resident of the Methodist Conference**



## Coronation Day at Church

'Meet & Greet' volunteers gathered as usual on Coronation Day and prepared to welcome our guests. Alongside our usual offerings were Coronation crafts – card crowns to decorate, 'scratch off' rainbow magnets and a variety of royal themed stencils. And a TV to stream the day's events live, much to the delight of our first arrivals. Numbers attending were lower than in previous weeks but, apart from a dedicated few who attended their English class, those who came gathered in the hall enjoying refreshments of shortbread and Victoria Sponge alongside fruit and coffee and chatting as the Coronation Day programme unfolded. Those less interested in the pomp and ceremony happily played table tennis, board games or enjoyed the crafts on offer.



As the pivotal moment approached a call went out and everyone moved through to the hall and gazed at the screen to watch the crown being placed on the king's head – at which point a loud cheer went up.

There was a lovely, relaxed community atmosphere as people from many nations – guests and visitors, with United Church and SWVG volunteers – sat together to watch, and it will be my memory of that historic event.

**Jo Pellatt,  
Mission Coordinator**

## Churches Together in Winchester Update

We had a really interesting AGM on 4 May with many contributions about service and witness across the city. This coming year promises even more events and opportunities for sharing faith and serving the community. Some things to note:



Our Purpose:

Reflections shared by Howard Mellor, Chair of CTWin, at the AGM about our purpose:

- Reveal the unity we already have in Christ, a unity given by God. Paul in Ephesians indicates it is our responsibility to 'maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace'.
- Share together in our work and worship, which encourages and inspires us, cements friendship, enables shared understanding, deepens discipleship, broadens vision and creates a shared memory in our church communities and beyond.
- Offer the good news of salvation through Jesus' life, death and resurrection which we do in word and deed, in creative acts, direct speech and lives of grace.
- Serve the wider community through our care of people in the city and its surrounding neighbourhoods.
- Stand for justice as we support displaced people in need, campaign for climate justice focussing on the need to care for creation and speak truth to power when we can.

We do not seek to replicate what we can do separately, but in working together we can serve in a way which is greater than the sum of our parts. We see this in several ways – the supportive clergy prayer each week; the well-attended termly wider prayer meetings; the joy we have in serving as Street

Pastors, supporting refugees and asylum seekers, sharing in Green Week, the Christmas Market play and the Good Friday event.

A prayer meeting was held at St Paul's Winchester on 25 May – when we prayed about the coming year and the possibility of special events in the period Easter to Pentecost 2024 when we can intentionally share our faith.

Council dates for your diary: Wednesdays, 20 September 2023 and 21 February 2024. Both at 7.30pm. Venues to be confirmed.

**Howard Mellor**



The Churches Together in Winchester Support Group, including four of our members, has supported Syrian and Afghan refugees over the last few years.

More recently, as we read in *May Yours*, we have welcomed to our church refugees and asylum seekers from Ukraine, Iran and many other countries, on a Saturday morning for Meet and Greet, and for some to worship on Sunday mornings.

This year's Refugee Week has special significance. On 25 June Tim will lead a service with contributions from Chris Roles and other Meet and Greet volunteers. A service not to be missed—at church on 25 June or you can join later on our website.

## Church Camp 14–16 July 2023 Foxlease, Lyndhurst

Every year for the last 18 years (except 2020) a group of us from The United Church have headed off for a relaxing weekend camping and enjoying each other's company in the beautiful New Forest.

This year we are going again! And **all are welcome** to join us. Even if you are not a camper then join others who like to visit for the day and enjoy a walk and a picnic in the forest, and some who come along just for a bring and share BBQ.



We have a private camping field, basic facilities and shelter available for our use (Orchard Site this year, which overlooks the forest and has its own gate out onto the footpaths).

We self-cater, but usually have a takeaway on Friday night and a bring and share BBQ on Saturday night.

Friday – You can arrive anytime from 14.30, but most people arrive at around 18.00 after school and work.

Saturday – will likely be a forest walk and picnic, followed by a bring and share BBQ.

Sunday – a short time of worship then packing up by 11.30 (that's when we have to be out by), followed by a beach trip if the weather is good.

Cost for camping overnight is £10 per person per night. You can stay 1 or 2 nights or just visit for the day.

We have spare camping equipment available if you are keen but don't have the kit.

Please let me know if you would like to join in this year or would like more information.

**Melanie Grigorian**  
[Melanie@grigorian.co.uk](mailto:Melanie@grigorian.co.uk)

## Worship Day 8 October 2023



Are you worried you may have missed out on our away day in October? Don't worry. Now we know we have enough people interested and have paid our deposit we can invite as many of you as can come (up to 100) to sign up. Go to the Worship Day page on our website [ucw.org.uk/worship-day/](http://ucw.org.uk/worship-day/), or pick up a form in church and return to me.

**Bob Lord** [awayday@ucw.org.uk](mailto:awayday@ucw.org.uk)

## **‘No Borders to God’s Love’: Easter offering service**

This was the theme of this year’s Methodist Women in Britain Easter offering service , focussing on examples of offering sanctuary to refugees and asylum seekers.

We heard about four examples of Christian work supporting refugees:

- Revd Inderjit Bhogal’s work in establishing ‘Cities of Sanctuary’ for which he was awarded the World Council of Churches Peace Prize
- The work of Manchester City Mission in providing safe space and advocacy
- Mediterranean Hope in establishing ‘humanitarian corridors’ bringing asylum seekers safely to Italy
- Love Welcomes providing work experience, training and access to the employment market to refugee women in London.

We were introduced to a new hymn:

There are no strangers to God’s love,  
yet we have privatised God’s grace.  
Bounded by nationhood and lies  
in fear we shrouded love’s own face.  
Acknowledging our sin and greed,  
we come confessing common need.

These are our neighbours and our friends,  
the ones who run in fear from war,  
who dread abuse of power or state,  
or seek the means to be less poor;  
these are the ones we have denied,  
as in each one the Christ has cried.



When people seeking sanctuary  
come to this place and need our aid,  
then in Christ's name let's offer care,  
through this our debt of love is paid.  
God's grace is free, this grace receive,  
let actions show what we believe

Andrew Pratt, *StF*, 716

I was asked to read an ancient poem that was new to me, but resonates with our experience at The United Church:

'The Celtic Rune of Hospitality'

I saw a stranger today.  
I put food in the eating place  
and drink in the drinking place  
and music in the listening place.  
In the name of the Trinity  
he blessed myself and my family.  
And the lark said in her song:  
often, often, often  
goes Christ in the stranger's guise,  
often, often, often,  
goes Christ in the stranger's guise.

Pat Fry



Methodist Women  
in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

## News of the Wider Church

**Teenagers in the UK** are less likely than teens worldwide to believe Jesus was a miracle worker or that he was raised from the dead, according to an international study by Barna Group. Its UK edition of The Open Generation report is a first-of-its-kind international research study to understand teenagers' identity, values, and views in the United Kingdom. The report revealed that British teens have more positive than negative perceptions of Jesus but remain unsure about the role the Church should play in justice issues.

The Open Generation Global study includes responses from nearly 25,000 teens aged 13–17 across 26 countries – regardless of faith background. For the UK, the survey was conducted across 1,000 teens aged 13–17. Amongst its findings are that a quarter (24 per cent) of British teens say Jesus is trustworthy and generous, and almost half (43 per cent) believe Jesus was crucified. More than one in three teens in the UK (37 per cent) report some level of motivation to learn more about Christian scripture, and 54 per cent of British teens are justice-oriented; they care deeply about injustice but lack confidence and commitment to act.

Comments on the report conclude 'There seems to be a general openness to Jesus, and the Bible and the Gospel from non-Christian teens, particularly amongst teens of other faiths. The majority of teens from other faiths consider Jesus as a miracle worker, as a good person and a good teacher.

Full report can be found at [www.barna.com/the-open-generation/open-to-jesus/](http://www.barna.com/the-open-generation/open-to-jesus/)

**Churches destroyed in India** Evangelical, Baptist, Roman Catholic and Presbyterian churches are among more than 120 Christian places of worship which have been completely destroyed or burnt in a wave of violence across the north-

eastern state of Manipur which began on 3 May. It's believed the total number of churches destroyed may be much higher.

The violence broke out during a protest march. and has seen more than 36,000 people displaced from their homes, according to Manipur's Chief Minister, N Biren Singh. Education minister Thounaoj am Basanta Kumar is reported as saying that 68 people have died, but local Christian organisations in Manipur put the figures much higher. The worst violence took place in the state's capital Imphal, where mobs ran amok attacking homes and destroying about 90 churches from many denominations including Roman Catholic.

Thousands of Christian tribal people were opposing a demand by non-tribal groups for the constitutionally defined status of a scheduled tribe, which can bring with it access to jobs and education.

**Ukraine's President Zelensky** has had an audience with the Pope during his visit to Rome. Pope Francis gave the President a



bronze sculpture representing an olive branch – Zelensky gave the Pope a work of art crafted from a bullet-proof plate and a painting entitled 'Loss' reflecting the deaths of children in the conflict. During the meeting, they agreed on

the requirement to continue providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine and the Pope also highlighted the need for 'gestures of humanity' towards the most fragile victims of the conflict.

**The Archbishop of Jerusalem** is urging churches across the Anglican Communion and 'wider Christendom' to pray for an end to the violence in Gaza which has seen a recent escalation. In a statement released on the Diocese of Jerusalem's website, Most Revd Hosam Naoum said the world had reacted in horror at the violence which has erupted over the last few days. At least 31

Palestinians have been killed according to Gaza's health ministry since Israel carried out a series of air strikes recently. Another 147 people have been wounded. One Israeli civilian has been killed and five wounded by Palestinian rocket fire in the same period. It's the heaviest fighting since last August, when 49 Palestinians were killed in Gaza.

'The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem decries the indiscriminate use of force that has led to these tragedies and calls upon the opposing parties to de-escalate hostilities and swiftly adopt a ceasefire.'

**Church of England's financial response to Climate Change** The Church Commissioners, which manages the Church of England's £10bn endowment fund, will vote against all directors at the upcoming AGMs of Exxon, Occidental Petroleum, Shell, and Total, in response to their failure to meet climate change objectives.

'High energy prices produced huge profits at oil and gas companies last year – a golden opportunity to invest very significantly in the transition to a low carbon economy, and one that was comprehensively missed', said Olga Hancock, Acting Head of Responsible Investment at the Church Commissioners. 'So we will be supporting all the relevant climate resolutions, and voting against all of their directors.'

The Church of England says it has long been active in fighting climate change and is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of its investment portfolios to net zero, consistent with limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C.

## Monthly Munch Club at The Golden Lion

Next Meeting on **Sunday 11 June**

ALL WELCOME

Contact Rosemary MacMullen

01962 849078 or email [rosiemac@talktalk.net](mailto:rosiemac@talktalk.net)



## Comedy Corner



The deadline for July/August *Yours* is **Wednesday 14 June**. All contributions welcome. Send to [yours@ucw.org.uk](mailto:yours@ucw.org.uk).

\* Anna  
Chaplaincy  
for older people



# Vintage Fun

All welcome!



**IT'S SUMMER TIME**

**Monday 12th June**

**2 - 4 pm**

at the

**United Church**

Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RZ

**Vintage Fun** is a monthly afternoon of friendship  
over a cup of tea. Each afternoon will offer  
a variety of activities,





UNITED CHURCH  
WINCHESTER

## Services for June 2023

In-person and live-streamed

### 4 JUNE TRINITY SUNDAY

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

### 11 JUNE

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Chris Roles

### 18 JUNE

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

### 25 JUNE REFUGEE SUNDAY

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

HC: Holy Communion.

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

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