



Yours

Magazine of
The United Church
Winchester

October 2023



Tim's Letter: 'Liberation', 'Homecoming', and 'Sacrifice'

Inspired by the writings of Marcus Borg, a reading group attended by members of our church (plus Nick Langham from Wesley) approached the Worship and Learning Enabling Group to ask if we could have a series of services on the Old Testament. Intrigued, we tentatively agreed, and I was invited by the reading group to attend one of their meetings to find out more.

The book in question was Borg's acclaimed work *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. The group had been particularly challenged by his description of Christ's journey when compared to three significant narratives from the Hebrew Bible, namely, 1) The Exodus Story, 2) The Story of Exile and Return, and 3) The Priestly Story. Borg makes a sound argument for how these stories profoundly shaped Jesus' worldview, and therefore how we might come to know Jesus more deeply ourselves, and understand our own call to follow him.

So, we'd like to share some of this wisdom with you, and will do so on the last two Sundays of October, and November. The first three services will touch on the themes Borg connects to the stories: 'Liberation', 'Homecoming', and 'Sacrifice'. And the final service, inspired by Borg's approach, will be themed on 'Longing', and will reflect on the role of prophecy as a prelude to Advent. So get these dates in your diaries! We hope and pray that you will find these topics enriching and engaging, as they have been for us.

22 Oct, 'The Exodus Story' as *Liberation*, led by Margaret & Tim

29 Oct, 'Exile and Return' as *Homecoming*, led by Pat & Tom

19 Nov, 'The Priestly Story' as *Sacrifice*, led by Nick & Pat

26 Nov, 'The Prophets' Story' as *Longing*, led by Tim

In Christ, Tim

(on behalf of the Borg reading group, and the Worship and Learning Enabling Group)

Editorial

This month Jean Forster shares a heartwarming story of her recent visit to Canada, and Miranda Roles tell us about her involvement with Project Trust Volunteers following a family tradition.

We have news from Howard Mellor of Churches Together in Winchester activities over the coming months and Pat Fry helps us prepare for our Worship Day on 8 October.

Helen McTiffin, Lesley Worrall and Yvonne North encourage us to be involved in the Christmas Project and Shoeboxes for Link to Hope.

Our Comedy Corner has expanded thanks to readers' contributions! Enjoy their sense of humour!

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

This Month's Cover: 'Cheese Plant' by Pauline Brooks



The painting was made using liquid watercolours, with a masking template of cheese plant leaves, left in bright sun for about 20 minutes then the template removed. I like the slightly unpredictable effect of dropping paint onto wet paper, moving it around and the luminous quality of the resulting image.

The many different leaf forms in nature are quite a marvel.

Pauline Brooks

News of the United Church Family

We celebrated the baptism on 3 September of Franka, daughter of Tomasz and Malgorzata Zawidniak.



Congratulations to Maureen Heath on serving as a local preacher for over 60 years. Thank you! What a huge contribution.

Our best wishes to Michael Giffin who begins his study of Mechanical Engineering this term at the University of the West of England.

Best wishes to all who are moving on or up within the education system. Or even entering it for the first time.

Happy birthday to all those nonagenarians in our Church family who are celebrating birthdays around this time, including Jo Perrett, Dorothy Fendick and Alfred Witham.

It is so easy to miss out on hearing about something significant in the life of someone in the Church family. If you would like us to consider sharing something in this space in Yours, please do contact Jane Lawson at pastoral@ucw.org.uk

Jane Lawson, Pastoral Lead

Miranda Roles Volunteering in Ghana with Project Trust in 2024

In January 2024 I will start an international volunteering placement with Project Trust. I have just completed A-levels at Peter Symonds and before university am going to spend 8 months as a volunteer teacher in Ghana. I will be teaching in a school within the Volta Region. Ghana volunteers work in a range of different schools with different age groups from pre-school age to Junior High School. I can expect to teach English, basic science, ICT and maths classes.

Project Trust run long-term international volunteering placements with the aim to enable young people to develop their confidence, resilience, awareness and leadership skills through this experience. They run placements in Africa, Asia and Latin America and select placements which allow volunteers' skills to be put to good use, and make a real contribution to host communities without taking work away from local people. Project Trust run selection, training and debrief courses and support throughout the volunteering placement.



All Project Trust volunteers are asked to fundraise in preparation for the experience. My fundraising target is £6,250; it will help pay for the training, flights, insurance costs of all this year's volunteers. One of the things I am doing to help raise these funds is the Andover Half marathon on Sunday 29 October. Before August, I had no experience of running (beyond the hated school Cross Country), so this is definitely a new experience for me. I hope you will consider sponsoring me! I am 1 month into my running training plan and have been enjoying my new hobby even when it has at times been challenging. Running the Parkrun with Steve Lawson on a Saturday morning has been really motivating.

After reading this article if you would kindly like to donate please do so through my JustGiving page - www.justgiving.com/page/miranda-roles

and if you have any questions please feel free to email me at mroles880@gmail.com

PS My mum and my brother Sam were both Project Trust volunteers (in South Africa in 1981 and in Honduras in 2018).

Miranda Roles

Link to Hope Shoe Box Appeal

Once again, we are supporting this worthwhile project of sending shoe boxes to Eastern European countries, including the Ukraine.

Donation of goods and money are welcomed as well as filled shoe boxes. Leaflets are available in the church. Please can all filled shoe boxes be in by the end of October.

Our thanks to all those who have been busy making various articles throughout the year. Thank you also to everyone who helped or supported the summer deserts afternoon. £238 was given to Link to Hope – a great effort.

A team of about six or seven people are already in line for sorting and filling boxes during October, also for getting the boxes ready for dispatch in November.

If you have any queries, please contact either Yvonne North or Lesley Worrall.

Thanks, in anticipation.

Lesley and Yvonne



TV Review

The Sixth Commandment is the dramatisation of a true story. Ben Field seemed the ideal caring, faithful Christian, becoming a deputy churchwarden and would-be ordinand. He was the kind of eager, committed, bright young person whom we all long to welcome into our congregations – but in fact he was ruthlessly playing a long game to get his hands on the wealth of the vulnerable and elderly. While not shying away from problems that arise in churches, this drama portrays Christianity respectfully and seriously.



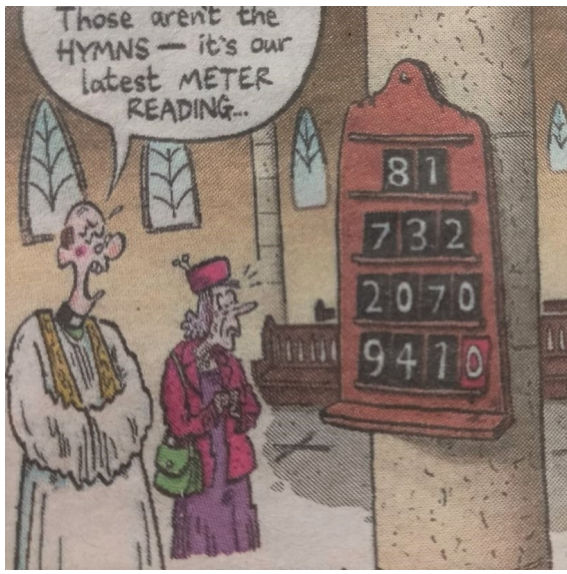
It is a fine a piece of television. Timothy Spall gives a wonderful, compelling portrait of a good man. Peter Farquhar – a beloved teacher, still guest-lecturing at a university after retiring is clever, funny, kind but tormented by what he sees as his terrible weakness. His faith is his bedrock, but he believes that church teachings mean he can never be reconciled to his homosexuality. Anne Reid gives a competent performance as a lonely elderly spinster.

The story is a study in the power of faith, loneliness, and the endless vulnerability of humanity – especially that of the good, innocent, and unworldly to anyone free of moral shackles. It does endorse suspicion of the best-seeming people, but it also encourages us to offer deeper commitment to the lonely and vulnerable. ‘It is ultimately a story about love,’ series writer Sarah Phelps says. ‘About wanting to be loved and the

representations of love – there is this false, fraudulent representation, and then the real, deep, driving love of the families.'

The Sixth Commandment *can be viewed on BBC iPlayer*

Dorothy Lusmore



Last month's cover



Unfortunately, we have been unable to confirm the origins of the vase pictured on the cover of September Yours. However, we think that it may have been given about 25 years ago by the family of a former member of the congregation. (Ed.)

World Council of Churches



This year is the 75th anniversary of the formation of the World Council of Churches. The WCC held its first assembly in Amsterdam in 1948. There were 351 delegates representing 145 Churches; only 81 of those were lay men or women. Reformed, Lutheran, Methodist and Anglican Churches were well represented, but the Roman

Catholic Church was wary of ecumenical gatherings.

The celebrations of the anniversary were held in Karlsruhe. There are now 352 member Churches with more to come soon, including Pentecostals. The Roman Catholic Church, though not a full member of the Council, is now more energetically involved in its work than many who are official members.

The initial hopes for greater unity between Churches have not been realised, but there have been considerable achievements, including programmes to address or combat racism, calls to be in solidarity with women, an accompaniment programme in Israel/Palestine, and pilgrim visits to Churches and places that bear wounds.

The message from His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew to the WCC in its 75th year was:

'We all may have different perceptions about what, where, and how the Church is constituted, but there can be no doubt about the sign of a true disciple. Only love for each other, and our love for an unloved world manifests our worthiness to bear the name "Christian".'

Graham Rolfe

(with acknowledgment to Susan Durber in *Reform*: Susan is a URC minister and is the WCC President from Europe)

Some Thoughts about Our Worship Day at Park Place

I am writing this after a second pre-visit to Park Place to prepare for our Awayday on 8 October. Two things stood out for me in that visit:

Firstly the walls of the corridor leading to their beautiful chapel are adorned with words from the Canticum of St Francis (see page 12), and that set the atmosphere of the whole place; a sense of wonder at the presence of God in the natural world, and the need to respond to that reflecting God's love to people in the needy everyday world .

Secondly words from a modern hymn we sometimes sing kept coming into my mind: 'to make the whole of life our worship, far beyond the Sunday call'.

In the morning we will have input about our calling, and then about our practical response to the climate crisis.

From 10 am onwards, the garden (with plenty of seats), the chapel, and a quiet prayer room upstairs will be available to anyone who wants to spend time quietly resting in God's presence, or to join with others to pray in a small group.

After lunch there will be opportunities to join in something creative, or some fun games, or to explore the meditation trail, weather permitting. We will add some prayer stations for the afternoon. The trail is not challenging, you could stroll through it easily in ten minutes, or take as long as you want (no seats) but it may be muddy so please bring a change of footwear. If it's raining, we will use the area around the chapel instead. A local walk with map will also be available,

Whatever you choose to do, we plan to all come together for the final communion service. It will have been a long day, but we hope and pray, a rewarding one.

Pat Fry

The Canticle of the Sun by St Francis of Assisi

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
all praise is yours, all glory, honour and blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong;
no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.
We praise you, Lord, for all your creatures,
especially for Brother Sun,
who is the day through whom you give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
of you Most High, he bears your likeness.

We praise you, Lord, for Sister Moon and the stars,
in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.
We praise you, Lord, for Brothers Wind and Air,
fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which you cherish all that you have made.

We praise you, Lord, for Sister Water,
so useful, humble, precious and pure.

We praise you, Lord, for Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night.
He is beautiful, playful, robust, and strong.

We praise you, Lord, for Sister Earth,
who sustains us
with her fruits, coloured flowers, and herbs.

We praise and bless you, Lord, and give you thanks,
and serve you in all humility.

Extract from Canticle of the Sun, by St Francis of Assisi

St Francis of Assisi's feast day is on 4 October

The Board of Trustees, CEO Michèle Price and the Staff of
The Winchester Beacon invite you to attend our

Supporters' Evening

Thursday 21st September, 7pm
(doors open at 6.30pm)

at The Arc,
Jewry Street, Winchester

Updates and plans from our
CEO, residents' stories and the
opportunity to discover more
about our vital work

*With Guest
Speaker*



Rick Henderson

Rick is the CEO of Homeless Link the national membership body for the homelessness sector in England with over 850 members. He is a member of the government's Rough Sleeping Advisory Panel and the Mayor of London's Life Off The Streets Executive Group.

The event is open to all, you do not need to be a current supporter of our charity. It is an opportunity to discover what is being done to support people experiencing homelessness in the city.

**It is free to attend but please reserve your place via our website
www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk**

Taking the Initiative

The following was written by our own Adrian Bulley, who is URC Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship). It forms part of a week of Daily Devotions on Discipleship sent out to subscribers by email in September. (See [URC website](#))

St Mark 1:16–20

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Reflection

The first followers of Jesus weren't the only disciples around at that time. It wasn't a new concept. All the great Jewish rabbis had their disciples, but there was an important difference.

If you wanted to be a disciple of a rabbi, you had to take the initiative yourself. It was rather like applying for a place on a university course today. Unless you're an extraordinary student, the faculties don't come running to you asking you to join their course; it's up to you to go to them and apply.

But it was different with Jesus: in each of the accounts we have in the Gospels, Jesus took the initiative.

God does not call us to 'go' but to follow.

So, discipleship begins with following, but it is at heart about learning. The Latin root of the word is 'discipulus' which is 'a student or learner'. Disciples were those who gathered around a rabbi or teacher in order to learn from them.

But for what purpose all this learning and following? They followed in order to learn, to grow, to develop.

In the person of Jesus – God with us and amongst us, involved in our lives – we're given an example, and his disciples are called to follow that example; to share his concerns and priorities.

The disciples of Jesus followed to where he was – amongst the hungry ... thirsty ... strangers ... naked ... sick ... and so forth. (Matthew 25:35–6) – and in doing so learnt that even the most impoverished are valued and worthy and loved.

If that's what being a disciple is, local churches shouldn't just be purveyors of religious services; they should be communities where disciples get shaped and supported and sent out to where the poor, the sick and the 'other' are.

Prayer

O let me see your foot-marks,
and in them plant my own;
my hope to follow truly
is in your strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-74)

A Long Weekend in Toronto, Canada

My oldest grandson, Oliver, and his Canadian wife Em met ten years ago and have been married for about five. The legal event was held in a Registry Office with his younger brother the only family member present. Oliver said: 'If I ever get really married, Grandma, you will be invited'. My secret thought was: 'but you are really married'.

As planned, they went to live in Em's home town of Toronto last year, got engaged and bought a dog, Isla. They both had jobs there and planned a wedding celebration for 19 August this year. I wasn't going to go because of distance and cost. The insurance alone was astronomically expensive.

Then I stopped driving. My beloved car was sold, so there was money. I booked to fly with a friend, staying for four nights in a hotel.

1. Flight
2. Day to recover
3. Celebration
4. Day to recover
5. Flight home

Maybe my body would not notice such a quick event?

It did, but it was worth it. The couple exchanged vows, which they made up individually together and they tied the knot—a Scottish custom.

- Each lines up a forearm hand to elbow.
- Two cords are wrapped loosely round them together.
- Ends are pulled and a knot is left behind in the centre.

How, I didn't know, but it is certainly a relief when it 'works'.

Rings are exchanged, speeches made, food and drink consumed, dances danced, laughter, conversation, hugs, kisses, smiles, laughter and maybe a few tears.

My contribution was to read '[Let love be real](#)' by Michael Forster (no relation). It is in our hymn book and I recommend it as, at very least, 'a good read'. It can be sung to Londonderry Air.

Jean Forster

Wedding photos have not arrived yet. We hope to publish one in a future edition (Ed.)

Winchester Churches Christmas Project 2023

This year, **Winchester Churches Christmas Project** reaches a remarkable milestone – 30 years of helping Winchester people at Christmas. This help is different. This is no 'one size fits all' offer – it is 'tailor made' in each case. Families can choose what would help them most. This might be exciting stuff, like Christmas food and presents or a special treat. However, it could be something much more prosaic such as the payment of a worrying bill or a top up of the gas or electricity. We demonstrate our Christian faith and witness in our help and care for those we visit.

Last Christmas we were pleased to have been able to help 34 families (53 adults and 57 children) plus 2 single people – a total of 112 people.

Some feedback –

'She [Mum] was very grateful for the support and couldn't quite believe that something was being done for her.'

'We would like to say THANK YOU to everyone involved in giving

our family such an amazing gift. We are incredibly grateful and absolutely touched by the generosity.'

'She [another mother] was enormously grateful and couldn't quite believe this was happening to her!'

'It was especially heartening to know that our mum was able to choose exactly how she spent her Christmas gift money – all within the stipulated guidelines... Without the valuable work of the Christmas Project, this mum said, "none of this would have been possible"!'

Our 60 volunteers from 14 different Winchester churches were (as always) brilliant. Thank you all!

As usual, we will be contacting volunteers from previous years directly to ask if they are able to help again this year. However, we are always in need of new volunteers (who would be paired with someone experienced). For more information, please contact me. We do need to know volunteer numbers by **5 November**, please.

We know that this year life is likely to be even more challenging so we would be very grateful for donations. If you would like to give by bank transfer, our bank account is **'Winchester Churches Christmas Project'**. **Sort code: 30-98-97. Account number: 80782363**. For those who wish to give by cheque or cash, there will be donation envelopes and boxes available in church from mid-October. Please make cheques payable to 'Winchester Churches Christmas Project'. Individuals who would like to Gift Aid their donation should use the special envelope, or provide their name and address and specify that it is to be Gift Aided, please

Thank you to everyone for your prayerful and practical support.

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



Hope 23–24 A Year of United Mission

Churches Together in England launched HOPE 23/24 at Lambeth Palace in May this year with the backing of many church and mission leaders.

This is a broad outline of a suggested proposal for how the churches in Winchester could work together under the (national) banner of Hope Together 2024, with a specific focus between Easter & Pentecost. Churches have been urged to join the commitment to focus on a year of mission and evangelism from September 2023 to the summer of 2024.

Using this proposal, we in Winchester have an opportunity to consider how we might be involved and co-create a series of events together during this season of evangelism. Early national themes emerging include:

Pray for friends and family who don't yet know Jesus, and for our streets and communities.

Talk and listen – create space for deep conversations with our friends, family, neighbours and colleagues – talking faith and Jesus.

Unite to run mission events – where we present the good news of Jesus.

Share resources, they are developing a group of helpful material.

Serve our communities where there is need.

Give our time, ideas, energies and money to make things happen.

Utilise the power of Google to help seekers find us and find Jesus.

It's a big vision – uniting as a church across denominations and organisations to offer the hope of Jesus to our nation for a year of mission starting September 2023.

In response to this, this summer there have been two meetings of the CTiW Steering Group Plus to consider options and propose the following:

Shared Aim:

As churches in Winchester, we are keen to work together to offer again the Hope of Jesus Christ to everyone, under the banner of Hope 23–24.

Hope's stated goal: 'to bring churches together reaching out in refreshed, renewed mission and evangelism in towns, villages and cities; all of us coming together under the umbrella of the word Hope – our prayer is everyone, everywhere knowing Jesus.'

https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/380744/Hope_23_24.aspx

How will we do this?

- Encourage, inspire and resource local churches to plan 'intentional evangelism' in the period January to June 2024. Clearly these will be events which are appropriate to the life, ministry and culture of the local church.
- Nigel Hemming will co-ordinate a group this autumn to explore the ways in which local churches can engage in appropriate evangelism. Churches will be invited to indicate people keen to be involved.

- By collaborating on proposed events between Easter & Pentecost 24.
- Good Friday on the Cathedral Green building (tbc).
- Pentecost evening service 19 May at the Cathedral (tbc).
- Possibly that day an outdoor display of the work of the church through various aspects of our shared work. This will have traction if we engage in the next point.
- The church is a 'sleeping giant' but engaged in all kinds of work in the city. We will commission and undertake a calculation of all the church inspired support which happens in the city week by week. This information will then be shared with city leaders. Simon Cansdale and Bob Lord will lead on this.
- We could also take some 'vox pops' from leaders in the city about what they would hope for in 2024 and beyond. Marcus Dickinson is exploring options.

All this assumes a commitment for individual churches to pursue outreach & discipleship programmes in local churches during this period in 2024 (under the banner of 'Hope 24').

- By offering vision building & training in order to invest in & develop an outward focused culture of our churches.

Suggested Timeline/Dates:

Wed 20 September – CTiW Council to make discussions/decide about this plan for Hope 24.

Tues 17 Oct 23: CTiW City-wide Prayer Meeting at the Vineyard.

w/b 20 Nov or 27Nov: Vision & Equipping Evening – invite Rachel Jordan Wolf to speak – if possible.

Season of Preparation – Autumn 2023

Drawing on the recent *Talking Jesus* research, Dr Rachel Jordan Wolf Executive Director of HOPE Together, has identified a key question that people were asking as a result of the pandemic and political turmoil: 'Is everything going to be all right?' In the video Rachel reminds us that we know we have the hope of Christ in times of uncertainty.

Christchurch have made four short videos based on the 'Talking Jesus' research and we will make that available to all CTiW churches immediately after the Council. They could be used in early autumn over four weeks.

What can we do together?

- ◆ Gather information about our shared work (i.e. research on how many hours service are offered to our community by church and related organisations).
- ◆ Seek out Vox pops and quotes about hope (What are you hoping for?), we will need questionnaire – Marcus researching.

What things can we suggest/encourage local churches to undertake in the period January to Pentecost 2024?

- To suggest each church prepares at least one event which they run as part of their ministry which has the intentional aspect of calling people to faith in Jesus.

- It is hoped to gather a group of people to share ideas for churches to consider.
- Encourage specific outreach for Easter Sunday weekend.

Season of Enabling

- Practical equipping/resourcing/inspiring in evangelism. Nigel is to gather people from local churches using local people as enablers/mentors. More details will be shared asap if the Council approves the direction of travel.
- Prayer meeting: The autumn prayer meeting has greater importance – Tuesday 17 October, 7.30 pm at the Vineyard – free parking!
- Ensure we dovetail with ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ – 9–19 May.

Hope 24

- Friday 29 March: Good Friday. We build on the successful event of this year but start later, open by 10.30 and advertise 11 am through to 2 pm at least.
- Sun 19 May: Pentecost Service to celebrate, pray & give thanks. A special evening service – with blended worship which builds on the work of the churches.
- Budget – we will need one! Need to request ‘commitments’ from churches this autumn to be available in the first quarter of 2024.

Howard Mellor

News of the Wider Church



Netflix US has acquired the streaming rights of the first season of the popular faith series *The Chosen*. Created by Dallas Jenkins, the series aims to re-imagine the life of Jesus Christ, with Jonathan Roumie playing the Son of God.

Originally, *The Chosen* was available on a dedicated website and app by VidAngel. It built its brand using an innovative financial model, using online crowdfunding, with makers encouraging viewers to 'pay it forward' and allow another user to watch an episode for free. In 2017, the series became the top crowdfunded media project in history, raising over \$11 million from more than 16,000 investors who wanted to see Season One made. The episodes grew in popularity, and expanded to various streaming services, including Prime Video.

Greenbelt at Fifty. Greenbelt is an art, faith and justice festival with a Christian basis, offering a warm welcome, regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion or background. Both United Reformed Church and



the Methodist Church have an active presence. Climate justice is an important focus and over the last few years they have got rid of almost all single plastic use (cable ties are still being researched) and managed to halve the festival fuel consumption. Greenbelt is known in the festival world as the one venue left clean and free from waste on departure. For a taster watch [Songs of Praise](#) from 17 September.

Hundreds joined Christian pilgrimages across the UK with the aim of highlighting concern about climate change. The pilgrimages were designed around places of significance to the climate and ecological crisis to highlight the widespread public

concern regarding the climate crisis and to call upon the government to pass policies in line with no new oil and gas expansion. They took place in Brighton, Bristol, Durham, Epsom, Glasgow, Newbury, Merseyside, Oxford, York, and four in London. In London, one group reached the place where the 'Mayflower' left for America and spent some time reflecting on the plight of refugees and migrants.



The biblical site where Jesus healed a blind man has been unearthed in a new excavation led by the Israel Antiquities Authority, Israel National Parks Authority, and the City of David Foundation.

A small section of the Pool of Siloam, where, according to John 9, Jesus restored sight to a man born blind, has been open to the public for several years. However, a new project aims to fully excavate the site, and recent progress has revealed approximately eight steps leading into the Pool, unseen for 2,000 years. The Pool of Siloam was originally constructed approximately 2,700 years ago during King Hezekiah's reign in the eighth century BC as part of Jerusalem's water system – see 2 Kings 20:20. Over time, the pool underwent multiple construction phases, eventually reaching a size of about 1.25 acres, according to historical estimates.

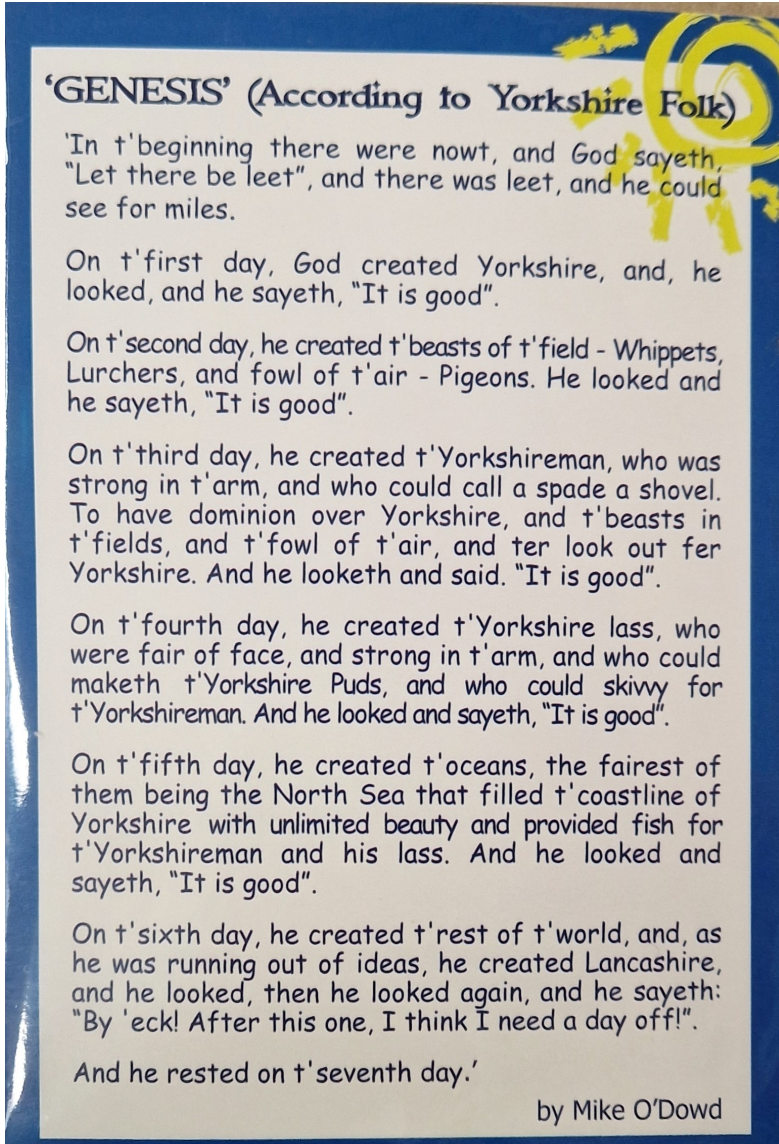
'The half-mile running through the City of David, from the Pool of Siloam in the south, continuing along the Pilgrimage Road, up to the footsteps of the Western Wall, Southern Steps and Temple Mount, represents the most significant half-mile on the planet,' said Ze'ev Orenstein, director of International Affairs – City of David Foundation.

Dorothy Lusmore

Comedy Collection

While on holiday in Yorkshire this August, I spotted this card and couldn't help smiling! I hope it makes you smile too.

Hilary Holt



This 'ere English; is it spelt like wot it is spoke, or is it spoke like wot it is spelt!

Some humorous musings over our glorious, funny but idiosyncratic language.

The incident in the morning service on 27 August where the verse of one hymn projected on the screen contained incorrect words that sounded like the ones that should have been there, reduced some members of the congregation to fits of giggles and reminded me of my experiences and collections of items illustrating our glorious, but idiosyncratic language.

A while ago, in conversation I mentioned the county town of Shropshire and pronounced the first part of the word containing the diphthong 'ew' as in 'go or 'low' [S.A.E. to the Editor for a postal tutorial on the location of Shropshire and its county town]. I was immediately upbraided and in no uncertain terms informed that I should have pronounced it 'oo' as in 'fool – the little animal shrew is thus pronounced, so should the first part of Shropshire's County town! Thus chastened I retired hurt from the conversation to ponder over this 'advice'.

On reflection I realised that of all languages, English is one, if not the one where you just cannot say if 'This' is pronounced 'That', then 'T'Other' must also be pronounced 'That'. In my chastening, the fact that the diphthong 'ew' has three pronunciations not one, was completely overlooked by both parties! Consider:

We **brew** our ales, and **crew** our ships.
Then we **drew** a line to count our **ewes**
And found them **few** in number.
So, we **grew** some trees to **hew** some logs,
Then donned our **jewels** to go to **Kew** Gardens

Where we saw a **lewd** man, reading the **news** in the **Mews**.

Next, we sat on some **pews** while we **sewed** on our buttons

As we admired the **view** along **Yew** Tree avenue.

Sharing these thoughts with a retired schoolteacher, she offered two further examples of how our gloriously idiosyncratic language cannot be taken for granted in both its spelling and its pronunciation; here they are:

I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and dough.
Others may stumble but not you
On hiccough, thorough, laugh and through.
Well done! And now you wish perhaps
To know of less familiar traps.
Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead, it's said like bed, not bead,
For goodness sake don't call it deed!
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt)
A moth is not a moth in mother
Nor both in bother, broth in brother,
And here is not a match for there
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,
And then there's rose and close and lose –
Just look them up – and goose and choose
And cork and work and card and ward
And font and front and word and sword
And do and go and thwart and cart.
Come, come, I've hardly made a start.
A dreadful language? Man alive!
I'd mastered it when I was five.

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox is oxen, not 'oxes'.
Then one fowl is a goose, and two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be 'meese'.
You may find a lone mouse or a whole set of mice,
But the plural of house is houses, not 'hice'.
If the plural of man is always called men
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of a foot and you show me your feet,
And I sell you a boot, would a pair be called 'beet'?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called 'beeth'?
Then one may be that, and three may be those,
But hat in the plural would never be hose
And the plural of cat is cats and not 'cose'.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren
But though we say mother we never say 'methren'.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine 'she', 'shis' and 'shim'!
So, English I fancy you will all agree
Is the funniest language you ever did see.

And finally, returning to 27 August, we have the internet and all the good & bad it has brought with it, including a tool to help us with our English spelling problems! H'mm, if you think that then consider the following poem:

Eye halve a spelling chequer,
It came with my pea see;
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a quay and type a word
And weight four it two say,

Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid,
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite,
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Aye have run this poem threw it,
I am shore your pleased too no
Its let her perfect awl the weigh;
My chequer tolled me sew!

It must have been the Pea See with its spelling chequer that was used to prepare the hymns for 27 August last.

David Worrall

Monthly Munch Club at The Golden Lion

Next Meeting on **Sunday 15 October**

ALL WELCOME

Contact Rosemary MacMullen

01962 849078 or email rosiemac@talktalk.net



The deadline for *November Yours* is **Monday 16 October**. All contributions welcome. Send to yours@ucw.org.uk.



Vintage Fun

All welcome!



AUTUMN

Monday 9th October

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 tea and cake





Services for October 2023

In-person and live-streamed

1 OCTOBER GREEN WEEK SERVICE

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

8 OCTOBER WORSHIP DAY AT PARK PLACE

3.30 pm **Afternoon Worship (HC)** Revd Tim Searle and Revd
Howard Sharp

15 OCTOBER FRESHERS WEEK SERVICE

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

22 OCTOBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle/Margaret
Axford

29 OCTOBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Pat Fry/Tom Belshaw
HC: Holy Communion

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

YouTube: tinyurl.com/ucw-services