



Yours

Magazine of
The United Church
Winchester

March 2024



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Tim's Letter: 'Who Does What'

At times I'm asked 'who' is the right person to speak to about x, y or z. Back when Naomi Honey worked in our church office, she helped us produce our Fellowship List which included a useful section on roles to aid us in answering this. I'd love to be able to say when we might produce our next Fellowship List (or equivalent) but given how maxed out our Leadership Team and trustees are in all manner of very necessary work on our behalf, this isn't something we can prioritise at present. Furthermore, given the shake up we've had in the last year to shift responsibilities away from the overburdened few and share what we do more equally, I'm slightly reluctant to provide a list of individuals who could so easily be drawn back into that way of thinking and working. That said, I realise you need a clearer steer of 'who does what'. Therefore, below is a list of Enabling Group leaders, officers, trustees, and Leadership Team members who might be your first port of call in answering certain queries. However, it comes with strings attached:

1. The role of an Enabling Group leader is singular: to facilitate their group. This entails ensuring that the group meets, helping the EG form a summary of their remit and purpose, and ensuring decisions are recorded and followed up. **AND NOTHING MORE!** They are **NOT** co-ordinators (as was) who do all the work (... or at least they're not supposed to be). The work of each EG is the responsibility of the whole EG. So yes, do please contact the EG leaders, but understand that this doesn't make that individual automatically responsible for addressing the query or issue you've raised.
2. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Trustees and the Leadership Team (as delegated by the Church Meeting) to make sure that what needs to happen does happen. If you think something has fallen through the cracks that shouldn't have done, then I, both as chair of trustees and chair of the Church Meeting

am the right person for you to approach. I will take your query forward and raise it with the appropriate people.

3. Finally, there will be gaps – and this is something we just have to learn to live with. Part of having a paid Naomi-type role in our organisation was about giving access to a ‘support person’ who could assist with a range of jobs or point us in the right direction (me included!) Patricia, Kate, or I will always help where we can (and where it is appropriate for us to do so) but it is not part of our roles to provide that general support which Naomi so often, and so ably, fulfilled. And neither should Steve, who has graciously covered much of the Admin Co-ordinator/Church Secretary brief since it was vacated in 2020. Like I said, there will be gaps.

So please do reach out for help and guidance. But also, be prepared to be the answer to your own queries if the ‘who’ isn’t obvious, or to accept that some things won’t be done if they aren’t absolutely essential. It’s not because we don’t want to, but because we have to prioritise the ‘musts’ over the ‘shoulds’ and ‘coulds’. You are all very understanding people and realise this, and I’m sorry if I’m stating the obvious or teaching you to suck eggs. I know you appreciate the trade-offs we’re having to live with so please don’t think I’m being bolshy or truculent (always wanted to use that word in an article). I just want to be as clear as possible in setting reasonable expectations when it comes to ‘who does what’.

Yours, in Christ, Tim

The Trustees (those ultimately responsible for governance of the church as a charity)

Tim Searle (Chair)

Steve Barber (Secretary)

John Lander (Treasurer)

Adrian Bulley
Janet Messer
Martin Ramsey
Jo Pellatt

The Leadership Team (our day-to-day leaders who work on behalf of the Church Meeting)

Steve Barber
Pat Fry
John Lander
Jane Lawson
Martin Ramsey
Jo Pellatt
Tim Searle

Officers (people with specific roles relating to the governance of the church)

Steve Barber (Payments & Expenses)
Christine Cook (Safeguarding – Deputy Co-ordinator)
Tim James (Safeguarding Co-ordinator)
Janet Messer (Finance)
Patrica Mitchell (Facilities Manager: bookings, property maintenance, cleaning, and fire safety issues)
Martin Ramsey (Data Protection)
David Worrall (Gift Aid, Donations & Deposits)
Enabling Groups Leaders (those who lead teams of people responsible for areas of church life)
Pauline Brooks (Coffee Bar Committee)
Jane Lawson (Pastoral & Prayer, which also includes our flower ministry, led by Lesley Worrall)
Pat Fry (Worship & Learning, which includes House Group leaders/ reps)
John Lander and Janet Messer (Finance)
Bob Lord (Communications, which includes *Yours*, Spotlight, publicity, website, social media and ChurchSuite)

Tim Searle (Technology, which includes Internet, Wi-Fi, Audio Visual and IT systems)

NB: This is by no means an exhaustive list of who does what. Lots of people aren't listed above who do many vital tasks for us, both in public and behind the scenes. I've prioritised those people who are most likely to be able to help answer questions or direct you to the appropriate person. TS

Editorial

A new question for the second Vision lunch (see pages 24–25) was 'What is distinctive about the United Church, Winchester?'

One person commented: 'We do have "younger people", we're just not all in the same place at the same time.'

The young people in our church community meet together outside the building as well as worshipping inside, and, as you will see from Amy Crocker's thoughts on pages 8–9, they have much insight and wisdom to share with us.

We have a treat over the next four issues as we are inspired by four cover paintings by Amy. This month's is 'Fear Not'. Take time to reflect on the three helpful questions she asks us on page 9.

Another challenge this month is to write your own words of gratitude inspired by Martyn Joseph on pages 14–15.

Rosie MacMullen is back on her travels and we are encouraged to ponder and pray in response to stories from Gaza.

Many thanks to all our contributors.

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

News of the United Church Family

Friends will be sad to hear that Penelope Wood died on 9 February. Her health deteriorated in January and then, following a spell in hospital she was able to return to her room at The Hawthorns care home in Sholing, where she spent her final days in familiar surroundings. Penelope



and her mother and father were members, regular attenders, and contributors to the life of this Church for many years. Her father Ralph died in 2006. We hold Penelope's cousins, Sally and Andrew, in our prayers as they plan for her funeral.

Helena Wood (Tony's daughter) announced her engagement to Bradley Downton on Christmas Eve. They are setting up their home in Amesbury. We celebrate with them.

The marriage between Anna Clifford & Tom Mariani will take place in Islington, London, on Saturday 2 March. We wish them well in their future together and our best wishes go to Tim, Sue, and all the family as they celebrate.

Joan Charrett celebrated her 90th birthday on 13 January. Congratulations Joan!

Jane Lawson
Pastoral lead

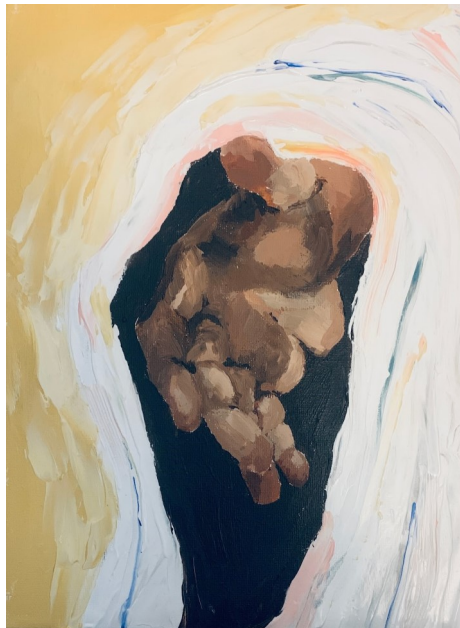
Please contact Jane Lawson should you have some news that you would like to be included in Yours

'Fear Not'

'For I the Lord your God will hold your hand, saying to you, Fear not: I will help you.' Isaiah 41:13

This painting is the first of a series of four paintings, the next 3 will be in subsequent *Yours* magazines. I have wanted to do more artwork for *Yours* for a while, and as I listened to the most recent Church lunch conversation, inspiration hit, and I scribbled down a plan on a spare piece of paper. I have just recently handed in course work for A level Art and as a very visual person, art has always been a way for me to interact, interpret and discuss my thoughts and I believe has an incredibly powerful impact on those who view it, whatever that impact may be. With this A level background, part of me wants to start analysing these four paintings, but I won't do that – I want to leave them open to however people want to receive them.

I have entitled this piece 'Fear not'.



I have focused on the imagery of the hands of God which has always been a helpful visual guide for me. Some of you might remember a piece I did for Easter 2021, visualising the phrase 'My life I gave'. It's interesting to reflect on why I have returned to the same symbolism. Primarily, I think this is because of the sense of comfort you feel when you see someone reaching out a hand to you. This is a very personal connection, whether from a stranger or a loved one. The same applies to the way we can view Jesus' love: individual to each of us and seen in different ways, an acceptance of who we are as people.

I am currently in my final year of A level – it seems I have about 3 tests a week. Giving myself time making distinctly different art is a way of giving myself time to regenerate, rest and refresh. Part of this I think is trusting the path that I'm on, which is why a steady, confident hand speaks to me.

Tim has lead thought provoking conversations over the last weeks about the future of the church, which have been really interesting. What struck me the most in the process is the variety of people we have in our community and the things people have expressed as enjoying, setting up, needing improvement, exploring the building, groups that run, etc. Collectively, the skills and knowledge alone are inspiring. This, I believe is where it's important to acknowledge the steadying hand that we are providing to the community, and to each other as we go through this process. No one of us would be able to do all the things that we will be capable of as a whole: trust is essential in each other and in God.

So without saying too much more for the moment, I want to leave you with the questions: what does this image mean to you? What do you need the stability of God's hand for right now? How can you provide a steadying hand for those around you?

Amy Crocker

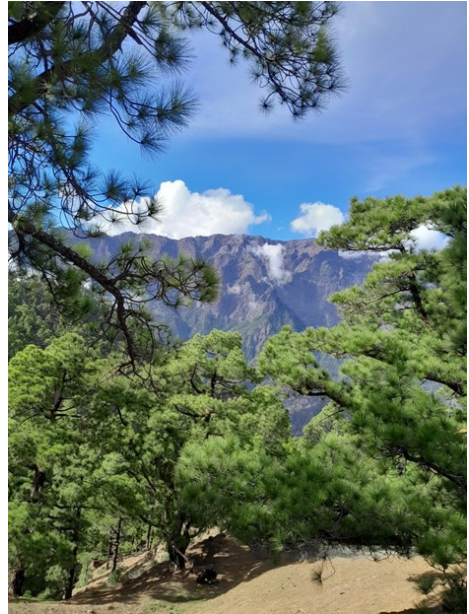
Rosie's Winter Cruise to the Canaries 2024

Caldera De Taburiente

'Volcanic landscapes and verdant green slopes of one of the biggest craters in the world' sounded exciting so I signed up for a tour of Caldera de Taburiente National Park.

As the coach climbed slowly up and up the winding roads, I found the density of the dark forest oppressive and was relieved to reach our viewpoint Mirador de la Cumbrecita. At 1,310 meters above sea level the air was pure and clean.

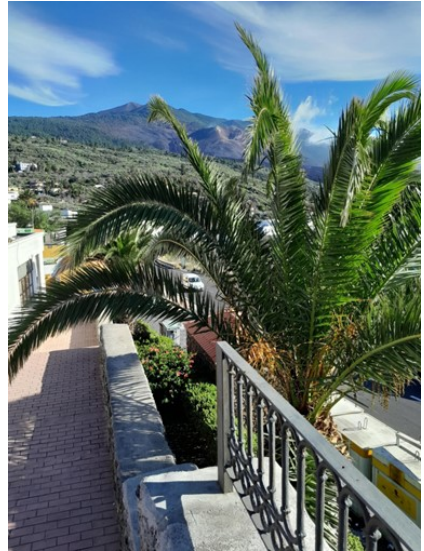
Breathing deeply, I took a moment away from the group to immerse myself in this world of high rocks, trees and immensity. 'Oh to be an eagle,



spread one's wings, and soar above the clouds!' I didn't see any of the laurel pigeons, red-billed choughs or Atlantic canaries, who live in the Canary Islands but only a tiny sparrow-like bird hopping cheekily behind me on the path. Such a small sign of life in this vast area.

From an ancient volcano we travelled to the newest.

The volcano that erupted elsewhere in the island as recently as September 2021 may not have been huge, but the Cumbria Vieja was a major eruption all the same. Jets of lava and ash were thrown into the air and the red-hot liquid pouring down through the villages destroyed more than 3,000 properties and hundreds of acres of farmland before it reached the sea ten days later. Six thousand people had to be evacuated to Tenerife. A brief stop to see this volcano which is now considered spent gave some idea of the scale of this disaster. It was good to see how the land was thriving once more.



After this brief stop, we headed for the ancient church of Our Lady of the Snows. As far back as the late 14th century the effigy of this Marian image was found in a cave. How it got there was a mystery, and her presence considered a miracle. Soon a church was erected, and Maria was pronounced the patron saint of the whole island, believed to protect it from drought. The current structure was built in 1646. An object of deep veneration, the statue was bedecked with gold and jewels. The interior of this small church is breathtaking with its silver altar and 16th-century Flemish art. Words can't do justice to this place of worship.

Since 1680 the statue of Maria has been carried down to the capital every five years at the start of the Bajada de la Virgen, the island's largest celebration.

This day was one to savour and hold in my memory for my lifetime.



Rosemary MacMullen

St Patrick's Day 17 March

The River Liffey will run green and so will the Guinness!

St Patrick is one of the patron saints of Ireland but was born in Britain of Roman heritage. As a youth he was captured during a raid by pirates and taken as a slave to Ireland where he was put to looking after sheep. He eventually escaped and made his way back to Britain, and in his twenties trained for the priesthood so that he could return to Ireland – his knowledge of the language and customs enabled him to preach and convert many to Christianity.



In AD 433, in defiance of the pagan High King Laoire at Tara, St Patrick lit a Paschal fire on the Hill of Slane to celebrate Easter. The lighting of a ritual fire was already a widespread occurrence in Ireland before the arrival of Patrick and Christianity. It was not a Christian ritual, but a pagan one, occurring on the first full moon following the spring

equinox, an ancient practice carried out by Druids. No fire was to be lit until the king lit the first one on Tara Hill, but Patrick defied the rule by lighting a fire at Slane first, demonstrating the supreme authority of Christ. The king was angry but so impressed by Patrick's courage that he allowed to him to continue his preaching.

Many traditions grew up around St Patrick, the most well-known being his demonstration of the Trinity by using a shamrock. He was also supposed to have driven out all the snakes from Ireland. The religious communities he established helped to spread Christianity throughout Northern Europe.

Dorothy Lusmore

Grateful



Martyn Joseph is a singer/songwriter who grew up in South Wales. He is a regular at Greenbelt and a strong live performer. Anne and I went to see him sing songs from his latest album at the Brook in Southampton recently.

I particularly like **Grateful**, which you can hear him sing here.

bit.ly/3SO7rLk (stream for free or pay £1 to download)

Grateful for the coming day, its restoration powers
For your cherished breathing in the early hours
Grateful for the base camp and the precipice,
The hope of Absolution for every artifice.
Grateful for the riddles, the closed eyes of the mole,
The meekness of the Shire Horse, the frailty of the foal
Grateful for the fragrance of the varnished pew,
Those long gone Chapel Sundays that yearned for 'all things new'
Grateful

Grateful for the constant awe of the sparrow's breath
That the weeping elephant has rituals for death
Grateful for the ghostly hem of Autumn's wading mists
For the prophet's folly that Truth, each day, persists
Grateful for the perfume of the cattle stall,
And the spider's silver shawl on a graveyard wall
Grateful for the crimson peaks magnanimous with gorse
And the heights of conscience on the mountains of remorse
I'm Grateful

Grateful for the Rockies and the Bobcat's cryptic call,
The copper canvas of New England in the Fall
Grateful for beloved Wales, the Gower in the Spring,
The stones of Bannau Brycheiniog, from which the poems sing
And I'm grateful for the Thomas boy, his epic habitat,
The song of Polly Garter and the dreams of Captain Cat
And I'm Grateful for the abstract, the complex and the odd,
The quarter-tone transcendence of the countless octaves God
I'm Grateful

Grateful for the icon in the ancient crypt,
Gold-leaf exultation of the sacred script
Grateful for precise machines that chart the body's land
The slippage in the cells, and the fault line in a gland
I'm Grateful there's a countdown on this limited dimension
Grateful for the skylark's hint of infinite ascension
And I'm Grateful for becalming, on this fathomless morass,
And the tempest life-belt, assuring us that all things shall pass
And Grateful I'm not destined or determined by my mood
When my capricious state turns sick all of this gratitude
And I'm Grateful that I'm feeling in such a fractured disarray
And that I'm not responsible for the final say
Grateful
Grateful

Bob Lord

A challenge for you during Lent. Can you write your own words of gratitude to Martyn's tune? If you succeed, why not send them to Yours? (Ed.)

Stories from Gaza and the West Bank

A few weeks ago some of us had the opportunity to hear a talk by Revd David Hardman, a Methodist minister who had been working in Jerusalem when the Hamas attack happened last October, and he had had to return to England.



He spoke of an earlier visit to Gaza, and painted a shocking picture of life there before the current Israeli attacks. Life was far from easy: 70% of the population were refugees, and more than 80% of the population lived in poverty, 47% of the population are children and teenagers, most of whom are suffering from either anxiety, trauma or depression. Thirty-seven of every hundred children said their greatest fear was aircraft noise; because of the blockade there were no civilian flights or freight flights, only military planes with the threat of bombing.

Since then more than three-quarters of the population have been displaced from their homes. He spoke of one tragedy he knew about personally: a large group of civilians were taking shelter in a church after their block of flats had been destroyed in the first wave of bombing. Israeli planes then bombed the adjacent building, claiming it was a Hamas stronghold, destroying the wall of the church, and killing all the civilians sleeping on that side of the church .

But he also spoke of hope, of people committed to working for peace, showing amazing courage and fortitude. The first voice is of a Christian family living near Bethlehem, surrounded by illegal Israeli settlements, whose own home land was under threat:

‘Based on our Christian values we are a people, who believe in

justice. We have to find another way; we have to challenge hatred with love, darkness with light, evil with good, we refuse to be enemies’.

The second voice is that of an Israeli woman speaking at the funeral of her brother who was killed by Hamas on 7 October. One of the sad ironies of the attack on 7 October is that many of the Israelis who were living that close to Gaza were actually peace activists who wanted to seek a just solution to the issue of Israel and Palestine. She addressed her country, she addressed Israel as she as she spoke at his funeral:

‘Do not use our deaths and our pain to cause the death and pain of other people or other families. I demand that we stop the circle of pain, and understand that the only way forward is freedom and equal rights. Peace, brotherhood, and security for all human beings.’

The final voice is that of a Palestinian who lives in a refugee camp near Bethlehem. His family have lived in this camp for 75 years, since they were driven from their homes in 1948. The Israeli Defence Force make regular incursions into refugee camps, raiding houses and making arrests; but one night this summer they came to his house. He’s never been in trouble; he has never had any reason to fear a raid before. They raided the house; they arrested nobody and did nothing. He lives with his wife and three young boys, and this is what he says:

‘I must stop my children growing up to hate Israelis – but when they come into my house in the middle of the night and wake my children up and stand over them with their guns ... my children are scared, and I am scared that this fear will grow as they grow.’

He also urged us to continue to pray as Palestinian Christians said that the prayers of others were the fuel that enabled them to continue faithfully.

Pat Fry

News of the Wider Church

Controversy over asylum claims. Last month former Home Secretary Suella Braverman claimed she had become aware of churches 'facilitating industrial-scale bogus asylum claims'.



In response, **Rt Rev Guli Francis-Dehqani**, Bishop of Chelmsford, refuted the accusations and said it's the responsibility of the Home Office, not churches, to assess the validity of asylum claims. 'Religious ministers from all denominations will occasionally, after careful assessment, provide statements of support to individuals seeking asylum, but it is wrong to think of this as some

sort of magic ticket. The notion that a person may be fast-tracked through the asylum system, aided and abetted by the Church is simply inaccurate. Christians are called to follow the example of Jesus who throughout the Bible focuses his love and care on the most vulnerable and marginalised people in society.

Commentators this week have largely ignored the fact that churches do this by helping disadvantaged people of all backgrounds – including asylum seekers – to eat, to sleep, to worship, to find shelter and to be connected to the services which can support them. As a Christian leader I make no apology for our involvement in supporting people who are often deeply vulnerable and traumatised. The plight of refugees the world over is a shared responsibility and one we must shoulder together – locally, nationally, globally. We must do so not by demonising those who arrive on our shores, but by recognising our shared humanity and, as Christians would put it, seeing in others the face of Christ.'

The Archbishop of Canterbury has said he's fed up with the unrelenting 'mischaracterisation' of the Church in discussions about asylum seekers converting to Christianity. 'Over the last week it has been disappointing to see the mischaracterisation of the role of churches and faith groups in the asylum system. Churches up and down the country are involved in caring for vulnerable people from all backgrounds. For refugees and those seeking asylum, we simply follow the teaching of the Bible which is to care for the stranger. It is the job of the Government to protect our borders and of the courts to judge asylum cases. The Church is called to love mercy and do justice. I encourage everyone to avoid inaccurate comments – and let us not forget that at the heart of this conversation are vulnerable people whose lives are precious in the sight of God.'

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak confirmed that the Home Office will investigate the role religious conversions play in asylum seekers' applications.

For full article by Bishop Guli see bit.ly/49gkIDd

Adam Peaty has said his Christian faith has helped him deal with his mental health struggles and handle the pressures of the upcoming Paris Olympic Games. The 29-year-old who has faced periods of depression and alcohol abuse, shared that he felt 'at peace' as he arrived at the World Aquatics Championships in Doha, Qatar, early in February.



Peaty, who became the first British swimmer to defend his Olympic title in 2021, emphasised the mental toll of his struggles and his return to the pool with a renewed perspective.

Discussing his tattoo of a cross with the words 'into the light', Peaty revealed that he didn't have 'a community outside of sport' and found solace and fulfilment in God and attending church. He added that everyday conversations with himself, and prayers keep him inspired to use his God-given gift of swimming.

Extracted from Premier Christian News



Following the announcement that King Charles III has been diagnosed with cancer and will be stepping back from public-facing duties, Rt Rev Paul Butler commented on the king's ability to cope with the situation and praised him for his continued work ethic throughout his royal service. Bishop Paul recalls a moment before the King's coronation in which he told church leaders: 'I don't think I'm really King until I've made my vows before God and before the nation, and that I've been anointed because I can't do this task without God's help.'

Rt Revd Justin Welby as leader of the world-wide Anglican Communion paid a five-day visit to Ukraine as the country approached the second anniversary of the conflict. The visit offered a powerful message of solidarity and support to the Ukrainian people and churches. Archbishop Justin wrote on his social media platform 'I have come here to stand with our Ukrainian sisters and brothers; to pray with and for them, to learn



from them and to say loud and clear that, amid all that is going on in other places, the world will not forget Ukraine’.

It was the Archbishop’s second visit and his presence in the midst of hardship provides a message of hope and resilience, reminding the world of the enduring strength of faith and the importance of standing with those in need.

Tyson Fury's highly anticipated undisputed heavyweight world title fight against Oleksandr Usyk has faced a rescheduling and is



now set for 18 May. Both fighters are confessing Christians with Fury taking the opportunity in a head-to-head interview last month to reveal his admiration for his opponent's faith. ‘We are the

two biggest Christians in boxing and to see someone who is also a world champion and has big faith in God is unbelievable. Beautiful.’

Prayers for the Holy Land. Join Methodists from around the world to pray together for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land. Every Wednesday from 6pm (UK time) for 40 minutes. Each week there will be updates and theological reflections from local voices and MLO staff members followed by the opportunity to pray together. To join please email office@mlojerusalem.org and you will be sent joining instructions.

An Invitation to Participate in Local Democracy

You may have heard on the news that many local authorities are facing a funding shortfall in the near future; Hampshire County Council is no exception to this and is facing an income shortfall to the tune of £132 million in just over a years' time.

However, we do live in a democracy; one of the facets of this being citizens (or 'subjects') engagement, e.g. having a say on how the council is run, through thick and thin – and I am not just referring to local elections.

The council have invited you, assuming you are a Hampshire resident, to have your say in the choices to be made.

There are 13 service change proposals in the offing, and you can make your views known on whatever of these you feel you wish to influence.

Whilst engaging in the consultation does not take too long, you may wish to set aside some time to read through the background information presented, with the purpose of engaging the consultation with an informed mind.

Finally, why am I encouraging you to engage in this process; after all, am I not normally associated with contributing things of a horticultural nature to this publication?

The reason I beseech this engagement in 'collectivism' is due to my incumbency as one of the Branch Secretaries of the trade unions recognised by HCC; it is in this role that I and those holding such roles in 'sister trade unions' have been in consultation with the leader and senior officers of the council relating to financial matters.

As an onlooker to the work of HCC I can assure readers that all the aforementioned have been earnestly working to steward the resources of the council for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors alike.

You can access the consultation here: bit.ly/3UD7w6O

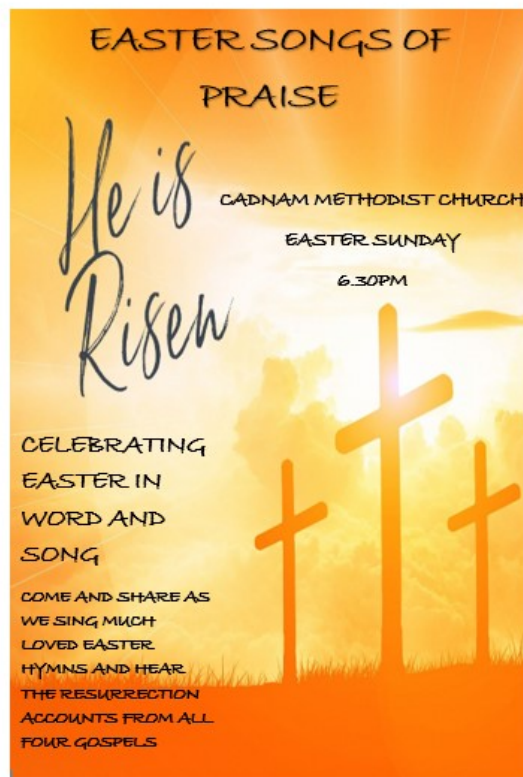
Please note, the survey closes on 31 March.

Finally, if you are wondering how I moved from being a Lecturer in Horticulture to becoming a County Trade Union Convener, Branch Secretary and Case Advocate, I had been a lay officer for the University and College Union (UCU), this being the university and college lecturer's trade union at Sparsholt College.

However, engaging with a large first tier council which supports circa 650 schools alone is a somewhat larger task.

There is another story to be told here; sometime in the future.

Chris Young



4 February 2024 – Church Vision Lunch 2: Feedback

For feedback on Vision Lunch 1 see [February Yours](#)

Question 3: What new ways of doing church interest you?

- Could we use hybrid evening Church meetings as a way of getting a broader spectrum of views and ideas?
- We don't need to start from scratch. Getting involved in Enabling Groups helps us to offer our gifts more fully.

Question 4: What worries you about all of this?

- We need to take into account the declining number of people and the considerable costs of our building.
- Having access to other sources of funding will be vital, and having a clear vision is key to attracting such funding.
- Is money available from the disposal of closed churches?
- Our position in the city is one of our main features and central to our identity. If we can't utilise it, what are we even about?
- Are we making our community partners aware of the financial struggles we are facing? Perhaps they might have ideas that could help.
- If you have a clear vision that people own, you don't have to worry about your bottom line.
- How do we address the question of age-profile?
- We need to address practical issues in order to retain our hirers.
- Trends and patterns in living mean that people are less available to participate.
- Society has changed, but people come full circle.

Additional question: What is distinctive about The United Church, Winchester?

- This is a church other people want to find!
- We do have 'younger people', we're just not all in the same place at the same time. Are we valuing some ways of gathering more than others? Is there a bias somewhere?
- Using our own traditions of music and drama as part of our distinctive identity.
- Keeping Jesus at the heart of all we do, and faithfulness in prayer.
- We're all called to ministry – the ministry of all believers.
- We have real depth in our ministry and shared discipleship.
- House Groups!

Next steps

- Hold an equivalent evening/hybrid meeting(s) to make sure the views of those who can't stay after Sunday services are also heard.
- Set aside time for prayer.
- A special Leadership Team meeting needed to progress this during Lent.
- Include others in the Leadership conversation/decision, perhaps those identified by Jo C and Tim S as a possible 'Sustainability Enabling Group' (sustainability, by definition, being wider than 'climate justice' alone).

Churches Together in Winchester Update

Easter is early this year and therefore our preparations for celebrating Good Friday are well advanced. Again, this year we plan to have an interactive act of witness in the Outer Close of the Cathedral, seeking to share the wonder and mystery of Good Friday. We are seeking to offer the story of Jesus and his death in a dignified and yet accessible way at the variety of levels in which children, young people and adults approach the story. Good Friday is an awesome day for Christians and what we have planned has both dignity and also activities for families to take part in. Come and join us for some of the time between 11 am and 2 pm.



Pentecost – a day when in the power of the Holy Spirit we give thanks to God the Father and celebrate our faith in Jesus and his transforming grace. We expect to have a city-wide celebration of our shared faith, mission and ministry on the evening of Pentecost which this year is 19 May. Book the date in your diary now and watch out for details.

General Election – will take place sometime this year and we plan to have a meeting at which the main candidates speak and answer questions from the audience. Date and time are of course waiting on the PM to decide when to call an election! May the joy and peace of the light of Christ be yours,

Revd Howard Mellor (Chair CTiW) hmellor49@gmail.com

A Wellbeing Hub (see opposite page) opened on 1 February on Thursday afternoons at the Salvation Army in Parchment Street. This project is run by volunteers from Winchester churches and is supported by Churches Together in Winchester. Crafts, games and wellbeing activities for all.

Bob Lord (Treasurer CTiW)



A quiet, safe wellbeing space
where it's
okay to not be okay

Every Thursday afternoon from 14:00 - 16:00, the Salvation Army Hall on Parchment Street transforms into a wellbeing café for you to enjoy.

You're most welcome to join us for hot and cold drinks and light refreshments.



Have a go!



Try your hand at some crafts, games, and wellbeing activities, or just come and enjoy a cúppa with friends.



Come and relax and chat, or enjoy the peace in our quiet area.

Anyone is welcome to share a hobby or skill.
Anyone is welcome to join a workshop or activity.



Everyone is welcome to just be.

We exist to connect, give, be active, keep learning, and take notice.

Find us: Salvation Army Hall on Parchment Street, Winchester, SO23 8AZ

And on Facebook:

renewwellbeing.org.uk



How do I get there?

- Park at **River Park car park**, or at nearby St Peter's or Middle Brook Street
- **By bus.** The bus station is an 8-minute, mostly flat, walk away from the Salvation Army Hall and there are bus stops close by on the B3330.
- **By train.** Winchester train station is an 8-minute walk away.
- **Solent Mind** wellbeing centre, also on Parchment Street, is just a minute away!

Every Thursday from 14:00-16:00 (2-4pm)
Starting 1 February 2024

For further details contact Alison Dolphin:
wellbeingcafeandhub@gmail.com



Foundation Training can be accessed on the Learning Hub
bit.ly/3Txdm4



UK Wide Safeguarding Training 2024

Make your booking by emailing: Emma.Pearce@urc.org.uk

All training listed below will take place via Zoom

First date	Event	Second date
	Domestic abuse	4 June, 2024 6:30pm
	Safeguarding for Pastoral Workers and Elders supporting survivors	11 June 6:30pm
	Modern slavery	8 October 1:30pm
	Elders as Trustees	14 May 7:00pm
	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment	23 May 6:30pm
	Substance abuse	3 October 1:30pm
6 March 1:30pm	Refugees and asylum seekers	17 September 6:30pm
18 March 6:30pm	Safeguarding for Ministers supporting survivors	25 September 1:30pm
18 April 6:30pm	Adult safeguarding	15 October 1:30pm
8 May 1:30pm	Spiritual abuse	11 November 7:00pm
28 October 6:30pm	DDC Verifiers training and safer recruitment	4 December 10:00am
19 November 1:30pm	Online safety	

● From the United Reformed Church Safeguarding Committee ●

Please contact Tim James for full details and joining instructions.



Vintage Fun

All welcome!



FLOWER POWER

Monday 11th March

2 - 4 pm

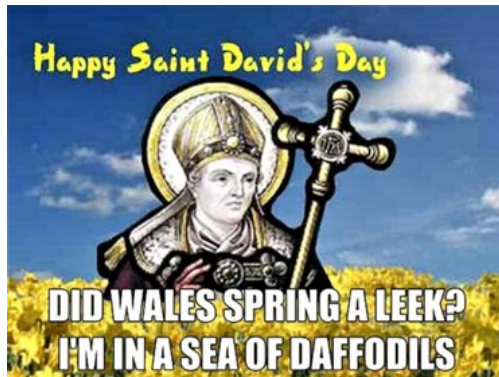
at the

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

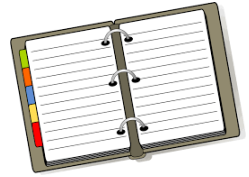
Comedy Corner



The deadline for April Yours is **Monday 18 March**. All contributions welcome. Send to yours@ucw.org.uk.



Dates for Your Diary



Saturday 16 March 11–3 The Wessex Synod Spirituality group has organised a reflective day on 16 March 2024 at Guildford URC, to be led by Hannah Fytche, Associate Tutor at Westminster College. Places are limited. Cost: £5 to include a simple lunch. Bookings: <https://www.urcwessex.org.uk/event/lent/>

Good Friday 29 March Interactive Act of Witness in the Outer Cathedral Close 11–2. Suitable for children, young people and adults (Churches Together in Winchester).

Easter Sunday morning 31 March 8.30. Easter breakfast.

Pentecost Sunday 19 May City-wide celebration of our shared faith, mission and ministry on the evening of Pentecost (Churches Together in Winchester).

7–8 September 2024 – our Church’s 50th Anniversary Weekend!

Make sure you block out the weekend of the 7–8 September. We’re planning to have a weekend of events to celebrate this. If you have any ideas about how best to celebrate, or would be willing to help plan and co-ordinate the weekend, please let us know.

To see latest events go to the updated page on our website ucw.org.uk/events/





Services for March 2024

3 MARCH LENT 3

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

10 MARCH MOTHERING SUNDAY

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Elisabeth Britton

17 MARCH PASSION SUNDAY

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

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

Followed by Church Meeting

24 MARCH PALM SUNDAY

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Lesley Ann Ritchie

29 MARCH GOOD FRIDAY

10.00 am Revd Tim Searle

31 MARCH EASTER

8.30 am **Easter Breakfast** Revd Tim Searle

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

HC: Holy Communion

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

YouTube: tinyurl.com/ucw-services

