



Yours

Magazine of
The United Church
Winchester

June 2024



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Tim's Letter: Holy Communion

At our June Church Meeting I want us to spend some time thinking about Holy Communion. We are blessed to have two rich traditions which we draw inspiration from in our celebration of the Eucharist. In addition, I know many of you come from other traditions – Catholic, Anglican, Baptist to name a few – which feeds our shared understanding further. And there are the liturgies of Iona or Northumbria expressing our Celtic roots which also provide a plentiful wellspring. And yet, whilst we rejoice in this diversity, the sheer number of resources, theologies and personal experiences can sometimes confound us, and can make it harder to gather round the table in a way that makes our individual encounter with the risen Christ unique and special for all. What is more, how I experience communion from my position as presiding minister will, necessarily, be different from yours. Understanding how communion *feels* to you; what is most important to you about it, and what most inhibits your ability to encounter God in bread and wine; is of paramount importance to me. After all, my full job title is: 'Minister of Word and Sacraments', so encouraging a conversation about communion kinda goes with the territory!

I appreciate it's a subject, like many in a gathered community such as ours, that we'll never reach unanimity on. However, that shouldn't stop us from trying. As a distinctive Christian community now in its 50th year, perhaps we need to ask ourselves what Holy Communion means *to us*? What's special and distinct about our practice of this sacrament? And what do we believe is happening through it? Should we continue our current alternating pattern of communion, designed to honour our two partner denominations, or are we due a rethink? And in what ways can we make communion more accessible, more intergenerational, without losing the reverence and awe that confronts us in this holiest of meals.

You'll be relieved to hear that I don't expect us to have this all worked out by the end of the meeting! But in my eight years with you, I don't remember spending any significant time in Church Meeting reflecting on these questions. Given the significance of Holy Communion to us, we need to redress this balance. So, when we next meet on Sunday 16 June, come prepared to share your thinking on this important subject. We can't please everyone, but we can take time to listen and learn from one another.

Yours, in Christ,

Tim

Editorial

Our 50th anniversary celebrations are fast approaching and you can read about all the exciting events planned on pages 16–17.

Pat Fry shares the delights of circle dancing in Grasmere and Dorothy Lusmore brings new insights into one of our favourite hymns.

We are grateful to Amy Crocker for this month's cover, 'My Inmost Being', the last of a series of four paintings which have inspired us, as we have moved from Lent to Easter to Pentecost. She managed to find time to paint the last two while revising hard for exams! She writes about the series on pages 8 and 9 and asks us some questions. Please send in your responses for *July/August Yours*.

Many thanks to all our contributors this month.

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

News of the United Church Family

Friends will be sorry to hear that we have received news of the death of Celia Holloway. A funeral service will take place at 12 noon on 17 June at The United Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with Celia's family.



As *Yours* went to press last month, the service in remembrance of Alfred Witham took place at The United Church. This was an opportunity for us to celebrate Alfred's life and Isabel and Alfred's many years of married life. Our prayers and thoughts continue to be with Isabel and with the family.

We celebrate with Helena Wood who is to be married to Bradley Downton on 31 May in Ampfield. We send our prayers and very best wishes for their future happiness. Good wishes also to Tony, Tom and all family and friends for a very happy day.

Patricia leaves us as The United Church facilities manager at the end of May because she needs to devote her time and energy elsewhere. We will miss Patricia a great deal for all that she has done and for the way in which she has worked with us and the wider community. We shall miss too the opportunity just to be alongside her and to further develop the friendships made. We very much hope that Patricia will stay in touch. Our prayers and good wishes go with her.

Our good wishes and prayers go to all those preparing for and taking exams around this time. (Below, some inspiration perhaps, from those who not so long ago have also trodden that challenging path)

Our best wishes and congratulations to Dr Sarah Morgan as she begins a Senior Lectureship at the School of Biomedical Engineering and Imaging Sciences, King's College London. The

focus will be on predicting and understanding mental health conditions, using brain connectomics and speech data.

We send our love, prayers and good wishes to Miranda Roles as she continues her volunteering experience in Ghana.

Here are some glimpses into that experience shared by Miranda via Penny.



‘Miranda and her fellow volunteer Sophie are running both a girls’ club and a knitting club after school. She has been taking inspiration from some of the activities she helped with at our Meet and Greet on Saturdays.

Miranda and Sophie travelled in the Easter holidays to see the slave castles at Cape Coast and Elmina, a sobering insight into the transatlantic slave trade. They visited Kumasi the home of Kente cloth and one of the largest markets in West Africa

and also travelled North to see a 600 year old mosque and monkeys, elephants and crocodiles. She will return with many different experiences, but perhaps the most significant is that of becoming part of a family living in a very different climate, living in basic conditions, reliant on well water. There have been tough times, but there has been much fun and joy, especially with the children in her “family” and at school’.



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Please do let me know if there is news you would like me to include in *Yours*.

Jane Lawson, Pastoral Lead

The Dove Tree

I looked, but did not see,
The loveliness of the Dove tree
Now, there it is in full glory –
Davidea involucreta, a tree full of mystery.

First discovered in China by a French missionary the Abbé Pere David, the Dove Tree, also called Pocket Handkerchief tree or Ghost tree, flowers after only 2–3 years. John planted this one about 15 years ago in our vegetable garden.



Val Hillier

**Quiz. Name two places you can see Dove Trees in Winchester.
Answers on page 27! (Ed.)**

‘My Inmost Being’

Over the last 4 months, I have loved exploring expressions of faith through creativity, namely how we can be changed at the hands of God. But also how our hands or words or actions can be instrumental in the change that we see around us. Just as the clay from this final painting has the potential to be moulded into so many things at the hands of the creator, I think it is important to remember the role that God has in creating who we are and who we have the potential to become. ‘You created my inmost being.’ Psalm 139.

Artistically this painting stands out for me because of the balance that the composition provides, it feels measured and focused. It captures a sense of circular, repetitive movement and flow, requiring the slightest adjustment and commitment to the smallest detail. Focus is drawn to the singular action of creativity which I find a calming depiction. In myself, creating something forces my mind to be focused and invested in the result, and ultimately, I feel this imagery represents the dedication God has to each of us. Linking back to the first of the collection, the guidance of God’s hand presents a full circle to this one as being constantly alongside and helping us. Perhaps God helps us to make choices that in turn benefit and nurture the people around us, and the systems in place that build community.

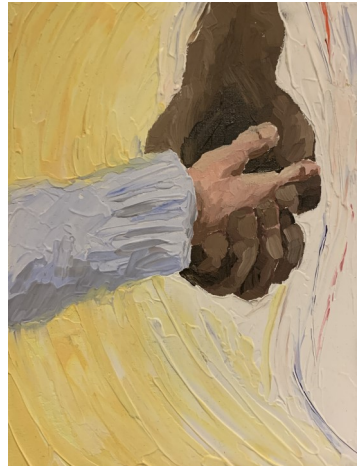
Openness seems to be the key factor here. A willingness to be shaped and changed. And still we remain grounded in the fact that our central being is connected to one who knows us so completely and created us each with detailed possibilities. It also seems fitting to me that this edition and last painting will come out for the last month of my A levels; an ending in both regards. Whether this says something about the future and my being open to change is something that I will have to continue to think about.

Each time I have painted one I have thought of a new meaning or perception in the process so I would love to hear other perspectives too. I wonder how each painting has made you think or reflect? Which ones connect with you more or less? Do you feel a sense of journey throughout or think of them individually?

Amy Crocker



Fear not



Innocence



Sacrificial Love



My Inmost Being

Dancing the Gayatri Mantra

I have just enjoyed another delightful circle dance holiday at the Quaker Guest house in Grasmere, a starting point for many beautiful walks. The longest, most difficult, and most rewarding dance we learnt was set to a sung version of the Gayatri Mantra, an ancient Indian prayer dating from at least 1600BC. It was translated for us as:

‘O Lord of the Universe, you dwell in the land, the sea and in infinite space.

Enter our hearts and minds so that we may journey towards enlightenment.’

The dance consisted of a pattern of about 25 movements, danced in an un-joined circle, repeated many times. Every movement had meaning, including traditional hand movements from India and the Christian pilgrim step associated with Santiago de Compostella. Once I had mastered the steps I kept making a mistake in the hand movements, so I spent an afternoon pondering the thinking behind the choreography. Two phrases kept coming to my mind: ‘God be in my head, and in my understanding’, and Peter’s response to Jesus washing his feet, ‘Not my feet only Lord, wash my hands and head too’. Here is my prayer based on those movements.

Gracious God, Source of all goodness,

Sometimes life is bewildering

– I feel I am going up blind alleys,
or round in circles.

Help me to reach out to you,

seeking the blessing of your Divine Light.

May your wisdom guide my thinking.

May your light enable me to see the world around me more clearly.

May I look at the people I meet more compassionately.
May I listen more sensitively and speak more graciously.
Keep me mindful of the way of Jesus in my longings
and in my choosing what to treasure.
Be with me in my everyday mundane experiences.
Give me a firm foundation, a springboard for right living.
Then let me lift my heart in praise to You,
rejoicing in your loving presence.
So may I reach out to those around me as we journey together.
There may be setbacks, moments of doubt and hesitation,
yet you call us to move forward;
Help me to stay alert to where others are on their journey
and show me when I can offer a helping hand.
When I grow tired or dis-spirited, and clouds obscure your light,
draw me through the bewildering times ,
back to You again ...
and again ...
and again.

Pat Fry



The Quaker Guest House, Grasmere.

‘How Great Thou Art’

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art!

If you attended any church service on Sunday 5 May you would very likely have sung this hymn – its 75th anniversary fell that week. The hymn has an interesting history; it is attributed to British missionary Stuart Hine and rightly so, but its origins are more varied.



The first two verses are from a Swedish song based on Psalm 8 and later translated into Russian. Stuart Hine came across this song in Russian whilst he was a missionary in Eastern Europe and working in Ukraine. While he was in Ukraine, he wrote his own paraphrase in English and also wrote a third verse. A local Christian woman he was visiting was reading to friends from the gospel of John about the crucifixion of Christ – some of those listening immediately responded to the message. In Ukraine repenting and turning to Christ used to be done out loud, and when he heard people saying how unbelievable it was that Christ would die for their sins, and praising Him for His love and mercy, Hine wrote down the phrases he heard as the basis for that third verse.



Stuart Hine and his wife had to leave Ukraine during the Holodomor (Famine Genocide) instigated by Joseph Stalin during the winter of 1932–1933. At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 they left their work in Eastern Europe entirely to return to Britain. Evangelistic ministry continued in Britain among the displaced Polish refugee community, and he was greatly concerned for the exiled Poles, who were anxious to return home.

Hine and a friend visited a camp in Sussex where displaced Russians were being held, two of whom were Christian. The testimony of one of these refugees and his anticipation of the second coming of Christ, combined with the longing of Poles to return home, inspired a fourth verse. The hymn was completed, and the final version was published in 1949.

‘How Great Thou Art’ became very popular in the 50’s and 60’s

and British missionaries took it to all parts of the world. It was voted the British public's favourite hymn by BBC's *Songs of Praise* and was ranked second on a list of the favourite hymns of all time in a survey by *Christianity Today* magazine in 2001 and in a nationwide poll by *Songs of Praise* in 2019. It has been translated into many and varied languages including Māori, Swahili, Chinese, Arabic, and Hawaiian as well as European languages.



'Whakaaria Mai' has subsequently become a mainstay of New Zealand popular culture. It was sung at the memorial service of New Zealand rugby

legend Jonah Lomu. Following the 2019 terrorist attack in Christchurch, John Mayer opened his Auckland show by performing 'Whakaaria Mai'/'How Great Thou Art' alongside a kapa haka group as a tribute to Christchurch, and on 21 February 2024 members of the New Zealand Parliament stood and sang 'Whakaaria Mai' at the conclusion of tributes to member Efeso Collins who died unexpectedly while taking part in a charity event.

Here is the chorus as sung in one of the official languages of Papua New Guinea –

*Mi litimapim biknem bilong yu,
yuyet yu God, yu wanpela
Yu nambawan, yu antap olgeta
Yuyet yu God, yu bikpela*

This year the Stuart Hine Trust commissioned Matt Redman to write a new verse for the 75th anniversary –

*Until that day when Heaven bids us welcome
And as we walk this broken, warring world
Your kingdom come, deliver us from evil
And we'll proclaim, 'Our God, how great You are'
With hope, we'll sing, 'Our God, how great You are'.*

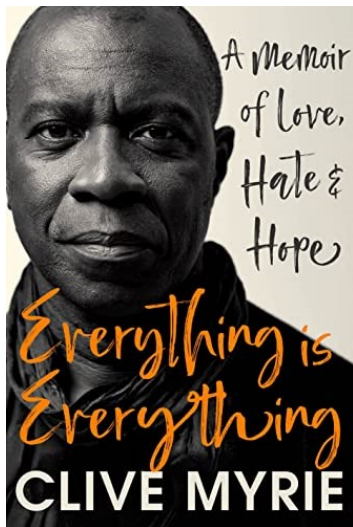
Links bit.ly/3JYXhDy

bbc.in/3QHJC7C

Book Review:

Everything is Everything by Clive Myrie

I discovered this book browsing in a Lake District bookshop on a wet day. In an engaging and vivid way, News Presenter, Clive Myrie, tells of his experiences growing up in England as a child of the Windrush generation, as a BBC reporter in many different countries and warzones, how attitudes in Britain have changed in the last forty years, and most movingly of reporting on the work of a hospital mortician in a London hospital during Covid.

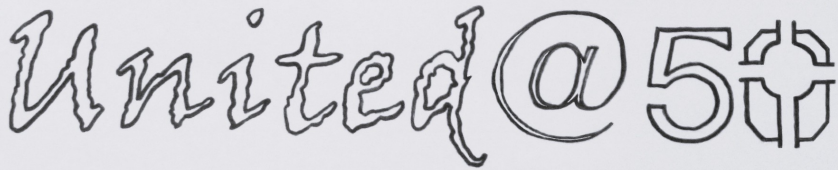


He concludes: 'If I have learnt anything, it is that we all have the capacity for compassion and empathy, but it takes courage, wisdom and humility to mine the goodness in us all'.

A challenging book, but ultimately one of hope.

Pat Fry

Celebration Vision



The vision which is generating all the ideas outlined here is not just to keep us busy, though it will! Neither is it just about celebrating the past, but recognising who we are as a congregation involved in the city, sharing our faith, standing for justice and delighting to care for each other in deep worship and joyous fellowship. In other words – it's what church is all about.

Bring your Prayers!

Thank you to those who have already contributed, however, we encourage you to bring prayers you write, or prayers you have found helpful. We are looking for fifty! Also drawn/painted illustrations using the cards at the back of the church. Bring them to Rosie Mellor by 30 June. The book, CD size, will be available from 1 September.

Time to Pray

We will have our second prayer time for our church, our city and the world on Thursday 20 June in the prayer chapel by the church entrance. A further opportunity will be on Sunday 29 July at 4 pm in the sanctuary.

History

We plan to publish a short history of the last fifty years and the two streams of spirituality and church life which formed our

United Church. We have loads of information and hundreds of documents, so the task is to highlight the formative moments and celebrate them. The book will be available from 1 September.

Celebration Dinner

On Saturday 7 September, from 6 pm, we plan to have a three-course meal for up to 100 people in the church. We are taking advice from significant people in the hospitality industry to deliver a delightful meal on a joyous occasion. The chef team is ready! But we are looking for a set up team and waiters – who will receive training from one of the best restaurants in the city.

The evening will be a real celebration of our golden anniversary years – maybe you could weave some gold colour into your outfit for the night – or indeed get out that 70s item so carefully placed at the back of the wardrobe – for such a time as this! We can't promise a glitterball – but it will be sparkling! Tickets available from 1 July.

Art in the Church

We are so fortunate to have not one, but three, exhibitions this summer and early autumn. The first to arrive is *Open to All*, an art exhibition focussing on the way all are welcome at the Carpenter's table. The paintings are the work of Elizabeth Gray King, a URC Minister and will be available when the church is open from Monday 22 July to Sunday 11 August.

In July we will bring more details of the other two, but to whet your appetite, there is to be a photographic exhibition by Simon Bray entitled *Love thy Neighbour* and prepared especially for our celebration. For what we hope will be much of September we will host a textile exhibition by Pamela Pavitt entitled *Creation and Environment*. This will pick up our commitment to climate change and point towards Green Week. Both of these exhibitions will be available during 7–15 September.

Thanksgiving of our Life as The United Church

Last month we indicated that we plan a 'time-line', decade by decade, to highlight the work and worship of the church, its fun and festivities. Please look in the attic, in the back of the cupboard and filing cabinet for items: articles, photos, quotes, memories which were really important for you. The time-line will be up and running from 6 September but now is the time to find those things and from early July bring them to Howard or Janet. During the actual eight days of celebrations we will give opportunity for visitors to add their contributions.

As well as all this we are planning an Organ Concert (tbc), a Light Show, 4–6 October and a Concert by popular singer Jonathan Viera, 17 October. Of course, we shall want to support Winchester Green Week and during our celebrations the Winchester Heritage Open Days, who are running at our church an engaging seminar about the 'Swing Riots'!

Volunteering

There will be all kinds of ways to support and volunteer, from caring for art, waiting at table, setting up for events. The first opportunity comes in the 'Open for All' art exhibition. We are looking for stewards Monday to Friday 10 am to 12 noon from 22 July to 9 August while the coffee bar is open. Stewarding is simply about at least one person being upstairs in the sanctuary to keep an eye on the art and be a friendly face. See Janet for details.

Finally

The Enabling Team for all this is **Janet Messer, Howard Mellor and Revd Tim Searle** so if you have any ideas or questions contact any of us.

Photographic Project as part of our 50th Anniversary Celebrations!

'Love Thy Neighbour' is a project by photographer Simon Bray, who spent many years at The United Church in his youth, which acknowledges our connection to one another through a chain of photographic portraits. Here is a link showing more about the project, which appears on Simon's website. bit.ly/3UGQNhv

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of United Church Winchester, Simon will be creating a bespoke collection of portraits to demonstrate our inherent connection as a community, to be exhibited in September as part of our celebrations.

The portraits will be made as a chain, with each person selecting the next because they showed them an act of kindness. There is no classification for what qualifies as an act of kindness, it could be a grand gesture or a simple act of friendship. Through this selection of photographs, he will look to demonstrate how kindness bonds us as a community, rather than focusing on individual interactions, aiming to portray us as a group of people that care, support, listen, encourage, love and inspire one another. A way to acknowledge the things that bring us together.

Some of us will be selected to have their portrait taken within the chain, for the rest of us we will be able to enjoy the exhibition later in the year and consider how we can set free our spirit of generosity through simple acts of kindness, loving gestures, a compliment or a welcoming smile, to let each other into our lives and support others as we in turn let ourselves be supported.

Simon Bray

**SIMON
BRAY**



News of the Wider Church

Christians on the Isle of Man staged a protest at the Isle of Man parliament last month, as members debated whether terminally ill patients can be helped to end their lives. The Assisted Dying Bill proposes that terminally ill patients with the capacity and a 'clear and settled intention' have the right to end their lives early with medical help. If passed, the island could become the first part of the British Isles to legalise assisted dying for terminally ill and mentally competent people.

Churches Alive in Mann, including Church of England, Methodist, Catholic, Living Hope, Elim, Salvation Army, United Reformed and Baptist churches on the island, has raised concerns over the morality and potential coercion of vulnerable people, should the Bill be passed.



Scott Morrison, Former Australian Prime Minister revealed how he stays true to his faith as hostility to Christianity grows. Mr Scott Morrison has said he wouldn't have been able to lead Australia through the Covid -19 pandemic without his faith in God.

He was Australia's 30th prime minister and identifies as an evangelical Christian; he has always been vocal about his Christian faith but had to find a balance of how much it crossed over into how he led the country. He said talking about his relationship with Jesus wasn't always taken well but that he relied on God for peace, wisdom, and guidance. The former Prime Minister of Australia was in office from 2018-2022. The country was nicknamed 'Fortress Australia' because of its tight border controls he introduced which led to

low Covid infection rates. *From Premier Christian News*

The Chosen will shortly be premiered in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) network broadcast. The series, which follows the life of Jesus, is one of the most successful Christian media projects of the last few decades with over 200 million viewers worldwide. SAT-7, an international Christian media ministry, will air it on their platforms after dubbing it into Arabic, Farsi, and Turkish.



Originating from an independently produced pilot in 2017, *The Chosen* garnered immense anticipation, leading to over \$10 million in crowdfunding and becoming one of the largest crowdfunded projects ever. Now, seven years and three series later, the series has attracted the attention of industry giants such as Amazon and Netflix and is currently available in 26 languages.



Actress Angela Kinsey told the media that during her career on the popular TV show *The Office* she stood up for her Christian faith by objecting to a script line that mocked Christian beliefs. Kinsey, who is open about her Christian upbringing, expressed discomfort with portraying her character in a manner that involved derogatory humour towards Christianity.

Christian charities Safe Families and Home for Good have announced they will be joining forces to provide enhanced support services to children and families amid a growing social care crisis. Together, the charities work to prevent children and young people entering the care system through practical and emotional support.

There are currently more than 100,000 children in the care system in the UK, with over 38,000 expected to enter it for the first time this year. Safe Families and Home for Good said a merger, which is expected to take four months, will enable them to pool their resources and equip more churches to serve families and local authorities and decrease the number of children entering care.

Kate Forbes has been appointed Scotland's new deputy first



minister. The former finance minister will return to the cabinet after being appointed by the nation's new first minister John Swinney. The SNP leadership contender, who has been very vocal about her Christian faith, lost support from some of her most senior backers in 2023 after saying she wouldn't have voted

to bring in same-sex unions, she also said that having children outside of marriage 'would be wrong' according to her faith and is something she would personally 'seek to avoid'.

King Charles in one of his first public duties since being diagnosed with cancer, has knighted Archbishop Justin Welby in recognition of his role in the coronation.

A retired priest, the Revd Sue Parfitt, is one of two women to have been charged with criminal damage after the Magna Carta was attacked and the glass protecting it damaged in the British Library during a climate-change protest last month.



Dorothy Lusmore

Why I Raise a Glass to Older Women

On International Women's Day (8 March), I raised a glass to the wisdom of older women. In a world in which billionaires are expending their efforts on the quest to stay eternally young, it



was a joy to watch Joni Mitchell at the Grammys. The 80-year-old singer-songwriter performed 'Both sides now' with all the wisdom and grit of a woman who has spent 60 years honing her craft, overcoming hurdles such as a brain aneurysm in 2015.

Some weeks before, I marvelled at the sheer athletic ability of Angela Rippon, as the 79-year-old gave some of the younger competitors on *Strictly Come Dancing* a run for their money.



Our societal obsession with youth is such that seeing older women in the limelight is noticeable. We're not used to grey hair and wrinkles; we give a double-take to laughter lines and crow's feet. When I was growing up, it felt like women disappeared when they reached the age of 50, forced to step aside for younger models.

It's not just older women that we don't value, but old age in general. To be old is to be past it, irrelevant, 'a burden'. I'm increasingly nervous of the assisted dying debate and the (very real) consequence that changing UK law could lead to people ending their lives prematurely so as not to be a 'burden' on their families.

It's time we placed more value on old age, rather than dwelling on projections that an ageing population will put greater strain on the nation's healthcare.

The Bible attributes great worth to old age and experience. 'Wisdom belongs to the aged, and understanding to the old', we read in Job 12:12. Christian organisations such as Faith in Later Life and Pilgrims' Friend Society are leading the charge when it comes to ensuring that older people are valued and able to thrive, rather than forgotten. The former exists to inspire and equip Christians to reach, serve and empower older people; while the latter supports older people to live fulfilled later lives in residential care homes and independent living schemes.

In much of Africa, including the Igbo ethnic group in Nigeria where I'm from, great reverence is given to a community's elders. The author Chinua Achebe (also Igbo) said: 'When old people speak it is not because of the sweetness of words in our mouths; it is because we see something which you do not see.' I witnessed this last month, when relatives from around the world travelled to Nigeria to celebrate my grandmother's 90th birthday. The images shared over WhatsApp gave a taste of the celebratory atmosphere; a series of events and hundreds of people honouring my grandma. It was epic.

Like Joni Mitchell, my granny too has lived. She has experienced loss, war, grief and joy. In these unsettling times, who better to turn to than those who have experienced so much of what has gone before? In my family's culture, our elders are not a burden; we roll out the red carpet for them. We do not shut them away. Perhaps we need a shift in perspective in the UK. To see older people not as a burden to bear, but those whose presence teaches us how to be a community who can support each other in all phases of our lives, even until the end.

Chine McDonald (from Premier Christianity)

Local Action Donations in Kind

Church Meeting took the decision to reduce our annual cash giving to both Winchester MHA Communities and Winchester Basics Bank. To supplement cash donations to those charities we will collect suitable items for donation to them.

We also intend to promote greater understanding of the work of Winchester Basics Bank and its context, as well as of MHAC, encouraging collective and individual giving.

On Sunday 17 March we had our first collection of donations in kind to MHA Communities and were able to pass on a large collection of books, as well as some other unused/new items that could be used as prizes.



We resolved to have at least three collections of food, hygiene products and cleaning materials annually for the Basics Bank. The first collection this year was on Sunday 21 April and we were able to deliver a whole car boot-full of bags to their central store.

The following Sunday Lesley Little, from Winchester Basics Bank, joined us, and her informative talk really put into context how much these donations are needed and the way in which they will be used. Catch up on the service at bit.ly/4bEomaV

Many thanks to all who contributed to the collections of goods in kind – and do keep an eye out for details of the next one.

Jo Pellatt, Mission Lead.

World Buffet Evening



Brought to you by the Cooking with Friends team at SWVG

The 'Cooking with Friends' project, started in 2023, fosters connection and community by bringing together asylum seekers / refugees and local residents / friends through the joy of food. Each week, two cooks with Level 1 Food Safety certification prepare and share a delicious meal from their home country. They can invite friends and local people they have met.



The cooks do not have access to cooking facilities in their accommodation and cannot always choose the food they are given. This project offers the chance for them to learn new culinary skills and celebrate cultural diversity while combating loneliness and social isolation.

This second fundraiser evening aims to include the wider local community of Winchester and Southampton and raise funds for the project.



Please come, taste, experience and support our fund-raising evening for SWVG.

Saturday 6 July, doors open at 7 pm, buffet at 8.15.

URC Avenue St Andrews Church, The Avenue, Southampton

Tickets : £20 per head to include hot buffet, music and other entertainment. There will also be a raffle and a non-alcoholic bar.

To book tickets / obtain further information please contact :

canzano@swvg-refugees.org.uk Tel : 07909941831

Answers to Dove Tree Quiz.

You can see Dove trees in Abbey Gardens and the Dean Garnier Garden in the Close. For more on Dove trees see bit.ly/4bDtkET

An evening with...



Colin Elliott & Roy Dreading

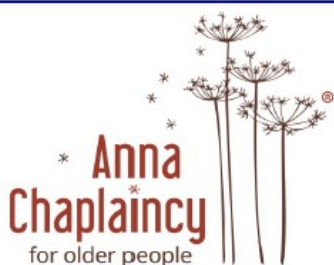
Christian Singers / Songwriters from Northern Ireland

Thursday 6th June 7:30pm

Chandlers Ford Methodist Church – Dovetail Café

Donations for Church's '30 Years On' project.

Refreshments available to purchase.



Vintage Fun

All welcome!



PRIZE ROSES

Monday 10th 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, with tea and cake.

Caraway

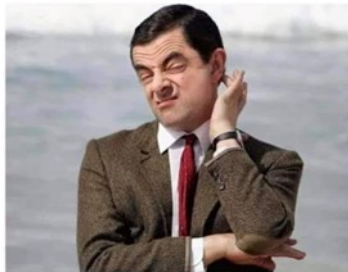
Comedy Corner



I am a person who wants
to do a lot of things
trapped in a body
that doesn't.



When the Holy Ghost makes
you delete the whole text
and just reply with OK.



The deadline for July/August Yours is
Monday 17 June. All contributions
welcome. Send to yours@ucw.org.uk.



Dates for Your Diary



**Saturday 6 July World Buffet Evening at Avenue St Andrews
URC (See page 24)**

From **22 July to 11 August**, we will be hosting the *Open to All* art exhibition from Elizabeth Gray King, an artist, theologian and URC minister. This exhibition has been touring the country and we will catch it shortly before it finishes.

7–8 September 2024 – our Church's 50th Anniversary Weekend!
(see page 14)

4–6 October 50th Celebration Light Show

17 October 50th Celebration Concert with Jonathan Viera



Any views or opinions expressed in Yours are the views and opinions of the individual contributors and do not represent the views or opinions of The United Church unless clearly stated.



Services for June 2024

In-person and live-streamed

2 JUNE

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

9 JUNE **METHODIST HOMES SUNDAY**

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Elizabeth Britton

16 JUNE

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

Followed by Church Meeting

23 JUNE

9.00 am **Holy Communion** Revd Tim Searle

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

30 JUNE

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Margaret Axford

HC: Holy Communion

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

YouTube: tinyurl.com/ucw-services

