



# Yours

Magazine of  
The United Church  
Winchester

November 2024



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**Registered Charity no. 1135083**

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## Tim's Letter: Something About Me ...

When Howard was stewarding one of my services a few weeks ago he asked if he could share in the notices about the training in Scotland I'd been on that week. He reminded me (gently and pastorally) that you're genuinely interested in what I do for the Church more widely, and that it's good to celebrate that wider involvement. I know I'm not a natural 'sharer' and can be guilty of unconsciously withholding what's going on with me, so I thought I'd take the opportunity to redress this imbalance now. It feels a little self-indulgent, but in the spirit of Howard's invitation, I hope it will be helpful to share something about me.

### Your minister!

I know this is obvious, but it shouldn't go without saying that my main day-to-day responsibilities and priorities remain the care and building up of our church community. You're an amazing group of Christians to work with, and celebrating the life of our church over the past few months has been inspiring and uplifting. I continue to work hard for you and look forward to us building on the past as we seek to discover a God-shaped vision for our future. And remember, though I am busy, being here for you is my primary calling. If you ever need me, please don't hesitate to ask; your needs will always go straight to the top of the list.

### Our circuit

Being a URC minister that also works within a Methodist context means that I'm what's known as an 'Authorised Person' (SO733) in Methodist terms. This enables me to play my part in the Methodist denomination alongside my fellow Presbyters. Though I don't get involved at District level, I do try to play a full and active part in our circuit. This includes staff meetings, Circuit Leadership Team, Circuit Invitations Committee and Circuit Meeting to name but a few. And since the closure of Medstead URC (Dec 2019), it's been a delight to visit even more of our

circuit's churches to lead worship. I feel truly welcomed and accepted by all my Methodist friends and blessed by them in so many ways.

### City Centre Chaplaincy

Since late 2021 I have been the Chair of the City Centre Chaplaincy. In that time, I've recruited two new Lead Chaplains and helped restart our work at the law courts. Through the chaplaincy's hard work, we've now entered a period of growth and development with some exciting opportunities ahead of us. Suffice to say that it wasn't as small a role as I'd envisaged it would be!

### Interim Moderator – the Solent Cluster of United Reformed Churches

One of the downsides of having just one church is that the wider denomination thinks I have time on my hands compared to colleagues covering 2, 3 or even 4+ churches. Well, in early 2023 they caught up with me, and by July 2023 I started this new post for the Wessex Synod. Interim Moderators deputise for the Moderator in his role of assisting churches find new ministry. In the case of the Solent Cluster, this is to find two new ministers who will work with seven churches across a wide geographical area (Fareham, Gosport, Portsmouth, Havant, Emsworth and Hayling Island). It's a fascinating role giving me insight into how ministry is evolving in response to the changing shape of church life.

### Synod Pastoral Committee (Southeast)

At the same time as the above, I was asked to come back onto the pastoral committee for our area. We meet 4-5 times a year and oversee the health of churches and ministers across our patch. My link churches are Bitterne, Bitterne Park and Pear Tree Green URCs in Southampton.

### EM2 Chaplain

If I thought I'd satisfied the denomination by taking on some

Synod roles, I was wrong. I've been asked by the URC nationally to be the chaplain for the new intake of EM2 ministers (that's ministers entering the stage immediately after ordination). This will be for three years until they become EM3 ministers like me. I don't consider myself an 'old hand', but at 16 years post-ordination (20+ including training) I guess I'll have to get used to being treated as an experienced minister at some point.

### And finally ... 'Place for Hope' Conflict Transformation Practitioner (maybe)

This is the role Howard alluded to. The URC have asked me to undertake training with their chosen conflict resolution provider, Place for Hope. As a result, there is the possibility that I may, in time, become a practitioner available to the denomination to help facilitate church conflicts. As a self-confessed conflict avoider, and someone who has, at times, not dealt with conflict at all well, I now know what I always suspected; that God has a sense of humour ... or at least someone at Church House does!

So that's me, in a nutshell, minus the four children, one grandchild, and partridge in a pear tree. I hope I haven't bored you, and I'm sorry for the longer than usual letter. If any of it has piqued your interest enough to ask me more, then please don't hesitate to nobble me. Better still, invite me out for a coffee as it'll give me a chance to ask what's going on with you too.

Yours in Christ, as ever,

**Tim**

## **Editorial**

In this month's edition Dorothy Lusmore and her sister remember Parchment Street Methodist Church. The dedication, faith and faithfulness of individuals she remembers shows the importance of such people in the life of every church. We discover what a leap of faith it was to unite with the members of the Methodist Church in St Peter's and the Congregationalists in

Jewry Street 50 years ago. Their different traditions coming together to create a thing of beauty is echoed in the diversity of autumn leaves in our front cover, a watercolour painting by Anne Lord.

Chris Young is nostalgic for his favourite bus routes from the 70s, we hear about John Lander's new book on Land Girls and Andrew La Follette shares reflections on Job.

Many thanks for all our contributors.

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

## **News of the United Church Family**

John Hillier has recently moved to live at Marie Louise House Care Home in Romsey. John and his son Martin have already together planted a silver birch tree in the gardens of the care home!



It would be lovely for John to see people. Perhaps speak to me if you would like to visit and I can pass on Val's advice on visits (best time of day, etc). We remember both John and Val and all their family as they make this significant adjustment.

We think of all those who are considering, or who have recently made significant decisions associated with increased care needs.

Chris Trimmings attended *Law Sunday* at the Cathedral in her role as Lead Court Chaplain on 13 October. During the service the team was thanked for all that they do. We remember Chris and all who carry out vital work at the law courts. Chris leads a team of five Chaplains including our minister, Tim.

We continue to hold our Ukrainian friends in our thoughts and prayers, especially in the lead up to the US elections.

**Jane Lawson, Pastoral Lead**

## World Action Group Update

At the October Church Meeting we had an update about World Action commitment and activities within the Church, and proposals were agreed as follows.

Link to Hope were notified late last year that our support for them would be coming to an end and a large payment was made in November 2023. We agreed at Church Meeting to send a further £1,866.25; this equates to the amount held in the CFL fund at the end of the tax year. This would leave a sum of £480 in the fund. This sum could be allocated for Meet & Greet; alternatively, all or some of it could be used as a one-off donation to another appeal such as the Christian Aid Gaza Fund if good financial governance allows.

This does not in any way affect our participation in the Shoebox Appeal.

As a result of the changing nature of the church community, and pressure of other commitments, it has not been practical since Covid for the World Action Group to function as it used to. A significant change and commitment is now the regular Meet & Greet session on a Saturday morning, providing important support to the refugee community in Winchester. As a significant missional activity that our church community is already supporting, both financially and practically, the proposal was that this activity become our World Action project for the present. As we will be connecting with those from around the world who are now part of our local community this would also be a way of connecting World and Local Action.

Any donations paid into what is currently known as the CFL fund will go towards the running costs of Meet & Greet and members will be encouraged to provide support as needed, as has been requested so far. If capacity allows, it may also be possible to get

back to organising some ad hoc fundraising events.

We will also ensure that our links with Christian Aid are maintained and highlighted.

**Jo Pellatt**

## **Collections for Winchester Basics Bank and MHA Communities, Winchester**

Collection of gifts and nearly new books for MHA Communities,  
Sunday 3 November

There will be a collection for MHA Communities on Sunday 3 November; for this collection we are asking primarily for newly purchased or unwanted gifts that they can use in the run up to Christmas.

Good condition books (fiction and non-fiction) can also be donated. Please no children's books.

Please leave gift items and books in the hall.

### **Collection for Basics Bank, Sunday 17 November**

There will be a collection of items for Basics Bank on Sunday 17 November.

November is the month that has been allocated to our church to help spread the donations of gifts through the year.

Please bring items (preferably in carrier bags) for donation and leave in the church hall.

Further information about donating to the Basics Bank,



including up-to-date item needs can be found at Donate Food – Winchester Basics Bank.

At the time of writing they need donations of most grocery items. In particular the following:

- Tinned fruit (in juice)
- Tinned veg
- Tinned meat (meatballs, chicken in white sauce, mince, curry, corned beef, hotdogs)
- Vegetarian/vegan protein
- Custard/rice pudding
- Soup
- Jam, honey, marmite, peanut butter
- Rice, pasta, noodles
- Cooking sauces
- Squash & fruit juice
- Cereals & porridge
- UHT milk (full fat, semi-skimmed and dairy alternatives)
- Condiments

And these hygiene products:

- Cleaning sprays, toilet cleaner, bleach
- Washing up liquid
- Cleaning cloths
- Laundry tabs / small bottles of laundry detergents
- Loo roll
- Clean carrier bags

No doubt treats for Christmas would also be welcome.

Thank you.

## Bethlehem Baubles

We wanted to share this information about an initiative which supports artisans in areas where war means that tourist business has currently dried up.

We both feel supportive of this, and Jane bought some of these tree decorations last year and found them to be a very attractive gift. Jane will make one or two available for you to see on Sundays.

There is more information below and by accessing the website – see in particular the ‘Our Story’ link to see more about this project and the work.

<https://www.bethlehembaubles.com/>

In short, Bethlehem Baubles was started ten years ago by Ros Pollock when she lived in Jerusalem. She wanted to find a way to get all religious communities to work together.

The baubles and Peace lights are handblown using recycled glass by Muslims in Hebron, painted by Christians in Bethlehem, before being shipped by Israel. Working with Bethlehem Fair Trade means that artisans are able to earn a living wage which is now more important than ever.

The Peace lights are new this year as this offers a way to give employment throughout the year. The Christmas bauble designs change every year and come with a dated ribbon, gift tag and sticker as well as a leaflet explaining the story behind Bethlehem Baubles. All items are carefully packed in individual cardboard boxes which can be shipped throughout the world without any additional packaging.

Baubles have in the past been sold through retail shops and fairs. However, with the situation in Palestine getting more desperate by the day, selling directly means that the maximum amount raised through this social enterprise, can be returned to Palestine.

Each item sold with a code issued to a participating church will raise £3.50 for that church and the more Peace lights and baubles that are sold the more employment there is for those living in Hebron and Bethlehem.

Please use this link <https://www.bethlehembaubles.com/collections> to view and order goods from the project and if you enter the code c12 at the checkout (*using lower case c*) then United Church, Winchester will receive a donation from the project of £3.50 per order.

Flyers will be available shortly in Church.

**Jane Lawson and Rowan Messer**



**BETHLEHEM BAUBLES**

Working with Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans

Traditional glass decorations,  
handmade using recycled glass in Bethlehem

*"Blown by Muslims  
Painted by Christians  
Shipped by Israel"*

**Support your Church AND families in Palestine**



**Peace Lights**  
£25

**2024 Christmas Edition**  
£25 Bell  
£20 Baubles

Each decoration comes in its own cardboard box with a leaflet telling our story. They are ready to be sent as gifts all around the world without any additional packaging. Sales generated from this project will be used to train up a new generation of painters and glass blowers, helping them to build a future.

Receive a discount AND £3.50 from each bauble sold will be donated to your church.

[alison@bethlehembaubles.com](mailto:alison@bethlehembaubles.com) | [www.bethlehembaubles.com](https://www.bethlehembaubles.com)

## Parchment Street Methodist Church



I was visiting my sister recently and took her a copy of our Anniversary history book. It prompted us to think about our own memories and I thought it may be interesting to share our thoughts. We were members of Parchment St Church in the 50s and 60s. I began attending when I was fourteen – my first experience of ‘church’; my sister was eight and so she had the experience of

attending Sunday School – a ‘closed book’ to me!

So, what do we remember? Some personalities stand out: Brian Lilley who did a very good job organising Youth Group and Youth Fellowship; Mr Boal who seemed the rock for most things that went on – he came from the village of Crook in County Durham and when my sister attended Durham University his family invited her to tea. Miss Frances Smith, who came from a Missionary family, was very encouraging to Brian and me when we decided to work abroad. She also encouraged our two-year-old who, when back on leave, was upset at missing ‘Church’, by taking him into the empty building and standing in a pew with him and singing a hymn. When her missionary sister was on furlough from India for a few months the girls were shown how to put on saris for a Nativity play!

Miss Olive Denham was a retired Social Worker and part of her job was to visit boys in foster care – some continued to visit her as old men. She retired during the Second World War and in 1946 came to live with us and became an important part of our family. She used to walk me to school as a small child and I remember her insisting on ‘reading her chapter’ every day. She taught my sister and I all the old Moody and Sankey hymns on her harmonium from *Sacred Songs and Solos* – that’s why I have always been able to recite ‘Will Your Anchor Hold?’ and ‘I Stand

Amazed in the Presence'!

There were several Ministers who made an impression on us – Cornishman Revd Maurice Jelbert married Brian and me in 1965, and my sister remembers Revd E .G. Young. Revd Peter Woodward was the Assistant Minister and had previously been a prison chaplain, but he later gave up the Ministry to go into Religious Education where he became a figure of national significance. He was part of the Shap Working Party and instrumental in promoting the Shap calendar.

I particularly remember Revd E. R. Pillow arriving to take up appointment and we all thought his way of speaking was rather 'odd' until it was explained to us that he had been for some years a missionary in China and was used to speaking that language where different tones and inflections changed the meaning of the sentence. He had entered ministry in 1934 to go to work in China and was interned from 1943 to 1945. In 1979 he wrote a short history of the churches in the Methodist Circuit.

Highlights of our year were Harvest and New Year. The church was wonderfully decorated for Harvest Festival and after the service we all sat down to a good meal – my abiding memory was being tasked to mash a mountain of potatoes! On the last day of December, we always had a party with silly games in the Church Hall and then at 11 30 pm we went into the church for a quiet and contemplative service to see in the New Year.

Despite the Sunday School and Youth Group merger with St Peter's St, there were ongoing tensions between the two congregations – they were a bit too posh for us 'Primitives'. My sister attended a few services in St Peter's St, but I never did, and neither of us had any idea about that strange church in Jewry St!

Fortunately, we can now really call ourselves 'United'.

**Dorothy Lusmore**

## Advent, a Time to Stop, Listen and Look

This year we are starting our Advent series on the last Sunday in November to enable four weekly house group sessions before Christmas Week. This is an opportunity for reflection before the hurly-burly of Christmas.

We would like to invite people who do not go regularly to a house group to join for these four weeks, taking the opportunity to talk about the ideas explored in the church service. If you would like to know more, please talk to Pat Fry, Tom Belshaw, Tim Clifford or Dorothy Lusmore.

Currently meetings are held on Monday afternoon, Tuesday evening and Thursday late afternoon. If there is a demand we could arrange an additional daytime meeting.

**Pat Fry,  
Fellowship and Worship Enabling Group**

## Reflections on Job

What Job got right is that it's always God. God was his mighty source of integrity. He was honest and avoided evil (1v8). The Lord Himself first placed all Job's greatest earthly possessions to the power of an adversary divine being (1v12). Next, Job's ten gathered children were dead following a storm and his abundant wealth in livestock and trusted servants were either dead or raided. Yet, Job's lamp remained burning for God. The adversary, refusing to give up, asked God to reap havoc on Job's body and comforts from others. The Lord answered the adversary (2v6): 'There he is – within your power; only preserve his life.' Having read *The Screwtape Letters*, I see the battle plans against Job in a similar way that C.S. Lewis describes.

Around Job, faith in God becomes lost to his wife (2v9) and his friends in silent vigil for 7 days later become more and more sorry comforters (16v2). He still heard The Word that God won't reject integrity or strengthen the hand of the wicked, (8v20). 'Though he slay me, yet I will trust Him' (13v15). In Job's darkest hour, God as a man was the answer given, so we could come together in court or any situation (8v32). 'Oh, that there were a mediator between us; He would lay his hand on both of us,' (8v33). They wander about for (Your) bread (of Life). Where is it (15v23)? Job's breaking-point at the start of Chapter 17 is like the death of his old-man or old-self.

When the Lord appears it is defining for Job and not an explanation of suffering. Now, we benefit so much from the Bible and Christ Jesus that Job did not have as examples. Job's 'IN-tegrity' questions him about complaining of losses or other humans and a shortening of patience (21v4). I see Job's mental strength equal to that of Paul's physical strength, but he lacks the Good News in considering a common fate for all that ends in dust and worms covering them (21v22-26). Still, Job's light shines in knowledge that the Lord has kept the deep darkness from him (23v17). The Lord was listening to Job. God approached in a whirlwind and says, 'prepare yourself' (38v3 and 40v7). 'I'm here... who put Wisdom in remote places and who gave understanding to a rooster (38v35-36).' Job's first response is a recant of words and the placing of his hand over his mouth (40v4). Job's second response is acknowledging his lack of understanding and the completeness of joy in seeing with eyes the Lord God he had heard about (42v5). The comforted Job prayed for his friends and the Lord's blessings satisfied the rest of his journey.

**Andrew La Follette**

## 1974 Remembered from Four Rural East Sussex Wayside Bus Stops

Have you ever been taken back to a period in your life in a way you had not anticipated? This happened to me last summer.

To set the scene, approximately 20 years ago my late mother began to develop dementia; I am not alone in recording that my life began to change; such change evolving over the years as different stages of dementia manifested themselves resulting in most leisure activities ceasing.

Bus and coach excursions were a holiday feature I can remember from the earliest days of my life; this experience being a contributing factor to my, even then, developing an interest in buses in their own right – perhaps ‘excited’ by the fact that Brighton had four bus companies, all working cooperatively, i.e. not in competition, together with five coach excursion companies. This, together with a plethora of visiting coaches and buses; yes, London Routemaster Buses would be driven 52 miles to the coast.

Bus excursions were an activity that mother and I would continue until dementia prevented such a pursuit.

My father died in my mid-childhood, thus when it came to me developing my own autonomous hobbies, e.g. angling in my teenage years, it was to the buses I turned for transport. More precisely the Southdown and Maidstone and District bus service out towards Tunbridge Wells, the then 119/219 service, now the 29 *et al.*

My focus was on the Lewes to Uckfield section for that was where it ran in parallel, albeit about a mile or more from the River Ouse, which was the core of my angling activity.

Life has now taken a course that has allowed the occasional bus excursion; last summer I took the trip Brighton > Eastbourne >



Tunbridge Wells > Brighton. Thus, on the last trip the Uckfield to Lewes part of the A26 was to be covered. The buses of today both display the next bus stop on the route and announce it by way of IT. This seemed to reinforce the emotional memories that were about to well up:

Passing the East Sussex National Golf Course, indeed 'Resort'; within a few minutes the IT system announces, the next stop is:

### **'Halfway House'**

Seemingly, a stop by a still trading pub and just a few houses; the significance for me is that it is the stop for Isfield village, the home of the now late river keeper/water bailiff Jim Smith. On first meeting Jim when I was 12 years of age, and with much to learn about angling and rural matters more widely, I found him congenial and helpful. He would become a lifelong friend – as he was to many; it was like having your own Jack Hargraves, in person or on the phone.

Meanwhile, having not stopped at the Halfway House, for those attuned to all things engines, a slightly more laboured note reverberates around the top deck; the bus is climbing to a minor summit; this is:

### **'Top of Clayhill'**



Another Jim comes to mind. That of Jim Callaghan, the former Prime Minister. Upper Clayhill Farm was his Sussex farm, his and his wife's Audrey's home being right next to the road; much to the concern of the security services. However, JC, at least at the time we are thinking of, when he was Foreign Secretary, could sometimes be found walking the local environs like any

member of the public.

If the top legal speed of the bus is not quite maintained on ascent, it is quickly regained as we proceed at speed along a straight stretch of road toward the junction of the A26 with:

### **'Barcombe Mills Road'**

This was and remains the stop for the 1.25 mile walk to Barcombe Mills, the spot on the map of renown, at least locally.

The Sussex Ouse is celebrated for having a good run of large sea trout, in habit more like a salmon than a trout. The old mill



pool is the furthest point that tides have an effect on the river there being a set of weirs on the upstream point of the pool, thus it becomes a holding point for sea trout as they await sufficient

water via rain to allow them to jump the weirs; if you arrive at the right time, especially during September to November you may be lucky enough to see them jumping.

Compared with the early 1970s the next few miles of the road have been straightened thus we maintain good speed; at the end of the modernised stretch we come to:

### **'Upper Stoneham'**

'Therrrrrteeeen please', (thirteen please), in a heavy rural Sussex accent. This was the request of a regular gentleman passenger who would board the ex 07.21 119 service from Brighton to Tunbridge Wells, my regular steed for the circa 13-mile trip from Lewes Road, Brighton, to the stops above. 13p was his

fare to Uckfield, one of three towns of note on the route between the two termini. Being of later working age years we would talk on the bus as if grandfather to grandson.

Leaving Stoneham on our southbound journey, if we look east we see atop a knoll on which sits Hamsey Old Church.



What I did not know at 12 to 22 years of age (the years I would use these four stops), indeed not for decades, was that I have ancestors buried there.

Maybe there are genetic reasons why I felt so at home in the Ouse Valley; perhaps I was related to the gentleman of Stoneham and/or Jim Smith via generations past.

Here is some further online information points about the BM environs and the late Jim Smith.

**YouTube – Exploring the Delights of Barcombe Mills:**

[bit.ly/3YgFoYC](https://bit.ly/3YgFoYC)

**A Short Overflight of Barcombe Reservoir East Sussex:**

[bit.ly/3zH4Jli](https://bit.ly/3zH4Jli)

The late Mr & Mrs Callaghan's farm is to the right of the water of Barcombe Reservoir; this was a trout fishery in the 1970s

**A Guardian Long Read Centred on the Person of Jim Smith:**

[bit.ly/3ZZgjTn](https://bit.ly/3ZZgjTn)

**Chris Young**

## News of the Wider Church



**'Coldplay' release Christian influence song.** British rock band Coldplay [have released a new song](#) as their most Christian influenced recording. 'We Pray' was released on 23 August and features rapper Little Simz, Nigerian singer Burna Boy, Palestinian-Chilean musician Elyanna and Argentinian singer Tini. The song appears to articulate a deep spiritual hunger, with lyrics such as: 'I pray that I don't give up, pray that I do my best' and 'so we pray for someone to come and show me the way'. Songwriter Chris Martin also borrows straight from the Bible in the track, describing modern-day life as living in 'the valley of the shadow of death'.

**Bear Grylls launches new show with 'The Chosen' cast.** TV survivalist Bear Grylls is set to launch a new reality show, featuring the cast of the TV series *The Chosen*, which is



based on the life of Jesus. Grylls is a Christian, who has said his faith is a 'secret of strength'. He said: 'I'm really proud to announce *The Chosen in the Wild*, where I get to take cast members away on many "Running Wild"-type adventures, get to know their stories, see the real people, what they're like, their background, and their journey through *The Chosen*, their faith, and kind of how it's changed them.'

*The Chosen* is entering its fifth season, and depicts Christ's life and miracles, as well as the imagined private lives of the

disciples. Grylls said *The Chosen* 'shows the real Jesus', and helps illustrate the 'struggles, doubts and frustrations' of the early disciples. He revealed he has filmed four episodes of *The Chosen in the Wild*, with the final one to feature Jonathan Roumie, who plays Jesus. He concluded his interview with CBN News by saying: 'Faith is the most freeing and empowering, raw, wild adventure you'll ever go on.'



**Pope Francis has criticised** what he called the 'shameful inability' of the international community to end the war in the Middle East, one year after Hamas' devastating attack on Israel. 'A year ago, the fuse of hatred was lit; it did not sputter, but exploded in a spiral of violence,' he said in an open letter to Catholics in the region. 'It seems that few people care about what is most needed and what is most desired: dialogue and peace,' he wrote. 'Violence never brings peace. History proves this, yet years and years of conflict seem to have taught us nothing.'

Francis, who has also made 7 October a day of fasting and prayers for peace for Catholics globally, has spoken more openly in recent weeks about the Hamas–Israel conflict, and has become more vocal in his criticism of Israel's military campaign.



**'One toothbrush at a time'.** A vicar in the City of London is on a mission to eradicate hygiene poverty – and says it's possible if communities work together. Revd Nick Mottershead who is priest in charge of Holy Sepulchre London, co-ordinates the City of London Hygiene Bank which

supports over 20,000 families in need of basic personal items

such as toothpaste, deodorant and shower gel. In a new report, the charity In Kind Direct says nearly one in five UK adults is currently living in hygiene poverty, which is an increase of almost a million on last year. A quarter of those households have children. 'We're seeing young people and their families and carers using washing up liquid to wash. We're seeing them not being able to clean their teeth. Oral hygiene is a huge cause of missed school days. We're seeing young people not wanting to go to after-school clubs because they're already not feeling inclined to join in with activities. It impacts their friendship groups. It impacts their mental wellbeing.'

The hygiene bank works with schools, agencies and charities who know how best to reach families most in need. In the last five years the City of London hygiene bank has donated 36 tonnes of products, with 11 tonnes already so far this year. You can find out more at [www.thehygienebank.com](http://www.thehygienebank.com).

**Taylor Swift makes a 'national' impact on Christian Food Banks.** Christian food bank charity the Trussell Trust has received a donation from 14-time Grammy award winner Taylor Swift. The star has made previous donations to 1,400 Trussell Trust food banks, as well as community projects in each city she performed in for the UK leg of her record-breaking Eras Tour.

In a post on X, the charity said: 'We're so grateful to @TaylorSwift13 for making another donation to help our community of food banks. If we all come together, we can build a better future where everyone in the UK is free from hunger.' The organisation posted a photo of a friendship bracelet – which has become a fan tradition of





the tour – which reads: ‘End hunger’. Sophie Carre, the charity’s director of public engagement said the surprise gift comes at an ‘incredibly important time’ when the charity expects a ‘huge number’ of people to rely on it as the winter months draw in.

The Trussell Trust is founded on a ‘Micah 6:8 vision to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God’. It says: ‘Churches are at the heart of our work to provide emergency food and support to people facing hardship.’

### **A Methodist Church wins the Land and Nature Award from the Church Times Green Award 2024:**



Chapel-en-le-Frith Methodist Church has won the Land and Nature award for their Townend Community

Garden which promotes biodiversity and green practices. ‘It’s a testament to the vision and great work done by the team. The garden is now a green oasis where children can come and engage in nature,’ says one of the volunteers who went to London to attend the ceremony.

The vision was to create a safe space for people to come and meet, work, or just simply sit and enjoy the tranquillity. The garden would be a place for growing crops, but also for encouraging wildlife. A £5,000 grant from the High Peak Methodist Circuit and a £4,000 grant from Methodist Insurance in 2019 helped to kick-start the project including raised beds for growing vegetables, fruit and flowers, and also

fruit trees, accessible all-weather paths including a communal area which has been used for concerts, fitness exercise and afternoon teas, and a quiet area with scented flowers and benches. Specially designated wild areas were created around the garden and wildflower seeds were sown. A pond was later added and has increased the wildlife.

### **'The Canterbury Tales' slapped with trigger warning over 'expressions of Christian Faith':**



Nottingham University Library has placed warnings on the works of medieval writers such as Chaucer, Gower and Hoccleve alerting viewers to 'expressions of the Christian faith'. The warnings have been met with backlash from Christian campaigners, who say Christian

themes are not offensive, and should not warrant a warning.

The medieval classic *The Canterbury Tales* is one of the works which has been branded with a warning of Christian themes alongside 'violence' and 'mental illness'. No warning was issued about the book's explicit references to anti-Semitism or rape.

Dr Adrian Hilton, Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Buckingham, told *Premier Christian News*: 'You'd be hard-pressed to remove Christian themes from literature. Themes of mercy, sin, salvation and forgiveness permeate our drama. To slap one or two with a trigger warning seems to be a bit odd.'



The University of Nottingham insisted that they were not preventing students from accessing the texts.

**New research from the *National Churches Trust*** has revealed that UK churches save the NHS £8.4 billion a year by providing vital health-related services. From addiction recovery and mental health support to youth groups and food banks, churches address urgent community needs, easing pressure on the NHS. The savings are equivalent to employing 230,000 nurses or four per cent of total public health spending. The report, *The House of Good: Health*, launched in the House of Commons, used NHS metrics to calculate the value of services provided by churches.



Eddie Tulasiewicz from the National Churches Trust told ***Premier Christian News*** that churches shouldn't be overlooked. 'It was only about a month ago that the report came out about the Grenfell fire and who was in the front line providing practical support there? It was churches ... day in, day out, churches are there helping people, offering support and opening their buildings for others to provide support,' he said.

However, many churches, especially in deprived areas, face closure due to underfunding, threatening this essential safety net. Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust said in a statement: 'Without urgent support, we risk losing this vital resource for both the NHS and vulnerable communities.'

## Sacred or Secular, Whatever You Do Can Bring Glory to God



This summer, I was installed as a canon theologian at Chester Cathedral (pictured, above). These honorary roles sit at the intersection between a cathedral and the academy, between the Church and public life, between the sacred and the secular. There has been a worshipping community on the site in Chester for 2,000 years; and with that comes all the ceremony and ritual that has been honed over many centuries.

During the service I was shown to what is now my official seat – the wood-framed throne named after the 17th-century poet George Herbert. As I later stood in front of the stained-glass window depicting Herbert, I felt an affinity with him – this politician and priest, who spent much of his life wrestling with the question of what God was calling him to – was it to the Church or the world?

This month, as many young Christians begin university courses that will likely influence their future career paths, I want them to know that the answer to the question of ‘the Church or the world?’ is ‘both’. I don’t believe any job is entirely secular, and I believe those who are called to sacred jobs in ministry are also

called to engage in the secular world.

George Herbert spent a significant amount of his life in academia, becoming the public orator at Cambridge University before going into politics. A seemingly secular role – but he described his experience of it as being ‘joined with heaven’. Even after becoming a priest, he advised other clergy to see everyday things – ploughs, leaven and dances – as being made to ‘serve for lights even of Heavenly Truths’.

God is in all things, holding all things together.

For him, the line between the sacred and the secular was permeable – not least when it came to vocation. I love that we know that Jesus, our saviour, also had a trade and worked as a carpenter.

During the Olympics I was struck by the sense of calling many athletes said they had experienced; people doing what they feel they were made for. For some, this sense was borne out of their deep Christian faith. In Paris a century ago, Scottish sprinter Eric Liddell – of *Chariots of Fire* fame – won gold in the 400 metres, and famously said: ‘God made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.’ Ahead of the Games, Team GB swimmer Adam Peaty spoke too about finding meaning in the Christian faith, and a sense of home in church. After winning his silver medal in the 100m breaststroke final, he spoke poignantly about his calling. ‘It’s broken me, this sport,’ he said, ‘but it’s given me life and everything I am.’ In the run-up to the Paralympics, wheelchair racer Karé Adenegan said: ‘In the past I questioned my disability, questioned God and questioned my purpose. But I recall being on the track and having a sense of: *Wow, God, you’re with me, and you brought me here.*’

I’m convinced there is no need to draw lines between roles and spheres considered sacred and those thought of as secular. Just like Herbert, Liddell, Peaty and Adenegan recognise, I don’t

think it's possible to compartmentalise our lives and our societies so easily. God is in all things, holding all things together (Colossians 1:17).

For me, the beauty of my faith is that it doesn't ask me to make these distinctions. I'm drawn to a picture of humans as wonderfully complex – heads and hearts and hands; the transcendent, the spiritual and the utterly mundane.

I find that it is sometimes in the most simple and straightforward things, in our sacred callings, and in our everyday work, that we can find glimpses of God.

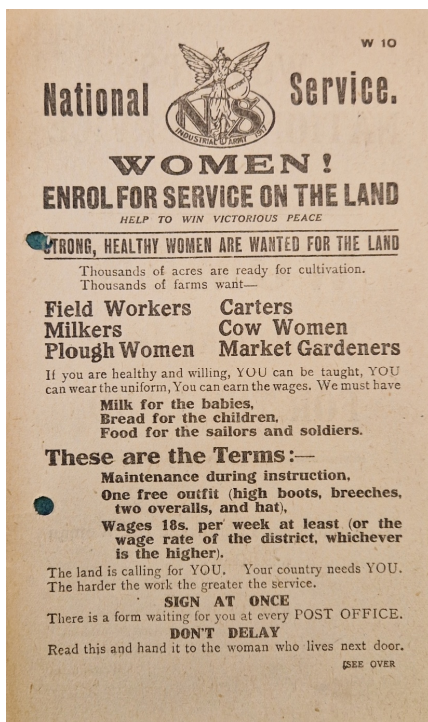
Chine McDonald from 'Premier Christianity'

## Land Girls

John Lander's latest book *Don't Delay – Enrol Today*, 'The Women's Land Army in Hampshire' has just been published by The History Press, priced at £15.99.

Hampshire was a leading county in the recruitment and training of 'land girls' to work on local farms, and the book is published in advance of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the final demobilisation of the Women's Land Army in 1950.

John knows there are members of UCW's congregation with ancestors who worked for the Women's Land Army in one or both the twentieth century world

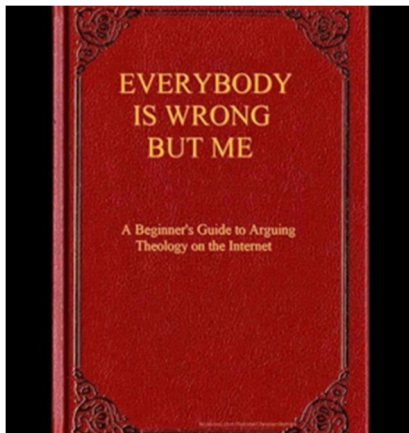


wars. Copies of his book can be obtained from John.  
([jandplander@btinternet.com](mailto:jandplander@btinternet.com))





## Comedy Corner



The deadline for December/January Yours is **Monday 18 November**. All contributions welcome. Send to [yours@ucw.org.uk](mailto:yours@ucw.org.uk).





## NAME THE GAME

**Monday 11th November**

**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.



*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 November 2024

In-person and live-streamed

### 3 NOVEMBER

10.30 am     **Morning Worship (HC)**     Revd Robert Kitching

### 10 NOVEMBER     REMEMBRANCE

10.30 am     **Morning Worship**     Revd Tim Searle

### 17 NOVEMBER

9.00 am     **Holy Communion**     Revd Tim Searle

10.30 am     **Morning Worship**     Teg Down House Group

### 24 NOVEMBER

10.30 am     **Morning Worship**     Revd Tim Searle

Followed by Church Meeting

HC: Holy Communion

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

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

