



Yours

Magazine of
The United Church
Winchester

September 2024

United@50 



Tim's Letter

Happy 50th, United Church Winchester!

Our anniversary month is finally here, and what a month we have planned. We hope it will be the opportunity our church deserves to celebrate its life and contribution to the city over the past 50 years.

On 8 September 1974 something truly special happened. St Peter Street and Parchment St Methodist Churches, and the United Reformed Church on Jewry Street, chose to put their trust in God and embark on a brave new future together. Fifty years on, the fruits of that leap of faith are plain for all to see. We have achieved far more together than we ever could have done apart. We have demonstrated Christian Unity in action and in its most visceral and complete way. God never meant for us to work against each other, only in unison, bringing our differences to bear on a world in need and, through them, conforming more fully to Christ.

As I write this and look back, imagining a world I wasn't even part of then, I'm conscious of the dramatic changes our world has seen in the intervening years. And yet in 1974 the UK saw its fair share of challenges too. Challenges like: The Three-Day Week resulting from the miners' strikes; two general elections – the first resulting in a hung parliament; an escalation of the IRA's bombing campaign on the mainland, and, on a lighter note; ABBA winning Eurovision with 'Waterloo' at the Brighton Dome!

For all our suspicions that things are getting worse not better, it's a reminder that there is nothing new under the sun. There have always been worries and concerns that have beset our lives, whether individually or as a society. And yet throughout all this,

God's Church, the Body of Christ, works to bring light and life and hope wherever it is given enough air to breath.

So thank you members, friends and supporters of The United Church, Winchester – those who have gone on to glory and those who continue their watch to this day. Never underestimate the good we have achieved by being faithful to God's call. Never underestimate the grace that God has extended through the simplest act of love and friendship offered in Christ's name.

People of The United Church, Winchester – arise, sing your hearts out, let your light shine; today, tomorrow, and for as long as God calls us!

Yours, in Christ, Tim

Editorial

This month we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Read about everything that's planned on pages 16–19.

Two more exhibitions will be held in the sanctuary including a photographic project on Kindness 'Love The Neighbour' by Simon Bray. Read about it on pages 8–9.

Ann Bulley shares a sketch of a former Congregational and URC Mission Hall in Andover, together with her reflections and Rosie MacMullen writes about some more holiday mishaps.

Our front cover photo was taken at our Worship Day in Wickham in October 2023. We look forward to similar photos of fellowship being taken during our Anniversary Weekend.

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

News of the United Church Family

Best wishes and congratulations to Ian and Marjory Monro who will celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary on 3 October.



Marjory also shared that she and Ian first visited this church just after their honeymoon in

1964. They didn't begin attending until they returned with a four year old son in 1972. We are so pleased that you decided to stay!

Ted Rushmoor recently sent his best wishes to all at The United Church. Thank you, Ted, and we send our good wishes to you.

If you can no longer get into Church and perhaps you worship online, we would be very glad to hear from you. Do keep in touch.

Welcome back to Miranda Roles, who recently returned from a teaching assignment in Ghana with Project Trust. We are pleased to have Miranda back with us, even if just for a short time.

All good wishes to those moving on from school or college to new experiences and challenges. Some will be leaving home for the first time and our love and prayers go with you. We look forward to seeing you from time to time.

On Sunday 4 August we were delighted to welcome Hugh Jones into membership of The United Church. It's great to have you alongside, Hugh.

Jean Forster is delighted to share happy news of the safe arrival of her first great grandchild. A baby boy, son of Jean's grandson Oliver and his wife, who live in Canada.

This month, we hear some thoughts on care from our own Jill Cook who moved to Winchester Heights late last year:

Care

This is a concept we all need throughout our lives, from developing foetus, newborn babe, adventurous toddler, teenager, maturing adult to old age, whenever we feel that arrives – 90 plus for me.

Giving up one's independence is hard. But living alongside other 'oldies' provides opportunities for speaking both about the worldwide church of which one is part and the local church family who still recognise one's membership and show their care through prayer and visits.

The companionship of Christ is still a vital part of one's humanity. One is not alone.

Praise the Lord.

Jill Cook



Jane Lawson would be pleased to hear from you if there is news you would like included in future editions of Yours.

Jane Lawson, Pastoral Lead

The Value of Kindness

Love Thy Neighbour: A photographic project

I read about this project in a blog post written by its creator, Simon Bray, in March this year. Many of you will know Simon, who grew up in this church. I was so inspired by *Love Thy Neighbour* that I asked Simon if he would consider working on a project about kindness here at The United Church. He accepted the challenge, and having made a series of portraits over the summer, the project will be exhibited within the church for you to engage with as part of The United Church 50th anniversary celebrations.

As I began to work with Simon on this, I seemed to notice all around me the presence (or indeed the absence) of kindness and the impact of where it was or wasn't happening. I began to notice articles on kindness and the importance of its impact on our lives.

In June a piece in the Guardian titled 12 little acts of kindness: what friends and strangers did for each other in their hour of need jumped out at me. The readers were asked 'for moments in which others brought light in your darkest hour'. For some it was a lifelong friend who ran to their rescue; for others, a perfect stranger who showed them extraordinary kindness when they needed it most. From grand, country-crossing gestures to just listening, all of them acted as a balm to souls at their weariest. Like a homemade meal for your family on a grey Monday.

Then in July, Australian columnist Paul Daley wrote an article headed: *The kindness of strangers isn't always obvious, but it can be delightfully disarming*. A great story and some hallmarks of kindness and the extending of it, reflected in some of the things said by those involved in our own exhibition. (N.B. When invited

to register to read the articles you can click on 'I'll do it later' and you can read the article).

Simon's *Love Thy Neighbour* project here at The United Church represents a chain of people who have extended kindness to one another, with each participant selecting the next because they have shown them kindness. The exhibition will show the impact of offering and receiving kindness, both on the individuals involved and on the community of which they are a part.

Alongside the photographs there will also be captions, sharing the thoughts of the individuals who took part about the giving and receiving of specific kindnesses and some thoughts about kindness itself.

Some of those who have participated directly in this work have talked of the importance of kindness, about what supports it and makes it thrive. They have valued the encouragement in this endeavour to think about kindness; to be more aware of it and the value it brings to a community. Thoughts include:

'It's really lovely to have the chance to acknowledge it and to be made aware of it, actually see how it connects us all'.

'I think it's made me realise that I don't think I've ever had anybody highlight the value of kindness. I think it's really important, because in our culture we value intelligence, we value hard work, we value wealth and success. So, kindness doesn't really come into any of those traditional categories, does it?'

The intention is not to hold these particular people up as 'worthy' examples of kindness but as a means to represent the generosity, love and support which exists across our

community, both within our current congregation as well as acknowledging those who have been part of the church over the last 50 years.

It is our hope that it will offer pause for reflection on the ways in which each of us gives and receives kindness, both within the church as well as in our daily lives, to be grateful for it's presence and to acknowledge spaces in which we may be able to offer greater kindness.

The exhibition is not an end in itself, our aim is that it will spark further conversation and have impact in a deeper way within our community and as we reach out into the wider community.

The exhibition will be on show from Friday 6 September and Simon will be joining us at our 10:30 morning service at The United Church on Sunday 29 September, where he will share his thoughts on the exhibition.

Jane Lawson with Simon Bray



A Piece of History

I love drawing and sketching, and I am particularly drawn to old buildings whose use has changed over time. This little chapel is in our village, Picket Piece, two miles east of Andover. It is described as an historic place of worship. Originally a Congregational Mission Hall, then URC, it closed in 2001. Information is scant but it is thought to have started as the 'Harrowway Mission', named after the ancient Harrow Way which runs through this part of Andover.



An un-named contributor to the website GENUKI stated 'I have been told that the chapel was built by a gentleman called Alfred King. He lived at 5 Picket Piece. He and his wife (Sarah) had pews at the front of the church and woe betide anyone who tried to sit there'. The First URC General Assembly held on 5 October 1972 lists a church at Picket Piece under Wessex Province, Southampton District.

Now it sits a little lonely and forlorn, no one is sure who bought it from the URC or who owns it. Nature is rapidly taking it back, ivy creeping up the wooden cladding and the fuchsias growing wild covering the steps. A source of interest and conversation amongst the new villagers, some of whom would love to see this grade 2 listed building return to some sort of community use before it is too late.

Though it is sad when you see a disused building, all things change and rather than see it as forlorn, it is a reminder of how important this little church was. I see it as an old faithful friend. It touched lives, provided a focal point and served a purpose to the small community of the time. Our village hall is currently having a massive refurbishment and for now it is the community hub. But this old church with its link to the past, has got the present community talking, so who knows where that might lead next.

Ann Bulley

Dash to Dublin

Realising my grandson might find it difficult to get to me, I decided to land on him. He was in Dublin working, having come from New Zealand, and we hadn't met for fifteen years. So, I messaged with a date for just one night and when he affirmed it, booked a hotel and flight. The hotel was only ten minutes away from where the bus from the airport stopped apparently.

Unfortunately, I made the mistake of asking directions from another hotel receptionist. She kindly printed off a map which showed a dotted line going far along the river and told me to follow it. Fortunately, it was a fine day and my rucksack wasn't too heavy. The view was wonderful so I strolled on. Then I asked a passer-by who said I would need to go back along the river at least three-quarters of the way then look across the road to see a wide road. Something in me said none of this made sense looking at the map but I stood indecisively looking lost, I'm sure.



Then my miracle occurred. Coming down the hill came a strikingly elegant elderly Irish man who insisted on turning round and escorting me a roundabout route straight to my hotel. He was charming and regaled me with historic facts about the area. Naturally, I had indeed missed a narrow road which led up to the hotel, so was a lot later than expected.

I had remembered my grandson Jack, as a rather reserved boy and thin so was astonished when this big, bouncing man crushed me to his manly bosom. We hit it off immediately and he and Michelle, his fiancée, took me for an exciting speedy walk around the park, University grounds and lunch at a modern restaurant with great food. After going through crowded streets with musicians, jugglers and speakers they left me to rest.

We had planned to go out to a pub to hear music but my hotel, being fifteenth century, had a lower ground cellar where we found authentic Irish singers, and I was talked into drinking a cocktail which made me thankful I was sleeping there!

Jack had arranged to take an earlier lunch next day and took me to a Thai restaurant. We just laughed and laughed, and I felt as if we had never been apart. It was just beautiful!

So, I strolled back along the river full of delight and glad I had made the bold move. I stopped to take a photo or two then got the bus to the airport in plenty of time.

Thank heavens I did for on arrival I found my passport missing. I rang Jack who checked the hotel and restaurant. It had been in a zipped -up bit of my handbag which I had never taken off!

I was told I wouldn't be able to fly as I said I didn't have identification but suddenly thought of the bus pass I had popped in at the last moment. Phew!



Next day I was on the phone to Ireland and getting my passport stopped. Again I checked the bus service and airport. Unbelievably, there were seven passports left on the bus that one day and twelve found at the airport! I didn't feel such an idiot when told that!

A strange thing happened a few weeks later. I got a call purporting to be from my bank telling me a large sum had that morning been taken from my account by an airline. I was suspicious and asked for proof it was the bank. The man gave me the correct security detail of my mother's name. I said I'd rather go to the bank and he made an appointment for 3 p.m.

However he had addressed me as Ma'am which made me feel it was a scam and have checked, I found it was. indeed What I wonder is was my passport indeed skilfully stolen and then used to fool me!

I do wonder why I seem to land in trouble whenever I go away, but I suppose it makes life interesting.

Fortunately my debit card was stashed in a different place in my rucksack.

I am so thrilled at having that reunion ,however, the loss of my passport doesn't have the effect it might have. I will take my time deciding to replace it. Maybe it was a hint to stop doing rash trips!

Rosemary MacMullen

Summer Conferences

The annual **Methodist Conference** met in Leeds at the beginning of July. With this year's Conference slimmed down in size and duration, representatives and visitors gathered for the traditional opening which was followed by four days of worship, debate and Methodist fellowship.

The President of the Conference 2024–5 is the Revd Helen Cameron, the President of Churches Together in England. She represented the Free Churches at the Queen's funeral and also the King's coronation. Helen gave her address on the theme 'Diversity is a true gift of God'. She said 'I want us to reflect on the choices we make as a Church as we seek to live the waking life of love, here and now. Prejudice and discrimination are not someone else's problem.'



The Vice-President 2024–5 is Carolyn Godfrey who is a Local Preacher and the District Safeguarding Officer for the Newcastle District. She spoke on the theme 'The challenge of change through learning'. She urged all to 'learn to do right, to seek justice, to defend the oppressed, but not to be overwhelmed. Let's all take the first step and start by doing one new thing.'

A period of discernment surrounding the celebration of Holy Communion online has been extended for two more years. Meanwhile online worship, including Communion, can continue, noting that it is particularly important for some with disabilities, for whom online church has become their primary church.

The annual **General Assembly** of the United Reformed Church met at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick in the middle of July.

The Moderator of the General Assembly 2024–5 is the Revd Tim Meadows, a minister in the Mersey Synod.



Assembly passed a motion calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.

The Assembly met in the knowledge of the continuing difficulties of declining congregations, projected number of ministers, and shortage of funds. The Church Life Review continues its work in developing plans to meet these problems – there will be a report in the September issue of *Reform*. Surprisingly, the Energy Crisis Fund set up in 2022–3 has been used by only one Synod, so it was decided to close the fund.

Our own Synod Moderator, Michael Hopkins, stood down from his role as Clerk to Assembly and was thanked for his 10 years in this important post. He will be succeeded by Revd Sarah Moore from Scotland.

Further details about both conferences can be found on the national church websites.

Graham Rolfe

We are 50 this Year!

United@50

In 1974 the Methodist and United Reformed churches in central Winchester came together to form The United Church at Jewry Street. The building was subsequently redeveloped into the beautiful multi-purpose building we have now, used by a wide community of people.

Anniversary Books – available from 1 September

50 prayers – with contributions from members

Streams of Living Faith – a history of The United Church and its founding traditions

**Friday 6 September–Friday 20 September
(Mon–Sat 10 am–midday)**

Creation and Environment textile exhibition by Pamela Pavitt

A set of embroideries by Pamela Pavitt, these beautiful, intricate works invite us to reflect on questions of climate justice, and get inspired to take action. Many thanks to Westhill Endowment for the loan of this exhibition. Pamela Pavitt was an Elder of a United Reformed Church and trained as a textile artist at Bromley Art School. Pamela was inspired by her Christian faith in creating these works, but the themes will resonate with people of all faiths and none.

**Friday 6 September–Friday 20 September
(Mon–Sat 10 am–midday)**

Love Thy Neighbour – photographic exhibition by Simon Bray

Simon Bray grew up at The United Church Winchester and is now a photographer, artist and writer exhibiting widely and undertaking commissions. ‘Love Thy Neighbour’ is a simple way of acknowledging the things that bring us together. Simon asked people at The United Church to tell him about a time when someone showed them kindness. The answers were simple and beautiful. Some representing lifetimes of care, others momentary gestures. It visualises our inherent reliance upon one another and demonstrates that, although it often feels like it, we are not alone.

Our coffee bar is open Mon–Fri 10 am–midday.

Saturday 7 September

We welcome members, past members and everyone who is part of our community to join us in our anniversary weekend.

10 am–midday Open Church

The church will be open to all, also welcoming visitors for Winchester Heritage Open Days.

Our exhibitions will be open, and you can view our history timeline. Come and share your memories of the church and its history. Free tea, coffee and refreshments available. No charge.

6 pm for 6.30 pm Celebration Dinner

£15 per person. Tickets must be booked by 31 August at ucw.org.uk/50th-anniversary

Sunday 8 September

10.30 am Celebration Service led by Revd Tim Searle

Midday onwards Picnic at River Park (weather permitting, otherwise in the hall) – bring your own picnic. There will be plenty of chairs and food for those who are visiting!

Sunday 15 September

10.30 am Thanksgiving Service led by Revd Tim Searle and Revd Rachel Bending, Southampton Methodist District Chair

21–29 September – Winchester Green Week

Monday 23 September 10-12

Creation and Environment textile exhibition by Pamela Pavitt

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Friday 27 September 6 pm– 9 pm and

Saturday 28 September 6 pm–7 pm

Light Show

Inspired by Winchester Green Week, this light show invites you to reflect on creation and the environment. Come any time during the sessions. Refreshments available. Free entry.

Saturday 28 September

7.30 pm–9 pm Organ Recital

Joshua Stephens is the sub-organist at Winchester Cathedral, with performances on Radio 3 and national TV to his name. Refreshments available after. Tickets £10 from ucw.org.uk/50th-anniversary

Saturday 19 October

7 pm–9.30 pm Jonathan Veira concert



Jonathan Veira is a nationally-acclaimed singer and entertainer. His performances are enjoyed by all ages.

Tickets £10 from ucw.org.uk/50th-anniversary and on the door.

Our New Facilities Manager, James Daniel



James has a background in facilities management through his previous work as an assistant caretaker and as Senior Schools Manager for an international performing arts school. Born and raised in California, James met his English wife in Los Angeles (on a movie set, no less!). They moved to England in 1992, bringing with them two horses, two dogs and three cats.

They came to Winchester in 2008 to be near, and care for, family. James and his wife enjoy ‘making music’ together and love to get their talented nephew Ben involved in their gigs. James also enjoys photography, DIY and spending time with his wife and dogs (not necessarily in that order!)

Welcome to the United Church Community, James! (Ed)

News of the Wider Church



The Rt Revd Timothy Dudley-Smith, hymn writer and former Bishop of Thetford, has died at the age of 97. Among the hymns he wrote lyrics for are *Tell Out, My Soul* (1962), and *Lord, for the Years* (1967).

Born in Manchester on Boxing Day 1926, the young Dudley-Smith attended Tonbridge School in Kent, before studying at Pembroke College, Cambridge. He was ordained in 1950 and from 1973 to 1981 he served as Archdeacon of Norwich, before becoming Bishop of Thetford, where he remained in post until his retirement in 1991. In 2003, Dudley-Smith was awarded an OBE for services to hymnody.

Close friend and *Premier Christian Radio* presenter, Noel Tredinnick, described him as 'persistent in his writing of hymns – his hymns are always beautifully constructed, beautifully expressed ... that's why he was one of the greatest English poets.'

Archbishop's statement on Palestine: Archbishop Justin released a statement saying: 'Having visited our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters many times over recent decades, it is clear to me that the regime imposed by successive Israeli governments in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is one of systemic discrimination. Through annexing Palestinian land for illegal settlements, depriving Palestinians access to their own natural resources, and imposing a system of military rule that denies them safety and justice, the State of Israel has been denying the Palestinian people dignity, freedom and hope.'

I am particularly aware of how this is impacting Palestinian Christians, threatening their future and viability. It is clear that ending the occupation is a legal and moral necessity.'

Welby condemns violence as unchristian The Archbishop of Canterbury has once again condemned the recent violence across the UK, labelling the use of Christian imagery by some rioters as an 'outrage'. [Writing in The Guardian](#), Most Revd Justin Welby stated that the riots were 'detonated by lies and fuelled by deliberate misinformation, spread quickly online by bad actors with malignant motivations'. He also criticised the use of Christian iconography by far-right rioters. He said: 'Let me say clearly now to Christians that they should not be associated with any far-right group – because those groups are unchristian. Let me say clearly now to other faiths, especially Muslims, that we denounce people misusing such imagery as fundamentally antichristian.'

Earlier the senior Church of England leader told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: 'This (violence) is not the United Kingdom. It's not British. It's not English. They defile the flag that they wrap themselves in.'

President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference statement. The Methodist Church celebrates diversity as a gift from God. Every day we work through churches, schools and community projects to build relationships of respect, care and love in communities across Britain. Watching the news from towns and cities across our nations, where people motivated by hate have caused harm and fear, has been shocking and distressing. The Methodist Church deplores the use of violence and intimidation against displaced, marginalised and vulnerable people. We are appalled that the tragic killing of three young children and the injuring of others has been used as an excuse for riots and disturbances. Honesty and trust are at the heart of

the Christian life and the abuse of social media in spreading lies to stir up anger and hate is despicable.

Those with hate in their hearts will never have the last word. As communities reel from unrest and disorder, Methodists will continue to work with our ecumenical and interfaith partners, as we join in clearing up, restoring trust and building communities of love, in which people can live in peace.

Prayer

God of love,

We pray for your Spirit of peace to move in our communities, that those who are targets of hate might be safe and that people of good will might work together in love and respect.

We pray for your Spirit of healing, that those who grieve, might be comforted and those who are injured might be made well.

We pray for your Spirit of hope, that those who despair might see a way ahead and those who live in fear might find sanctuary and freedom. Soften the hearts of those motivated by hate and help us all to love our neighbours as those made in your image.

In Christ's name. Amen bit.ly/4dKd9GJ

Statement from the Moderators of the United Reformed Church.

No-one should suffer intimidation and violence because of their religious beliefs or ethnic background. People fleeing from threat and persecution in other places should be able to find a safe place in the UK. British values of mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs underpin our society. As

Christians, we are called to care for vulnerable people and speak up for those who suffer.

The moderators of the United Reformed Church and its synods are united in their deep concern for those who have been targeted in recent civil unrest. The hallmarks of racial prejudice have been on display. An initial solemn response to a terrible attack in Southport has been subverted into further violence. No good will come of it.

We stand with Black and Asian friends and neighbours, and with asylum seekers and refugees. We stand against hate in all its forms, including islamophobia and antisemitism, and call for all Christians to offer friendship and support to all those who are frightened or in need today.

Prayer

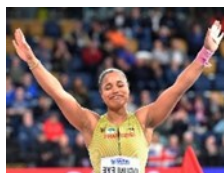
God of all life,
We ask for peace in a time of strife.
We ask for healing in a time of trouble.
We pray for the end of violence and intimidation,
expressed in our towns and on our streets in recent days.
You call us to care for the vulnerable in our society without
prejudice.
Help us to respond to hatred and violence
with love and support for the victims,
with solidarity and kindness towards those who are afraid.
We know that living in harmony is not easy.
We know we often fall short.
But we know that, with your help and inspiration,
we can be a people known
for their strong compassion and deep welcome.
God of peace, bring peace.
Amen bit.ly/3Z4pqlt

Westminster Theological Centre (WTC) is launching a new theological course for prisoners to study while serving time. The new resource is in response to findings that show many people are finding faith in prison and are keen to take their journey with God to the next level. The bespoke Level 4 Cert HE (Higher Education) will be piloted at HMP The Mount in 2026 with a view to eventually being rolled out to other prisons. The course will also train inmates to do peer-to-peer ministry. WTC Principal, Dr Lucy Peppiatt, said: ‘It is enormously exciting for me personally that we now have the possibility ahead of us of delivering a Certificate in Higher Education for those who are in prison. For years we have managed a bursary fund for men and women from offending and addiction backgrounds and have seen the benefits of an education in theology for job opportunities, ministry opportunities, and raising self-esteem and confidence. With the right support going forward, this will be a dream come true.’

Christians at the Olympics



The Fijian Olympic team began each day of competition with a praise service. Athletes, coaches and staff from Team Fiji joined together in singing the Fijian hymn ‘Mo Ravi Vei Jisu’, which translates to: ‘Put your trust into the Lord and he will guide your way’, echoing Proverbs 3:5–6. Watch on you tube at bit.ly/4e2B0Sn



German shot putter Yemisi Ogunleye broke into worship after winning gold at Paris 2024. Her final throw of 20 metres secured her the gold medal, and she used her post-win press conference interview to praise Jesus.



Star athlete Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone spoke some faith-filled words after claiming Olympic gold in the women's 400m hurdles. The 25-year-old American, who set a new world record with a time of 50.37 seconds, vowed that she seeks to 'glorify him' in all aspects of her life.



Christian diving star Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix gave 'glory to God' upon winning a bronze medal for diving in the Paris Olympics . Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix and Lois Toulson won Great Britain's third diving medal of the Games, taking the bronze in the women's synchronised 10-metre platform. In a post medal ceremony interview with the BBC, the 19 year old was overwhelmed with emotion as she expressed her gratitude. 'Having my family here, doing it alongside Lois, it's been a crazy two years,' she told the BBC. 'I give glory to God.' She continued to 'give God the glory' after missing out on a medal for the individual diving. 'Just missing out on one medal doesn't change who I am,' she said 'It was just God's way of saying we've still got a lot more to do and I just give God all the glory.'



Team GB's Adam Peaty has opened up about his faith after winning a silver medal in the men's 100m breaststroke. Fresh out of the pool, a breathless but beaming Peaty told BBC Sport: 'I gave my absolute all there. In my heart I've already won. These are happy tears. I'm not crying because I've come second, I'm crying because it took so much to get here. I'm a very religious man, and I asked God to show my heart, and this is my heart. I couldn't have done more.' Escaping gold by only two-hundredths of a second, Peaty tied with Team USA's Nic Fink for

second place. He maintains the world record for breaststroke, of 56.88 seconds at the World Aquatics Championships in 2019.

The swimming star has been open about his struggles in recent years, and, having battled ‘three years of hell’ with depression and alcoholism after the Tokyo Olympics, Peaty turned to Christ. On his first visit to the Nottingham church of which he is now a regular member, the sermon’s theme was the Olympics. ‘No one knew I was coming,’ Peaty told *The Evening Standard*: ‘I was just at the back and I was like, “if this isn’t meant for me, then what is?” I don’t think society has the answers I’m seeking, especially as a young man, and it’s nothing to do with being an athlete.’ Graham Daniels, of Christians in Sport, told *Premier Christian Radio* that Peaty modelled ‘absolute determination to celebrate what God has done in his life’.

A Christian preacher in Russia is set to face a criminal trial for questioning on social media whether Jesus would support the war in Ukraine. Eduard Charov, founder of the non-denominational Christian Monastery of Mercy, could face imprisonment or a hefty fine if found guilty. He posted the question ‘Would Jesus Christ have gone to kill in Ukraine?’ online. He is set to stand trial on charges of discrediting the Russian armed forces and is expecting a prison term. In the meantime, he has been forbidden from leaving his home district or from using a phone or the Internet. Charov and his wife, Inna, run a shelter for the homeless. (from *Premier Christian News*)



Love Island 2024 contestant Matilda Draper has been open about her Christian faith, and revealed how it guided her in the villa. In an interview with *Cosmopolitan*, Matilda said: ‘My faith is

always at the forefront of my mind and it's something that I spoke about loads in the villa.' She then shared how she doesn't believe those conversations were 'shown much' in the series. 'Faith is definitely something that I use in my day-to-day life...



I pray before any decision I make in a relationship. It's definitely big for me.' After entering the villa as a 'bombshell', Matilda made it all the way to the Love Island UK final with Sean Stone, and the couple have made many public appearances since leaving.

Greenbelt: LGBT+ Christians are more than welcome to come as you are. Attending a church service or Christian event can be hugely daunting for LGBT+ Christians and those exploring faith. **The United Reformed Church (URC)** has been working with **the Open Table Network (OTN)** to create more safe sacred spaces for LGBT+ people. Kieran Bohan, Director of OTN, shares what is in store for those attending Greenbelt:

While most other public places welcome us equally, LGBT+ people are still not always welcomed in Britain's churches. We are significantly more likely to experience mental distress, which research has shown relates explicitly to discriminatory pastoral practices of local churches, and the Church's substantial contribution to negative attitudes toward LGBT+ people in society (*In the Name of Love*, Oasis Foundation 2017).

For the first time this year, OTN will host two workshops in yoURCafé, the URC's café venue at Greenbelt Festival, on 'Creating safer sacred spaces for LGBT+ people', where together we will explore how to cultivate an enriching and safe environment where LGBT+ people can explore and develop faith.

Dorothy Lusmore

Mariupol Story

The Winchester Ukrainian Cultural Association is excited to invite you to the event dedicated to Mariupol and Mariupol Drama Theatre stories.

The role of Mariupol in the Russia–Ukraine war is immense and dramatic. Mariupol shows incredible fortitude by withstanding and fending off a harsh, long blockade.

We had no doubts when we were offered to take the model of the Mariupol theatre to present it to both British and Ukrainian communities. We take it as our moral obligation and an opportunity to record history as it is and prevent it from being distorted. Artistic documenting is a powerful tool to portray war experiences engagingly and emotionally.



MARIUPOL STORY
“LEST WE FORGET”

We invite you to this interactive event to:

- preserve history as it is and prevent it from being distorted;
- report and reflect on what happened;
- acknowledge the consequences;
- warn future generations.

Documenting war experiences via

- ✓ Photos
- ✓ Books
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Videos
- ✓ Art and Dance
- ✓ Drama

WHEN
14th September, 5 pm – 7 pm

WHERE
United Church, Jewry str.
Winchester SO23 8RZ

Sensitive content

Donations welcome

Contact Us wuca.office@gmail.com Follow us www.facebook.com/wuca.official

R.S.V.P. by 10 September, please.

Winchester Ukrainian Cultural Association (WUCA)

wuca.office@gmail.com

Elena Popova



Vintage Fun

All welcome!



Autumn Quiz

Monday 9th September

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



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





Dates for Your Diary



6–20 September Mon–Sat 10 am–midday

‘Love Thy Neighbour Exhibition’ (See pages 7–9) and

**‘Creation and Environment Textile Exhibition’ by Pamela Pavitt
(see page 18)**

7 September 6–11 pm 50th Anniversary Celebration Meal.

9 September 2–4 pm Vintage Fun

15 September Sunday Munch Club at the Golden Lion.

21–29 September Winchester Green Week

**Friday 27 September 6 pm–9 pm and Saturday 28
September 6 pm–7 pm. Light Show (see page 18)**

7.30–9.30 pm Organ Recital (see page 18)



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 September 2024

In-person and live-streamed

1 SEPTEMBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship (HC)** Revd Dr Howard Mellor

8 SEPTEMBER CHURCH ANNIVERSARY 1

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

15 SEPTEMBER CHURCH ANNIVERSARY 2

9.00 am **Holy Communion** Revd Tim Searle

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle with
Revd Rachel Bending,
Chair of the Southampton
Methodist District

22 SEPTEMBER

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Pat Fry

29 SEPTEMBER HARVEST FESTIVAL

10.30 am **Morning Worship** Revd Tim Searle

HC: Holy Communion

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

YouTube: tinyurl.com/ucw-services

